

Skyline

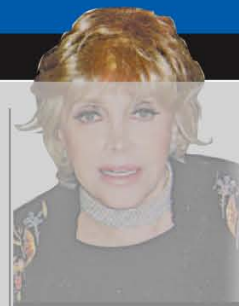
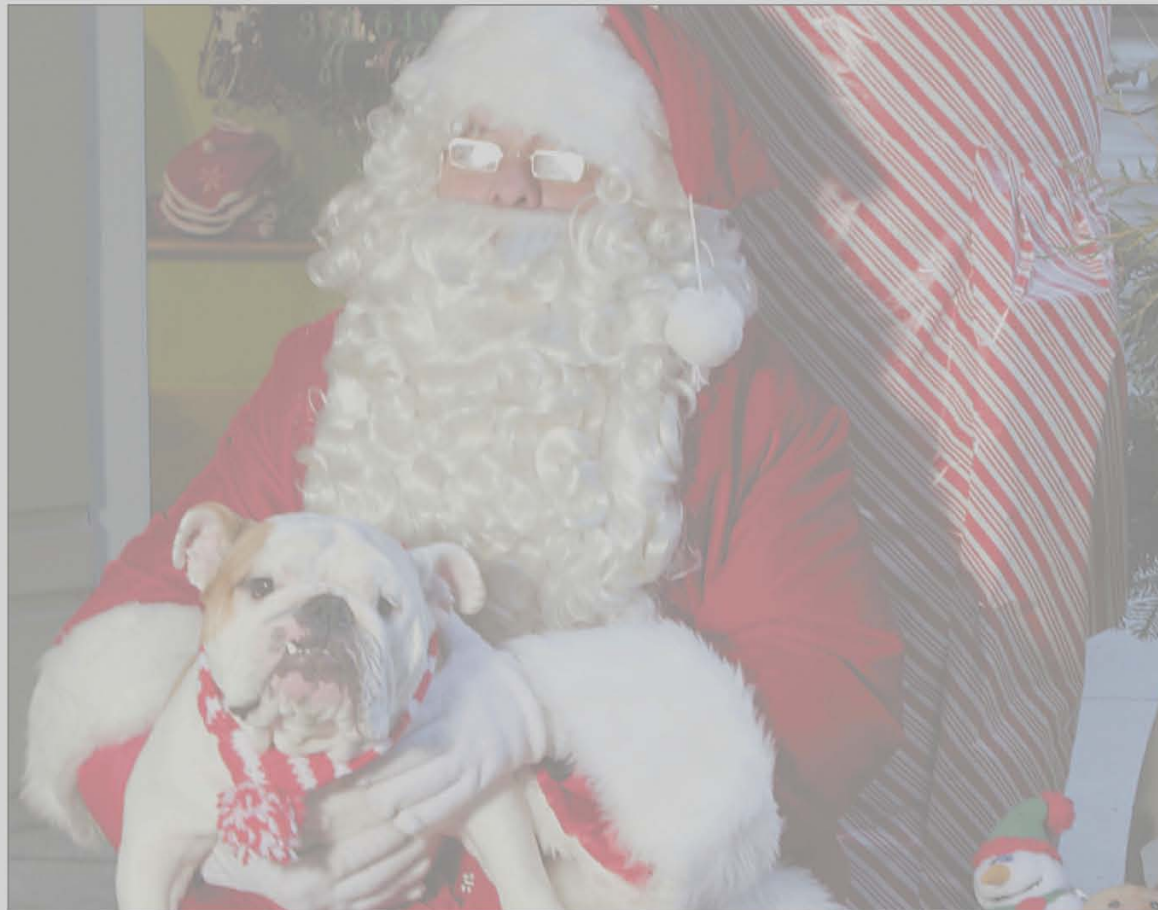
A Pioneer Press Publication — Your Neighborhood Source



December 7, 2007 FREE

SANTA PAWS

Riley the English bulldog gave Santa an earful about his visions of milkbones at Tails in the City, One E. Delaware Pl., on Sunday. Owners had their pet's photo taken with Santa for \$10 fee to benefit the The Anti-Cruelty Society. — Stacie Freudenberg/For Pioneer Press



ANN GERBER
Comment

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Do we care about Stacy?

