THE NEW NEWS 2010
MAPPING CHICAGO’S ONLINE NEWS SCENE

An Advancing Chicago’s Information Ecosystem Report
Funded by The Chicago Community Trust and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
Produced by The Community Media Workshop
Find the online report at
www.communitymediaworkshop.org/newnews
More than 8 million visitors engaged with 146 Chicagoland online news and blog sites during May 2010, according to The NEW News 2010: The Second Annual Survey of the Chicago Area’s Online News Ecosystem, produced by Community Media Workshop for The Chicago Community Trust.

The online news ecosystem continues to grow while traditional media outlets retool and embrace the web. Use of video is growing, experiments with hyper-local news sites continue and the line between bloggers and niche news continues to blur.

But despite the apparently large number of consumers of online information, it doesn’t appear there has been any explosion in the number of people actually earning a living producing this information. As was the case in last year’s NEW News report, most of the online sites surveyed by the Workshop rely heavily on unpaid bloggers and reporters and piggy-bank financing. Indeed, more than 60 percent of sites surveyed by the Workshop had no more than one person working full time on the site. A similar percentage reported that no one receives health insurance from their online news outlet. The Workshop has published a comprehensive annual directory of media outlets and journalist contacts for 20 years. Starting in 2009, The Chicago Community Trust’s Community News Matters program commissioned the Workshop to examine the shifting media landscape in the nation’s third largest media market and map the emerging new online news ecosystem.

In 2009, The NEW News report identified almost 200 local news and information sites and attempted to rank 60 of them. This year, the Workshop reached out to some 500 contacts, identified over 300 potential news-related URLs, and honed in on 146 online blog and news sites for this 2010 list that details operations on 121 sites that responded to an online survey conducted March to May 2010.

While the Chicago area has a proliferation of online news and information sites, when it comes to traffic, the sites of mainstream media clearly dominate. Six million of the 8 million unique cumulative visitors reported by all media outlets participating in the survey were to Chicago Tribune, Sun-Times, RedEye and ChicagoNow (the Trib’s blog site).

The next tier (e.g. Crains, Post Tribune, Fox, Reader, Chicagoist) attracted between 100,000 to 260,000 unique visitors each. The next tier, attracting between 20,000 and 100,000 unique visitors each covered most of the remaining measurable visitor traffic (e.g., WGN Radio, Centerstage Chicago, Vocalo, WTTW, Chicago Magazine, WBEZ, EveryBlock, Gapers Block, Progress Illinois, Windy Citizen, Time Out, Chicago Defender and the Illinois Review).

Seventy-five sites listed were too small to show measurable visitor traffic by commercial tracking sources.

Put another way, even while traditional legacy media outlets continue to see print circulation and ad revenue declines, Chicago’s dailies are experiencing 20 to 40 percent gains in online traffic, dwarfing their own paid print circulation. (It should be noted that online visitors reading of web content is different than that with a newspaper in hand. But time spent may be longer than thought and online readers clearly have more news sites choices of outlets to visit.) The print pubs that remain have smaller reporting staffs, fewer column inches of news, on fewer pages. But just looking at the Chicago Tribune—when one adds Tribune’s ChicagoNow blogs, TribLocal and broadcast site web content into the mix—it’s clear a lot of resources are being invested to see what attracts eyes online. Most of this “new” content is either repurposed from legacy media sources or created by virtual volunteers who may gain a byline, some exposure or $5 per thousand visitors generated by a blog post. Thus, even in mainstream media, the cookie jar financing model exists.

While the nation’s third largest media marketplace still has at least five daily papers serving the region, and other studies suggest print still frames much of what aggregators and bloggers react to, the Workshop’s The NEW News 2010 listings shows many more sites supplementing, if not supplanting traditional news operations.
Forty percent of the sites responding to the survey are blogs; 36 percent are self-described niche news sites; traditional news sites (which were not included in last year’s listings) made up seven percent of sites surveyed but attracted the bulk of measurable visitor traffic.

Much has happened since our 2009 report. At the closing roundtable of the Workshop's annual Making Media Connections conference, we took a closer look at the online media ecosystem, highlighting most of the 12 projects funded by The Chicago Community Trust’s Community News Matters program supported by the Knight Foundation. We examined the latest in news platforms and technology, emerging online business models, hyperlocal news sites and prominent bloggers.

We heard about ChicagoNow editor Tracy Schmidt’s effort to build a local network of 300-plus bloggers. The Chicago Tribune’s answer to Huffington Post is attracting more than a million unique visitors a month and reportedly is breaking even. But most contributors earn little for their labors beyond a byline. And the site’s eclectic editorial mix—from pet grooming and food trends to entertainment chatter and CTA etiquette—barely achieves the “journalism we want and need” criteria of helping people make good decisions as citizens that we first tried to measure in 2009. Yet ChicagoNow is also home to prominent niche bloggers like Columbia College’s own Teresa Puente or the hyper-local citizen journalism efforts of AustinTalks, the Chicago Reporter, Catalyst and District 299.

Our top-ranked site last year, Chi-Town Daily News, folded weeks after our report was published. Its Knight Foundation-supported editor Geoff Dougherty declared the online nonprofit citizen journalism model dead and started a new for-pay site.

The New News 2010: Mapping Chicago’s Online News Scene

KEY FINDINGS

Of the 146 online news sites identified in this report, CMW is publishing a survey of 121 sites about what they do, how many people work on the effort and how they fund their operations.

Key findings include:

Blogs are the most popular type of site in the survey (48 sites, 40%), followed by niche news sites (44 sites, 36%).

Sites by traditional/mainstream news organizations made up 7% of the sites in the survey (8 respondents).

YouTube is the most popular audiovisual media online sites reported using in the survey: 30% of sites (36 sites) report YouTube channels.

“News” is the most common types of content reported by survey respondents (100 sites, 83%). 91 sites (75%) say they provide original reporting, and 87 sites (72%) report providing opinion. Seven sites (6%) report that they aggregate content and do not produce original content.

Forty-one online news sites (34%) report no full-time people, and another 37 (31%) report one full-time person. 49 online news sites (40%) report that no one gets paid for their online efforts, and 18 (15%) report that one person is paid.

Seventy-six online news sites (63%) report that no one receives health insurance from their online news outlet. Seven percent (8 sites) report that one person receives health benefits through the online site.

Advertising is the most common funding source for online news, reported by 45 sites (37 percent). 38 sites (31%) reported “Funding? Do coins from my piggy bank count?” as an answer to the question. 31 sites (26%) reported they were part of a for-profit company, and 21 (17%) reported they were part of a nonprofit.

Approximately 8.3 million visitors used Chicago-area online news properties in May 2010, according to Compete.com data of individual Chicago websites, resulting in 20 million visits to Chicago-area news sites in May. While print circulation for major dailies continues to decline, visits to their online properties continues to grow.
chicagocurrent.com (itself now closed as Doherty has moved onto the Chicago Reader\(^1\)). One of his former senior editors, Fernando Diaz, is now editor of the Tribune’s Spanish-language daily Hoy\(^12\).

Weeks later a new nonprofit site, in the fall of 2009, the much-watched Chicago News Cooperative\(^13\), arrived on the scene, started by former Chicago Tribune editors and reporters in collaboration with WTTW public television, fresh with new funding from the MacArthur Foundation and a contract to produce Chicago news for the New York Times.

The popular social media oriented aggregator of local news Windy Citizen attracted new funding from the Knight News Challenge\(^14\) for development of “real time ads” to support the site. The Better Government Association has tripled its budget to bring watchdog journalism and aggregated government accountability news back to prominence. South Suburban News is training local residents to use mobile phones to cover local news. And the McCormick Foundation has launched a new effort around news literacy aimed at youth who primarily consume their news online\(^15\).

And now the repositioned aoL has launched Patch.com\(^16\). Based in New York, with New England, D.C. and California media markets, Patch has started hiring multimedia journalists in Chicago suburban communities to begin 24/7 hyper-local news coverage.

The news ecosystem is changing rapidly, and traditional and online outlets are racing to keep up, evolve, adapt and find the right mix to attract revenue and readers. Two years ago we wondered about the future of news as many traditional newsroom staffs were being radically reduced. Last year we worried about where we’d get our news if newspapers disappeared. Today we see a news ecosystem revived by the breadth and freedom of the web, where remaining legacy media operations co-mingle with labor-of-love bloggers, hyper-local newsies, citizen journalist volunteers and multimedia reporters (NPR’s always informative On The Media had a great overview of all these trends recently\(^17\)).

