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BOOSTER

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4 Sections — 50 cents

Mixed responses greet Daley's proposed budget

Many relieved that property tax wouldn't be increased

By Patrick Butler
Staff Writer

While reactions to the proposed \$4.8 billion 1994 city budget, which is up 2.1 percent from 2003, included one aldermanic outburst and several surprising explosions, most aldermen, business and civic leaders heaved a sigh of relief that at least Mayor Richard Daley isn't asking for a property-tax increase this time around.

"He (Daley) is finally getting our message. The Chicago Tax Party (held) in Lincoln Park two months ago and all the cards and letters (to the mayor) are starting

to pay off," said David Wisner of the Tax Reform Action Coalition.

TRAC's next move is to press for state-level legislation to reform the property-tax system, Wisner said. He said his group plans to push for a meeting with local state representatives who have yet to deliver on earlier promises to reshape the "broken" system.

But while aldermen and civic and business leaders heaped high praise on the mayor for not calling for a property-tax hike, some still had problems with what Daley himself called "the most difficult and challenging" budget of his 14 years in office.

This year's proposals, being debated this week in the City Council's Finance Committee, include:

- Eliminating 1,414 of the city's 37,763 jobs.
 - Making businesses pay \$100
- See REACTION, Page 3

West Town man faces sentencing in DUI case

By Jackie Pirozzi
Staff Writer

A Chicago defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 13 after a jury found him guilty in the case of a 2-year-old boy, fatally hit by a pickup truck two years ago at Augusta Boulevard and Noble Street.

Accused of driving his pickup truck while under the influence of alcohol, James Bowman, 44, of the 1600 block of West Ontario Street, was found guilty on Oct. 9 after a two-day jury trial. He was charged with reckless homicide and aggravated DUI.

On the trial's second, and last, day, a Chicago police officer testified that Bowman was staggering and smelled strongly of alcohol minutes after the crash.

Bowman was unable to complete three field sobriety tests, Officer Owen Vasquez testified. Prosecutors said drove off after striking Alexander Enothen and his 72-year-old grandfather, who was critically injured, at the Augusta and Noble on May 21, 2001. Bowman then crashed his

1983 Volkswagen Jetta a jury, whose duties: determine liability, set damages and award penalties, according to prosecutors.

When Vasquez arrived on the scene, he said he saw that Bowman had red eyes and a flushed face and was having trouble walking.

"(Bowman) was under the influence of alcohol," said Vasquez, who has been a police officer for 10 years. "He was not in any condition to drive a motor vehicle."

When Vasquez asked Bowman for his insurance card and driver's license, the officer said Bowman tried to reach into his back pocket for his wallet.

But after a few minutes, Bowman couldn't get it out and another officer had to do it for him, Vasquez told the jury.

Bowman was using profane language, which Vasquez reported in his testimony.

And, according to Vasquez, Bowman said, "I am a fireman. My mother's boyfriend is a judge."

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Emily and Anne Oxline pose by their work "The Grove," which is part of the Bloomingdale Wall Mural Project. Along with them is Bruce A. Fogelson, president of Paramount Homes, which commissioned the work.

Bloomingdale mural gets new panel

The outdoor "art gallery" along the 2300 block of West Bloomingdale Avenue in Bucktown recently expanded with the addition of a new wall mural called "The Grove."

"The new painting is an addition to the series of nine murals already on display that are known as the Bloomingdale Wall Mural Project," said award-winning real estate developer Bruce A. Fogelson.

Fogelson hired local artists to convert the concrete retaining wall of a railroad embankment along Bloomingdale Avenue into a neighborhood canvas. The project aims to beautify the area for residents of his Bucktown View and Stamp Works condominium developments and their neighbors.

Although the condominiums were completed years ago, Fogelson continues to fund the project.

The 20-foot-tall freight-line retaining wall had been marred for years by graffiti. In a nod to the vibrant art community that has long thrived in Bucktown, Fogelson envisioned it as a space for more refined public art and began

More "Homes" news:
To see recent property sale prices in Bucktown, Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village, turn to Section 1, Page 14.

coordinating with community groups and neighbors to transform the wall.

Fogelson was honored with Realtors' "Good Neighbor Award" for the Bloomingdale Avenue mural and the development of Bucktown View, a 55-residence new-construction condominium development at 2342 W. Bloomingdale Ave.

The Grove is a combination of original work and an inspired by the paintings of Chaim Soutine. The new 15-by-20-foot landscape mural, like the others along the block, interprets the street name's component words "Blooming" and "dale."

Some of the past artists include Laura Lee Jung's mural entitled "Huge Wild Flowers."

