

Sunday Edition



Noticiero Bilingüe
LAWNDALE
NEWS

Sunday, April 6, 2025

WEST SIDE TIMES



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ESTABLISHED 1940

Mayor Johnson, City Officials and Developers Celebrate Groundbreaking of 79 West Monroe



Rector Building, the oldest surviving commercial high-rise designed by renowned architect Jarvis Hunt, into a dynamic residential space, addressing the growing demand for housing in the Loop. The renovation will add 117 new apartments to the Loop, offering a mix of market-rate and affordable housing. Notably, 79 W. Monroe will set a new standard for affordability in the LaSalle Street corridor, with 35 percent of its units (41 out of 117) designated as affordable housing. The project is spearheaded by Lagfin and Chicago-based developer R2. Lagfin, as the holding company of Campari, has made significant investments in Chicago-based projects — their largest stake in any North American city.

Photo Rendering Courtesy of City of Chicago



Mayor Brandon Johnson, Alderman Bill Conway and city officials — including Deputy Mayor Kenya

Merritt, Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Ciere Boatright and

Department of Housing Commissioner Lissette Castañeda — joined Lagfin, R2 Companies, and

community leaders to break ground on 79 West Monroe, a landmark development that will set a precedent

as Chicago's first office-to-residential conversion. This innovative project will transform the historic

Healthy Babies Drive: Local Nonprofit Collecting Much-Needed Items



Keeping kids safe as they grow is a parent's most essential and challenging responsibility, especially for first-time caregivers. The list of items that a young child needs—diapers, wipes, bottles, diaper bags, and baby gates—is long

and expensive, and for families living in poverty, purchasing those necessities comes at the expense of food or other bills. Kids Above All is launching its Healthy Babies Drive to collect childcare items for the young children

and new families in their programs. The goal is to ensure they have everything they need to build a strong foundation for their lives together. Kids Above All's Happy Babies Drive runs through May 15. Donations may be dropped off at the Better Life Distribution Center in Des Plaines or online via the nonprofit's Amazon Wishlist. For more information about Kids Above All's Healthy Babies Drive, visit www.kidsaboveall.org/babies/ For in-person drop off, you can head to the Better Life Distribution Center, 1801 E. Oakton, Des Plaines, IL.



Chicago Teachers Union Step Closer to Agreement

After nearly a year of bargaining and ironing out a contract, the Chicago Teachers Union approved a tentative agreement with Chicago Public Schools. The tentative agreement will go to CTU's House of Delegates this week which will decide whether or not to advance it to CTU's 30,000 members for a ratification vote. If accepted, it will represent a major leap forward in the transformation of a district, according to the CTU. "Our union is bargaining for what every parent wants for their child in our school communities. It shouldn't be a fight for children to get access to arts, sports, wrap around supports, and libraries. It's what should already exist," explains CTU Local 1 President Stacy Davis Gates. "We're

proud to have landed a transformative contract that turns away from decades of disinvesting in Black children and turns toward creating the world-class education system for every single student in CPS no matter their zip code. If the contract is ratified by our members, we will be one major leap forward toward the educational experience Chicago's children and the mainly women workers who serve them in our schools deserve." In 2025, some highlights of the Chicago Teachers Union contract include:

- Doubles the number of libraries and librarians for our schools.
- Enforceable and smaller class sizes for all grade levels.
- Ensuring social workers

and nurses serve students in every school, every instructional day.

- Doubles the bilingual education staffing supports for students.
- Additional staffing, curricular and enrollment supports for Early Childhood education students and programs.
- Creates 215 more case manager positions district-wide to support students with disabilities.
- A cost of living adjustment of 17-20% compounded (tied to inflation) over the four years of the contract.