News is becoming conversational: What’s important is no longer determined solely by gatekeeper editors or official sources. The challenge of bringing under-represented voices into downtown newsrooms to achieve better coverage of under-covered communities is shifting, as those voices and communities gain access to digital reporting tools\(^18\).

At the moment, there is more competition for news consumer eyes and ears than ever before. And many more opportunities for journalists than we thought the free, open and wild Internet would allow. We don’t yet know how this nascent online news ecosystem will be sustained. As the technology of information platforms evolves, we’re not sure who will be paying for what. It’s not clear what business model(s) may emerge or how many journalists will be supporting careers and families in the online world.

The roadmap for vetted, authoritative information that frames the public square of civic debate in a democratic society is still being charted.
Of the 146 online news sites identified in this report, 121 responded to a survey about what they do, how many people work on the effort and how they fund their operations.

Sites most frequently describe themselves as blogs, followed next by niche news sites. Of the 121 sites in the survey, 48, or 40%, described themselves as blogs and 44 (36%) described themselves as niche news sites.

Blogging is a potentially confounding category: It describes a platform for publishing content as well as a particular style of writing and engagement and often, a topical focus. In this year’s survey, blogs include ones by nonprofit organizations that do other things, such as the Metropolitan Planning Council, community news sites such as Live Here Oak Park, the Vocalo blogging network that includes former Sun-Times writers Robert Feder and Jim DeRogatis, and online news site Gapers Block.

Not surprisingly, 19 (16%) of the sites described themselves as both niche news and blogs in the survey.

In a change from last year’s survey, Community Media Workshop recruited publishers of online sites by traditional or legacy newspapers, TV and radio organizations to participate in the survey.

Eight, or 7%, of sites are part of traditional/mainstream news organizations such as the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, WGN-AM and myfoxphiladelphia.com. In addition, several of the blogs that participated in the survey are part of the ChicagoNow blog network run by the Chicago Tribune.

The 26 mostly or all online news sites covered a broad spectrum of online content, including aggregators such as Windy Citizen, community news sites such as Austin Talks, sites focused on arts and culture such as Art Pilsen and Music Box Online, and sites that also create news content for print or broadcast, such as chicagotribune.com and wbez.org.

“YOUR CATEGORIES STINK!”

One of the survey choices is “Your categories stink! Here’s a better description of what we do.” Almost one in four sites (28 sites) chose this option. The most common theme to emerge is that site publishers support more than one distinctive news activity on their sites, such as reporting the news and aggregating other content, or reporting and publishing news on the web and online.

VIDEO, PODCASTING AND PHOTO SHARING

Many websites reported using video, audio or photo-sharing, with YouTube video being the most popular multimedia feature. Thirty percent (36 sites) report publishing YouTube videos on their site. Twenty-one percent (25 sites) report publishing podcasts or posting photos to Flickr feeds.
Survey sites’ use of multimedia aligns roughly with the popularity of these activities among Internet users, according to data gathered by the Pew Internet and American Life project. According to Pew, 69% of American Internet users watch YouTube or other online video, and between 2007 and 2009, the percent of adult Internet users who have watched online news videos has increased from 37 percent (in 2007) to 43 percent (in 2009).


**SHARING AND DISTRIBUTING CONTENT**

Just more than one in four survey sites (30 sites, 25%) report some type of partnership or means other than Real Simple Syndication to share or distribute content. Some of these partnerships include online-print partnerships at a neighborhood or community level. For example, Austin Talks partners with the weekly Austin Weekly News to publish content, and TribLocal’s publishing web content in 21 regional weeklies.

Others include sharing content among websites or between web and partner print organizations. The New York Times publishes Chicago News Cooperative stories on Fridays, and Lake Effect News content appears on several other sites, including ChicagoTalks.org and IllinoisStatehouseNews.org.

Fifty-one percent of sites (62 sites) report using RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds to make it easy for people to find out about new content updates. (To learn more about RSS, view Commoncraft’s RSS in Plain English video: http://www.commoncraft.com/rss_plain_english)

**AREAS SERVED**

Survey sites most frequently reported serving a city-wide population. Fifty-two sites (43%) reported serving the entire city of Chicago. While a few neighborhoods seemed to be populated with local news sites (such as Uptown, whom 12 sites claimed as a neighborhood they covered, and Rogers Park, claimed by 11 sites), each neighborhood in Chicago is covered by between three and eight sites, according to the survey data. Yet when three sites that reported serving each of Chicago’s neighborhoods are excluded, 16 of 77 Chicago neighborhoods were not represented by neighborhood coverage area in the survey. When looking at counties covered by sites in the survey, Cook County was the coverage area reported most frequently, by 22 sites. DuPage county was next, claimed by 13 sites. Eleven sites claimed to cover one or more of the other suburban Chicago counties (Lake, Kane, McHenry and Will). Forty-five sites cover Illinois, and 30 sites cover national issues or stories.

**TARGET POPULATIONS**

Seventy-six percent (92 sites) reported that they serve a general audience with no particular racial or ethnic focus. Twelve sites in the survey reported serving Latinos (10%), while seven (6%) reported serving African Americans. Sites this year included a few with extensive Spanish language content, including vivelohoy.com, Hoy’s website, the arts and culture website Contratiempo (revistacontratiempo.com) and the English and Spanish publishing Pilsen Portal (pilsenportal.org).

Four sites (3%) report serving gay, lesbian bisexual and transgendered populations. The same number (four sites, 3%) report serving people with disabilities.

**AGE GROUPS**

(Source: The New News 2010 Update, available at communitymediaworkshop.org)
Thirty-eight sites (31%) reported serving all adults. One site reported serving children 6-12, and five sites reported serving teen-agers (12-18 age group). Five sites also report serving seniors.

### TOPICS

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<td>Arts, culture, history</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Sports</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Real estate</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Community leadership</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Aging</td>
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Most online news sites (71 or 59%) concentrate on general news or cover a little bit of everything. Of specific topics, community development—including real estate, urban planning and policy, neighborhood safety/crime, community news—was reported most frequently (44 sites), followed by arts and culture (40), education (30), community leadership development, such as stories about local neighborhood groups that feature voices of volunteers, grassroots leaders (28), and peace and social justice (20).

### STAFFING AND BENEFITS

Most frequently, survey sites report having one person (or no one) who works full time on the publication: 41 sites (34%) report no full-time people, and another 37 (31%) report one full-time person.

Part-time contributions seem to play a large role in online news: one in five sites, or 24 (20%), say one person works part time on the site; 28 respondents (23%) report two or three people work part time on the online site, and another 26% (31 sites) report they rely upon more than three people working part time on the site.

Online news sites frequently are unpaid efforts for writers and editors: 49 sites (40%) report that no writers or editors gets paid for their online efforts, and 18 (15%) sites report that one person is paid.

Even more so, online news does not usually provide health insurance: 76 sites (63%) report that no one receives health insurance from their online news outlet. Seven percent (8 sites) report that one person receives health benefits through the online site, and another 7% (8 sites) report that two or three people receive health insurance benefits through online news. Three respondents apiece report that the online news endeavor pays for health insurance for four to six people or seven to 10 people (2%), and eight respondents (7%) report paying for health insurance for more than 10 people.

### FUNDING

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<td>Health</td>
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<td>Religion</td>
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<td>Special events</td>
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<td>Sports</td>
<td>0</td>
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Advertising is the most common funding source for online news, reported by 45 sites (37%). Running closely behind, with 38 responses (31%), was “Funding? Do coins from my piggy bank count?” Thirty-one sites reported they were part of a for-profit company, and 21 reported they were part of a nonprofit. Other funding sources including sales of goods or services (19), donations (19), subscriptions (8) and venture capital (3). No LC3s participated in the survey.
When comparing to last year, funding sources remained similar except for advertising, which was not included in last year’s total.

**CONTENT PROVIDED**

News and original reporting top the list of content sites report: 100 sites (83%) report providing “news” and 91 (75%) report providing “original reporting.” Opinion is the third most popular choice: 87 sites (72%) report providing opinion.

Fifty-seven sites (47%) report an events calendar, and 44 sites (36%) report providing user-generated content in some form.

Seven sites (6%) report that they aggregate content and do not produce original content.