This mural combines urban and floral themes, and is a complex work that has a three-dimensional quality that leaves it open to many different interpretations.

Artist Scott B. Thesen contributed a prairie landscape/grave mural, showing urban dwellers a side of Illinois they do not see very often in city life.

Robin Bacon has contributed three works to the mural project including one done with Fogelson's help. Her Houdi Macon-inspired water lilies and haystack mural invokes the soft colors used in impressionist paintings, but reinterpreted with a modernist touch that allows for the size and texture of this unique medium of concrete.

The latest addition to the project encompasses an original painting done by Emily and Anne Oxline, inspired by many of Chaim Soutine's two landscape paintings, called "The Winding Road" and "The Oak Tree," both painted in 1923.

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Mural

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"Emily and Aane Oxinio felt that Soutine's paintings were a wonderful choice to add to the wall, since Soutine had painted many beautiful landscapes in his career, and 'The Winding Road' and 'The Valley' gorgeously complemented the mural artwork already in place," Fogelson said.

The Oxinios added their own original touch to the right side of the mural, as the two Soutine paintings they chose to interpret did not cover as much space as the huge concrete canvas in which they were painting.

They filled in the right side of the mural with a graceful grove of trees that blended right into the painting.

"I really had a great time painting outdoors, and I found I really enjoyed all the community interaction that I had during the work," said Emily Oxinio, who had painted two indoor murals previous to this mural.

"I had so many people talking to me about art and complementing me as I went along," she said.

For Anne Oxinio, it was also the interaction with others she enjoyed most as well.

"I had so many people express to me what a great thing we were doing, and how much they enjoyed the artwork," Anne Oxinio said.

"I got a chance to meet a few other artists and even became the subject of some amateur photography during the time we painted too," she said.

Both artists really enjoyed the experience of painting the mural and both only had good things to say about the community and Paramount Homes, which commissioned the artwork.

The Bucktown View Condominium Association, which donated storage space and encouragement throughout the project to the two artists, also helped the project.

Fogelson, president of Paramount Homes, originated and envisioned the mural project idea when he noticed the blank railroad embankment was an eyesore four years ago.

Paramount Homes has constructed Bucktown View and The Stampworks - two condominium across the street from the wall. Both projects won the Chicago Association of Realtors Good Neighbor Awards.

Bucktown View Condominiums, just north of the wall murals, won the award in the year 2002 for "Best New Construction Condominiums." The Stampworks, another nearby Paramount Homes project, won the same award the year 2001.

"Building neighborhood and turning buyers into neighbors is our community philosophy," Fogelson said.

Since all the murals are painted in a set-in space on the railroad wall, the paintings have a three-dimensional framed feel to them, and are lined up in such a way that is reminiscent of a gallery or exhibition, but in huge scale.

Artists have set a more traditional "Old Masters" tone to the wall, as well as fun and funky twists that play off each other very well. For the sections that have yet to be painted with original artwork, Paramount Homes has laid in a simple blue sky with green fields and white clouds in the background.

Paramount's award-winning condominiums are enhanced by the new mural art, Fogelson said.

"Art, architecture and neighborhood make a nice mix," said Fogelson, whose Paramount Homes has won the Chicago Association of Realtors Good Neighbor award every year since 1993 - more than any other new-construction builder in Chicago.

Fogelson is currently selling out the last model unit at Bucktown View. The 4-story brick and limestone building features six 2- and 3-bedroom duplexes that have 1,620 to 1,850 square feet of living space and 27 condominium residences with 1,150 to 1,335 square feet of living space.

Most units at Bucktown View face south to the city and over the wall mural. Fogelson said plans call for adding about double the

normal landscaping to complement the Bloomingdale Wall Mural landscape theme art.

"It's a pleasure to create a new residential block," said Fogelson. "We try to make a lasting impression and some of our improvements go beyond the property line."

"We are accepting more art," Fogelson said. "We are looking for all sorts of artists - professional, amateur, school and neighborhood alike."

Artists interested in submitting their work for consideration, should contact Fogelson at Paramount Homes, by phone at (773) 528-9077, fax at (773) 528-8848 or email at Bruce@ParamountHomes.com.

Only one unit remains available for sale and immediate occupancy at Bucktown View, said Joe Zimmerman of @Properties, exclusive marketing agent for Bucktown View.

Unit 108 is a 2-bedroom plus den, 2 1/2-bath first-floor duplex upgraded model with 1,744 square feet of living area. The luxury duplex, priced at \$358,900 features 10-foot to 12-foot ceilings. An indoor parking space is \$25,000.

The Bucktown View units are shown by appointment only. For more information, call Joe Zimmerman at @Properties, exclusive marketing agent for Bucktown View at (773) 230-0826.