



## 'Energy of migration has been very high'

What's behind the population dip in Chicago, other big cities in the US?

By Madeline Buckley and John Keilman  
Chicago Tribune

Dayna Lynn Nuckolls spent most of her life in Chicago and the south suburbs but was already planning to leave when COVID-19 struck.

She was fed up with the winters and conflicts in Chicago Public Schools, and when the pandemic boosted her business — she's an astrologer and spiritualist — she made the leap, taking her young child with her to New Orleans.

"I think the energy of migration has been very high," said Nuckolls, 38. "It's been a much more supportive environment to make big moves like that. The timing just worked out for me."

When Nuckolls left the Chicago area in July 2020, she was on the cusp of a trend: More than 100,000 people in Chicagoland followed suit over the next year, migrating to other domestic destinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all, accounting for other population changes due to birth, death and international migration, metro Chicago lost more than 91,000 people between July 2020 and July 2021, aligning with other large metro areas that saw people flee cities as the pandemic continued to upend life in 2021, according to new population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In major cities, the virus left downtown business districts empty as people shifted to working from home, sometimes fleeing cramped apartments for other remote options.

Overall, the total population of the U.S. increased, but only by about 0.1%, the lowest rate of growth since the country was founded, according to a release from the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Population growth has been slowing for years because of lower birth rates and

Turn to Census, Page 4



A man recovers items from a burning shop after a Russian attack on Friday in Kharkiv, Ukraine. FELIPE DANA/AP

### WAR IN UKRAINE

# US: Russia signals shift in war aims

Biden visits GIs in Poland; Ukraine says 300 dead in theater

By Nebi Qena and Andrea Rosa  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — In what could become an important narrowing of Moscow's war aims, the U.S. said Friday that Russian forces appear to have halted, at least for now, their ground offensive aimed at capturing the capital, Kyiv, and are concentrating more on gaining control of the Donbas region

in the country's southeast — a shift the Kremlin seemed to confirm.

Col. Gen Sergei Rudskoi, deputy chief of the Russian general staff, said the main objective of the first stage of the operation — reducing Ukraine's fighting capacity — has "generally been accomplished," allowing Russian forces to focus on "the main goal, liberation of Donbas."

President Joe Biden landed in Poland on the second day of his

trip to Europe, visiting some of the thousands of U.S. troops who have been sent near the border with Ukraine to assist with the humanitarian emergency and to bolster the U.S. military presence on the eastern flank of NATO.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities said Friday that about 300 people were killed in the Russian airstrike last week on a Mariupol theater that was being used as a shelter in what would make it the

war's deadliest known attack on civilians yet.

The seeming shift in Moscow's stated military objectives — after weeks in which Russian President Vladimir Putin denied Ukraine's right to exist as a sovereign country and appeared bent on capturing many of its cities and toppling its government — could point to a possible exit strategy for Russia, which has run into fiercer resistance and suffered heavier losses than anticipated.

Turn to Ukraine, Page 6



Carolyn Lauing-Finzer stands by the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Naperville. She is the granddaughter of one of the grotto's original creators. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## 100-year-old grotto getting overdue restoration effort

Sts. Peter and Paul Church hires experts to lead the project

By Suzanne Baker  
Naperville Sun

Work began this week washing away years of grime and detritus accumulated on the 100-year-old Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in

Naperville.

The Rev. Brad Baker, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, hired Chicago-based Marion Restoration to clean and restore the Catholic monument patterned after the famous grotto in Lourdes, France, where 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous saw Marian apparitions in 1858.

The Naperville grotto features statues of St. Bernadette and the Virgin Mary.

While the cemetery dates to 1846, church history shows the grotto was designed and built by Paul Baumgartner and Arthur Miller in the early 1920s.