Content sites provide in 2010, according to the survey, is roughly similar to what they provided in 2009.
Circulation may be down at Chicago’s dailies, but web traffic is up at Chicago’s online news sites, as evidenced by the 20 million visits to Chicago-area online news sites in May. And what does this ever-changing media landscape mean for journalists? It means the definition of who's a journalist now has changed, as journalist Ray Hanania points out at Making Media Connections 2010.

While the mainstream media still dominates online—in May, 6 million of the 8 million unique cumulative visitors reported by all media outlets participating in the survey were to Chicago Tribune, Sun-Times and chicagonow (Trib blog site)—the report looked a total of 146 online sites, big and small. Many of those sites were too small to show measurable visitor traffic by commercial tracking sources.

REACH OF CHICAGO’S DAILY NEWS
Approximately 8.3 million visitors used Chicago-area new news sites in May 2010, according to Compete.com data of individual Chicago websites, resulting in 20 million visits to Chicago-area new news sites in May.

While circulation for Chicago’s two major metropolitan dailies has fallen over the past five years, online usage of major metro daily websites continues to grow. Over the past year, each of the three Chicago metropolitan dailies has seen at least 20 percent growth in unique visitors online (comparing May 2009 to May 2010), while print circulation numbers fell.

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>May 2009</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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## CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

### ONLINE READERSHIP

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## DAILY HERALD

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### PRINT CIRCULATION

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### Sunday Circulation

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Sources for daily metropolitan circulation:

**Chicago Tribune:**
- 2010 - [http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=37971](http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=37971)

**Chicago Sun-Times:**
- 2010 - [http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=37971](http://www.chicagobusiness.com/cgi-bin/news.pl?id=37971)

**Daily Herald:**

Sources for online visit data: public data at compete.com
24/7 North of Howard Watchers
www.howardwatchers.blogspot.com
What it’s about: A chronological history of the North Howard area—the decline of a neighborhood into a pocket of poverty and its struggles, challenges and transitions.
Started: 1/1/05
Contact: Toni Duncan
howardwatchers@aol.com
Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/79822180@N00

600 Words by Esther J. Cepeda
www.600words.com
What it’s about: Current events with a Hispanic bent
Started: 4/1/08
Contact: Esther J. Cepeda, Columnist
eejaycee@600words.com
Twitter: ejc600words
2010 New News Survey Participant

Adentro de Pilsen
http://www.adentrodepilsen.com
What it’s about: Primarily to serve the Pilsen community with vetted news and info. The project also strives to create a passion for high school and college journalists to examine niche news coverage.
Started: December 2009
Contact: Ralph Braseth
rbraseth@gmail.org
Twitter: adentrodepilsen
2010 New News Survey Participant

And That’s My Opinion
http://andthatsmyopinion.com
What it’s about: Various essays on a variety of subjects
Started: 1997
Contact: Sandy Goldman
smgoldman@ameritech.net
2010 New News Survey Participant

ArchPundit
www.archpundit.com
What it’s about: Illinois politics
Started: 8/1/02
Contact: Larry Handlin, Publisher
archpundit@gmail.com
Video: www.youtube.com/archpundit
Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/archpundit
Twitter: archpundit

AREA Chicago
www.areachicago.org
What it’s about: Social and cultural movements in Chicago; AREA Chicago supports the work of people and organizations building a socially just city. AREA actively gathers, shares and produces knowledge about local culture and politics. Its newspaper, website and events create relationships and sustain community through art, research, education and activism.
Started: 2005
Contact: Daniel Tucker, Editor
areachicago@gmail.com
PO Box 476971
Chicago, IL 60604-7197
Photos: www.flickr.com/areachicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Art Letter
www.artletter.com
What it’s about: Growing community, raising consciousness about visual art in Chicago.
Started: 9/1/04
Contact: Paul Klein
paul@artletter.com
Twitter: artadvocate

Art or Idiocy?
http://artoridiocy.blogspot.com/
What it’s about: Art and culture in Chicago and elsewhere.
Started: September 2004
Contact: Erik Wenzel, Director
artoridiocy@yahoo.com
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/AdReinhardt
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/artoridiocy/
Twitter: artoridiocy
2010 New News Survey Participant

Art Pilsen
http://artpilsen.blogspot.com/
What it’s about: Art Pilsen is a comprehensive guide to events happening in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood.
Started: 2004
Contact: Miguel Cortez, Blogger
mcortezruiz@gmail.com
Art Pilsen
1458 W. 18th St., #1R
Chicago, IL 60608
Twitter: lapsus5
2010 New News Survey Participant

Arte y Vida Chicago
http://www.arteyvidachicago.com
What it’s about: A calendar of Hispanic art and culture in Chicago
Started: 2007
Contact: Amor Montes de Oca, Publisher
amor@arteyvidachicago.com
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/groups/1084606@N22/
Twitter: arteyvida
2010 New News Survey Participant
AustinTalks
http://austintalks.org/
What it’s about: It’s a local news and information website that covers the West Side Chicago neighborhood of Austin
Started: April 2010
Contact: Suzanne McBride, Coordinator
austintalks.org@gmail.com
33 E. Congress Parkway, Suite 201-A
Chicago, IL 60605
Video: www.youtube.com/AustinTalks1
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/48845654@N02/
Twitter: AustinTalks
2010 New News Survey Participant

Barbershop: Dennis Byrne, Proprietor
http://www.chicagonow.com/blogs/dennis-byrne-barbershop/
What it’s about: Politics and public policy
Contact: Dennis Byrne, Writer/Columnist
dennis@dennisbyrne.net
5 The Court of Bayview
Northbrook, IL 60062
Twitter: dennispbyrne
2010 New News Survey Participant

Beachwood Reporter
www.beachwoodreporter.com
What it’s about: A Chicago-centric news and culture review that also includes award-winning investigative reporting
Started: 2/1/06
Contact: Steve Rhodes, Editor & Publisher
srhodes@beachwoodreporter.com
The Beachwood Media Company
1427 N. Wicker Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622
Video: www.youtube.com/beachdust
Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/beachwoodreporter
Twitter: BeachwoodReport
2010 New News Survey Participant

BroadsHouldersUpdate.com
www.broadshouldersupdate.com
What it’s about: News for community development advocates
Started: 2008
Contact: Justin Massa, Co-founder
justin@movesmart.org
MoveSmart.org
100 N LaSalle St., Ste. 600
Chicago, IL 60602
Twitter: broadsholders
2010 New News Survey Participant

Broken Heart of Rogers Park
http://morsehellhole.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Very local news and political commentary regarding a north side neighborhood in Chicago.
Started: 2004
Contact: Craig Gernhardt, Publisher/President
craig@gaychimag.com
Gernhardt Publications, Inc.
3115 North Broadway
Chicago, IL 60657
Twitter: craig_gernhardt
2010 New News Survey Participant

Bronzecomm
www.bronzecomm.com
What it’s about: E-mail service providing news, events and announcements of special interest to Chicago-area African Americans
Started: Fall 2002
Contact: Raynard Hall
Publisher
radarnard@mindspring.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Business POV
www.businessPOV.com
What it’s about: Business, economic activity, innovation, entrepreneurship
Started: September 2006
Contact: Mark Scheffler, Founder/Executive Producer
mscheffler@businessPOV.com
Audio: www.businessPOV.com

Catalyst Chicago
www.catalyst-chicago.org/notebook
What it’s about: Public education policy & school reform
Contact: Lorraine Forte, Editor-in-Chief
forte@catalyst-chicago.org
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Twitter: CatalystChicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Center Square Journal
http://www.centersquarejournal.com
What it’s about: News for Chicago’s Lincoln Square, Northcenter and Ravenswood Manor neighborhoods.
Started: 01/01/2010
Contact: Mike Fourcher, Founder/Business Manager
mike@centersquarejournal.com
2423 W. Eastwood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
Twitter: centersqjournal
2010 New News Survey Participant

