

From the Left Hand

by Bud Besser

The Sinatra Connection....

This may be a bit of a stretch but we've had some indirect Frank Sinatra connections.

About 20 or 25 years ago Dean Martin, Sammy Davis and Frank Sinatra came to our area allegedly to bail out a friend who was having financial difficulties. There was a restaurant-nite club named Villa Venice which was located north on Milwaukee Ave. where Allgauer now stands. It was reported the three singers spent a couple of nights there entertaining so the owner could get some much-needed money.

The Bugle's Diane Miller attended one of the three shows which were held each of the two evenings. She remembered the attendees were crammed into tables which were used to serve about 20 people. They put a couple of bottles of booze on each table accompanied by ginger ale and spritzer bottles filled with soda. And they charged \$25 bucks for the two hour show. Diane said you were crammed in like the proverbial sardine and there was no way you could even get up to visit the water closets. If a fire had broken out you would have been barbecued in your seat.

Diane reported it was somewhat of an intense evening.
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Lawn watering restrictions reminder

Residents are reminded that Section 102-192 of the Village of Niles Code of Ordinances states that no sprinkling is permitted within the Village of Niles between 12 noon and 6 p.m. from May 15 through September 15 of each year. It is healthier for sod and growing grass to be watered in the early morning or the late evening when there is less direct sunlight.

Wal-Mart to anchor shopping center on old A.B. Dick site

by Rosemary Tirio
Tucker Development Corporation of Highland Park will be the developers of a 30-acre shopping center on the former A.B. Dick Company property at 5700 W. Touhy Ave. A Wal-Mart outlet is planned as the major anchor for the center, which will be located across the street from the westernmost portion of the Village Crossing complex.

Site plans for the project were released by the developer at a recent International Council of Shopping Centers convention in Las Vegas. The new center will be called Pointe Plaza and will include a parking garage.
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Police auction of unclaimed property Saturday

The Niles Police Department will hold an auction of unclaimed property Saturday, May 30, at the maintenance garage at 7104 Touhy. Viewing will take place at 8:30 a.m. The auction starts at 9:30 a.m.

Jimmy Mahoney, Niles Police dispatcher, will be this year's auctioneer, according to Sgt. Roger Wilson, Public Information Officer.

All the unclaimed property police have gathered from closed businesses will be sold.
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Morton Grove Chamber Golf Outing

Whether you're a polished golfer, or just out to have a good time, The Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Annual Golf Outing guarantees a fun-filled day for everyone that participates! The outing is set for Friday, June 5, 1998 with a shotgun start at 1:15 p.m.

Golfers will enjoy the day golfing at Chevy Chase Country Club followed by cocktails (5:30 p.m.) and a great dinner at Chevy Chase.
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Driver who killed two seeks insanity defense

John A. Maglio, 43, of Chicago who rear-ended a car as it waited at a stoplight on Milwaukee Avenue near Golf Mill Aug. 11, 1996, killing both occupants, will appear in court in Skokie June 2, according to Kathleen Malas, sister-in-law of Moutaz Malas, driver of the rear-ended car who was killed.
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Niles School Board agrees with community concerns about Culver; Consolidated schools to retain current name

District 71 to keep Culver School name

by Rosemary Tirio

After the unexpected furor that resulted from the announcement that the Culver Middle School would be renamed Niles Elementary School, District 71 officials decided to retain the Culver name at their May 19 Board meeting.

The vote Tuesday evening was 7 to 0 in favor of retaining the Culver name.

"I think it's a good decision," said District 71 Superintendent Eugene Zalewski.

Board of Education President John Lombardi, who originally voted for the name change, said, "I said from the beginning we'd work something out. [Now] let's get it behind us and get on to other important business."

Lombardi said that he changed his vote, not because the mayor or

the village manager, or the Bugle newspaper favored the retention of the name, but because "everybody in town wanted it named

Clarence Culver School. That's fine. It's their school. I have no trouble with naming it the Clarence Culver School."
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Letter from Culver family thanks supporters, school board

Doris Culver, widow of the late Clarence Culver and her children, John Culver, Susan Chen and Debbie Connell, submitted this letter to the District 71 School Board on Tuesday:

I was informed that the Board has reconsidered and decided to retain the name of Clarence E. Culver School.

My family and I would like to publicly thank everyone who has supported us in our efforts to retain the name of Clarence E. Culver School of District 71. We would like to thank all of you for your letters, telephone calls and speaking at the Board Meeting on May 19.

Again, thank you very much for taking time to write, telephone and speak at the meeting.

