

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Chicagoan Ted Shieh and his wife, Catherine Morris, went all-electric to combat climate change, including by adding these solar panels seen on their garage on June 29, 2022. **VICTOR HILITSKI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## City ordinance could curb natural gas use

Council to weigh limits that would effectively ban it in new buildings

By **Nara Schoenberg**  
Chicago Tribune

An ordinance that would fight climate change by effectively banning the use of natural gas in most new buildings is headed to

the Chicago City Council.

The Clean and Affordable Buildings Ordinance will be introduced Wednesday, according to Ald. Maria Hadden, a sponsor of the measure.

The ordinance sets an emissions standard that natural gas can't meet and opens the way for the electric heat and appliances that play a key role in most plans to slash greenhouse gas emissions and avert the

worst effects of climate change.

"This is a matter of real survival and the future of our city — and especially our economic future," said Hadden. "We're being forced in this direction by nature, but also by policy and by business and industry. People are making these decisions because it's economical, it's healthier, it's safer."

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## Marijuana aroma a reason for search?

Illinois Supreme Court to decide after split decisions on vehicles

By **Robert McCoppin**  
Chicago Tribune

An issue that has tied lower courts in knots — whether the odor of cannabis alone is grounds for police to search a vehicle — is now before the Illinois Supreme Court.

Appellate courts have split over the question, forcing the high court to make the call. At issue are efforts to keep the roads safe and prevent illegal trafficking, while protecting a constitutional right against unreasonable searches.

Before legalization, courts had long held that the smell of marijuana was grounds for a search, defense attorney James Mertes conceded during arguments before the Supreme Court earlier this month. But Mertes argued that once possession of small amounts of recreational pot became legal under state law in 2020, smell no longer is per se evidence of a crime.

"The odor of cannabis is now an aroma of legality," Mertes told the high court.

Prosecutors countered that state law makes it illegal to transport cannabis without a sealed, odor-proof container, and it's still illegal to get or be high while driving.

In a somewhat unusual circumstance, the court consolidated two new cases with opposite appellate rulings on the issue.

In Henry County in 2020, a state trooper stopped Ryan Redmond driving a Kia SUV for having a dangling license plate and driving 3 mph over the speed limit on Interstate 80 in western Illinois. The trooper testified that I-80 is a "known drug corridor" connecting known hubs of criminal activity in Des Moines, Iowa, and Chicago.

The trooper testified that he smelled a strong odor of burnt cannabis coming from the vehicle. When he searched it, he found about a gram of pot — enough for a couple of joints. Redmond was charged with misdemeanor

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T.J. Gordon waits for a traffic light to change as he walks to a CTA bus stop on Ashland Avenue after leaving work at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Friday. Gordon uses a walking stick, which can be a challenge with snow and ice on the ground. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Disability advocates: City can do more about snow

Chicagoans who use wheelchairs, mobility aids 'locked in' by uncleared sidewalks

By **Rebecca Johnson** | Chicago Tribune

While T.J. Gordon has used a walking stick consistently for the past two years due to chronic leg pain, he typically relies on his legs and public transportation to get him where he needs to go in the summer.

But winter is harder, the 36-year-old research associate said.

Last week was too cold for him to wait half an hour for a bus to take him to his home in Lakeview from his job at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His leg pain also made it much too long for him to stand. He instead depended on taxis — a cost that quickly adds up — or ADA Paratransit, a transportation service for people with disabilities. The sidewalks can be difficult to traverse, especially at crosswalks, he added.

"The older I get, the more I'm susceptible to slips," he said. "Granted I can still catch myself before I fall, but I think the last couple years I might have slipped and fell on the ice at least twice."

Some Chicagoans who use wheelchairs and mobility aids say it's challenging to navigate the city's sidewalks when extreme weather grips the region, like last week. Wind chills descended to nearly minus 30 degrees on Tuesday, while the city saw 1.5 inches of snow Friday morning.

Disability and transit advocacy organizations are calling on the city to improve conditions, referencing a program that could require the city to clear some sidewalks in winter.

In Lakeview, Gordon said, sidewalks are usually salted. But he said it's often "treacherous" at crosswalks and intersections. Other places he's lived seemed

better equipped for the cold. In Minnesota, for example, he said paths were cleared quicker. He said there were also more tunnels and pedways that didn't require standing outside as long.

"If you want to cross the street, you have to hop over big puddles (of slush), whether it's to cross an intersection or if you try to come off the curb to get out of a car," said Gordon, a co-founder of the Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. "I have long legs, but I can't jump as far as I used to. I can only imagine those who may rely more on walkers, and even wheelchairs."

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## Lions make first NFC title game since 1991

Detroit beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31-23 to make their long-awaited return to the NFC championship game. They will face the 49ers on Sunday night. **Chicago Sports**

## Palestinian death toll rises past 25,000

Israel announced the death of another hostage as the Palestinian death toll from the war between Israel and Hamas has risen past 25,000, the Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip said. **Nation & World**

## DeSantis suspends his presidential campaign



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at a watch party during the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 15. **CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA/GETTY-AFP**

Haley, Trump now in 2-person fight for NH race, Republican slot

By **Steve Peoples, Thomas Beaumont and Holly Ramer**  
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis suspended his Republican presidential campaign Sunday, ending his 2024 White House bid just before the New Hampshire primary while endorsing his bitter rival Donald Trump.

The decision leaves Trump and his former U.N. Ambassa-

dor Nikki Haley as the last major candidates remaining in the race ahead of Tuesday's New Hampshire primary. This is the scenario Trump's foes in the GOP have long sought, raising the stakes for this week's contest as the party's last chance to stop the former president, who has so far dominated the race.

But as some Trump critics cheered, DeSantis nodded toward Trump's primary dominance — and attacked Haley — in an exit video he posted on social media.

"It's clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Trump

another chance," DeSantis said in the straight-to-camera video, delivered in a cheerful tone.

He continued: "I signed a pledge to support the Republican nominee, and I will honor that pledge. He has my endorsement because we can't go back to the old Republican guard of yesteryear, a repackaged form of warmed-over corporatism that Nikki Haley represents."

Haley spoke at a campaigning stop in Seabrook, New Hampshire, just as DeSantis announced his decision.

"He ran a great race, he's been a

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