

## Connie Fairbanks brings back West Loop memories

Born and raised in northeast Kansas, Connie Fairbanks, author of the recently released book, *Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now: People, Businesses and Buildings*, imagined a life with endless possibilities—instead of not taking a chance in seeing what the world has to offer.

"Everyone knew everyone, and here's the funny part: we only had four-digit phone numbers," Fairbanks said of her upbringing during her recent book launch at Epiphany Center for the Arts.

Things got interesting when Fairbanks's hometown had a once-a-week bookmobile. Her teacher, "Ms. Eula," encouraged her to read a book called *We Were There*, which sparked Fairbanks's interest in studying history and how to apply it in everyday life.

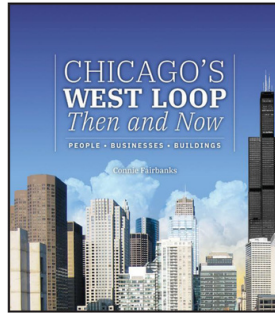
"I like to discover what others have endured and accomplished in the past and what to learn from it," she said. "What I have realized, thus far, is that history repeats itself."

Her love of history, combined with more than 25 years of living in the West Loop, inspired Fairbanks to document the neighborhood's history in her new book.

After five years of interactive and dynamic research, Fairbanks knows numerous interesting facts about her community's history.

"Did you know that there was a Turtle Wax building located on Madison Street that changed colors as a way of predicting the week's weather?" she asked. "Did you know that Philo Carpenter," for whom the City named Carpenter Street, "was the first pharmacist in Illinois? He created safe houses for slaves during the Civil War. Mary Todd Lincoln once lived on West Washington Street, and the finest harp company in the world is located in the West Loop. And the list goes on and on."

Had Fairbanks always been this interested in West Loop history? "No," she admitted. "But I got out



**Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now: People, Businesses and Buildings** shows author Connie Fairbanks' love of history.

there and asked many people for their insight of Chicago, from the past to the present. My friends, Louis and Annie Kostiner, encouraged me to do some research on the city. Hence, the book was created."

Fairbanks has lived in the West Loop longer than anywhere else in her life. She misses the restaurants that formerly served the area, especially Perez and Los Sardines. "Those wonderful eateries cross my mind," she said. "I miss the food and the atmosphere."

Today, she "loves seeing all the families with children, our beautiful parks, terrific schools, and the great West Loop restaurants that are here now," she said. "We are lucky to live in such a great neighborhood so close to the Loop."

Fairbanks believes Chicago "is a great city full of wonderful neighborhoods," she said. "If you put in the work, anyone could write a book about their neighborhood or small town."

Thanks to *Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now: People, Businesses, and Buildings*, readers can meet the community's pioneers of both yesteryear and today and learn about a variety of businesses. The 245-page book also showcases the area's architectural gems and other points of interest through more than 150 photos.

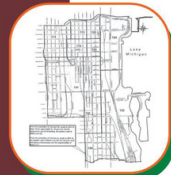
For more information, go to [www.conniefairbanks.com](http://www.conniefairbanks.com).

—Dana Rettig



**Gazette Chicago encourages you to participate in your local Community Policing Programs during 2022.**

Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (C.A.P.S.) meetings in the 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, and 12th districts, areas covered by *Gazette Chicago*, include the following.



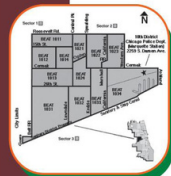
**1st District:** Beat 121, Wed., Nov. 9, 6 p.m.; Beat 123, Wed., Nov. 9, 3 p.m.; Beat 131, Wed., Nov. 16, 6 p.m.; Beat 133, Wed., Nov. 16, 3 p.m. Call (312) 745-4381.



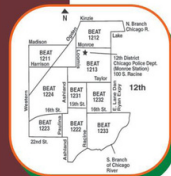
**2nd District:** Beat 211, Mon., Nov. 14, 6 p.m.; Beat 213, Tues., Nov. 22, 6 p.m.; Beat 221, Tues., Nov. 15, 6 p.m.; Beat 222, Tues., Nov. 8, 6 p.m.; Beat 224, Tues., Nov. 29, 6 p.m.; Beat 231, Thurs., Nov. 17, 6 p.m.; Beat 234, Thurs., Nov. 10, 6 p.m.; Beat 232, Thurs., Dec. 1, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-8366.



**9th District:** Beat 912, Wed., Nov. 9, 2210 W. Pershing Rd., McKinley Park, 7 p.m.; Beats 913/915, Tues., Nov. 8, 2901 S. Poplar Ave., McGuane Park, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 914, Wed., Nov. 23, 2100 S. Wentworth Ave., Chinatown Library, 6:30 p.m.; Beat 923, Tues., Nov. 22, 3120 S. Halsted St., 9th District station, 4 p.m.; Beat 925, Wed., Nov. 16, 704 W. 42nd St., Taylor Lauridsen Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 931/933, Thurs., Nov. 10, 1809 W. 50th St., Cornell Square Park, 6 p.m.; Beats 932/934/935, Tues., Nov. 8, 1301 W. 52nd St., Sherman Park, 6:30 p.m. Call (312) 747-3501.



**10th District:** Beat 1012, Tues., Nov. 15, 4339 W. 18th Pl., Montclare, 6 p.m.; Beat 1013, Wed., Nov. 23, 2524 S. Keeler Ave., Epiphany Church, 6 p.m.; Beat 1021, Tues., Nov. 8, 1448 S. Homan Ave., Carey Tercentenary, 6 p.m.; Beat 1033, Thurs., Nov. 10, 2311 S. Kedzie Ave., Little Village Library, 6 p.m. Call (312) 747-7190.



**12th District:** Beat 1213, Wed., Nov. 23, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 5 p.m.; Beat 1214, Wed., Nov. 23, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 6 p.m.; Beat 1215, Wed., Nov. 23, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 7 p.m.; Beat 1211, Wed., Nov. 16, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 6 p.m.; Beat 1225, Wed., Nov. 16, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 7 p.m.; Beat 1232, Wed., Nov. 9, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 6 p.m.; Beat 1233, Wed., Nov. 9, 1412 S. Blue Island Ave., 12th District community room, 7 p.m. Call (312) 746-8306.

To learn more about Community Policing programs, visit the Chicago Police Districts website: [home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/](http://home.chicagopolice.org/community/districts/), tab: Get Involved with C.A.P.S.

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