Unsolved Mysteries: Discarded headstones at Maryhill Cemetery



by Rosemary Tirio

Wildlife photographer Bob Kucera was not expecting what he found while on assignment for the Audubon Society or possibly Chicago Wilderness Magazine about two and a half years ago in a secluded section of Maryhill

Cemetery, 8600 Milwaukee Ave. in Niles.

He was tramping through section 37 in the still undeveloped and wooded section of the cemetery, looking for native hawks or a great horned owl, but when he

glanced down for a moment, his lens focused on something that turned his photographer's heart nearly to stone.

"It went against my grain," Kucera said of the sight he beheld.
Continued on Page 38

The Suburban Area Agency on Aging has moved

The Suburban Area Agency on Aging, a prime resource for older persons, their loved ones, professionals in the field of aging, and other interested individuals, has moved to new offices at Suite 200, 1146 Westgate, Oak Park, IL, 60301-1055. Phone numbers (708) 383-0258 and (800) 699-9043 and fax number (708) 524-0870 remain the same.

The Area Agency staff includes specialists in the areas of elder abuse, nutrition, home care, transportation, and benefits and programs. Other areas of expertise include demography and needs assessments which can help communities plan for the burgeoning senior population in the Chicago land area.

The Suburban Area Agency on Aging is a not-for-profit agency designated by the Illinois Department of Aging as the planning, coordinating and funding agency for programs and services for older persons age 60 and over in suburban Cook County.

USE THE BUGLE

Retired Federal Employees meeting

A regular meeting of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will be held on Friday, June 5, at 1 p.m. at Warren Park Field House, 6601 North Western Avenue, Chicago, IL.

All active and retired federal employees are welcome.

USE THE BUGLE

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Morton Grove Senior Citizens 470-5223

FOOD SEMINARS

The Morton Grove Senior Nutrition Site will conduct two food seminars in the Village Hall Senior Center. The topics are "Rice" at 10:30 a.m. on May 29 followed by "Potatoes" on June 26. The seminars are held prior to lunch (11:45 a.m.) on those dates. Hot, nutritious and inexpensive (suggested donation of \$2 to \$2.50) meals are served every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Call the Senior Hot Line, 470-5223 to register.

CHOLESTEROL SCREENING

Cholesterol is a soft, fat-like substance, found in each body cell. The body's cholesterol is made in the liver, the rest comes from animal fat in foods. Egg yolks, meat, poultry and dairy products all contain cholesterol. Everyone needs some cholesterol, but not too much. Eating foods low in animal fat is the best way to lower cholesterol. Screenings will be offered from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2 in the Morton Grove Village Hall Senior Center. For Morton Grove seniors (age 65+) there is a charge of \$3. For those under 65 or for non-residents, the charge is \$4.

"FREE LUNCH"

The Morton Grove Senior Nutrition Site invites seniors to a "free lunch" at the Village Hall Senior Center. The suggested donation for all first-time diners will not be required. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Reservations are required, so call the Senior Hot Line at 470-5223, or come in to sign up.

OSTEOPOROSIS SEMINAR

A special "Osteoporosis" seminar will be held at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10 at the Morton Grove Village Hall Senior Center with a repeat of the same seminar at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17 at the Prairie View Community Center. Each year, several hundred thousand older people are seriously disabled by broken bones caused by osteoporosis, the gradual thinning and weakening of bones with time. The incidence of hip and arm fractures goes up with age, particularly in women, and it is estimated that 10 to 20% of seniors who suffer broken hips die within six months of the injury. One reason for this increase is that since bones are not as strong as they once were, even a minor impact may result in a fracture. This seminar will be highlighted with a discussion led by Morton Grove visiting nurse, May Kay Andreoni.

"HUMMERS & STRUMMERS" ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Enjoy a delightful afternoon with the Hummers & Strummers from the Deerfield Park District Senior Center at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 11 in the Prairie View Community Center. The show will begin with a lively program presented by this vivacious ukelele and banjo band. Following the concert, enjoy an ice cream social with all the trimmings. The cost is \$2 for residents, and \$2.25 for non-residents. Register at the Prairie View Community Center by June 4, or call Catherine Dean at 965-1200.

55 ALIVE

55 Alive Mature Driving is an eight-hour two-day course for older motorists. It focuses on the physical changes that accompany aging and on ways drivers can compensate for these changes in improving their driving skills. The next course offered at the Morton Grove Village Hall Senior Center starts at 9 a.m. on both Thursday, June 18, and Saturday, June 20. Call the Senior Hot Line at 470-5223 to sign up.