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Ford y Líderes de Educación Superior Alertan Sobre Recortes Federales

La representante estatal La Shawn K. Ford, demócrata por Chicago, se unió el lunes a representantes de universidades estatales y organizaciones de educación superior para oponerse a posibles recortes federales y reafirmar el compromiso del estado con la creación de oportunidades diversas en la educación superior. Ford, presidenta del Comité de Asignaciones de la Cámara de Representantes para la Educación Superior, presidió la conferencia de prensa este lunes en el edificio del Estado de Illinois, ubicado en 555 W. Monroe St. en Chicago. "Las decisiones que se tomen en Washington desempeñarán un papel importante en la creación o eliminación de oportunidades para nuestros estudiantes en los



próximos años", declaró Ford. "Los recortes federales a la educación superior harán que la universidad sea menos asequible para las familias de Illinois, afectarán las economías locales y socavarán aún más el apoyo estatal. Por eso, nos mantenemos unidos para promover una mayor estabilidad y apoyo a la educación superior". Ford estuvo acompañado por la Universidad Estatal de Chicago, la Universidad del Noreste de Illinois, la Universidad del Norte de Illinois, la Universidad

de Illinois-Chicago, la Academia de Matemáticas y Ciencias de Illinois, la Alianza para la Finalización Universitaria, Mujeres Empleadas, Jóvenes Invencibles, la Federación de Maestros de Illinois y el Foro de Política Latina, entre otros. "Los estudiantes de todos los orígenes y de todas las comunidades merecen la oportunidad de alcanzar el futuro que desean", declaró Ford. "Hay demasiado en juego como para que nos quedemos de brazos cruzados".

Play On! Chicago Public Schools Brings Museum Experiences into Classrooms

More students than ever across the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) District now have access to designated spaces where they can touch and explore the physical world around them. In partnership with the Chicago Children's Museum, the District has been working to add Curiosity Classrooms to schools as part of efforts to bring sensory-rich, museum-quality experiences straight to children in pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade. CPS CEO Pedro Martinez – along with other District leaders, school officials, and partners from Chicago Children's Museum – on Wednesday walked through one of the newest Curiosity Classrooms at Burke Elementary School. With



the 15 rooms that opened this year, the District has now expanded the number of participating schools to 25 total. The Curiosity Classrooms feature art spaces, book nooks, block play areas, nature corners, and sensory tables to dig, scoop, and pour – all features that are meant to spark curiosity and inspire the District's youngest learners to ask "what if" questions. Key principles of the Curiosity Classrooms include:

- Use materials that invite

problem solving, self-expression and creativity

- Wonder, observe, question, test, fail, try again
- Provide authentic materials, equipment and tools
- Invite children to document and share ideas and discoveries
- Focus on STEAM concepts that can be directly experienced and are open-ended
- Include direct experiences with the natural and living world

¡Ayude a impulsar "El futuro de nuestro transporte"!

Por primera vez, la CTA pone en marcha una planificación estratégica global a largo plazo. Es importante que este proceso sea impulsado por **ustedes**: los pasajeros y las comunidades a las que servimos. Responda a una breve encuesta sobre su experiencia con la CTA y qué tipos de servicios de tránsito le gustaría ver en el futuro.

Obtenga más información en transitchicago.com/strategicplan y escanee el código para participar en nuestra encuesta.

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ADOPTAR UNA VISIÓN PARA EL FUTURO.**



Chicago Partners Set to Break Ground on The Ave., Affordable Housing Unit

Nonprofit Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) and its partner, KMW Communities LLC, have closed on financing for

The Ave., a 52-unit mixed-use affordable housing development in Chicago's northwest side Humboldt Park neighborhood. In

addition to POAH and KMW, the development includes Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, a long-standing

Community Development Financing Institution focused on affordable homeownership. NHS will operate a West Side



homeownership center on the property's first floor. The four-story development will include 52 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments targeting households earning 30-60 percent of the area median income AMI. Resident amenities include indoor and outdoor community gathering spaces, a bike room, fitness center and onsite parking. The Ave will also create at least 1,000 SF in retail space for local businesses. The transaction is financed with

substantial support from the Chicago Department of Housing, which issued tax-exempt bonds, 4 percent low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC) and \$18 million in tax increment financing proceeds. Construction financing and \$19 million in investor equity – generated by the tax credits – is provided through Bank of America. A joint venture of Leopardo and Ujamaa Construction is expected to begin construction in April, with completion likely in fall 2026.