Baumgartner was known for constructing small grottoes in and around Naperville, and Miller built the stone house at 406 E. 4th Ave. from fieldstone, river rock and boulders gathered by hand

Turn to Grotto, Page 2

## CPD gets extension on court-ordered reforms

Deadline now 2027 to implement measures in consent decree

By Madeline Buckley  
Chicago Tribune

A federal judge on Friday granted the Chicago Police Department a three-year extension to comply with the consent decree it now operates under, giving the department until 2027 — a total of eight years — to implement a series of much-anticipated court-ordered reforms.

CPD also agreed to allow portions of the consent decree to govern search warrants, a key area for reform advocates, particularly in light of the 2019 wrongful raid at the home of Anjanette Young and other similar botched police action nationwide.

Chicago police officers wrongly raided Young's residence and handcuffed her while she was undressed.

The department made the stipulations in an agreement with the Illinois attorney general's office, which is overseeing implemen-



Chicago police Superintendent David Brown talks with members of the media at the scene where seven people were shot in the 7900 block of South Exchange Avenue in South Chicago on March 13. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

tation of the consent decree. The matter was addressed in a hearing Friday before U.S. District Judge Robert Dow, who called the new timeline and the search warrants "critically important issues to the success of the decree."

Turn to Decree, Page 4

Tom Skilling's forecast High 36 Low 21

Chicago Weather Center: Forecast on Page 8

\$3.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere  
174th year No. 85 © Chicago Tribune



7 49485 00001 2

# Get the most out of your newspaper subscription

Already getting the Tribune in print? Your subscription comes with **Unlimited Digital Access**. Read new stories throughout the day on [chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com) and page through the eNewspaper, a digital replica of the Tribune emailed to you daily. Here are two easy ways to activate your account:

**Call 312-442-0013**

We'll quickly set up your Unlimited Digital Access.

**chicagotribune.com/activate**



## Tribune books

**“Dinner at Home”** Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

**“Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster.”** Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

**“Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living”** For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

**“Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change.”** Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

**“10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything.”** You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

**“Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything”** How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

All Chicago Tribune print books are available online at [chicagotribune.com/printbooks](http://chicagotribune.com/printbooks)

## Accuracy and ethics

The Tribune's editorial code of principles governs professional behavior and journalism standards. Everyone in our newsroom must agree to live up to this code of conduct. Read it at [chicagotribune.com/accuracy](http://chicagotribune.com/accuracy).

**Corrections and clarifications:** Publishing information quickly and accurately is a central part of the Chicago Tribune's news responsibility.

### How to contact us

7 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday  
7 a.m.–noon Saturday–Sunday  
7 a.m.–11 a.m. holidays

**Delivery problem?**  
Call 312-546-7900

Or go to [chicagotribune.com/customerservice](http://chicagotribune.com/customerservice)

**Subscribe online:** [chicagotribune.com/subscribe](http://chicagotribune.com/subscribe)  
To subscribe, manage your print or digital subscription, or inquire about billing or vacation holds, call 312-546-7900.

**To report an error,** email [readerhelp@chicagotribune.com](mailto:readerhelp@chicagotribune.com), fill out a report at [chicagotribune.com/corrections](http://chicagotribune.com/corrections), or call the Reader Help line at 312-222-3348.

**Email** .....consumerservices@chicagotribune.com  
**Main operator** ..... 312-222-3232  
**Hearing impaired number** ..... 312-222-1922 (TDD)  
**Classified advertising** ..... 312-222-2222, [classadinfo@tribune.com](mailto:classadinfo@tribune.com)  
**Preprint/display advertising** ..... 312-222-4150, [ctmg@chicagotribune.com](mailto:ctmg@chicagotribune.com)  
**Display advertising self-service** ..... [placeand.chicagotribune.com](http://placeand.chicagotribune.com)  
**Interactive advertising** ..... 312-222-2412, [jlindner@chicagotribune.com](mailto:jlindner@chicagotribune.com)  
**Mail** ..... 560 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60654

All advertising published in the Chicago Tribune is subject to the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the Advertising Department. The Chicago Tribune reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

**EDITORIAL:** Questions and comments about stories in the Chicago Tribune should be directed to editors of the respective content areas.