GETAWAY TO LAKE GENEVA

Take an adventure to scenic Lake Geneva, Wisconsin with a narrated cruise of Geneva Bay on one of Geneva Lake Cruise Lines' historic boats (no worries about the weather - the boat's enclosed). This day trip is set for Tuesday, June 23. Following the cruise, its on to experience a bit of New England with lunch at Millies' Restaurant in Delavan. Dine amid antiques, then have time to browse the numerous shops and boutiques for special treasures. This adventure turns musical as Eddie Cash, master storyteller and musical impersonator, wows the audience with his look into the lives of some of yesterday's most famous performers with great musical selections. What a fun and fascinating day! The bus will leave the Prairie View Community Center at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m. The fee for the trip is \$55 for residents, and \$60 for non-residents. Registration deadline is June 12 at Prairie View, or call the Morton Grove Park District's senior adult supervisor, Catherine Dean at 965-1200.

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Police News

Sheriff implements high-tech criminal identification system

Suburban police departments throughout Cook County are being armed with a high-tech criminal identification system that will provide officers with a new and drastically improved weapon to quickly and accurately identify criminal suspects, Cook County Sheriff Michael F. Sheahan announced recently.

The Sheriff's Criminal Apprehension and Booking System (CABS) is a state-of-the-art network that will help police identify criminals trying to slip out of custody using an alias name or phony identification. It will also drastically reduce the amount of time it takes police to process arrestees, which will free police officers to return to the streets more quickly.

A total of 103 suburban communities will be participating in the CABS system. Installation of the machines at 13 initial locations began last month and installation in the remaining communities will be conducted in phases over the next year with the complete system expected to be up and running and in complete communication by April of 1999.

The first towns that are receiving the system are Chicago Heights, Cicero, Evanston, Morton Grove, Orland Park, Schaumburg and Tinley Park. The Sheriff's locations are district

courthouses in Skokie, Rolling Meadows, Maywood, Bridgeview, Markham and the Richard J. Daley Center.

The CABS system has been under development by the Sheriff's Office since 1995. Implementation of the system received a major boost in January of 1997 when Sheahan's office was awarded a \$10.3 million grant from the U.S. Justice Department to fund the program. The total cost of the project is \$13.7 million. The gap in funding between the \$10.3 million federal grant and the \$13.7 million price tag will be made up by a \$20,000 match from each community and technical matching grants from city, state and county sources.

The major goal of the CABS system is to apply advanced computer technology to police arrest and booking procedures to identify arrestees more quickly and accurately. Presently, the Sheriff's Office and suburban police departments -- like many law enforcement agencies around the country -- rely on the old fashioned "ink roll" fingerprint process. With the CABS system, the time it takes to fingerprint an offender will be cut from an average of 40 minutes to less than 10 minutes.

Additionally under CABS, the



Sheriff Michael F. Sheahan (left) demonstrates the new CABS system during a recent press conference to announce the implementation of the system at many suburban police departments.

average time from when a prisoner arrives in the lockup and the arresting officer receives a positive identity will be slashed from an average of six to eight hours to less than one hour. Presently, using

the ink and roll method, officers must fax prints to the state Bureau of Identification. In some cases, when the prints are unclassifiable due to poor quality, response time can take up to

72 hours. It is in these cases that officers are sometimes forced to release offenders on misdemeanor or minor felony charges without having a complete criminal history.

Police News

Officer Zimmerman promoted to sergeant



Officer James Zimmerman of the Niles Police Department was promoted to the rank of sergeant on May 1, 1998. Zimmerman has been a member of the police department since 1983. During his tenure as a Niles police officer he has served as street patrol officer and as a detective. Sgt. Zimmerman will assume the duties of Street Supervisor in the Operations Division. Zimmerman's promotion fills the vacancy caused by the recent death of Sgt. Donald Matuszak. Matuszak passed away after a long illness. Pictured from left to right are Niles Fire & Police Commissioner Chairman Santo Bruno, Sgt. James Zimmerman and Fire & Police Commissioner Robert Berg.

Death investigation

A 50-year-old Niles man was discovered in a lifeless state in his residence in the 7300 block of Lee Street around 9:45 a.m. May 23 by his 51-year-old brother who lives in Oak Forest.

Police said the victim appeared to have sustained a head injury. Police and fire units responding to the brother's 911 call found that the victim had fallen face first into a headboard located in the center bedroom.

Blood drops were found in the hallway and on the basement steps, and a trail of blood in the hallway led from the north bedroom where the bedsheets and pillow were also blood-soaked.

A pool of blood was found in the center of the basement floor. The platform on the basement stairs was broken, police said.

The victim's brother told police that both front and rear doors were locked when he arrived and that he entered the house by using a house key.

Damage to property

A 64-year-old Niles man living in the 8300 block of Knight reported that unknown kids while playing hockey in the street hit a hockey puck through the front window of his residence breaking the window and damaging the drapes, a glass table and the window frame. The incident occurred May 25 around 2:45 p.m.

