

\*\* Alderman \*\*  
**Michele Smith**  
 Chicago's 43rd Ward



## It's Not Just a Bike Theft

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**Energy Benchmarking Info.  
Session**

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**Clark Street Assessment**

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### Energy Benchmarking Information Session TONIGHT

TONIGHT come to an information session on the proposed Energy Benchmarking ordinance, the ordinance that would require all buildings over 50,000 square feet to take steps to measure and post their energy use. Learn more about the ordinance and decide if you think it's good for the 43rd Ward. Click here for more information.

**Wednesday, August  
14th  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
The Public Hotel, 2nd Fl.  
1301 N. State Pkwy**

### Air and Water Show This Weekend

The Chicago Air and Water Show is almost here! The main event will be held on North Ave. Beach and extend to Oak St. Beach,

Dear Friends,

I am committed to making sure our community is as safe as possible. That is why I'm glad to report, thanks to a watchful neighbor, the police were able to arrest a professional criminal in the Gold Coast.

One weekday evening, one of our neighbors returned from the airport and parked his car in his garage. He then took his suitcase out of his trunk and went to put it by his back door. In the 15 seconds that he was away from his still-open garage, a man walking down the alley went into his garage and rode off with his bike. In 15 seconds.

Fortunately, this neighbor's security camera captured the entire incident. Two weeks later, the burglar was identified nearby and arrested. It turns out the defendant is in fact a career criminal, with 17 arrests (11 felonies and 5 misdemeanors) and 8 convictions. At the time of the current alleged crime, he was out on parole.

As a former prosecutor, I know that a stolen bike case might get short shrift in our Cook County justice system. But we want to send the message that crime will not be tolerated in our community. Therefore, I am participating in the case as a "court advocate" - and I hope you will join me.

[Court advocates](#) are community members who attend court dates involving cases of interest, to show the prosecutor and judge that the community cares about the case. They do not testify - they observe and let their presence be known. Gold Coast Neighbors President Vern Broders said, "We consider nothing more important to our association than the safety of our residents. I think court advocacy actions are one of the best things we can do to build a better community."

along the lake shore. Bring the whole family for this fun-filled Chicago tradition. Click here for more information.

**Saturday and Sunday  
August 17th and 18th  
10:00am-3:00pm  
North Avenue Beach**

**Clark Street  
North Ave. to Armitage  
Assessment**

In coordination with BikeWalk Lincoln Park and the Active Transportation Alliance, we are seeking community input to make Clark Street as safe as possible for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. Starting at the Green City Market site, we will walk Clark St. from Armitage to North Ave. Questions? Contact us at [yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:yourvoice@ward43.org).

**Tuesday, August 20th  
6:30pm-8:30pm  
Green City Market Site  
1791 N. Clark**



43rd Ward Office  
2523 N. Halsted  
[www.ward43.org](http://www.ward43.org)

Office Hours:  
Monday  
9 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday  
9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Friday  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Contact us:  
phone  
773-348-9500  
email  
[yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:yourvoice@ward43.org)

We are looking for people to join us at some or all of the upcoming court dates for this case, which will take place in the criminal court building in Skokie - we will be glad to carpool. Because the justice system is slow, sometimes it may feel as if not that much happens in court. But unless we are there, this case may be disposed of in a way that is too lenient. Being in court is our chance to make sure criminals know not to target our community. If you would like to join me for this or other cases we are following, please email me at [yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:yourvoice@ward43.org).

**Monday, August 26th  
10:00am  
5600 Old Orchard Rd., Rm. 108  
Skokie, IL**

Finally, let me remind everyone to join our "[Lock Your Door](#)" campaign, by (1) Locking your door (2) Getting a good quality deadbolt (recommended brands are on our website); (3) Calling 911 whenever you see something out of place. If you'd like to join or start a neighborhood watch block club, contact us at [yourvoice@ward43.org](mailto:yourvoice@ward43.org).

Sincerely,

Michele Smith  
43rd Ward Alderman

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