**Chicagoland news:** [Phil Jurik, pjurik@chicagotribune.com](mailto:pjurik@chicagotribune.com)  
**Sports:** [Amanda Kaschube, akaschube@chicagotribune.com](mailto:amanda.kaschube@chicagotribune.com)  
**Opinion:** [Chris Jones, cjones5@chicagotribune.com](mailto:chris.jones@chicagotribune.com)

Chicago Tribune (USPS104-000) is published daily (7 days) at 560 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60654; Chicago Tribune Company, LLC, Publisher; periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes to the Chicago Tribune, Mail Subscription Division, 777 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60654.  
Copyright 2022 Chicago Tribune Company, LLC. All rights reserved as to entire content.

### INSIDE

Almanac .....News.....6	Editorials .....News.....5
Arts & Living.....Nation & World.....4	Horoscopes.....Nation & World.....8
Bridge.....Nation & World.....4	Obituaries.....News.....6
Business.....Nation & World.....5	Sudoku.....Nation & World.....9
Comics.....Nation & World.....8-9	Television.....Nation & World.....7
Crossword.....Nation & World.....9	Weather.....News.....8

## HOMER GLEN

# Twp. assessor offered job of village manager

Maurella would replace interim appointee Walsh

By Michelle Mullins  
Daily Southtown

The Homer Glen Village Board has offered the village manager job to Homer Township Assessor Carmen Maurella, elected last year as part of a group of candidates that swept Homer Township and Homer Glen races.

Contract details are still being worked out, but Maurella, who has lived in the village for 40 years, said after Wednesday's village board meeting that he has not yet accepted the position or decided on his future as the Homer Township assessor.

A special village board meeting is scheduled for Monday night.

Interim village manager Matt Walsh announced Thursday he has resigned, effectively immediately, something Mayor George Yukich said breaks his heart. Yukich added that some staff members were crying and upset Thursday.

Yukich and Trustee Beth Rodgers said Maurella did not have the necessary qualifications, but other trustees said his strong accounting background and longevity in the community made him the best fit.

Trustee Rose Reynders said Homer Glen has gone through 11 different village managers since the village incorporated in 2001. Each one has brought a different

vision to the village but only lasted a short time, she said.

Former village manager Karie Friling resigned in April 2021 after two years in the position to take a job as executive director of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. Walsh, who was assistant village manager, has been interim village manager until his resignation.

Reynders said she liked that Maurella had a vested interest in the community and lived there through all its growth. He graduated from Lockport Township High School, raised six children in Homer Glen, was president of the Homer Stallions football organization and participated in community organizations.

“He will fight as hard as he can for this community,” Reynders said. “I think he's in it for the long haul. I think he wants to make a difference for this village.”

Trustee Ruben Pazmino said other managers have “used Homer Glen like a steppingstone.”

“They see Homer Glen as a notch in their belt and move on,” Pazmino said. “I want people who will be in the trenches with us, and I see that with Carmen. ... He has skin in the game.”

While Maurella does not have previous experience in municipal government, his knowledge of accounting will help the village with its budget and finances, and his personality will bring together the public, staff and village board, Pazmino said.

“One person can make

everybody mesh,” Pazmino said. “I think Carmen will be the final touch to get the board to move in unison.”

Pazmino, who endorsed the Homer Township Republican slate in the April 2021 election which included Maurella, said his appointment as village manager was not political but evaluated on its own merits.

Maurella has a master's degree in accounting, a master's in taxation from Kaplan University and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Governors State University. He has previously served on the township's plan commission and parks and recreation committee and was the former treasurer for the Lockport Boys Baseball organization.

Pazmino said he doesn't think being assessor is a conflict of interest unless it interferes with Maurella's duties as village manager.

Yukich said he is concerned Maurella lacks municipal experience and said the board was putting in political allies. He said a manager should have knowledge on ordinances, zoning, building permits and other day-to-day village duties as well as a master's degree in public administration.