The 22-year-old owner of a convenience store in the 8600 block of Golf Road reported that unknown offender(s) threw a small 1-in. diameter rock at the 4 ft. by 10 ft. window of the store breaking the outer of the two panes of glass sometime between 10 p.m. May 24 and 8 a.m. May 25.

The windows of two nearby stores were also damaged during the same time frame, police said.

The 48-year-old owner of a beauty salon and boutique in the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue reported that the front door glass was shattered by an unknown object sometime between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 25.

Public indecency

A 10-year-old Niles girl and an 11-year-old River Grove girl were the victims of an unknown blond man with curly hair and glasses wearing a white tee shirt and blue shorts who attempted to converse with the victims and then exposed himself to them in a park in the 7800 block of Milwaukee Avenue around 7:40 p.m. May 25.

The victims ran to one of their grandparent's homes in the 7800 block of Odell. They were advised to proceed to the Niles Police Department where they completed an identikit.

Forgery

An unknown woman went into a jewelry store at 278 Golf Mill

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Financial Edition

Time to review your retirement plan

Okay, you've started a new diet for the new year. You're exercising more. You're reading the bestseller list. You're making travel plans...all those New Year's resolutions you vowed you'd keep. Add this one to your list if you haven't already: review your retirement plan. Saving for retirement is one of the most important financial challenges you face, and you want to make sure that your plan still fits your needs and circumstances.

Review retirement goals. Have your retirement goals changed since the last time you reviewed (or developed) your retirement plan? Do you still plan to retire at normal retirement age, or earlier or later? Many older people now see themselves working beyond normal retirement age, at least part time, out of either financial necessity or simply because they don't want to spend 20 years of retirement sitting in a rocking chair. Changes in your retirement time-

line will make a lot of difference about how much you need to save and how you invest.

Review personal changes. Have there been significant changes in your life that might affect your retirement objectives and strategies? For example have you recently married or divorced, given birth or adopted a child, had children move out or finish college, had a death in the family, bought or sold a home, changed jobs, or had changes in family health? Depending on your circumstances, you may have more (or less) money to put toward retirement.

Review your budget. Comb through your monthly spending to see if there isn't a way to free up more money to put toward retirement. Even bumping up your monthly contributions to a tax-deductible retirement plan by as little as two or three percent can make a tremendous difference over the years. For example, if you contributed eight percent of your pay instead of six percent, you'd have a third more in your retirement account after 40 years.

Review your portfolio. With the bull market, some of your stock investments may have dramatically changed the balance of your overall portfolio mix. Or you may be accumulating a lot of company stock, weighting your portfolio too heavily in that direction. You may want to rebalance your portfolio to bring it back in line with your original investment mix. Also, as you near or enter retirement, you may want to change the balance of your portfolio to reflect your need for more investment income and less growth. Or, if you have a long time to retirement, you may realize your investments are too conservative and not giving you enough growth.

Review retirement plan vehicles. If you belong to an employer-sponsored retirement plan to which you contribute, such as a 401(k) plan or 403(b), review the plan at least once a year. For one thing, if your pay has gone up, you may be able to contribute more to the plan. Are you maximizing contributions to take advantage of any matching contri-

butions from your employer? Has the plan changed or added new investment options that you might want to consider? How well are your plan investments doing compared with the appropriate index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index or a bond index? Are you paying fees? Are they reasonable? Employers increasingly are shifting retirement plan fees to their employees. Run the same review with other retirement vehicles you may have, such as individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

Consider alternative vehicles. One good review to perform now is whether it might be beneficial to open a new Roth IRA. This is an IRA in which contributions are not tax deductible, but all earnings and withdrawals are tax-free. Depending on your circumstances, it may pay to roll over funds from a traditional IRA into a Roth, or at least open a Roth for future IRA contributions. It's best to run the numbers with a qualified financial planner to see whether a Roth fits your picture.

Why you should consider stocks

Over the years, investors have been turning, in increasing numbers, to stocks. The appeal of equities lies in their historical ability to grow capital faster than inflation over time. In fact, no other investment has provided returns equal to those of stocks. Ibbotson Associates of Chicago, which tracks the markets, reports that stocks provided an average annual total return of 11% from 1926 through 1997. The return from long-term corporate bonds during this period was 5.7%, while the return from government bonds during the same time frame was only 5.2%. (Even adjusted for inflation, the average annual total return from stocks was 7.9% for the period from 1926 through

1997. In contrast, long-term government bonds returned only 2.1% over this same period and corporate bonds only 2.6% after inflation.) For this reason, many investors have made stocks a major part of their long-term financial plans.

