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Chicago Newspapers Join Fight Against AI's Theft of Local News

CHICAGO – Inside Publications and its three print newspapers distributed on Chicago's North Side have joined the fight against "artificial intelligence" (or "AI") service developers and operators who have stolen content and expertise from local news sources.

In the article "Why this newspaper may be killed off," Publisher Ron Roenigk shared with readers how unauthorized AI use of content destroys journalism businesses and livelihoods while making others wealthy.

"It's no longer a future threat," Roenigk wrote. "These things are happening right now."

The Large Language Models – or "LLMs" – that power contemporary AI interfaces are all seemingly built on stolen content, Roenigk noted. And the companies running this technology are not only launching their own competing products based on stolen content, they're selling the ability to do this to others, too.

This means a newspaper's own labor and content is being used against it by competitors, while the local news source gets nothing, Roenigk said. "We are all victims of larcenous AI and the people behind it."

The print article decrying AI theft of local news appeared in the May 31, 2023, editions of the *Skyline*, *Inside-Booster* and *News-Star* print newspapers, which are newspapers of record distributed across Chicago's North Side lakeshore neighborhoods from the Loop to the city's north border.

The article references and calls to a May 24, 2023, Letter from the Editor titled "Why I'll Quit Publishing the *McKinley Park News*," authored by *McKinley Park News* Publisher Justin Kerr.

In it, Kerr calls for other news publishers to join together, and for journalism associations, institutions and others to place a moratorium on AI built on content and expertise stolen from others.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of Inside Publications in this fight against those who are stealing from and destroying our local news businesses," Kerr said.

The Illinois Press Association noted its concern about unauthorized AI use of content in a statement from President and CEO Don Craven.

"The press association will continue to work with newspapers across the state to put them in the best position possible to protect their editorial content and to protect their copyright interests," Craven said.

“Community newspapers represent the heart and soul of communities,” he said. “An algorithm will never be able to capture that understanding.”

“This is a greed-powered, unsustainable, technology industry gold rush that cares nothing for local news,” Kerr said. “It will result in the full elimination of the already-distressed local news industry.”

“It is literally an existential threat to media across the globe,” Roenigk wrote. “If AI is allowed to steal from us, AI will destroy us, including things we value and rely upon like local news.”

Both Inside Publications and the *McKinley Park News* are members of the Chicago Independent Media Alliance (CIMA), a coalition of nearly 60 independent media outlets in the Chicago area.

“The Illinois Press Association applauds the *McKinley Park News* and Inside Publications in their efforts to protect their newspapers, their editorial content and their connections to communities from the challenges presented by AI,” Craven said.

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About Inside Publications

Inside Publications is the last family owned and operated newspaper publisher serving the North Side communities of Chicago through its *Skyline*, *Inside-Booster* and *News-Star* print newspapers, which provide free weekly editions as the newspaper of record. More information is available on its website at <https://www.insideonline.com>

About the *McKinley Park News*

The *McKinley Park News* is a micro-local online publication covering Chicago’s McKinley Park neighborhood from its website at <https://mckinleypark.news>. Its features include original news reporting, a comprehensive calendar of neighborhood events and an interactive membership and subscription system.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE FOR ONLY \$20 A YEAR! VISIT [INSIDEONLINE.COM](https://insideonline.com) FOR DETAILS

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INSIDE-BOOSTER

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

VOL. 119, NO. 22 NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, LAKE VIEW, NORTH CENTER & LINCOLN SQUARE insideonline.com

MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2023

Why this newspaper may be killed off

Well it's been nice knowing all of you, our readers. The end is near.

This newspaper, and all of your news, content and social media choices, are now being preyed upon.

We've all heard the talk about Artificial Intelligence [AI] and thanks to our colleague Justin Kerr of the McKinley Park News, we know that trouble is not only on the horizon, it is already upon us.

Kerr published a story last week in his newspaper explaining, "Why I'll quit publishing the McKinley Park News."