Rodgers said she did not have time to review candidates' resumes or contact their references and said the process was rushed.

An advertisement for the manager position said a master's degree in public

administration, business administration, planning or a related field was preferred.

Rodgers said Maurella didn't meet the qualifications advertised, such as extensive knowledge of and practice in modern local government management or collective bargaining. Other candidates that applied had listed years of experience, she said.

“We don't need an accountant,” Rodgers said. “The village of Homer Glen has an impeccable (financial) record.”

“I don't know how they justify this. We need someone with municipal experience.”

Rodgers, who was unable to attend the meeting to vote on Maurella's appointment, said it was unfortunate the village was becoming so partisan.

Trustee Nicole La Ha, who voted against Maurella's appointment, said the board interviewed several qualified candidates, and there was another candidate who was stronger on issues of economic growth, parks and recreation and financial stability, which are her top priorities.

However, she said she is confident in Maurella's ability and fully supports his appointment.

“He's excited, optimistic and positive and very comfortable to be around,” La Ha said. “I think he's up for the challenge.”

Michelle Mullins is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.



Restoration work began this week on the 100-year-old Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Grotto

from Page 1

from area fields.

The restoration is the fulfillment of a dream of lifelong Naperville resident Carolyn Lauing-Finzer, Miller's granddaughter.

“I've been waiting for it for almost 10 years for something to move forward on it. I am not a fundraiser. I am an artist; I am a gardener,” said Lauing-Finzer, who has maintained the gardens surrounding the structure for decades to honor her grandfather.

“These men were artists in their trades, and they knew how to select and fit just the right stone for a composition such as the grotto. And it was not a cookie-cutter project,” she said.

Marion Restoration's founder and owner Mario Machnicki said the work, which will take four to six weeks, entails cleaning the stone, repairing the damage caused by movement over the last century, and reinforcing arches and the wing walls.

Details are important to Machnicki, who was chosen for the job because he's considered one of the country's foremost masonry experts and was recommended by Naperville preservation groups.

Because the grotto structure is so old, finding mortar to match is difficult, he said.

The plan is to deconstruct a sample of the original mortar to determine the type of aggregate and binder that was used and create a mix to match, Machnicki said.



A postcard depicts the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Cemetery in Naperville before the area to the east was developed. STS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The other problem will be replacing missing limestone.

Machnicki brought a piece of stone from the grotto to experts from Bromberek Flagstone quarry in Lemont. He said the family-owned company has been in operation more than 100 years and is well-versed in rock formations in the region.

Bromberek indicated the stone Machnicki came from a quarry in Kentucky, but it closed four years ago. The company still may be able to find enough to fix the dome at the back of the structure, Machnicki said.

Another lead, Lauing-Finzer said, came from Gary Baumgartner, the grandson of the other original mason.

She said he tracked down stones saved by a family who owned a similar structure his grandfather had built

and gave them to Machnicki to use as replacement pieces.

Church historians believe the grotto was built in the early 1920s, though some details can't be verified because of a June 4, 1922, fire that destroyed the church and many of its records.

Michelle Dellinger, the parish's development and communications manager, said parish financial accounts show expenditures for stones and freight in 1920, and the largest expenses for labor and statues were made in 1921.

Final expenses were recorded in August 1922 so the assumption is the grotto was finished that summer.

A dedication Mass typically would be held upon the completion of a monument like the grotto, but parish archivists Judy Chapleau and Marjorie Peters can't

find records to prove it.

Dellinger said any celebration likely was canceled after the fire.

Lauing-Finzer said it's been difficult to see the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto damaged over the years by vandals climbing on it or defacing the stone and patio brickwork.

While the church always works to repair the damage, she said, the restoration underway this month will return it to its original splendor.

Once it's complete, Lauing-Finzer said she is looking forward to seeing the grotto featured at the annual Memorial Day Mass and the return of the outdoor luminary Mass traditionally held as part of the Columbus Day holiday.

[subaker@tribpub.com](mailto:subaker@tribpub.com)