Growth Investments May Help Counter Inflation. Because the higher returns from stocks are not earned without market risk, fixed-income securities (bonds), which offer current income and return of principal when held to maturity, should also play a role in an investor's portfolio. However, the need for stocks to fuel capital growth to help counter inflation should not be underestimated. For example,

the amount of goods and services you could have bought for \$30,000 in 1975 would cost \$85,285 today, based on growth in the personal consumption expenditure deflator—a measure of inflation from Morton Stanley Dean Witter Research. This is not a comforting thought for investors hoping to live off their savings when they retire.

Positive global trends. After embarking on a period of major restructuring, U.S. companies are now "lean and mean," enabling them to compete effectively on the world stage. American companies are well-positioned to satisfy the growing needs of many developing nations for technology, infrastructure building, machinery, engineering and construction services, as well as telecommunications systems. The corresponding growth in exports should support the stocks of many U.S. multinational companies.

Steady investor demand for equities. The proliferation of 401(k) savings plans has shifted the responsibility of retirement planning from employer to employee, leading to increased demand for stocks. According to the National Association of Securities Dealers, about 43% of U.S. adults now own shares in public companies, compared with 21% in 1990. As the "baby boom" generation enters its peak earning years and begins saving aggressively for retirement, the inflow of their money into investments may help sustain stock prices.

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Financial Edition

Climbing the ladder to bond investing

Bonds are back. Stock market fluctuations, a lower federal government deficit and a low inflation rate have sent many investors flocking to bonds and bond mutual funds in the last six months. If you're one of those interested in bonds, but a little nervous about which way interest rates might go in the future, consider building a bond ladder.

You build a bond ladder by buying individual bonds with different maturities—the date the bond issuer agrees to pay back the principal on your bond. For example, you might buy roughly equal dollar amounts of two-, four-, six-, eight- and ten-year Treasury or corporate bonds. Every two years, you cash in the bonds that have matured and reinvest the proceeds in the longest-term bonds on your ladder—in the case above, ten years.

Why go to all this trouble? Because it smoothes out the risks of interest rate fluctuations, and in time it means you generally are earning the highest interest rates possible from the type and quality of bonds you're buying. Here's how.

One of the big risks of buying bonds is the rise and fall of interest rates. When interest rates fall, bonds issued before the drop generally become more valuable because of their higher interest rates. Investors are willing to pay more for the higher rates and the bond prices rise. When interest rates rise bonds issued before the rise become less valuable because investors want new bonds offering higher interest rates and pay less for lower-rate bonds.

The longer the maturity of a bond, then generally the higher the interest rate earned by that bond compared with shorter-term bonds of equivalent type and quality. However, that means that the price of the longer-term bond usually rises or falls faster than a shorter-maturity bond when interest rates change. If you stick to shorter-maturity bonds, you can roll them over sooner if interest

rates rise, but if interest rates fall, then you're forced to reinvest sooner at lower interest rates.

That's why you build ladders by staggering the maturities. Let's return to our ladder of two-, four-, six-, eight- and ten-year bonds. If rates rise in the future, you use the money from the shorter-term bonds as they mature to buy new higher-interest-rate bonds. If interest rates fall, most of your ladder will remain invested in higher-earning bonds. You'll only be forced to reinvest a small portion (one-fifth in our example) in the lower interest-rate environment.

Typically, when you use the money from a maturing bond to buy a new bond, you buy the longest-term bonds on the ladder. In our example, your ladder will eventually be made up only of higher-interest-rate ten-year Treasury bonds. That may sound risky, but remember that a portion of those bonds in our example will come due every two years in the event you need some of the principal or want to reinvest.

Like most hedging strategies, laddering won't maximize your bond returns. What it does is keep most of your bond returns relatively stable, regardless of which way interest rates go. Also, laddering isn't as feasible for investors with only small amounts of money to invest. They'll probably have to stick with bond funds (one can conceivably ladder with bond funds, but it isn't easy and it is not as accurate).

Keep these points in mind when laddering. • You can use the same method to ladder certificates of deposit.

• The more money you have to invest, the more rungs on the ladder you can employ. The minimum generally is three runs—short-, intermediate-, and long-term maturities.

• You can make the rungs fairly close—say six months apart, if you want to reduce risk.

Looking at the alternatives

For the vast majority of investors, mutual funds are the easiest, least expensive and most efficient way to invest. But investors with larger portfolios may want to consider adding alternative investment vehicles to their mutual fund holdings.

These alternatives, comprising no more than, say, ten or 15 percent of the investor's portfolio, tend to be more volatile than mutual funds. Fees can be high, and tracking the performance of these alternatives is more difficult than tracking public mutual funds. But alternatives can serve as a hedge against declining stock and bond markets, offer potentially higher returns, and reduce capital-gains taxes.