Centerstage Chicago
http://www.centerstagechicago.com
What it’s about: Chicago entertainment, music, theater, restaurants, bars, etc.
Started: 1996
Contact: Ben Rubenstein, Managing Editor
editor.inbox@centerstagechicago.com
Centerstage Chicago
350 N. Orleans, 10th Floor South
Chicago, IL 60654
Twitter: cstagechicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Argus
www.chicagoargus.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Chicago, along with the issues of the world as perceived from Chicago
Started: 12/1/07
Contact: Gregory Tejeda, Publisher, Editor
gregoryt1965@gmail.com
2010 New News Survey Participant
Chicago Art Magazine, Chicago Art Collector
What it’s about: The Chicago visual art scene
Started: September 2010
Contact: Kathryn Born, Editor
kborn@chicagoartmagazine.com
Twitter: chiartmachine
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Bites
http://www.chicagobites.com
What it’s about: We review food events and restaurants in the Chicago area.
Started: 02/01/2006
Contact: Tammy Green, Foodie
tammy@chicagobites.com
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=chicago+bites&w=4888916659&N01&s=rec
Twitter: chicagobites
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Carless
www.chicagocarless.com
What it’s about: The life and times of a former New Yorker living in downtown Chicago
Started: 6/27/05
Contact: Mike Doyle
mike@chicagocarless.com
Video: www.youtube.com/user/chicagocarless

Chicago Defender
www.chicagodefender.com
What it’s about: News that relates to the African-American community (music, culture, sports, political, social, legal)
Started: 1/31/08
Contact: Shamontiel L. Vaughn, Web Editor
svaughn@chicagodefender.com
200 S. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
Twitter: chicagodefender

Chicago Hearts Trivia
www.chicagotrivia.com
What it’s about: We post fun trivia questions and quizzes daily and review local Chicago bars that run pub trivia nights in Chicago.
Started: 2008
Contact: Sasha Davis, Blogger
sashaherto@gmail.com
Twitter: WeHeartTrivia
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Is the World
http://www.chicagoisttheworld.org
What it’s about: Ethnic news media
Started: 03/01/2009
Contact: Stephen Franklin
steve@newstips.org
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Journal
www.chicagojournal.com
What it’s about: Community/Neighborhood news of the South Loop, West Loop and Near West Side
Contact: Micah Maidenberg, Editor
mmmaidenberg@chicagojournal.com
Wednesday Journal, Inc.
141 S. Oak Park Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302

Chicago Magazine Online
www.chicagomag.com
What it’s about: General interest Chicago
Started: 1998
Contact: Bill Oakes, Web Manager
boakes@chicagomag.com
435 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60611
Video: www.youtube.com/chicagomag
Twitter: Chicagomag

Chicago News Cooperative
www.chicagonewscoop.org
What it’s about: Public-service journalism and news of substance and enterprise about the Chicago area
Started: 11/1/2009
Contact: Ben Goldberger, Digital Editor
bgoldberger@chicagonewscoop.org
70 E. Lake St., Suite 810
Chicago, IL 60601
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Now
http://www.chicagonow.com
What it’s about: Chicago Now is an online community created by Chicagoans for Chicagoans. It’s our bloggers’ job to lead the conversation on Chicago.
Started: August 2009
Contact: Bill Adee, Blog Scout
badee@chicagonow.com
Chicago Tribune Media Group
435 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Twitter: chicagonow

Chicago Now: Collective Unconscious of Restless Fanatics
What it’s about: General sports theme with a look into the psyche of fandom
Started: 03/01/2010
Contact: Dan Davis, Blogger
obudan@gmail.com
1360 N. Sandburg Terrace, 604 C
Chicago, IL 60610
Twitter: obudan
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Parent
www.chicagoparent.com
What it’s about: Parenting
Contact: Graham Johnston, Manager of Internet and Technology
ghanjohnston@wjinc.com
141 S. Oak Park Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Reader
www.chicagoreader.com
What it’s about: News and listings
Started: Online 1994
Contact: Steve Timble, Associate Publisher
stimble@chicagoreader.com
11 E. Illinois St.
Chicago, IL 60611
Twitter: Chicago_Reader
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicago Reader: Collective Unconscious of Restless Fanatics
What it’s about: General sports theme with a look into the psyche of fandom
Started: 03/01/2010
Contact: Dan Davis, Blogger
obudan@gmail.com
1360 N. Sandburg Terrace, 604 C
Chicago, IL 60610
Twitter: obudan
2010 New News Survey Participant
Chicago Reporter

www.chicagoreporter.com
What it’s about: An investigative monthly that reports on race and poverty issues in the Chicago metro area
Started: 1997
Contact: Alden K. Loury, Editor and Publisher
aldenl@chicagoreporter.com
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60604
Twitter: ChicagoReporter

Chicago Sun-Times

www.suntimes.com
What it’s about: Chicago-area news and sports
Started: 1994
Contact: Jack Barry, Assistant Managing Editor-Interactive Media
jbarry@suntimes.com
Chicago Sun-Times-Interactive Media
350 N. Orleans
Chicago, IL 60654
Twitter: suntimes

Chicago Weekly

www.chicagoweekly.net
What it’s about: News, arts and culture of the South Side, centered around the University of Chicago
Started: 2007
Contact: Editor
cwedit@gmail.com
Newcity Communications
770 N. Halsted St., Suite 303
Chicago, IL 60642

Chicagoist

www.chicagoist.com
What it’s about: Chicago! News, events, food, etc.
Started: 2004
Contact: Marcus Gilmer
Audio: chicagoist.com/tags/podcast
Twitter: Chicagoid
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicagonista

http://www.chicagonista.com
What it’s about: An online magazine for Chicago’s active families
Started: 2008
Contact: MJ Tam, Editor
mjtam@chicagonista.com
City Connect Media, Inc.
738 W. 26th St.
Chicago, IL 60616
Twitter: mjtam / chicagonista

Chicago Storytelling

http://www.chicagostorytelling.com
What it’s about: Local community news in Chicago neighborhoods
Started: September 2009
Contact: Mike Reilley, Editor/ Instructor
mreille1@depaul.edu
DePaul University College of Communication / Mike Reilley
14 E. Jackson Blvd., Room 1106
Chicago, IL 60604
Video: http://www.youtube.com/chicagostorytelling
http://www.flickr.com/photos/chicagostorytelling/
Twitter: chitownstories
2010 New News Survey Participant

Chicagov.org

http://chicagov.org/
What it’s about: Investigative journalism of Chicago government in print, audio and video.
When it started: 05/01/2010
Contact: Dave Glowacz, Journalist
glow@mrradio.org
2010 New News Survey Participant

Claretian Associates

www.claretianassociates.org
What it’s about: Nonprofit community development corporation in South Chicago
Started: 2003
Comings & Goings
www.southlandbusinessnews.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Businesses opening and closing in Chicago’s Southland
Started: 05/01/2009
Contact: Bob Bong, Managing Editor
bobbong@hotmail.com
Twitter: bobbong
2010 New News Survey Participant

Community Media Workshop
www.communitymediaworkshop.org
What it’s about: Neighborhood news
Started: Newstips.org, 1997; CommunityMediaWorkshop.org, January 2008
Contact: Thom Clark, President
thom@newstips.org
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
Audio: communitymediaworkshop.org/podcast
Video: communitymediaworkshop.org/vlog
Twitter: npcommunicator

Contratiempo
www.revistacontratiempo.com
What it’s about: Latino social issues, arts and literature
Started: 2005
Contact: Moira Pujols, Executive Director
moirapujols@aol.com
1702 South Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608
Audio: Chicago Public Radio Chicago Amplified

Crabby Golightly
http://www.crabbygolightly.com
What it’s about: Reaction to pop culture and news
Started: January 2008
Contact: E. Coady, Publisher/ Editor
crabby@crabbygolightly.com
Video: www.crabbygolightly.com/mt/youtube/
Twitter: Crabbygolightly
2010 New News Survey Participant

CTA Tattler
www.ctatattler.com
What it’s about: News and notes about the CTA, including strange things seen and heard aboard trains and buses.
Started: 6/1/04
Contact: Kevin O’Neil, Owner/Operator
kjoneil84@gmail.com
Twitter: kj084
2010 New News Survey Participant

Daywatch: Chicago Tribune
www.chicagotribune.com/daywatch
What it’s about: Daily e-mail news briefing
Started: 1999
Contact: Charlie Meyerson, Senior Producer
cmeyerson@comcast.net
435 N. Michigan Ave., TT 400
Chicago, IL 60611
Twitter: Daywatch

Deep Dish
http://marcharshbarger.blogspot.com/
What it’s about: Groovy thoughts of a gay writer on pop culture and all things fabulous
Started: 08/19/2008
Contact: Marc Harshbarger, Creator
deepdishdrama@aol.com
Deep Dish
4538 North Bernard Street
Chicago, IL 60625
Twitter: Deep_Dish
2010 New News Survey Participant