YES, WE DO. AND WE WONDER about missing **Lisa Stebic** as well.

WHY DO YOU THINK strangers and neighbors who never even knew **Lisa** or **Stacy Peterson** join in searches for them? Stacy has become "our cousin," a lost relative whose fate has captured our hearts and our imagination since TV, newspapers, mags have placed her sweet face in our lives. Lisa's fate haunts us, too.

MOST OF US fear the young troubled mother of two is dead. Stacy, 23, would never have left her babies unless forced to. Of course we would forgive her if she suddenly showed up after voluntarily fleeing her marriage.

SINCE THE DEATH of **Sgt. Drew Peterson's** third wife, **Kathleen Savio**, is now being inves-

See **GERBER**, page 8

Historic Lake Shore Athletic Club to become luxury senior residence

Alderman Reilly negotiates plan to save building

By **FELICIA DECHTER**
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Five months after declar-

ing his opposition to a proposal to demolish Streeter-ville's historic Lake Shore Athletic Club, 850 N. Lake Shore Drive, Alderman Brendan Reilly, 42nd, announced Tuesday that the property will be saved from demolition.

Plans include renovating the property to provide senior luxury residential housing

and assisted living.

Reilly said that after spending countless hours hosting community meetings, reviewing facts, and speaking with experts on both sides of the issue, he determined that every effort should be made to preserve and re-use the building.

"That first major decision

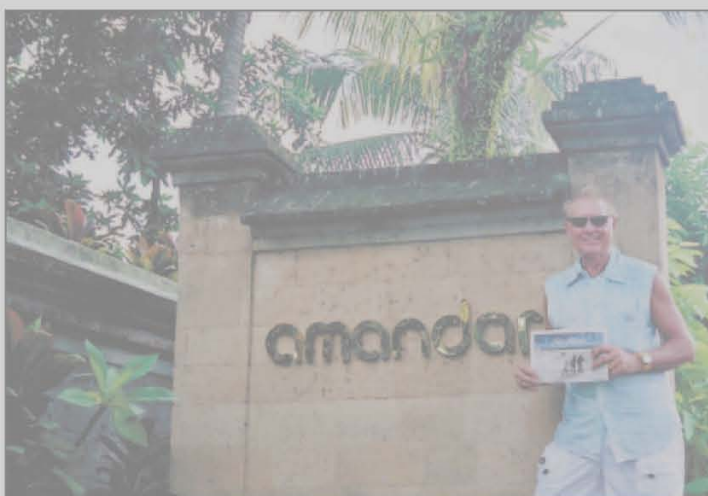
of my term was met with criticism from some 'real estate experts' who claimed it was 'economically impossible' to re-use the building," Reilly said. "After six months of hard work, I am happy to report we proved those 'experts' wrong."

In April, Northwestern University requested a dem-

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SKYLINE around the world

River North resident Joe Stryczek during his stay at Amandari, Bali, Indonesia.



Henri-Jozef Pauwels, "Breakfast in the Garden", ca. 1940s



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Emanuel unveils property tax plan

By **PATRICK BUTLER**
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U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-5th, proposed his own form of relief for overtaxed homeowners in the form of new standard deductions of \$250 for single taxpayers and \$500 for joint returns filed by property owners who currently do not itemize their property taxes.

The Homeowners Tax Relief Act is - which Emanuel introduced in Congress last month - is designed to offer some relief to mostly middle-class property owners - many of them senior citizens - who have been squeezed by escalating taxes and shrinking real estate values, Emanuel said as he unveiled the legislation Nov. 30, at the Levy Center, 2019 W. Lawrence.

