

THE IDENTIFIER

[HTTP://WWW.SCIAI.ORG/](http://www.sciai.org/) | FALL ISSUE | VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3.



SCIAI Fall Issue

As the holidays approach and the year comes to a close we are working diligently on the 2020 Annual Training Conference. If any members are interested in speaking at the upcoming training conference, please contact an SCIAI Officer with your information, resume, and topic you'd like to speak on. Go to the SCIAI.org website and click on the Officer tab for our contact information.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President

2020 Conference

Meet a Member

In the News



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fall has finally arrived in South Carolina! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and found some time to relax and unwind.

We are excited to announce that we are bringing the Spring Educational Conference back to the Midlands this year. On April 15-16, 2020, we will be meeting in Columbia at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. It is a wonderful facility in a great location. There are plenty of restaurants and hotels in walking distance for anyone who would like to make the Conference into a mini vacation.

We are still working on the complete lineup, but have a number of SCIAI members who are going to honor us with a presentation. Additionally, Dr. Bill Stevens, with the Richland County Coroner's Office, will be bringing us a presentation on Forensic Anthropology.

So what I need to know from all of you is what else are you interested in seeing or learning? And what do you have to share with the membership? We have a number of slots still available for presenters and I'd like to fill them with what you want to see.

Please keep checking the website for Conference Updates coming soon!

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season!



2020 Annual Training Conference

April 15 - 16, 2020 Columbia, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

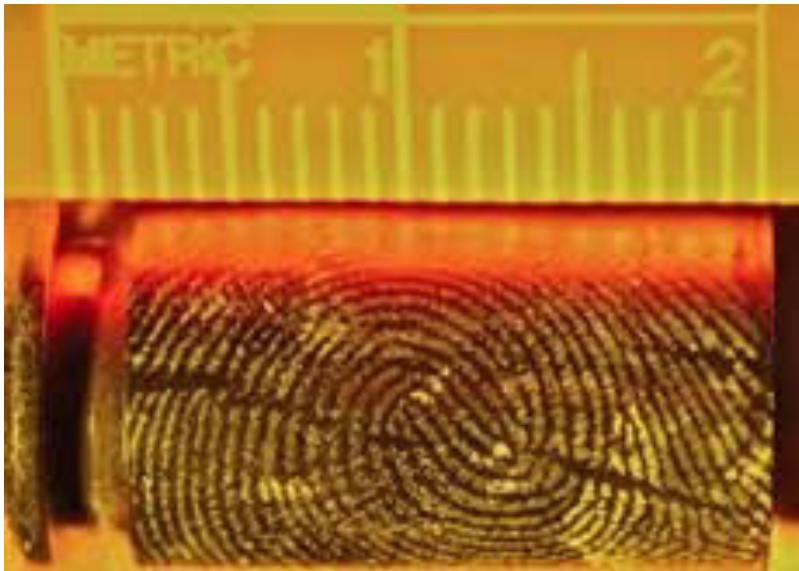
We finally decided on a spot for the 2020 training conference and we couldn't be more excited. For many of us, this is the first year for us in our officer roles. So bear with us while we navigate bumps along the way. Please make sure to keep an eye on the SC IAI website and Facebook to register early for a cheaper registration cost!

You will be able to join Lectures on the latest technology, techniques, and research, sign up for limited space hands on Workshops to practice basic to advanced skills, and attend Meetings and Panels that provide an opportunity to discuss the latest professional topics and developments.

Visual Importance in friction ridge identification

Aaron Dove of the Montreal Forensic Identification Section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided a case study which reinforces the importance of visual examination of cartridge casings, unfired and fired, prior to any forensic development techniques. I read his article in the *Journal of Forensic Identification*, Vol. 69, (3) 2019, and felt the need to pass it along because it seems all too often in our field, we may tend to rush processing and overlook the simplicity of just *looking*.

In his case study, an untreated cartridge had level three detail. Once the casings were treated with cyanoacrylate, the previous impressions were no longer visible. “The cyanoacrylate development created an even deposition across the entire surface of the cartridge casing, resulting in the previously documented impressions that had been observed under white light no longer clear. No other friction ridge impressions were developed.”