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And now that information is being used to destroy our business model. It's AI... it is literally an existential threat to media across the globe. And it's feeding on this

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Content producers across the globe are suffering from unauthorized access and use of their copyrighted content for training of automation systems and machine learning algorithms. That content is being integrated into large language models, and other technologies, currently falling under the rubric of "AI."

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NEWSPAPER see p. 6

Triple shooting Sunday, Lakeview's third shooting incident since May 25

BY CWBCHICAGO

As recently as May 24, no one had been shot in Lakeview this year. Since then, five people have been shot, including three in a single incident early May 28. All of the shootings have occurred just off a half-mile stretch of Broadway. Yet, Chicago police sources say there is no known connection between the crimes.

Sunday's shooting appears to have been a shootout between an unknown number of people near the intersection of Broadway and Barry around 12:30 a.m. Officers at the scene said that one of the victims appeared to be simply passing by when the shooting occurred.

Officially, a Chicago police media statement said, "The victims were walking on the sidewalk when shots were fired." No arrests have been made.

Here's what we have learned: Police responded to reports of shots fired in the 600 block of W. Barry, just outside Stella's Diner, and initially discovered two gunshot victims.

Near a Mariano's parking structure, a man who appeared to be in his mid-20s was critically wounded with two gunshot wounds to his chest.

A 22-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his leg was found in the 3100 block of N. Broadway.



Crime scene tape marks the shooting scene outside Stella's Diner on the corner of Barry and Broadway in Lakeview.

An officer at the scene said he was not cooperating with the investigation.

Moments later, a 32-year-old man who suffered a gunshot wound to his back approached officers at the scene. He was passing by when the shooting started, catching him in the crossfire.

Shell casings of different calibers, baseball bats, and a hoodie littered Barry Ave. Several parked cars were struck by bullets.

Additional casings and a firearm were found in a parking lot next to Maison Marcel, a French cafe at 3114 N. Broadway. That's just a few steps from where the uncooperative shooting victim was located.

A second gun was found in an apartment building courtyard in the 600 block of W. Wellington.

After the dust had settled, a woman approached police to report that her black and white Sheepadoodle had bolted when the gunfire began. An officer radioed that the 65-pound black and white dog was last seen near Belmont Ave.

On Sunday, this reporter happily reported that the Sheepadoodle was found around 7 a.m.

"Her paws are a little raw but she is unharmed and safe," beamed the dog owner.

Four nights, three shootings

Sunday's shooting was the third since May 25 in Lakeview East and Boystown.

William Hair, a 35-year-old Lincoln Park man, was shot and

SHOOTING see p. 16



The proposed UMI pot shop, 2550 N. Lincoln Ave.

Community meeting June 1 over Lincoln Ave. pot shop permit

MariGrow, Inc. is hosting a community meeting 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 1, at the Apollo Theater.

2550 N. Lincoln Ave., in hopes of being awarded a special use permit to sell recreational pot at 2573-81 N. Lincoln Ave. under the UMI brand.

The meeting will be an in-person community event where UMI, the applicant, will seek community approval for a special use permit for a cannabis dispensary at the former Salt n' Pepper Diner location across from Jonquil Park.

Grab your seat, patios open, City to loosen al fresco dining rule

On May 24, Mayor Brandon Johnson introduced an ordinance to establish a long-term version of Chicago's Expanded Outdoor Dining [EOD] program. Chicago's EOD program expired at the end of 2022 after providing support to hundreds of restaurants throughout the pandemic.

When the ordinance expired, the city went back to enforcing pre-COVID rules and regulations, established in 2017, that severely cut back on space that could be allocated toward outdoor dining.

The ordinance introduced last week would create a long-term EOD program that incorporates feedback and lessons learned from the past three years, that saw a massive societal shift, and cultural change, as customers demanded more outdoor dining options.

The proposed new rules may allow eligible restaurants and bars to continue to responsibly operate on the roadway immediately in front of or adjacent to their establishment. If approved, the EOD would establish an Outdoor Dining Street Permit to allow businesses with a valid Retail Food Establishment, Tavern, or Consumption on Premises - Incidental Activity liquor license to expand operations. To improve accessibility, the new permit would allow restaurants to also operate in curb lanes adjacent to the licensed premises. Full street closures would continue to be allowed for groups of three or more businesses. Permits would be valid from May 1 through Oct. 31 on an annual basis, and establishments would be required to follow all rules and regulations.

