

# Aldermanic candidates await rulings on ballot changes

by BRIAN NADIG

Some aldermanic candidates could be waiting up to two more weeks for a ruling by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners on whether their names will remain on the Feb. 22 ballot with numerous challenges to candidates in recent North West Side aldermanic races.

The election board received a record number 426 challenges for the upcoming city election, the first residency challenges against mayoral candidates Rahm Emanuel have remained on the Feb. 22 ballot with numerous challenges to candidates in recent North West Side aldermanic races.

Allen said that the ballot has to be completed by around Jan. 20 to

allow time for voting machine materials for the early voting session which starts on Jan. 31. Applicants for absentee ballots have submitted starting Jan. 13, but the board does not have to immediately mail those ballots.

Allen said that the backlog in cases was made much greater if the election board had not succeeded in lobbying for a new state law which allowed the election board to allow candidates to be moved up to the 2010 to Nov. 30, 2011. This would have allowed candidates to be moved up to the 2010 to Nov. 30, 2011. This would have allowed candidates to be moved up to the 2010 to Nov. 30, 2011. This would have allowed candidates to be moved up to the 2010 to Nov. 30, 2011.

Decisions are pending on challenges against six candidates in the 41st Ward. One candidate has withdrawn as a candidate. A hearing on one of the challenges to Emanuel will be held today. Jan. 5, and two other candidates are awaiting the board's decision. The election board will be holding a 41st Ward hearing.

A petition challenger or candidate who has not succeeded in getting a hearing on their challenge should appeal to a board ruling in Cook County Circuit Court, but in 2007 only about 10 percent of the candidates appealed, two of them going to the Illinois Supreme Court, Allen said. A court challenge to the board's decision will be held on Jan. 5. A court challenge will be held on Jan. 5. A court challenge will be held on Jan. 5.

# Study finds increasing losses for free-ride transit programs

by CYRIL JAKUBOWSKI

A study commissioned by the Regional Transportation Authority found that the programs that provide free bus and rail rides for senior citizens and individuals with disabilities lost more than \$70 million in 2009. The transit system lost between \$37.7 million and \$118.2 million in 2009. The study, which was conducted by the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago, found that the programs lost more than \$70 million in 2009. The transit system lost between \$37.7 million and \$118.2 million in 2009. The study, which was conducted by the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago, found that the programs lost more than \$70 million in 2009.

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# Big tie in black wards for aldermanic contests

by RUSS STEWART

In street vernacular, "sweet" means tantalizingly pleasurable or remuneratively beneficial. In Chicago's predominantly black wards, "sweet" describes the job of alderman.

Given that black unemployment is 16.1 percent, it's not surprising that 189 candidates filed for alderman in the city's 20 black-majority wards.

The reason? A 4-year gig in the part-time post will generate a revenue stream of more than \$64 million, plus an annual pension of \$78,000, plus health and life insurance and city pension contributions.

By 2011, the average salary of an alderman will be \$121,000. The average salary of a city council member is \$121,000. The average salary of a city council member is \$121,000. The average salary of a city council member is \$121,000. The average salary of a city council member is \$121,000.

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# Food illness traced to bakery

The Illinois Department of Public Health is investigating several outbreaks of foodborne illnesses in which people reported becoming ill after eating desserts from The Ruff's Pastryerie bakery, 4343 W. Touhy Ave., Lincoln Park.

There have been four recent outbreaks in which one of the desserts was questioned. The illnesses were primarily approximately 100 people have reported becoming ill after eating food produced by the bakery. The bakery is working with the department and is temporarily closed.

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# Legislators eye borrowing plan

by CYRIL JAKUBOWSKI

Some Northwest Side legislators said they support Governor Pat Quinn's plans to borrow \$15 billion in order to pay off the state's operating and pension bills. The plan is to borrow \$15 billion in order to pay off the state's operating and pension bills. The plan is to borrow \$15 billion in order to pay off the state's operating and pension bills.

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# Analysis and Opinion

by RUSS STEWART

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Given that black unemployment is 16.1 percent, it's not surprising that 189 candidates filed for alderman in the city's 20 black-majority wards.

The reason? A 4-year gig in the part-time post will generate a revenue stream of more than \$64 million, plus an annual pension of \$78,000, plus health and life insurance and city pension contributions.

# Crime Watch

A MAN was found dead inside a pickup truck in a parking lot in the 3400 block of North Harlem Avenue at about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, according to 16th Jefferson Park District police.

Officers responding to a report of a suspicious death in a Jefferson Park District police.

A MAN REPORTED that his 1994 Plymouth Voyager was stolen Tuesday, Dec. 24, in the 3200 block of West Montrose Avenue, according to 17th Albany Park District police.

The 35-year-old man reported that three men approached him, beat him and took his wallet containing \$30, according to police.

A WOMAN reported that she was robbed at about 8:10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, in the 6000 block of West Brooksview Avenue, according to 16th Jefferson Park District police.

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# Parking meter rates increase in 2011

by JASON PORTERFIELD

Rates for on-street parking meters throughout the city will increase by 25 percent, based on the rate schedule detailed in the parking meter increase agreement between the city and Chicago Parking Meters, LLC.

The transition to the new rates will begin in the Loop, bounded by the lake, Wacker Drive to the north and West Congress Parkway to the south. Rates will increase to \$5 per hour from \$4 per hour, and to \$9 per hour from \$7 per hour.

Rates are scheduled to rise again in 2012 and 2013. Rates in the central city will increase to \$5.50 in 2012 and to \$6.50 in 2013. Rates in the outer city will increase to \$4.50 in 2012 and to \$5.50 in 2013.

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# Restaurant backed by Old Irving group

by BRIAN NADIG

Members of the Old Irving Park Association are hoping that plans to build a restaurant in the area near Irving Park Road and Pulaski Road will come to fruition despite some problems with the project.

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# City adds new tour of Northwest Side

by BRIAN NADIG

The Chicago Office of Tourism is launching a new tour of the Northwest Side, which will explore the city's rich history and architecture.

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# Chicago homicide total declines to 45-year low

Chicago police superintendent David Brown announced that the city experienced the fewest number of murders last year since 1965.

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# tour . . .

by architect Dwight Perkins and his city landmark.

Information about reservations for public business centers is available at explorechicago.org.

The tour will include a stop at Saint Hyacinth Basilica, 3636 W. Wolfram St., which was constructed in Avondale from 1917 to 1921 and which features three towers.

# Fares . . .

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