Forensic Links

<http://www.aafs.org/> American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)

<http://www.abft.org/> American Board of Forensic Toxicologists

<http://www.abfde.org/> American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (ABFDE)

<http://www.asqde.org/> American Society of Questioned Document Examiners

<http://www.asfo.org/> American Society of Forensic Odontology



2019

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Check us out!



@theSCIAI



SC Division of the
International Association
for Identification

IN THE NEWS

'The DNA of Murder with Paul Holes' premiered October 12th on the Oxygen channel. Throughout the series Holes presents his expertise in latent fingerprints and DNA phenotyping to help develop suspects in unsolved homicides. Detective Holes is most commonly known for his role in identifying suspect Joseph James DeAngelo in the Golden State Killer case. Holes had gathered DNA evidence from the case and contacted a genealogist who developed a genetic profile of the suspect and created a family tree that was detailed enough to narrow down the suspects. On Holes final day as an investigator he sat outside DeAngelo's home and gathered discarded DNA samples. Detectives were then able to match his DNA to that known to be from the Golden State Killer. Paul Holes now has his own podcast with Investigative Journalist Billy Jensen along with the new television series.

Serial Killer Samuel Little Unmatched Confessions

The FBI is asking for help identifying the Jane Does of serial killer Samuel Little. Little has confessed to 93 murders, all of which the FBI believes are credible. The FBI has been able to verify fifty of the confessions to date. The FBI has posted Little's drawings of the victims on their website along with a state map of where the victims were allegedly killed according to Little's confessions.

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/samuel-little-most-prolific-serial-killer-in-us-history-100619>

Charleston, South Carolina, Unmatched Confession:
Black female, age 28, killed between 1977 and 1982.



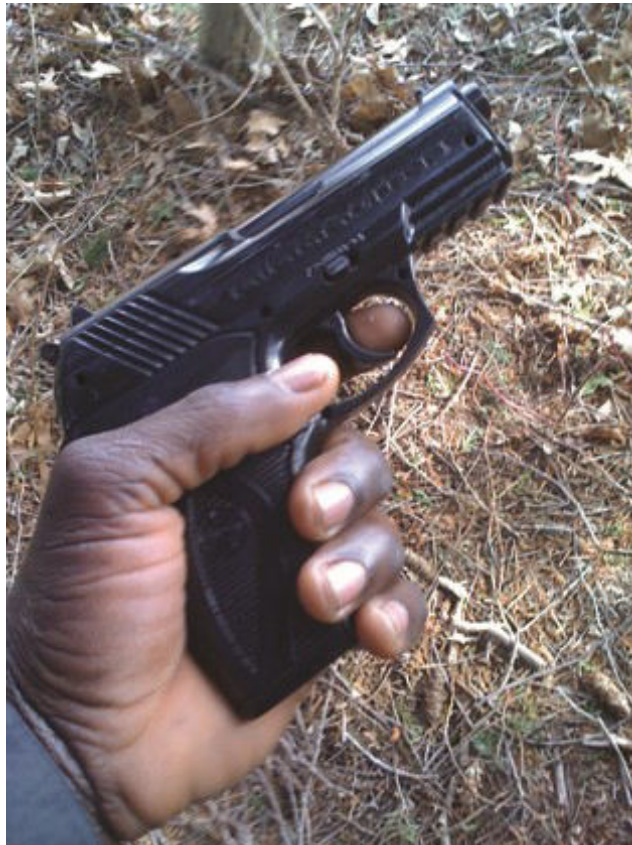
Atlanta, Georgia, Unmatched Confession: Black female, age 28, killed between 1977 and 1982.