District 299
www.district299.com
What it’s about: Chicago schools (elementary and secondary)
Started: 2006
Contact: Alexander Russo, Creator
alexanderrusso@gmail.com
Twitter: district299
2010 New News Survey Participant

Driftless Area
www.driftlessarea.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Finding nature in the Chicago area.
Started: 02/01/2007
Contact: Bob Dolgan, Editor
sportsshrike@yahoo.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Edgewater Community Buzz
www.edgewatercb.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Our goal is to be a one-stop spot for news, events and businesses in and around Chicago’s Edgewater neighborhood.
Contact: Jeremy Bressman
hollywoodbeach60640@gmail.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Evanston Now
http://evanstonnow.com
What it’s about: Online newspaper for Evanston, Ill.
Started: 04/01/2006
Contact: Bill Smith, Publisher
bill@evanstonnow.com
Evanston Now LLC
1726 Wesley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60201
Video: http://www.youtube.com/EvanstonNow
2010 New News Survey Participant

EveryBlock
chicago.everyblock.com
What it’s about: Neighborhood news for Chicago and 10 other cities
Started: 1/1/08
Contact: Adrian Holovaty, Founder
adrian@everyblock.com
228 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 401
Chicago, IL 60604
Twitter: everyblock
2010 New News Survey Participant

Examiner.com
www.examiner.com/chicago
What it’s about: Full-service news, arts, entertainment, neighborhood site
Contact: Neil Tesser, Journalist
neiltesser@gmail.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Expired Meter
www.theexpiredmeter.com
What it’s about: Parking tickets, red light camera tickets and generally about driving and parking in and around Chicago.
Started: 03/01/2008
Contact: Mike B., The Parking Ticket Geek/Editor
info@theexpiredmeter.com
Twitter: ticketgeek
2010 New News Survey Participant
Feast of Fun
http://www.feastoffun.com
What it’s about: Feast of Fun is a hot mix of social news, rising trends, in-depth interviews and live music sessions— the best of the net in real-time.
Started: 02/01/2005
Contact: Fausto Fernós, Co-host/Executive Producer
mail@feastoffun.com
Video: http://www.youtube.com/feastoffun
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/feastoffools/
Twitter: feastoffun
2010 New News Survey Participant

Ferdy on Films, etc.
www.ferdyonfilms.com
What it’s about: Film reviews and commentary
Started: 12/1/05
Contact: Marilyn Ferdinand
marilynferdinand@comcast.net
Twitter: FerdyonFilms

Forgotten Chicago
http://www.forgottenchicago.com
What it’s about: Forgotten elements of our city’s infrastructure, architecture, neighborhoods and general cityscape.
Started: 2007
Contact: Mike Damian, Outreach/Co-Founder
appleuzer@forgottenchicago.com
Forgotten Chicago
1848 W. Chase
Chicago, IL 60640
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/groups/forgottenchicago
Twitter: forgottenchi
2010 New News Survey Participant

FOX Chicago News
http://www.myfoxchicago.com
What it’s about: Chicago news
Started: 1998
Contact: Kirsten Miller, Senior Web Producer
kirsten.miller@foxtv.com
FOX Chicago News
205 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
Twitter: foxchicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Gapers Block
www.gapersblock.com
What it’s about: Chicago news, events and other things of note
Started: 4/1/03
Contact: Andrew Huff, Editor & Publisher
ah@gapersblock.com
P.O. Box 13524
Chicago, IL 60613
Photos: www.flickr.com/groups/gapers_block
Twitter: gapersblock
2010 New News Survey Participant

Getting Real
What it’s about: The real estate scene
Started: 03/01/2008
Contact: Gary Lucido, President
info@lucidrealty.com
Lucid Realty
822 W. Village Ct.
Chicago, IL 60608
2010 New News Survey Participant

Going Public
www.redeyechicago.com/goingpublic
What it’s about: Blog about CTA news and issues
Started: 06/01/2009
Contact: Tracy Swartz, Reporter
tswartz@tribune.com
RedEye
435 N. Michigan Ave., 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
Twitter: tracyswartz
2010 New News Survey Participant

Green Parent Chicago
www.greenparentchicago.typepad.com
What it’s about: Eco-friendly and off the mainstream news, events and activities for green living and natural family living in Chicago
Started: 4/1/08
Contact: Christine S. Escobar, Founder and Editor, Lead Writer
editors@greenparentchicago.com
Twitter: greenparentchgo
2010 New News Survey Participant

Greg Hinz blog at Crain’s Chicago Business
www.chicagobusiness.com/hinz
What it’s about: Chicago-focused politics and government
Started: 10/1/08
Contact: Greg Hinz, Columnist Blogger
ghinz@crain.com
Crain’s Chicago Business
360 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
2010 New News Survey Participant

Hello Beautiful!
www.edwardlifson.com
What it’s about: Architecture
Started: 2003
Contact: Edward Lifson
ELifson@gmail.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Hinsdalean
www.thehinsdalean.com
What it’s about: Community news in Hinsdale
Started: 9/1/06
Contact: Jim Slonoff, Publisher
jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com
7 W. First St.
Hinsdale, IL 60521
2010 New News Survey Participant

Hot Potato
http://www.playhotpotato.wordpress.com/
What it’s about: Hot Potato is the little stories that fill you up. We cover stories not picked up by major media outlets, and we publish high-quality soft and hard news stories with multimedia.
Started: 06/01/2008
Contact: Christopher Brinckerhoff, Publisher
hotpotatonews@gmail.com
Hot Potato
649 Salem Court
Palatine, IL 60074
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/u2christopher?feature=mhw4
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/30973745@N07/
2010 New News Survey Participant
Hyde Park Herald and Lakefront Outlook
www.hpherald.com
What it’s about: News in the neighborhoods of Hyde Park and Bronzeville
Started: Herald in the ’90s; Outlook in 2009
Contact: Gabriel Piemonte, Editor
g.piemo@hpherald.com
Herald Newspapers, Inc.
1435 E. Hyde Park Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60615
2010 New News Survey Participant

Hyde Park Progress
www.hydeparkprogress.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Local politics and culture
Started: 7/25/07
Contact: David Hoyt, Blog Administrator
david@hydeparkexpress.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

I Hate My Developer
www.ihatemydeveloper.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Developer/condo-related issues, urban pioneering and South Side observations
Started: 8/1/05
Contact: The Woodlawn Wonder
natasha_woodlawn@yahoo.com
Twitter: WoodlawnWonder
2010 New News Survey Participant

Illinois Outdoors
http://www.chicagonow.com/blogs/illinois-outdoors/
What it’s about: Fishing, hunting and the outdoors
Started: 01/01/2010
Contact: Don Dziedzina, President, Illinois Outdoors Inc.
Idoutdoors@comcast.net
Illinois Outdoors, Inc.
PO Box 713
New Lenox, IL 60451
2010 New News Survey Participant

Illinois Review
www.illinoisreview.typepad.com
What it’s about: Conservative perspective on Illinois politics
Started: 11/1/05
Contact: Fran Eaton, Editor
featon@illinoisreview.com
P.O. Box 233
Oak Forest, IL 60452
Video: http://www.youtube.com/illinoisreview

Inside Online
www.yournews.com
What it’s about: General information, news and events
Started: insideronline in 1996; yournews in 2008
Contact: Ronald Roenigk, Publisher
inside@britsys.net
Inside Publications
6221 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60660
2010 New News Survey Participant

Journal of Ordinary Thought
What it’s about: Writing about family histories, personal experiences, and neighborhood issue by adults in the neighborhoods of Chicago.
Started: 1996
Contact: Hollen Reischer, Editor
hreischer@jot.org
Neighborhood Writing Alliance
1313 E. 60th St., Suite 238
Chicago, IL 60637
2010 New News Survey Participant

Keep Us Connected
http://www.keepusconnected.org
What it’s about: AT&T’s discriminatory treatment of public, educational and government (PEG) access channels
Started: 2007
Contact: Michelle King, Business Manager
mking@cantv.org
CAN TV
322 S. Green St.
Chicago, IL 60607
Twitter: cantvchicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Lake Effect News
www.lakeeffectnews.com
What it’s about: LEN is online community news site, much in the scope of a traditional neighborhood print newspaper. We cover crime, politics, development, education, and interesting neighborhood characters, events and organization on Chicago’s Far North Lakefront, including Rogers Park, West Ridge, Edgewater and Uptown.
Started: 05/19/2009
Contact: Lorraine Swanson, Editor/Publisher
lswanson@lakeeffectnews.com
Twitter: lakeeffectnews
2010 New News Survey Participant

