

Chicago Tribune



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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



One person was dead and another critically injured in an early morning house fire in the 1200 block of South Kedvale Avenue in Chicago on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Mother injured, son dies in North Lawndale house fire

Man's body found in the rubble; 2 Chicago police officers injured during search

By Deanese Williams-Harris and Alysa Guffey
Chicago Tribune

Carlos Street mostly kept to himself at his home in North Lawndale where he lived with his mother, Dessie. Her passion for sewing and crafting clothes for others made her a well-known and familiar face around the neighborhood.

On Wednesday morning family and friends somberly shared stories of the mother and son as they gathered outside the pair's home that was torched by

an overnight fire. Dessie Street escaped the fire and was transported to Mount Sinai Hospital in critical condition, but Carlos was still missing and family believed he was in the rubble.

The group held their breath as the Fire Department carefully lifted up debris in the aftermath of the fire. Joseph Johnson, Carlos' uncle and Dessie's brother, cried out when the body of a man was found. He hugged the people around him.

"Please pray for our family," Johnson said.

The man had not been identified by the medical examiner's

office as of Wednesday evening but was identified by family as Carlos Street. Records show a man named Carl Street, 51, resides at the address of the fire.

No one else was unaccounted for, said Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford.

Chicago police officers responded to the home in the 1200 block of South Kedvale Avenue around 1:15 a.m., where 73-year-old Dessie Street was found lying in the grass on the front lawn. Neighbors at the scene alerted police that her son

with special needs was missing.

Two officers were injured in the search for her son when one officer fell through the porch and became trapped. The officer was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A second officer suffered a minor ankle injury running from the fire and was released from the hospital.

Officials said the cause is under investigation, but the severity of the fire and the instability of the structure could make finding the

Turn to Fire, Page 6

How to speed up lead pipe removal?

Chicago gets ideas from 2 cities whose programs are much further along

By Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune

With Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration projecting it will take 40 years and up to \$12 billion to replace toxic lead water pipes throughout the city, aldermen are pressing for changes to speed up the work while driving down costs.

On Tuesday a pair City Council committees heard from water officials in Cincinnati and Newark, New Jersey, two cities that are far ahead of Chicago in their replacement programs in part because elected officials declared the lingering underground hazards are a public health emergency.

Newark agreed to pay to replace about 23,000 lead service lines rather than requiring property owners to contribute or making them fill out paperwork proving they couldn't afford the work, said Kareem Adeem, director of the city's water and sewer department. Frustrated by futile attempts to reach absentee landlords, city officials began allowing renters to grant permission to remove lead pipes connecting homes to municipal water mains.

City officials in Newark also negotiated deals with trade unions to train local people for a project that was expected to take a decade to complete but was all but done in less than three years. Crews fanned out across the city, Adeem said, replacing up to 120 service lines a day at one point.

"One of the biggest challenges is having the political will to get these lead service line programs going," Adeem said.

In sheer numbers what Chicago faces is far more daunting. There are an estimated 409,000 lead