CRIME NEWS

Identifying Criminals by Hands Visible in Images written by Chris Grice with Shane Turnidge

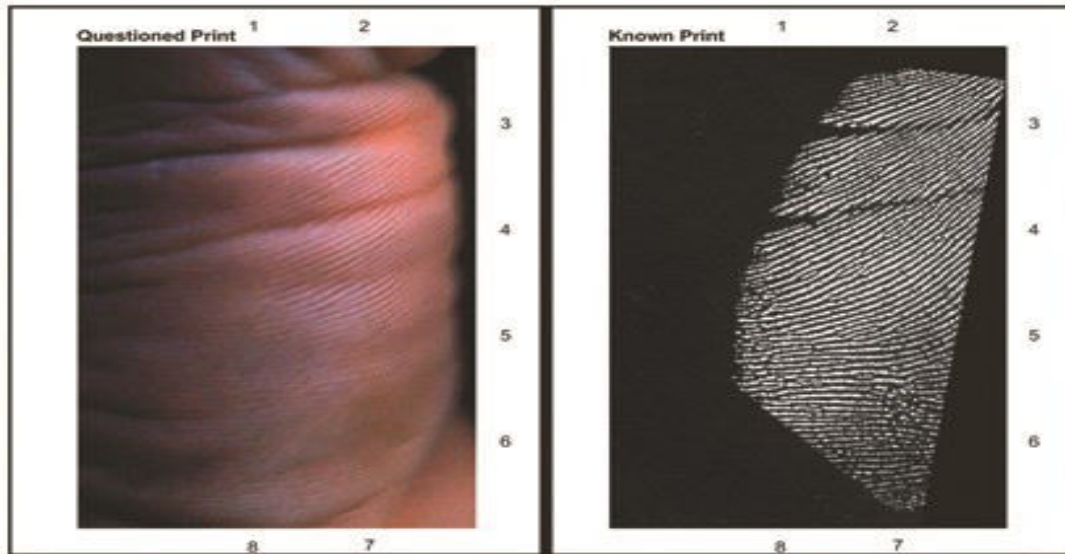
I was finishing up this issue when I had the pleasure of attending Johnny Leonard's Advanced Palm Print Comparison Class. During the class, Johnny mentioned this article. It appears to be from 2009-2010, but was news to me! The article discusses identifying criminals by using friction ridge skin that is visible in photographs. The author, Chris Grice, writes about a sexual assault case he had involving two women. Both victims stated the suspect used a small, black handgun during the assault. Detectives developed a suspect, executed a search warrant, and seized his phone. On his phone were pictures of a human hand holding a small black handgun. A state's attorney investigator asked Grice if he would be able to identify the person holding the handgun by friction ridge skin visible in the images. The defendant's palmprints were on file, so the author began a side-by-side comparison. *(continued on page 7)*



“Hand selfie”: This image was recovered from a cellphone that had been accessible by the defendant. The image depicts the left hand holding a small black handgun. Friction ridge skin from the thenar area of the palm is visible in the image. This friction ridge skin was identified to the defendant, who is also believed to be the photographer. **Photo credit: Evidence Image**

IN THE NEWS

Identifying Criminals by Hands Visible in Images continued from page 6



The charting of matching detail with the questioned friction ridge skin on the left and the known impression on the right. The detail in agreement is similarly numbered in both prints with red lines denoting locations. Photo credit: C. Grice / J. Brunetti

“When I testified at trial in this case, I explained that normally we compare a questioned impression to a known impression to determine if both impressions are made by the same source. In this case however, the friction ridge skin in the photograph is a questioned source, not an impression, being compared to a known impression. Impressions are mirror images of the source item. Just as a person with a scar on his left cheek would see that scar on the right side of his image while looking in a mirror, detail and ridge flow in an impression will be the same but symmetrically reversed of what is observed in the source friction-ridge skin that made that impression. It was important for the jury to understand why I had done a horizontal flip of the known palm impression photographically to compare it with the questioned friction-ridge skin. I used an analogy in court that this is similar to comparing the sole tread design on a shoe or sneaker to a footwear impression in snow, mud or ink, to determine if the questioned footwear made the imprint. I then took my shoe off my foot in court, held it up to the jury and showed them the brand name lettered into the sole tread. I showed them that the brand name could easily be read left to right, when viewing the sole, but if I were to make an impression in mud or snow with my shoe, the brand name would be viewed backwards in the impression. I further went on to explain that the summits of the friction ridges in the image of the hand holding the gun were reflecting the sunlight and appear light, whereas the furrows are in shaded valleys and are dark. This is why I made a photographic tonal reversal of the recorded impression so that I could compare tonally light colored ridges to light colored ridges and dark furrows to dark furrows. I opted to do the mirror image flip and tonal reversal on the known impression rather than the questioned friction ridge skin as I felt it was best not to alter in any way the questioned detail.” *C Grice*