Latina Voices
http://latina-voices.com/wp04/
What it’s about: News, opinion, features and stories by or about Latina women
Started: Fall 2008
Contact: Teresa Puente, Founder
tpuente@colum.edu
Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/tcpuente
2010 New News Survey Participant

Latino Policy Forum E-Newsletter
www.latinopolicyforum.org
What it’s about: Policy information regarding Latinos
Started: 2008
Contact: Sara McElmurry, Communications Coordinator
smcelmurry@latinopolicyforum.org
20 E. Jackson Blvd. #1550
Chicago, IL 60604
Twitter: latinopolicy
2010 New News Survey Participant

Literago
www.literago.org
What it’s about: Literary events and news in Chicago
Started: 5/1/06
Contact: Gretchen Kalwinski, Managing Editor
editors@literago.org

Keep Us Connected
http://www.keepusconnected.org
What it’s about: AT&T’s discriminatory treatment of public, educational and government (PEG) access channels
Started: 2007
Contact: Michelle King, Business Manager
mking@cantv.org
CAN TV
322 S. Green St.
Chicago, IL 60607
Twitter: cantvchicago
2010 New News Survey Participant
Live Here Oak Park
www.livehereoakpark.com
What it’s about: Online community, blog and forum for people living in and around Oak Park.
Started: June 2009
Contact: Becca Martin
livehereoakpark@gmail.com
Twitter: Oakparkerr
2010 New News Survey Participant

Logan Square Neighborhood Association
www.lsna.net
What it’s about: The work of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association
Started: 2005
Contact: Monica G. Chavez, Technology and Communications Coordinator
mgarreton@lsna.net
2840 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618
Video: www.youtube.com/user/lsnanet
2010 New News Survey Participant

Lynn Sweet Blog
www.blogs.suntimes.com/sweet
What it’s about: President Obama, Michelle Obama, Congress and Chicago interests in Washington
Started: 2/1/06
Contact: Lynn Sweet, Washington Bureau Chief
lsweet3022@aol.com
Lynn Sweet, Chicago Sun-Times
1206 National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045

Mark Karlin
http://www.buzzflash.com
What it’s about: progressive politics and commerce
Started: May 2000
Contact: Mark Karlin, Editor and Publisher
buzzflash@buzzflash.com
Mark Karlin/ BuzzFlash
688 N. Milwaukee, Suite 204
Chicago, IL 60642
Twitter: buzzflash
2010 New News Survey Participant

McHenry County Blog
www.mchenrycountyblog.com
What it’s about: McHenry County and Illinois news and politics
Started: 10/1/05
Contact: Cal Skinner
calskinner2@gmail.com
Me & My Shadow: A Life in Chicago
http://francesarcher.wordpress.com
What it’s about: Personal accounts chronicling the histories of Chicago
Started: 11/01/2009
Contact: Frances O’Cherony Archer, Consultant
content1st@gmail.com
Content First, Inc.
P.O. Box 2723
Glenview, IL 60025-6723
Twitter: Content1st
2010 New News Survey Participant

Marathon Pundit
www.marathonpundit.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Politics, local and national
Started: 1/1/05
Contact: John Ruberry, Blogger
john.ruberry@sbcglobal.net
Twitter: marathonpundit
2010 New News Survey Participant

Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn St., Ste. 1400
Chicago, IL 60603
Audio: http://www.metroplanning.org/multimedia/audio/
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/MetroplanningChicago
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/metroplanning/
Twitter: Metroplanners
2010 New News Survey Participant

Mindful Metropolis
www.mindfulmetropolis.com
What it’s about: News and lifestyle journalism catering to Chicago’s conscious community
Started: 05/01/2009
Contact: Richard McGinnis, Publisher
richard@mindfulmetropolis.com
Mindful Metropolis
2020 N California, Suite 7#165
Chicago, IL 60647
Twitter: MindfulMetro
2010 New News Survey Participant

Music Box
http://www.musicbox-online.com/
What it’s about: Music and Pop Culture
Started: 06/01/1994
Contact: John Metzger, Editor
editor@musicbox-online.com
The Music Box
PO Box 3911
Oak Park, IL 60303-3911
Twitter: musicboxonline
2010 New News Survey Participant

Near West Side Community Development Corporation
www.nearwestsidedcdc.org/home.aspx
What it’s about: Community news
Started: 2006
216 S. Hoyne Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
New Communities
www.newcommunities.org
What it’s about: Chicago
Started: 2004
Contact: Gordon Walek, Communications Manager
gwalek@lisc.org
LISC/Chicago
1 N. LaSalle St., 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Video: LISC New Communities and LISC Tu – http://www.youtube.com/newcommunities
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/lisc-chicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

NP Communicator
http://www.communitymediaworkshop.org/npcommunicator
What it’s about: Nonprofit communications
Started: 2007
Contact: cmw@newstips.org
Community Media Workshop at Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
Twitter: npcommunicator
2010 New News Survey Participant

Outside the Girl Box
http://www.chicagnow.com/blogs/outside-the-girl-box
What it’s about: It is about self-esteem and empowerment for pre-teen girls.
Started: 02/01/2010
Contact: Lauren Kaminsky, Blogger
outsidethegirlbox@gmail.com
Twitter: outgirlbox
2010 New News Survey Participant

Outside the Loop RADIO
www.outsidetheloopradio.com
What it’s about: Local stories, local interviews, topics that don’t always get local mainstream coverage
Started: 9/1/06
Contact: Mike Stephen, Host/Executive Producer
mike@outsidetheloopradio.com
Audio: www.outsidetheloopradio.com
Twitter: outsidetheloop
2010 New News Survey Participant

Outside.In
www.outside.in/Chicago_IL
What it’s about: Hyperlocal news aggregator
Started: 9/1/06
Contact: Chrysanthe Tenentes, Community Coordinator
chrysantha@outside.in
20 Jay St., Suite 1019
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Twitter: outsidein
2010 New News Survey Participant

Pilsen Portal
www.pilsenportal.org
What it’s about: Pilsen community
Started: 07/15/2009
Contact: Jaime Guzman, Project Manager
jguzman@resurrectionproject.org
The Resurrection Project
1818 S. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60608
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/PilsenPortal
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/pilsenportal
2010 New News Survey Participant

Notes From North Sheridan
http://www.chicagonow.com/blogs/notes-from-north-sheridan/
What it’s about: The college and new resident’s perspective on life in Chicago
Started: 2009
2010 New News Survey Participant

Office Oracle
http://www.chicagonow.com/officeoracle
What it’s about: Insights and advice on office life from a corporate rat
Started: 03/01/2010
2010 New News Survey Participant

Outside the Loop RADIO
www.outsidetheloopradio.com
What it’s about: Local stories, local interviews, topics that don’t always get local mainstream coverage
Started: 9/1/06
Contact: Mike Stephen, Host/Executive Producer
mike@outsidetheloopradio.com
Audio: www.outsidetheloopradio.com
Twitter: outsidetheloop
2010 New News Survey Participant

Pilsen Portal
www.pilsenportal.org
What it’s about: Pilsen community
Started: 07/15/2009
Contact: Jaime Guzman, Project Manager
jguzman@resurrectionproject.org
The Resurrection Project
1818 S. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60608
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/PilsenPortal
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/pilsenportal
2010 New News Survey Participant
Post-Tribune
www.post-trib.com
What it’s about: Northwest Indiana news
Post-Tribune
1433 E. 83rd Ave.
Merrillville, IN 46410
2010 New News Survey Participant

Progress Illinois
www.progressillinois.com
What it’s about: Progressive news and commentary on metro and state politics in Illinois
Started: 3/1/08
Contact: Josh Kalven, Editor
jkalven@gmail.com
222 W. Ontario St. #310
Chicago, IL 60654
Video: www.youtube.com/ProgressIllinois
Twitter: progressill
2010 New News Survey Participant

Proyecto Latina
www.proyectolatina.org
What it’s about: Highlighting established and emerging Latinas in the arts
Started: 2008
Contact: Irasema Gonzalez, Editor & Co-producer
info@proyectolatina.org
PO Box 89136
Chicago, IL 60608
2010 New News Survey Participant