Turn to Pipes, Page 5

NORMAN LEAR 1922-2023

Icon changed face of prime-time TV

String of comedies with social, political conflict left legacy

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

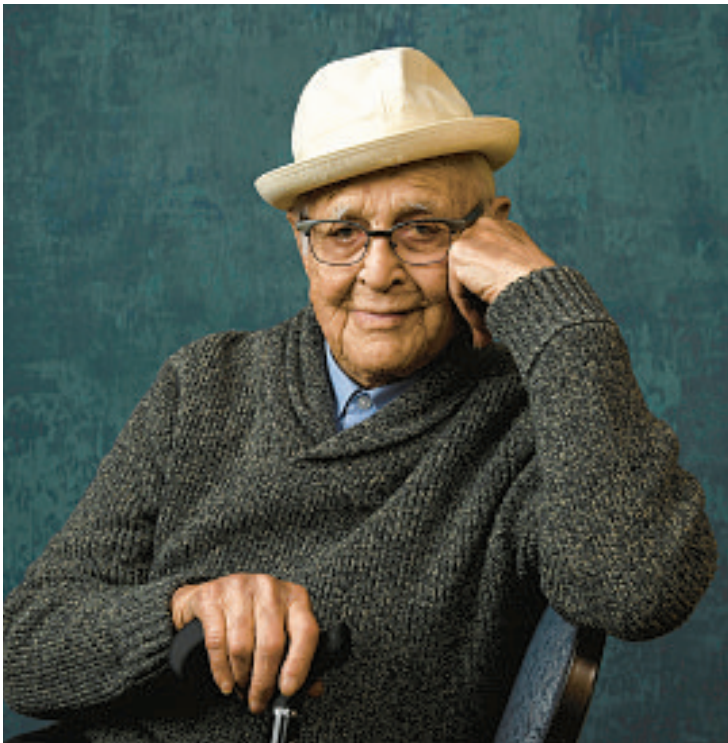
LOS ANGELES — Norman Lear, the writer, director and producer who revolutionized prime-time television with "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons" and "Maude," propelling political and social turmoil into the once-insulated world of TV sitcoms, has died at 101.

Lear died Tuesday night in his sleep, surrounded by family at his home in Los Angeles, said Lara Berghold, a spokesperson for his family.

A liberal activist with an eye for mainstream entertainment, Lear fashioned bold and controversial comedies that were embraced by viewers who had to watch the evening news to find out what was going on in the world. His shows helped define prime-time comedy in the 1970s, launched the careers of Rob Reiner and Valerie Bertinelli, and made middle-age superstars of Carroll O'Connor, Bea Arthur and Redd Foxx.

"All in the Family" was immersed in the headlines of

Turn to Lear, Page 10



Norman Lear, the television force who brought "All in the Family" to viewers in 1971, died Tuesday night. **CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP 2020**

"Controversy suggests people are thinking about something. But there'd better be laughing first and foremost or it's a dog."

— Norman Lear in 1994. He fashioned bold and controversial comedies that were embraced by viewers

Burke meeting 'felt like a shakedown'

Defense pushes BK project manager on interpretation at trial

By Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

A former executive involved in the remodeling of a Southwest Side Burger King testified Wednesday that an early meeting about the project where then-Ald. Edward Burke demanded charitable donations and other concessions "felt like a shakedown."

Jeff MacDonald, who was in charge in the early stages of the renovation of the restaurant in Burke's 14th Ward, also told the jury in Burke's corruption trial that the alderman asked him at the end of the March 2017 meeting who did the property tax work for MacDonald's Houston-based bosses.

MacDonald testified his response to Burke was "that I didn't know, and that it was probably done out of Houston," adding that Burke seemed "irritated" and the whole meeting, which was also attended by Burke's longtime ward aide Peter Andrews Jr., made him "uncom-



Ex-Chicago Ald. Edward Burke is seen Wednesday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, where his corruption trial is being held. **ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE**

fortable."

Lawyers for the defense seized on those comments in cross examination, however, pointing out that MacDonald had never mentioned anything about Burke's alleged inquiry into property tax work when he was interviewed at length by the FBI in April 2019.

MacDonald, who at the time was regional director of Downers Grove-based Tri-City Foods, also had not mentioned it in any of the emails he sent to colleagues

Turn to Trial, Page 5

Scouting for stadium site goes on

Report says Bears mulling Soldier Field parking area as new stadium site. Meanwhile, talks resume with schools over Arlington Heights location. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Spotlight on Fields' future

Quarterback Justin Fields on his future with the Bears: "I'm just focused on what I can control, and the rest is in God's hands." **Chicago Sports**

McCarthy says he'll leave House

Two months after his ouster as House speaker, GOP Rep. Kevin McCarthy said he is resigning and will leave Congress by the end of the month. **Nation & World**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High **51** Low **45**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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