The capture of friction ridge skin in images of comparison quality is happening more often in our social media world where advances in cameras and electronic image resolution technology. If any SCIAI members have done anything like this I would love to know!! Please email me your story so I can share it with all our members!

Member Spotlight: Anita Moore, Latent Print Examiner



Tell us about your work experience. How long have you been a practitioner in the field and what is your current position?

I first started as a dispatcher in 1994 with Isle of Palms dispatching for them and Sullivan's Island for Police and Fire. I did that for 4 years. I then completed my chemistry degree at the College of Charleston where I did an internship with the City of Charleston Forensic Unit my last semester. Before I graduated, I was offered a job starting as a lab technician in 2000 with the City of Charleston Crime lab. I stayed with the City of Charleston for 12 years and also worked as a criminalist for two years and a crime scene technician for seven years. That brings me to my current position as a crime scene technician with the North Charleston Police Department and in January it will be 7 years.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I have always enjoyed knowing that even a smallest piece of evidence can help solve a crime. I know it's cliché, it is helping people. For example, last week I worked a multiple B & E auto at a hotel, and I talked with several of the

victims. One mother and daughter you could tell were shaken up a little by the experience but by the time I was done processing the car and speaking with them, they seemed to be a bit better and for me the best part of my job is when they said "Thank you for doing your job" and the mom gave me a hug. I had already explained the chances of catching the suspects might be low due to no prints being collected, all of the cars were wet, and it was cold. But they said, "thank you trying".

What improvements would you like to see in the forensic community?

The forensic community is headed in the right direction. I am glad that OSAC is going strong. I feel that standards are very important in our line of work and will help we as technicians in court to strengthen our cases. Training and education are also vital. A lot of agencies do not believe in or cannot afford professional ongoing education. The old adage of lose it if you don't use it. So many of us go to classes but then don't get the opportunity to actually use that knowledge on a daily basis. In our line of work that is a good thing, but we need continuing education such as the conferences and seminars for refreshers to keep us updated. Many agencies do not believe that conferences are important. That's why I'm so glad SCIAI is back up and running.

(Continued on page 9)

Anita Moore, Latent Print Examiner *continued from page 8***What are you passionate about (this does not have to be work-related!)?**

You know how some people have that one thing they are passionate about? Like my son, its anything to do with the fire department but of course he's 9. I've never had that overwhelming passionate feeling about just one thing. There are many things I love doing. That old saying of Jack of all trades master of none is sometimes how I feel. But I love trying new things. Some of my favorites are making and decorating cakes, making handmade books or journals and reading. Needless to say, spending time with my son and Mom and family are always at the top of the list. I wouldn't be where I'm at today without the help of my mom. And my son, what can I say he is the best thing in my life.

What is something you have learned in your work experience that you can pass along to others?

Take whatever training you can get, you never know when you'll find your true niche. Learn from those around you, your never to old to learn something new. And we all make mistakes, just learn from them.

Is there a training course or certification you have completed that you feel has furthered your career?

Education is extremely important and right along with that I think certification is very important. Achieving my certification through IAI and ABC has helped me advance my career.

Why did you decide to pursue a position in the field of forensic science?

When I was in high school, a long time ago, I did an explorer program through the Clay County Sherriff Office and there was a female sheriff who was one of the leaders and she made an impact. I remember saying I want to be like her. Then I did a ride along and we went like a 110 down a county road, this was back in late 80's. I was hooked. Then I realized that the pay was not great for officers and even worse for female officers and even harder to get into crime scene which is what I was interested in. So, I decided to do the next best thing which is to work in the lab. Which I eventually did and being in the right place and hard work I was able to cross train into crime scene. So, I got to where I wanted to be, it just took longer and a round about way.