Here are a few alternatives you may want to consider.

Managed accounts. Also known as wrap accounts or separate accounts, these private accounts are managed by money managers specifically for individual investors. Services generally include personalized security selection, buy and sell strategies, tax planning and customized performance reporting. Although separate accounts can be composed of mutual funds, an alternative approach would be a collection of individual stocks, bonds, or even more esoteric invest-

ments such as commodities.

One advantage of these privately managed accounts is that they can allow the investor to focus on a handful of stocks or other securities, rather than the dozens or even hundreds a single mutual fund may hold. This minimizes "overdiversification" and gives the investor a chance for greater profits (or greater losses). Investors also can time the purchase and sale of securities in order to better manage their tax situation.

Minimum investments for separate accounts commonly run \$100,000, though some advisors feel investors should not get into these accounts unless they have at least \$250,000. Fees can run anywhere from one percent to three percent.

Direct real estate. The argument for directly owning an office or apartment building, raw land, rental property, or similar investment in real estate rather than through real estate investment trusts (REITs) or REIT mutual funds is that individual ownership of real estate performs differently. Direct real estate is less likely to track the stock market than do REITs or REIT mutual funds, and thus can serve as a diversification tool.

Limited partnerships. After a

decade of disastrous returns following the 1986 tax act, partnerships today are based much more on economics than tax write-offs. The same principle applies to limited partnerships as owning direct real estate: shares in an oil and gas well in Texas, for example, behave differently than shares in Exxon.

Hedge funds. Most of these funds are designed to protect or enhance stock market gains through the use of derivatives, buying long and short, financial futures and other techniques.

Des Plaines Chamber sets membership lunch/tour

UOP, 25 East Algonquin Road (Algonquin & Mt. Prospect Roads), will host the Chamber's next membership luncheon on June 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Highlights of the event will include: social and networking opportunity; delicious luncheon; presentation by UOP Officials; and a tour of UOP's Research Facility.

Cost of the luncheon event is \$12 and reservations are required. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 824-4200.

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Gardening activities at Chicago Botanic Garden

New spring and summer festivals are among the highlights this year at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fruit & Vegetable Garden, the largest fruit and vegetable garden in the Midwest.

Spring into Summer Gardening Festival kicks off the Fruit & Vegetable Garden's 1998 season, May 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an impressive display of spring crops - lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, cilantro, peas and more. How to start summer crops, composting, soil preparation, and tool care are just some of the topics visitors can learn more about during this spring celebration. Highlights of the festival include cooking and container gardening demonstrations, free basil seeds and seedling giveaways, spring green tastings and live music. A selection of products from various garden vendors, and heirloom tomato plants grown in the greenhouses by volunteers will be for sale.

The **Great Chef Series** begins the weekend of the Spring Into Summer Festival and runs through September 27. Every Sunday during this time at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., noted chefs from the greater Chicago area share recipes and demonstrate their award-winning techniques in the demonstration kitchen. Us-

ing garden-fresh ingredients grown in the Fruit & Vegetable Garden, chefs offer the public samples of their gourmet treats. Jeff Muldrow, Va Pensiero, Raul Herrera, Churrascos, John Alignos, Redlight, Alan Wolf, Carlos and Brian Shrago, Betise are just a few of the distinguished chefs featured in this year's Great Chef Series.

Herbs take the limelight at the Summer Herb Festival, July 25 and 26. Visitors will learn how to grow different kinds of herbs, both outdoors and indoors, and how to dry, preserve and use them. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can enjoy an herb market, cooking and craft demonstrations, and herb product tastings. Discovery carts featuring herbs, beneficial insects and pollination will be on display.

The fifth annual **Garden Harvest Festival** is set for September 19 and 20. Produce from the fruit and vegetable gardens will be harvested. A farmer's market, entertainment and cooking demonstrations in addition to tastings and craft activities are part of the lineup for this exciting weekend-long celebration.

For more information on the Fruit & Vegetable Garden's 1998 season, please call (847) 835-5440.

Wal-Mart ...

Continued from Page 1
clude 300,000 square feet of retail space. CenterPoint Properties bought the 48.5 acre site from A.B. Dick. About 13 acres will be used for an industrial use, the remaining 30+ acres will be used for the proposed shopping center.

While Village Manager Abe Selman said that the village of Niles has yet to receive any formal plans or names of tenants lined up for the center, village approval would be needed to treat the proposed center as a Planned Unit Development, Selman said. Some nearby Chicago residents have objected because they fear the new center will add to the traffic on Touhy Avenue and residential side streets in the area.