Revista Contratiempo
www.revistacontratiempo.com
What it’s about: Art, culture, literature and social issue analysis
Started: 05/01/2003
Contact: Moira Pujols, Executive Director
mpujols@revistacontratiempo.com
Contratiempo NFP
1702 South Halsted
Chicago, IL 60608
2010 New News Survey Participant

Ride
www.blogs.suntimes.com/transportation
What it’s about: Transportation issues
Started: 2/1/08
Contact: Mary Wisniewski, Transportation Reporter
mwisniewski@suntimes.com
Chicago Sun-Times
350 N. Orleans St., Floor 9
Chicago, IL 60654

Rogers Park in 1,000 Words
http://www.RP1000.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Rogers Park
Started: 06/22/2007
Contact: Bill Morton, Author
BillMorton.RogersPark@gmail.com
Rogers Park in 1,000 Words
c/o Bill Morton
1205 W. Sherwin Avenue Suite 803
Chicago, IL 60626
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/BillMortonRogersPark
2010 New News Survey Participant

SallyDuros.com
http://www.sallyduros.com
What it’s about: My thoughts about the future of news locally and nationwide, as well as sporadic writing about the economy.
Started: 2004
Contact: Sally Duros, Independent Journalist
sally@sallyduros.com
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/sduros
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/photos/44124450307@N01/
Twitter: saduros
2010 New News Survey Participant

Second City Cop
secondcitycop.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Life and politics from a street cop’s perspective
Started: 05/01/2005
2010 New News Survey Participant

Seeding Chicago
seedchicago.wordpress.com
What it’s about: How the urban agriculture movement is transforming Chicago communities
Started: 03/01/2010
Contact: Cassandra West, Editor
cwest@newmediaaccess.com
New Media Access
175 Linden Ave
Oak Park, IL 60302
Twitter: seedchicago
2010 New News Survey Participant

Shots in the Dark
What it’s about: Photo blog of the Chicago nightlife scene
Started: December 2009
Contact: Chuan Vo, Photographer
chuan.vo@gmail.com
Vofotos Photography
3021 W Armitage Ave Unit 207
Chicago, IL 60647
Twitter: vofotos
2010 New News Survey Participant

Sixth Ward
www.thesixthward.blogspot.com
What it’s about: A blog on ward issues and state and local politics
Started: 11/1/07
Contact: Levois, Student
itsmymind@gmail.com
Twitter: thesixthward
2010 New News Survey Participant

SkokieNet Community Information Network
http://skokienet.org
What it’s about: News and other information of interest to folks in Skokie, IL; stories, pix, opinions, and more from anyone in the Village
Started: 1995
Contact: Frances E Roehm, SkokieNet Librarian and Community Liaison
froehm@skokielibrary.info
SkokieNet.org @ Skokie Public Library
5215 Oakton St
Skokie, IL 60077
Video: http://youtube.com/SkokieTalk
Twitter: SkokieNet
2010 New News Survey Participant
Sloopin

www.sloopin.com
What it’s about: Anything to do with Chicago's South Loop Neighborhood
Started: August 2008
Contact: Ryan Schuster, Founder
sloopin@gmail.com
Sloopin
1430 S. Michigan Ave. Unit 311
Chicago, IL 60605
Twitter: sloopin
2010 New News Survey Participant

South Suburban News

www.southsnews.com
What it’s about: Hyperlocal community news in Chicago’s South Suburbs
Started: 6/1/09
Contact: Glenn Reedus, Editor and Publisher
publisher@southsnews.com
21141 Governors Highway, Suite 304
Matteson, IL 60443
2010 New News Survey Participant

Southland Savvy

www.southlandsavvy.com
What it’s about: Local business news, primarily, with some news aggregation and items that celebrate life in the Chicago Southland.
Started:03/01/2010
Contact: Dennis Robaugh, Partner
drobaugh@southlandsavvy.com
Twitter: southlandsavvy
2010 New News Survey Participant

Southwest Observer

www.southwestobserver.com
What it’s about: Neighborhood news
Started: 3/1/07
Contact: Michael Fielding, Editor
editor@southwestobserver.com
Southwest Observer, a branch of Romeili, LLC
P.O. Box 146
Hudson, WI 54016
Twitter: swobserver
2010 New News Survey Participant

Suburban Chicagoland/ Radio Chicagoland

What it’s about: Provides news, features and commentary on suburban Chicagoland issues in the news, headline stories and more; also showcases live radio interviews from our weekday radio show Monday-Friday 8-9:30 am 1530 AM Radio WJJG.
 Started: 2002
Contact: Ray Hanania, Publisher
rayhanania@comcast.net
Ray Hanania Enterprises Ltd
PO Box 2127
Orland Park, IL 60462
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/rayhanania
Twitter: rayhanania
2010 New News Survey Participant

That's Awesome

http://www.chicagonow.com/thatsawesome
What it’s about: Anything and everything that is awesome.
Started: 03/01/2010
2010 New News Survey Participant

The Living Room in Rogers Park

http://thelivingroom.blogspot.com
What it’s about: Commentary on a variety of subjects, especially those that will impact the community such as Peak Oil and Climate Change.
Started: 08/01/2006
Contact: Christine Wellman, Writer
livingroominrogerspark@yahoo.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

This is Hell!

http://thisishell.com
What it’s about: Live on-air radio program that features views and voices not heard in the mainstream media. We also offer the Nine Circles of Hell! Monday through Friday—the nine most hellish stories we can find. It’s all the news that gives you fits in print.


Contact: Chuck Mertz, Host/ Producer/ Creator/ Writer
thisishell@wnur.org
This is Hell!
c/o WNUR Radio John J. Louis Hall
1877 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
2010 New News Survey Participant

Thriftista

http://www.thriftista.com
What it’s about: How to live well in Chicagoland on a budget.
Started: 07/01/2009
Contact: Lisa Ghisolf, Owner
lisag@thriftista.com
Thriftista
1040 W. Adams #611
Chicago, IL 60607
Twitter: thriftista
2010 New News Survey Participant

Time Out Chicago

http://www.timeoutchicago.com
What it’s about: Weekly city magazine primarily covering arts and culture
Started: 2005
Contact: Frank Sennett, Editor-in-Chief/President
fsennett@timeoutchicago.com
Time Out Chicago
247 S State St., 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60618
Video: http://chicago.timeout.com/section/music (Live at ToC video podcast)
Photos: http://www.flickr.com/groups/tocgroup/pool
Twitter: TimeoutChicago
2010 New News Survey Participant
Triblocal – Voice of the Town

www.triblocal.com
What it’s about: Hyperlocal website serving 100 communities in the suburbs of Chicago with reporter and UGC content
Started: 2007
Contact: Kyle Leonard, Managing Editor
Kleonard@tribune.com
TribLocal
3 Westsbrook Corporate Center, Suite 800
Westcheter, IL 60154
Twitter: kyleonard

Uptown Update

www.uptownupdate.com
What it’s about: News and commentary from the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago
Started: 05/01/2007
Contact: uptownupdate@hotmail.com
2010 New News Survey Participant

Urbanophile

www.urbanophile.com
What it’s about: Urban affairs and the future of the Midwest city—the intersection of policy, architecture and design, strategy, transportation, economic development, talent acquisition, arts and culture, and demographics.
Started: 12/1/06
Contact: Aaron M. Renn, Owner aren@urbanophile.com
Twitter: urbanophile

Vivelohoy

http://www.vivelohoy.com
What it’s about: Local, entertainment, sports, national, Latin America and world news in Spanish
Started: 2005
Contact: Gerardo Lopez, Online Editor/Producer
glopez@hoyllc.com
Vivelohoy
202 W First St 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Video: http://www.youtube.com/vivelohoy
Twitter: http://www.vivelohoy.com/twitterla
2010 New News Survey Participant

Vocalo

www.vocalo.org
What it’s about: A user-generated website and radio station
Contact: Shannon Heffernan, Online Community Manager
info@vocalo.org
848 E. Grand Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647
Audio: Radio: On air at 89.5FM; streaming at www.vocalo.org/on-air
Podcast: feeds2.feedburner.com/vocapodcast
Video: www.vocalo.org
Twitter: vocalo and/or shannon_h (community manager)
2010 New News Survey Participant