What has been a challenge you faced professionally, and how did you respond to it?

As a Crime Scene Technician, the biggest challenge I have faced is being a civilian. There will always be that divide among civilians and police officers when they work together. It is hard when you have two people doing the exact same job, but you get treated differently. The response to it is difficult to answer because it is an ongoing issue. Don't get me wrong it's not everyone. *Continued on page 10*

Member Spotlight: Anita Moore, Latent Print Examiner *continued from page 9*

It's just like everything in life there is always those that make it worse than others and better than some. I just try to remind my self on the bad days that I am just as important and to no take it too personally.

Is there anything you'd like to talk about that hasn't been mentioned?

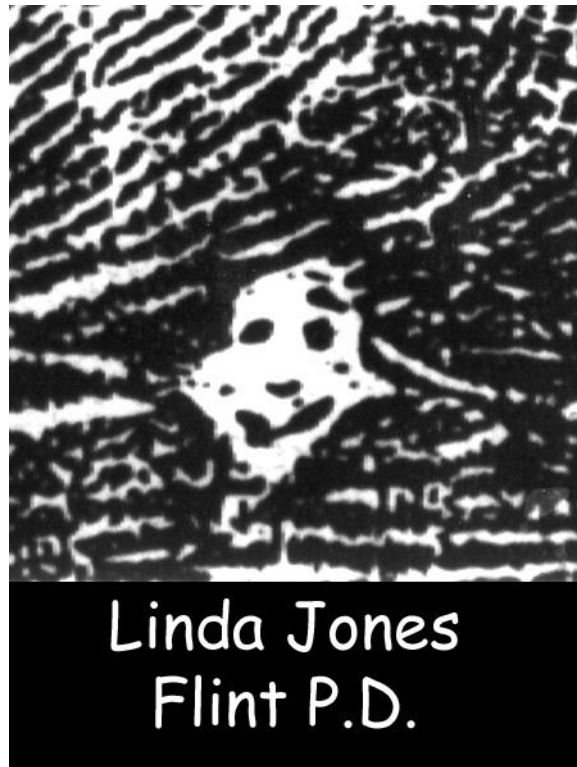
The last part I enjoy the most about my career is passing on what I've learned about forensic science. I love doing demonstrations to high schools and programs and seeing the kids' faces light up in astonishment as a fingerprint appears or a laser beam shows up. I love teaching and, in the spring, I will be teaching an Introduction to Forensic Science class at the College of

Charleston for the chemistry department. We are hoping it is the beginning of Forensic Science program.



Examples of notable symbols within fingerprints submitted to clplex by latent print examiners.