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Federal Jury Convicts Chicago Man of Sex Trafficking and Kidnapping Offenses



A federal jury has convicted a Chicago man of violently sex trafficking five young victims, including a 15-year-old girl, and kidnapping two of them. The jury in U.S. District Court in Chicago on Tuesday convicted DENNIS WILLIAMS, 33, on all seven sex trafficking and kidnapping counts

against him. Williams faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison and a maximum of life. U.S. District Judge Mary M. Rowland set sentencing for Oct. 7, 2025. The convictions were announced by Morris Pasqual, Acting United States Attorney

for the Northern District of Illinois, and Douglas S. DePodesta, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Office of the FBI. Valuable assistance was provided by the Chicago Police Department and the Lansing, Ill. Police Department. The government has been represented by Assistant

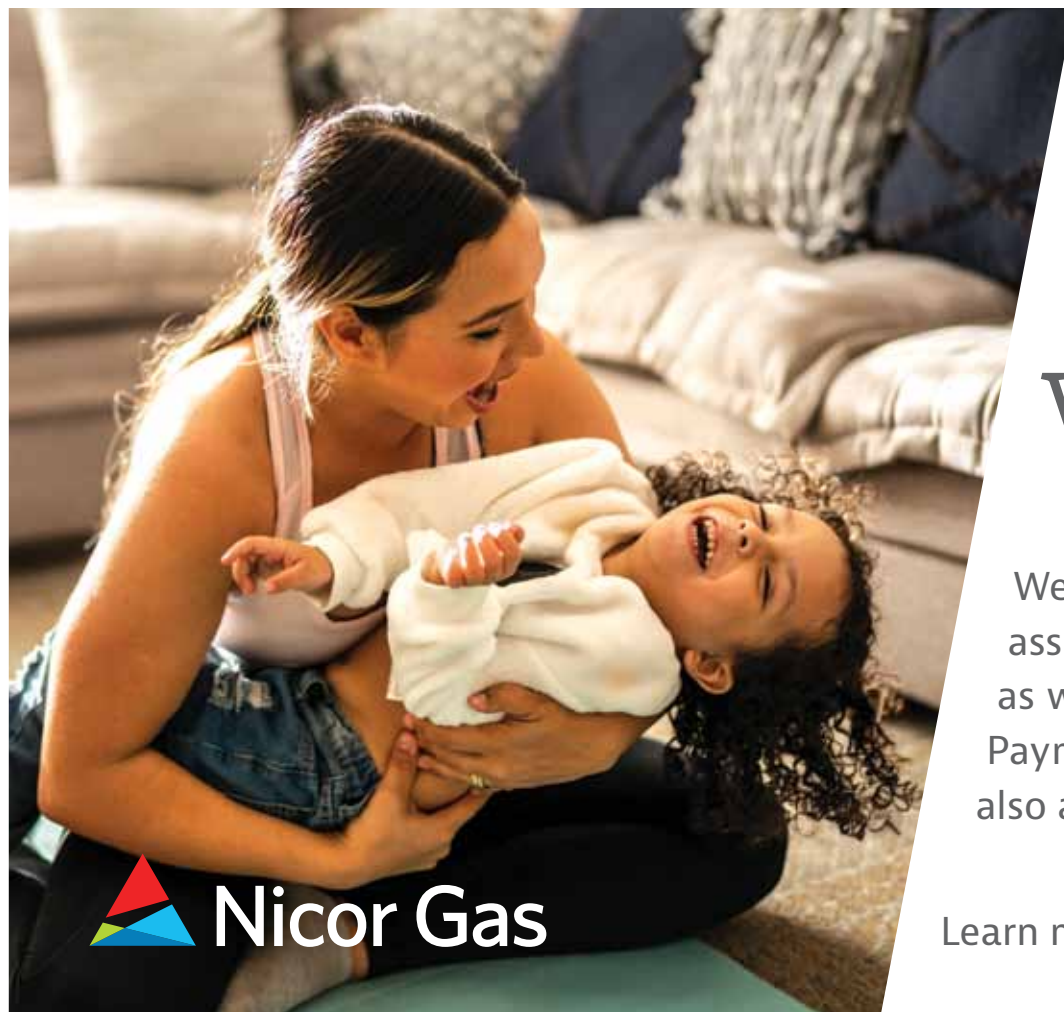
U.S. Attorneys Kristen Totten, Sushma Raju, and Michelle Parthum.