The Tucker firm has a good reputation for working with

home owners in resolving such concerns. The Pointe Plaza would not be a home in Chicago. The main concern of residents will probably be the effect of the new center on the traffic flow on Touhy.

A.B. Dick moved its corporate offices to 7400 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, after the Niles Public Library vacated the building April 1. The library had used the building over a year as temporary headquarters while construction on the newly expanded library building at Oakton Street and Waukegan Road was completed. The manufacturing operation of A.B. Dick is expected to be moved into a vacant building at 6330 W. Touhy Ave.

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Polish Constitution Day Commemorative Program



Polish Constitution Day Commemorative Program under the auspices of the Office of the Governor was held on Saturday, May 2, at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago immediately following the Parade celebrating the 207th anniversary of the Polish Constitution.

Among the honored guests pictured from left were: Jim Ryan, Attorney General of Illinois; Walter K. Kotaba, Aurelia Pucinski, Jacek Rybicki, Halina L. Bielowicz, Kazimierz Dzielski, Kazimierz Janowiak, Adam Wedrychowicz, George Migala, Jerzy Wegnerowski, Andrzej Dachman, and Adam Ocytko.

Farmers Market to be held at Lambs Farm

Lambs Farm 1st Annual Farmers Market will be held every Wednesday from June 3 thru October 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Located in the main parking lot at Lambs Farm, the Market will feature a variety of homegrown, fresh cut, handmade, natural, organic, homemade and fresh products.

Lambs Farm products such as fresh ground peanut and cashew butter, homemade jams & jellies, handmade donuts and cookies will also be available.

After shopping the Market visit the unique shops of Lambs Farm all open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aunt Mary's Country Store and Country Kitchen, Sweet Street Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlour, Lambs End Thrift Shop, The Country Inn Restaurant, Grandma's Bakery Nook, Lambs

Pet Shop, Country Designs Gift & Screen Shop and the Snack Shop.

Enjoy the Farmyard and Petting Zoo as well as the Miniature Train Ride, Old World Carousel, Pony Rides, Vintage Fire Truck, Pontoon Boat Rides and the Miniature Golf Course. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please NO picnic baskets or coolers as all proceeds benefits the vocational, residential and social programs of Lambs Farm, which serves adults with mental disabilities.

Lambs Farm is located in Libertyville at the Junction of Rt. 176 and I-94, just North of Chicago.

For more information, call the Lambs Farm Hotline at (847) 362-6774.

THE READERS WRITE

The Bugle urges all its readers to submit Letters to the Editor pertaining to local issues or in response to editorials appearing in the paper. All letters must be signed and contain the name, address and telephone number of the writer. No letter will be printed in The Bugle unless this information is furnished. Of course, this information will not be printed if the writer requests same to be withheld. Also, no pre-written form letters of any kind will be published.

USE THE BUGLE

Oakton

What's Happening
Selma Probst, nationally and internationally recognized speaker for more than 43 years, will present a lecture on Tuesday, June 2 from 1-2:30 p.m. entitled **Do You Remember When?** The lecture explores how we survived without the conveniences of modern appliances such as televisions, radios, dishwashers or air conditioners. This presentation is part of the Passages Lecture Series sponsored by Oakton's Emeritus Program. This lecture will be held in Room A244 at the Ray Harstein Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Pre-registration is required. Admission is \$2 at the door; seating is limited. For more information, call the Emeritus Office at (847) 635-1414.

Enjoy a fully escorted tour to China through Oakton Community College's travel study program. Four tours to China are scheduled: June 29 - July 18; Sept. 14 - Oct. 3; Oct. 5 - 24; and Oct. 19 - Nov. 7. For complete itineraries on this and other travel-study tours, call Bea Cornelissen at (847) 635-1812.

Visit Niles Elementary School
Niles Elementary School (South), 6935 W. Touhy Ave., will be closing its doors at the end of this school year. Anyone wishing to visit the school prior to its closing can do so on Friday, June 5, from 3-8 p.m.

The Bugle Newspapers

HOME STYLE

• Real Estate • Home Improvement

Efficiency & environmental comparison of natural gas & electricity used in the home

Natural gas and electricity compete for a variety of residential applications, including space heating, water heating, cooking and clothes drying. The choice between the two fuels has significant implications for energy efficiency, economics and the environment.

Natural gas is generally less costly, more efficient and more environmentally friendly than electricity, because most of the electricity used in the United States is generated at power plants fueled with coal. A home that uses natural gas for heating, water heating, clothes drying and cooking contributes 60 percent less carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than an all-electric home whose power is generated at a coal-fired power plant.

Energy Efficiency
The American Gas Association (A.G.A.) measured the efficiencies of both forms of energy from their production to consumption in newly built, efficient

homes in two locations (the West North Central region and the South Atlantic region).

