

Gene (Francis) Janowski – Nov. 23, 2012

Chicagoan Gene Janowski, a pioneer in Chicago LGBT politics and writing, died suddenly Nov. 23. He was 68.

After an eight-year career as a professional ice skater with the world-touring Ice Capades, he returned to Chicago in 1977 where he became involved with a number of LBGT organizations. Janowski was involved with PRIDEChicago for 32 years and designed its website and Pride Guide. He worked for GayLife newspaper, Windy City Times and Gay Chicago Magazine, for which he wrote a op-ed column.

Janowski was a member of NewTown Writers and the author of several short stories and plays, and was an officer in the Windy City Motorcycle Club. He was also socially active and was a member of Dignity and Prime Timers.