According to evidence presented at the week-long trial, Williams used threats, violence, drugs, and other coercive means to force five victims to engage in commercial sex. Williams often restrained or assaulted the victims to force them to comply and turn over the proceeds to him. Williams also caused a 17-year-old girl, whom he also assaulted repeatedly, to assist him in trafficking the victims. Williams operated his sex trafficking operation in 2022 and 2023 out of his Chicago residence and motels in Lansing, Ill. On Aug. 2, 2022, Williams kidnapped one of his victims by luring her inside his truck and abruptly driving away. The victim escaped by leaping from the moving vehicle. On Jan. 10, 2023, Williams

kidnapped another of his victims by confining her to his closet overnight and then forcing her to engage in commercial sex with strangers. The victim escaped by jumping out of a second-floor window and running a quarter mile to a Chicago Public Library branch. All five of Williams' victims, including both of the kidnapping victims, testified about their

ordeals at trial. If you believe you are a victim of sexual exploitation, you are encouraged to contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by logging on to www.missingkids.com or by calling 1-800-843-5678. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Photo Credit: U.S. Attorney's Office



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El Alcalde Johnson, Funcionarios Municipales y Promotores Inmobiliarios Celebran la Inauguración de 79 West Monroe

El alcalde Brandon Johnson, el concejal Bill Conway y funcionarios municipales, entre ellos la vicealcaldesa Kenya Merritt, la comisionada del Departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo, Ciere Boatright, y la comisionada del Departamento de Vivienda, Lissette Castañeda, se unieron a Lagfin, R2 Companies y líderes comunitarios para inaugurar 79 West Monroe, un desarrollo emblemático que sentará un precedente como la primera conversión de oficinas a vivienda en Chicago. Este innovador proyecto transformará el histórico Edificio Rector,

el rascacielos comercial más antiguo que se conserva, diseñado por el reconocido arquitecto Jarvis Hunt, en un dinámico espacio residencial, que responde a la creciente demanda de vivienda en el Loop. La renovación añadirá 117 nuevos apartamentos al Loop, ofreciendo una combinación de viviendas a precio de mercado y asequibles. Cabe destacar que 79 W. Monroe establecerá un nuevo estándar de asequibilidad en el corredor de la calle LaSalle, con el 35 % de sus unidades (41 de 117) designadas como viviendas asequibles. El proyecto está liderado por



Lagfin y la promotora inmobiliaria R2, con sede en Chicago. Lagfin, como holding de Campari, ha

realizado importantes inversiones en proyectos con sede en Chicago, su mayor participación en cualquier

ciudad de Norteamérica.

Fotografía cortesía de la Ciudad de Chicago.



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tenants who may need additional services. The units are studio and one bedroom, each with electric appliances, tile bath, and wall to wall carpeting. Modern fire and safety systems are installed in each apartment and common areas of the building. There are also 8 accessible one bedroom units for the mobility impaired. The Oaks is owned and operated by The Oak Park Residence Corporation and is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the 202/section 8 Program. Residents pay approximately 30% of their monthly income for rent. For additional information please visit our website at www.oakparkha.org or contact us at 708-386-5812.



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**NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID TO**

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

CONTRACT 22-377-2D

RAW SEWAGE DISCHARGE PIPE SUPPORT MODIFICATIONS FOR PUMPS 1-3, KWRP

Estimated Cost: Between \$5,168,000.00 and \$6,256,000.00 Bid Deposit: \$250,240.00
Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid Conference: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 11:00 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link.

Voluntary Pre-Bid Walk-Through will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Chicago Time at the Kirie WRP, 701 West Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

Bid Opening: May 13, 2025

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix C, Appendix V, Appendix K, and the Multi-Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract.

CONTRACT 24-279-5F

SURBURBAN GREEN SCHOOLYARD PILOT PROJECT 1 IN BURNHAM

Estimated Cost: Between \$1,805,000.00 and \$2,185,000.00 Bid Deposit: \$86,250.00
Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid Conference: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 10:00 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link.

Bid Opening: May 6, 2025

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix V, Appendix C and the Multi-Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract.

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice- Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, www.mwrd.org; the path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrd.org or call 312-751-6643.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
April 2, 2025