The proposed EOD program will be administered by the departments of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection [BACP] and Transportation [CDOT]. Before May 24, they were enforcing the old rules, and writing tickets



The City's proposed new al fresco dining rules may allow eligible restaurants and bars to continue to responsibly operate on the roadway immediately in front of or adjacent to their establishments.

and issuing fines to dining establishments who violated the new - old - rules. The city did not say if they planned to overturn those tickets and refund those fines.

Once the changes were implemented in March, the food service industry lobbied City Hall to allow them more outdoor dining options that create customer satisfaction and add to the character of a neighborhood.

"Outdoor dining has proven critical to restaurants in neighborhoods across Chicago," said Mayor Johnson. By introducing this ordinance, "we are sending a signal to local restaurateurs that they are valued members of our city's culture and business community and that my administration is here to support in any way we can."

"The previous success of the EOD Program has led us to reimagine outdoor dining spaces," said BACP Cmsr. Kenneth J. Meyer. "We must evolve to meet the needs of small business, and creating a long-term outdoor dining program is a solution that benefits businesses and consumers."

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NEWS-STAR

AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

VOL. 119, NO. 22

FREE

NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com

The Ideal Mini Mart, 6900 N. Clark St., opened in 2020. An area resident said the owner is community oriented and the store is clean, well-stocked and very convenient.

Photo by Joanne Kitsos

Liquor license would be ideal for Rogers Park mini-mart owner

Request to sell beer, wine on one 'dry' block of Clark St.

BY BOB KITSOS

At a virtual community meeting hosted by Ald. Maria Hadden [49th] on May 23, the owner of the Ideal Mini Mart, 6900 N. Clark St. (at Farwell) requested that the liquor moratorium be lifted at this location so that he can apply for a packaged goods liquor license.

Owner Albano Cerriku, who opened the store in 2020, hopes liquor sales (beer and wine only) will help make up for some of the lost income over the last three years. He explained that nearby businesses closed, making it difficult to sustain his business.

Cerriku said, "A lot of customers have asked me about selling beer and wine. I want to be a one-stop shop." Ideal Mini Mart is a small, neighborhood business that sells canned, refrigerated and packaged food, beverages, snacks and other convenience items. Tobacco products are not sold at Ideal.

If the license is granted, Cer-



Ideal Mini Mart owner Albano Cerriku is hoping to expand his business with packaged liquor sales and offer made-to-order sandwiches this year.

Photo by Joanne Kitsos

riku said the liquor would be located in the back of the store and would not be consumed on the premises. He also has plans to expand his business by hiring another employee and to offer made-to-order sandwiches and, eventually, an outdoor patio area.

LICENSE see p. 16

Mobile City Hall coming to Loyola Park June 6

The City Clerk's Office will bring a variety of city services to Rogers Park with their Mobile City Hall, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at Loyola Park, 1230 W. Greenleaf.

Residents will be able to purchase their City Stickers, Residential Parking Permits, Dog Licenses, and get their CityKeyID during the event.

Short-term daily street closures for Ardmore, Winona, Ainslie

Between all the double-parked delivery trucks, construction tie-ups, re-paving, and installation of bike paths, getting around town has become difficult. Now, thanks to street closures by the CTA, this week things are going to get tougher for Uptown and Edgewater.

On May 31 through June 3, the CTA's contractor has deter-

mined that closures will need to take place on Ardmore Ave., Winona and Ainslie streets on the following dates: Ardmore Ave. and Winona St. now through Thursday, June 1; and Ainslie St. now through Saturday, June 3.

Streets will be closed between the CTA tracks and N. Winthrop Ave.