WCPT AM & FM – Chicago’s Progressive Talk Radio

http://www.chicagosprogressivetalk.com
What it’s about: Web component of WCPT AM & FM – Progressive Politics
Started: 2005
Contact: Kevin Clarke, Marketing and Promotions Director
kclarke@newswebradio.net
WCPT AM & FM – Chicago’s Progressive Talk
6012 S. Pulaski Rd
Chicago, IL 60629
Audio: Streaming Radio Station and Podcasts -
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/WCPT820AM
Twitter: wcptradio
2010 New News Survey Participant

WE The People Media/Residents’ Journal

http://www.wethepeoplemedia.org
What it’s about: It provides a unique source of information to low-income youth, adults, seniors, and their advocates nationally.
Started: 2003
Contact: Ethan Michaeli, Executive Director/Publisher
ethan@wethepeoplemedia.org
We The People Media/Residents’ Journal
4859 S. Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615
Video: http://www.youtube.com/user/Wethepeoplemedia?feature=mhw4
2010 New News Survey Participant
**Welles Park Bulldog**
http://www.wellesparkbulldog.com
What it’s about: Neighborhood news for the Ravenswood, Lincoln Square, North Center, St. Bens, Graceland West, Ravenswood Manor, Rockwell Crossing and Ravenswood Gardens communities.
Started: 03/01/2010
Contact: Patrick Boylan, Editor boylanpadraig@gmail.com
Chicago Bulldog Media
2431 W Cullom Ave.
Chicago, IL 60618
Twitter: chibulldog
2010 New News Survey Participant

**WGN Radio**
http://www.wgnradio.com
What it’s about: Chicago’s news, talk, sports, weather and traffic
Started: 1996
Audio: http://www.wgnradio.com/shows/schedule/
2010 New News Survey Participant

**Windy City Media Group**
http://www.windycitymediagroup.com
What it’s about: News and entertainment for the LGBT communities
Started: Mid-1990s as a complement to the print edition
Contact: Tracy Baim, Publisher editor@windycitymediagroup.com
Windy City Media Group
1900 S. Prairie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616
Audio: www.windycityqueercast.com
Video: www.QueerTVNetwork.com (under the VIDEO button)
Twitter: windycitytimes1
2010 New News Survey Participant

**Windy Pixel**
http://www.thewindypixel.com
What it’s about: Unique and outstanding photographic images of the city accompanied by stories and views of what is going on in photography and Chicago
Started: 3/1/09
Contact: Justin Kern justinwkern@gmail.com
Twitter: thewindypixel

**WTTW**
http://www.wttw.com and wttw.com/chicagotonight and wttw.com/moreonthestory
What it’s about: Website for Chicago’s largest PBS station. The Chicago Tonight and More on the Story sites are extensions of "Chicago Tonight" coverage and include all video from the show, exclusive (extra footage) video, blog material and other extensions like maps, timelines, photos, transcripts and documents, and supplemental text narrative.
Contact: Anne Gleason, SVP Marketing/Interactive agleason@wttw.com or chicagotonight@wttw.com
5400 N Saint Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625
Video: http://www.youtube.com/wttwchicago/

**WZRD-Chicago**
http://www.wzrdchicago.org
What it’s about: WZRD is a 100 watt station in Chicago, with a freeform format, bringing underground and under-represented music and ideas to the community.
Contact: Terry O’Connor, Program Director programdirector@wzrdchicago.org
WZRD-Chicago
5500 N. St. Louis Ave
Chicago, IL 60625
2010 New News Survey Participant

**YoChicago**
http://www.yochicago.com
What it’s about: New residential construction and real estate issues in Chicago
Started: 12/1/06
Contact: Joseph Askins, Editor jaskins@yochicago.com
Data Based Ads Inc.
363 W. Erie St., Suite 500E
Chicago, IL 60654
Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/yochicago1
Twitter: yochicago
METHODS AND LIMITATIONS

From March 23 to May 14, 2010, Community Media Workshop reached out to more than 500 people and organizations that publish news online or participated in the 2009 Journalism Town Hall. Of those contacted, 121 sites participated in the second annual survey to learn more about the Chicagoland’s online news ecosystem. The NEW News 2010 report details the survey’s findings. The report also provides an overall listing of 146 news sites and blogs, which includes the survey participants and news sites featured in The NEW News 2009. The Workshop collected responses using the web surveying tool SurveyMonkey.

Conducting a survey of this type is challenging and a review of the data should keep these limitations in mind.

For many questions, sites could choose more than one response, so percentages do not add up to 100. Not all participants answered all questions. Some news site publishers do not post contact information on their sites, making it difficult to invite their participation.

Other online news publishers (most frequently, but not always, in the traditional/legacy news category) did not respond to follow-up, may not have been made aware of the survey or chose not to participate.

Finally, the online news ecosystem is ever-changing. Small sites come and go, especially as people and organizations experiment with new ways to create and share the news.

Last year, drawing on our experience garnered over two decades of compiling lists of Chicago-area news outlets and personnel for the annual Getting On Air, Online, & Into Print news media directory, we ranked 60 niche sites in The NEW News 2009 listings. We devised a six-point algorithm that looked at transparency of site sponsorship, how much original local news content a site used, and we included commercially available and self-reported web traffic statistics. We excluded larger traditional or legacy media sites whose unique visitor numbers would dwarf the newer sites we were trying to highlight. (Overall, we discovered almost 200 online news sites, blogs or e-newsletters serving the Chicago region. Some 90 of these responded to our 2009 survey and their rankings can be found online at: www.communitymedia workshop.org/newnews.)

This year, we decided not to rank sites for this second annual listing of The NEW News sites and instead list in alphabetical order all online news and blog sites big and small covering the Chicagoland area who either participated in the survey or had been identified as online news sites in the 2009 report.

We used data from Compete.com to derive some aggregate traffic statistics for May 2010 and, not surprisingly, found traditional or legacy news sites dominating the numbers (6 million out of 8 million unique visitors to 146 sites). Some of the more interesting sites ranked last year did not show up in this year’s aggregate traffic numbers. But as we discovered last year, the traffic to many other smaller niche news sites is not picked up by commercial tracking services. Compete.com’s numbers are estimates and may or may not mirror a site’s own analytics data. For smaller sites in particular, Compete.com acknowledges its data represents an estimate only. Also, Compete.com cannot always separate out Chicago-editions for sites with multiple local editions. Those sites have been excluded from the total counts.

Compete.com is a commercial service that publishes website traffic estimates based on a variety of sources, including a panel of more than 2 million visitors who have agreed to allow their web usage to be measured. For more information about Compete.com’s methods, visit their website. http://www.compete.com/resources/methodology/

The Workshop restricted its use of Compete.com data to information we could obtain for free without creating an account. We hope in future reports to discover more reliable traffic indicators that will allow us to rank sites and to engage in some content analysis to measure what kind of information is being published.
The NEW News would not have been possible without the support of those who lent their time, energy, and expertise to its creation. In particular, we would like to thank the many new journalists whose insights and candid responses to the survey we administered are at the heart of this report.

Research: Emily Culbertson
Publisher’s Preface: Thom Clark
Editors: Thom Clark, Nora Ferrell, Demetrio Maguigad

Design and production: Demetrio Maguigad and Marissa Wasseluk
Video production: Jennifer Lacey
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Graphics: Emily Lonigro/Lime Red Studio

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The Knight Community Information Challenge is a five-year, $24 million effort to help community and place-based foundations find creative ways to use new media and technology to keep residents informed and engaged. The Trust received one of the Challenge’s first matching grants.

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ABOUT THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST
For 95 years, The Chicago Community Trust, our region’s community foundation, has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago. In 2009, the Trust, together with its donors, granted more than $100 million to nonprofit organizations. From strengthening schools to assisting local art programs, from building health centers to helping lives affected by violence, the Trust continues to enhance our region. To learn more, please visit the Trust online at www.cct.org.

The Community News Matters program was spurred by a lead grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight Community Information Challenge and is jointly funded by The Chicago Community Trust and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It seeks to increase the flow of truthful, accurate and insightful news and information in the region and spur development of new business models for news.

ABOUT COMMUNITY MEDIA WORKSHOP
Community Media Workshop is a 20-year-old nonprofit whose mission is to diversify the voices in the news and public debates through communications coaching for some 2,000 nonprofit volunteers and staff a year, as well as sourcing and Newstips from nonprofit groups for journalists. Based at Columbia College Chicago, its home page is www.communitymediaworkshop.org.