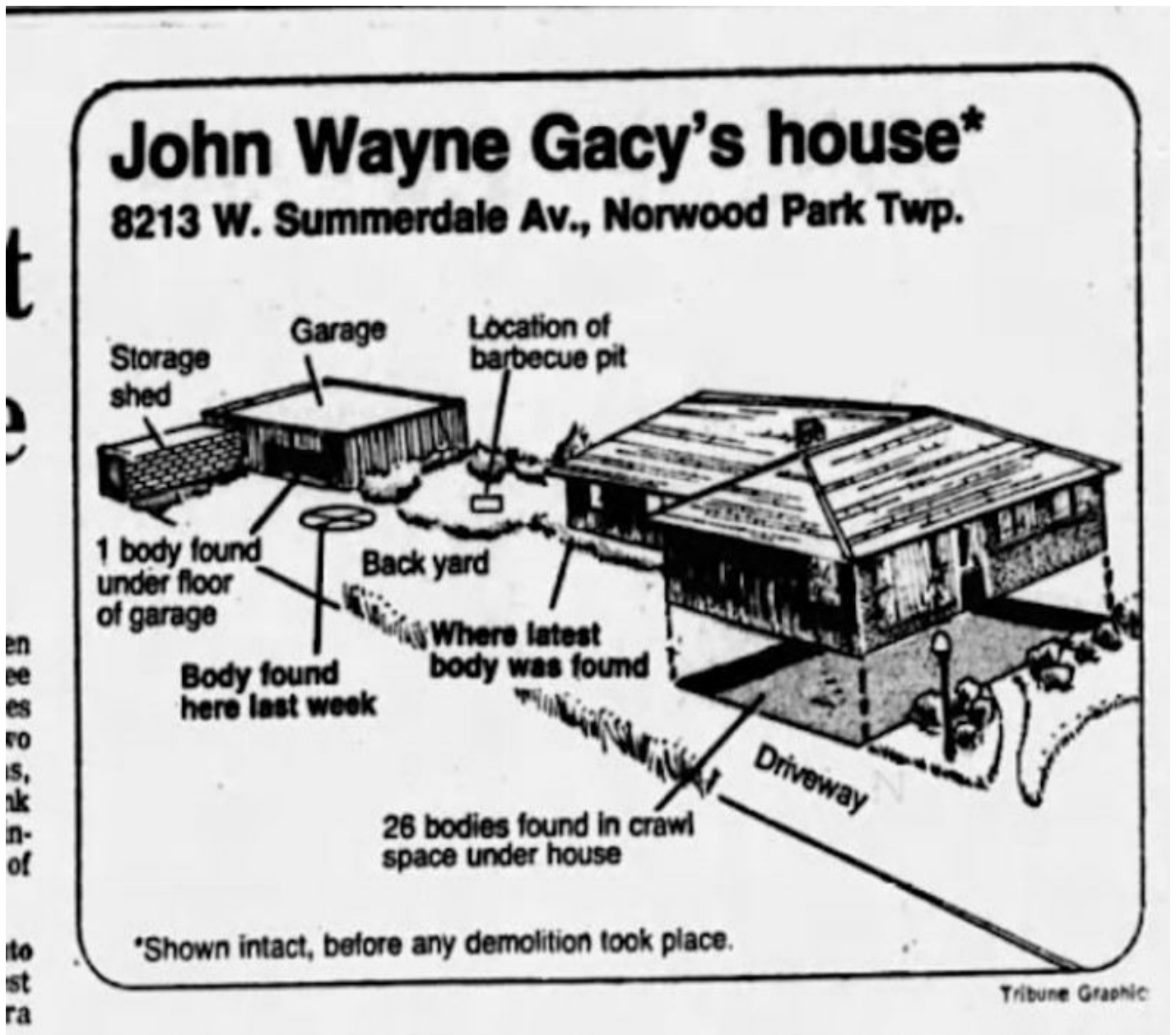
www.clpex.com/smiley/



www.clpex.com/smiley/

Crime News

The house that replaced serial killer John Wayne Gacy's residence is now on the market for \$459,000. The original house was demolished late 1978 when investigators needed to find the remains of 29 of Gacy's 33 victims. In 1979 Gacy advised police that he had buried 27 of his victims on the property. Police then had to dig up the crawlspace, driveway, garage and yard. In 1984, Hoyne Savings & Loan acquired the lot by paying off back taxes owed by Gacy, his mother and two sisters. The lot stayed vacant until 1988, when someone bought it and built the house that now resides there. The house was first listed in August of 2019 and has since had the price dropped three times.



<https://www.chicagobusiness.com/residential-real-estate/house-replaced-john-wayne-gacys-sale>

UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

November 20, 2019, 1:00pm: Rapid and Effective Identification of Organic and Inorganic Gunshot Residue – 90 minute webinar <https://sso.forensicac.org/wp-login.php>

December 16-20, 2019: Shooting Incident Reconstruction II – Bevel Gardner & Associates, Lexington, SC Contact: Craig Gravel, Training Coordinator at 405-706-8489 or rcgravel@bevelgardner.com

January 13-17, 2020: Latent Print Sequential Processing and Preservation – Trittech Forensic, St. Augustine, FL: To register for this course, please download the course registration form. Fill out the form and email the completed PDF file to Phil Sanfilippo at



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