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SKYLINE

AN INSIDE PUBLICATION'S NEWSPAPER

VOL. 119, NO. 22

NEWS OF THE LOOP, STREETERVILLE, RIVER NORTH, NEAR NORTH, GOLD COAST & OLD TOWN

MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2023

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NEWSPAPER see p. 6

Streeterville strives to evolve, despite area's quick changes

SOAR's 2023
Neighborhood Vision
unveiled

BY MATT MEDINA

The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] hosted a town hall open meeting at Northwestern University Auditorium, 303 E. Superior Ave., for the public to delve into its new 2023 "Neighborhood Vision."

The plan tries to tackle some of the challenges and upcoming improvements the organization is looking to make, amid the area's exponential growth, and new ward mapping that makes the majority of Streeterville now part of the 2nd Ward.

The meeting was met by roughly 100 residents, eager to know how the growing neighborhood will handle a massive influx of development, population, and crime in the area for years to come.

SOAR released their new Neighborhood Vision, as a set of goals and vision for the Streeterville neighborhood, based on some ever-changing dynamics. The last time they released a plan was in 2015, before a pandemic, government-imposed lockdown, rioting, looting crime wave, and exponential population growth. (SOAR has been around since

1975, working with government officials to help shape their interests in the neighborhood.)

Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] and SOAR both contributed to the Neighborhood Vision for 2023, which can be found online at www.soarchicago.org-vision-plan. The plan includes specifics on studies, surveys, and future potential projects they have in store.

Making his introduction and first impressions on some of his new 2nd Ward constituents, Ald. Hopkins was hot off of being named to the new Public Safety Committee, by Mayor Brandon Johnson, during the first City council meeting earlier that day.

Under the new map, Hopkins now has jurisdiction over the majority of a Streeterville neighborhood he is very familiar with. Hopkins, who lives in the area and was a former member of SOAR in the years before becoming alderman, gave credit for his success from his time working for SOAR, stating "I got my start here."

Following the highly controversial remapping last year, Hopkins was adamant on his pledge that ward remapping should be done by an independent commission, not decisions made by incumbents and mayors, alluding to his frustrations and disapproval

of former Mayor Lori Lightfoot's handling of the remapping.

Streeterville has faced a population boom in the past decade, up 45%, compared to the City as a whole at two-percent. Pushing Streeterville's optimism and added pressure over the influx of new residents in the area. The building continues even today with high interest rates.

The area's main assets are the Mag Mile, landmark buildings, and exposure to N. Lake Shore Dr. and Lake Michigan.

However, those attractions have also welcomed crime, congestion, high density developments, and need for cosmetic improvement in order to keep Streeterville looking good and running at top speed.

Like all of Chicago, crime is a major concern among Streeterville residents, with major attention being brought to rises in carjackings, retail theft, and overall violence. Formerly considered a pretty safe area, Streeterville now hosts a plethora of all of these urban plagues.

Ald. Hopkins made sure to proclaim his support for the police in the area, pointing to reinforcing police presence on the main streets downtown. He says he is

STREETERVILLE see p. 16



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AL FRESCO see p. 16



President Kimberly Bares, association board members, and Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] cut the ribbon for the Mag Mile Kiosk.

New security kiosk on Mag Mile

Hoping to relieve feelings of anxiety over growing crime downtown, on May 25 the Mag Mile Assoc. President Kimberly Bares, association board members, and Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] hosted the grand opening of the Mag Mile Kiosk at the corner of Michigan and Chicago avenues.

Mag Mile Ambassadors will man the kiosk from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday. This welcoming center will help assist tourists with directions, and serve as a security measure along the Mag Mile. Ambassadors are an unarmed security force that are trained in de-escalation tactics,

and are able to assist people experiencing mental health crises.

In February the city undertook the Corridor Ambassador program, which awarded up to \$235,000 per commercial corridor to hire Ambassadors. Contracts with selected organizations were signed by May 1, allowing for ambassador recruiting and training prior to ambassadors being active on the corridor by June 1. The expected contract end date is December 31. Other than the Loop and Michigan Ave., on the North Side, Ambassadors can be found in Rogers Park, Old Town and Uptown.