

What's up with that?

Q What's the deal with that rehabbed church-house at Seminary and Barry Avenues in Lakeview?

A The building, formerly the Swedish Lutheran Church of the Valley, was put up for sale seven years ago when the Reverend Arturo Santana realized the church's constituents no longer lived close by, and had nowhere to park during services. (He and his parishioners relocated to Kilbourn Park.) Developers clamored for the space, but their plans to divide the church into 12 condo units didn't go over well with the neighborhood zoning commission. But when developer



Alex Pearsall (who also developed Juicy Wine Company) presented a five-unit proposal, the group—and even Santana—gave its blessings. While the immaculate interior feels like a swanky new condo, a closer look reveals that Pearsall's design pays homage to the building's history: Wood from the altar was used to make the front door, church pews were made into chairs for the common area, and the windows and fencing are shaped like miters (pope hats). Pearsall, who lived in the building himself until 2005, says the renovation went smoothly, but there were some supernatural speed bumps. "We hired an astrologer for a house party, and she freaked out upon walking in, claiming there was something bad outside," he says. "But she added that a sentinel was protecting the people inside. So, that's good."—Steve Heisler

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Trump watch

Guts of steel

From the outside, each level of the Trump Tower looks pretty identical, but inside it's a different story. Especially when it comes to the 28th and 29th floors, where crews are installing "enough reinforcing steel to do a good 20-story condo," says Brett Szabo, project manager for McHugh Concrete. "Where you [normally] have one bar every 12 inches, you have one every quarter of an inch." Once crews complete the transfer floors, which will help stabilize the final 92-story structure, they'll get to work on the condo floors, which will run up to the 50th floor. It's hard work, but regular lunch jaunts to nearby Harry Caray's keep the crews going.—LP



Life shavers

Help raise money for childhood cancer research by attending an event on Friday 27—or getting your head shaved there. The fashion show benefit at Galleria Marchetti is sponsored by the St. Baldrick's Foundation (yes, it's a pun). In solidarity with children who often lose their hair due to cancer treatments, volunteers seek out pledges, and then shave their heads in public. Donated hair that's at least ten inches long will go to Locks of Love to make wigs for patients—but there's no length requirement if you want to take part. National Donate Life Month also wraps up this week, but that doesn't mean you still can't take part: Donate Life Illinois is in the middle of an 18-month campaign to register 3.5 million residents in the state's new organ and tissue donor registry by this time next year. Think you're already registered as an organ donor? If you signed up before January 2006, there's a new policy that requires you to sign up again. Visit iamareyou.org to register to be an organ donor and stbaldricks.org to sign up as shavee. See Around Town, for ticket info.—Kevin Aeh

PHOTOS: LEFT, STEVE HEISLER; TOP, ANTHONY WILLIAMS; BOTTOM, AP PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; CLAY JACKSON