"The tax code compounds the problem by excluding up to 30 million people who do not itemize on their tax returns from deducting their property taxes," he said. "It's inequitable. I get to deduct. There's no

corresponding relief (for many others.) It's a tax code that's been frozen in place."

The standard federal tax deduction is adjusted each year for inflation, but that adjustment does not take into account rising property values, Emanuel said.

"Based on census data, the total amount of state and local property taxes paid in the U.S. increased by 50 percent from 2000 to 2006. Over the same period of time, inflation increased by only 17 percent. Over that time, median household income actually dropped by 2 percent," Emanuel said.

While David Winner of the Lake View Citizens Council asked "how could you not be pleased?" he said he would like to study the bill before commenting further.

Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC) President Barb Head said "we need reform, not relief. The problem with our property tax system is that we're all being assessed based on what our neighbors' property sells for."

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BOYS = (MOM'S HEIGHT + DAD'S HEIGHT) ÷ 2 + 2.5 INCHES

IRLS = (MOM'S HEIGHT + DAD'S HEIGHT) ÷ 2 - 2.5 INCHES

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*Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are effective as of October 19, 2007 and are: 0.45% for balances less than \$10,000; 3.90% for balances between \$10,000 and \$24,999.99; 4.40% for balances between \$25,000 and \$49,999.99; 4.65% for balances between \$50,000 and \$99,999.99; and 4.75% for balances \$100,000 and greater. This is a variable rate product and rates may change at any time. To open a Harris Relationship Money Market Account, you must have either a personal checking account or a consumer loan or line of credit account at Harris. Minimum opening deposit is \$10,000, which must all be new money, not currently on deposit at any Harris bank. Fees could reduce earnings on account. Transaction limitations apply. This account is only available for personal accounts. All account openings subject to approval. †parenting.ivillage.com. Harris® is a trade name used by Harris N.A. and its affiliates. Member FDIC. harrisbank.com

CLUB

Continued from page 1

olition permit to raze the lakefront building designed by architect Jarvis Hunt and completed in 1927. Because the request was filed five weeks before Reilly took office, he inherited a looming demolition deadline of July 16.

Yet Reilly intervened to preserve the building, and in late September, Integrated Development Group, LLC (IDG), a Chicago-area developer of luxury senior living projects, and Northwestern University—which owns the property—agreed to terms for the purchase of the building.

The \$80 million renovation proposal for the 17-story, 374,000 square-foot high-rise, features 139 luxury residential dwellings, including 11 assisted-living units. It would also include on-site amenities such as fitness and wellness facilities, valet parking, a salon/spa, dining and a theater.

Gail Spreen, president of the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR), said her group is "very happy," that the club will not be demolished and will continue to grace the lakefront skyline. "With the need for senior housing in Streeterville, this proposal is a great adaptive reuse of the building, which benefits an aging population as well as saving a neighborhood landmark," she said.

The development group has retained Chicago-based architect Booth-

Hansen to design the interior spaces and units. The vast majority of the exterior and much of the interiors that are architecturally significant and steeped in Chicago history will be preserved. The plan is to restore the two main social rooms of the former club—the two-story wood paneled lounge and the two-story banquet room.

"We're excited and thrilled to have this project because we're meeting a market need while also keeping a part of Chicago's rich, architectural history alive," said Dave Bayless, spokesman for Integrated Development Group. "We're looking forward to working with the community and hope to bring this to fruition very soon."

Members of Preservation Chicago, which organized a successful petition drive and protest rally in front of the club with more than 200 demonstrators—some dressed as athletes in recognition of the building's rich athletic history—were pleased with Reilly's decision.

"The reuse of the building as a senior residences seems like a great option for this property," said Michael Moran, vice president of Preservation Chicago. "Alderman Reilly showed statesmanship and careful deliberation. He listed carefully to both sides and made his decision wisely."

Other preservationists also applauded the plan.

"I'm just so delighted. This is the best thing to happen to this neighborhood," said Pam Jameson, coordinator for the Lake Shore Preservation Group.