The analysis found that operating a natural gas home results in far less pollution than running an all-electric home. Natural gas is more energy-efficient. About 90 percent of the natural gas energy produced from the earth is delivered to homes or other uses. In contrast, most of the energy needed to provide electricity is wasted. Less than 27 percent of the total energy used to generate and transmit electricity is delivered to end-users in a usable form.

An Economic Comparison
The higher efficiency and lower price of natural gas result in annual energy bills that are roughly 30 to 55 percent lower than the comparable all-electric home energy bills.

Environmental Comparisons
The relative cleanliness of natural gas, in conjunction with its high efficiency, results in numerous environmental benefits com-

pared with electric systems, including far lower emission levels of air pollutants, carbon dioxide and solid wastes such as sludge and ash.

For example, by selecting a water heater fueled with natural gas instead of electricity, a homeowner can help limit emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). That's because a water heater fueled with electricity from a coal-fired power plant contributes four times more CO₂ to the environment than a similar natural gas unit.

By converting existing natural gas, fuel oil or electric heating systems to new, efficient gas heating equipment, homeowners can cut CO₂ emissions by up to 71 percent in some cases -- or by 28,900 pounds per year from a large home in a cold climate, according to the A.G.A. analysis.

By using natural gas heating equipment, instead of a wood-burning fireplace or stove, homeowners can help improve air quality. Natural gas heating equip-

ment emits no smoke or particulate matter. The convenience and cleanliness of natural gas heating products have contributed to the popularity of this amenity: more than a quarter of all new fireplaces in the United States burn natural gas. The rapid increase in the use of natural gas heating products has coincided with a marked decline in particulate emissions from residential woodburning. Most of the major metropolitan areas west of the Rocky Mountains restrict or ban residential woodburning, but allow or promote natural gas for hearth applications.

And, by choosing to cool their homes with natural gas instead of electricity during summer months, consumers can help reduce peak demand on electric utilities, which are often forced to turn to less efficient technologies to avoid brownouts or service disruptions.

Study Assumptions
The A.G.A. study was based

on the heating needs of new homes in two climate regions with different heating loads, under the assumption that electricity is provided by a fossil fuel mix (generation by coal, natural gas and oil) currently used in those regions.

Using home appliances properly

To ensure the safe use of energy in the home, consumers need to do their part and to follow recommended safety and operating practices.

For example, consumers should be aware of the following "don'ts":
• Never use flammable liquids around appliances.
• Never store aerosol cans or containers of combustible liquids on or near appliances.
• Never attempt to bypass safety devices.

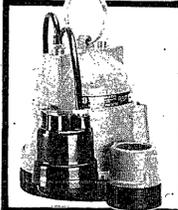
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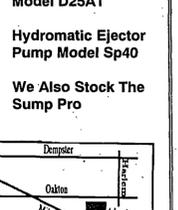
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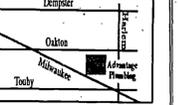


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Home Style

What's that noise?

You just bought a new refrigerator and you're hearing some different sounds that may signal concern. Relax and release a sigh of relief. New sounds are normal. Hard surfaces, like the floor, walls, and cabinets can make the sounds seem louder than they actually are. Due to new product designs, there may be sounds that you are not familiar with. Whirlpool consumer assistants came up with the following list which describes the kinds of sounds that might be new to you, and what may be making them.

- Your refrigerator is designed to run more efficiently to keep your food items at the desired temperature. The high-efficiency compressor may cause your new refrigerator to run longer than your old one, and you may hear a pulsating or high pitched sound.
- Water dripping on the defrost heater during a defrost cycle may cause a drizzling sound.
- You may hear the evaporator fan motor circulating the air through the refrigerator and freezer compartments.

Whirlpools make a splash with comfortable design and durable construction

American Standard has introduced the newest addition to its popular Cadet® collection of high-performance products: the Cadet whirlpools. Cadet whirlpools offer luxury design features for maximum comfort at an affordable price. The whirlpools are engineered for outstanding function and feature acrylic construction reinforced with fiberglass and resin for added durability.

The hydro-massage system - featuring eight multi-directional and individual-flow-adjustable body massage jets - provides the ultimate relaxation experience. Two back jets, two foot jets and four body jets are strategically placed for maximum comfort. A 1-HP pump and motor ensures quiet, efficient whirlpool performance.

also available as bathing pool models. Cadet whirlpools and bathing pools are available in White, Bone, Silver, Shell, Linen and Black.

Safety First

In addition to comfort features, Cadet whirlpools are engineered for safety. A textured bottom pattern helps consumers secure a strong foothold while entering and exiting the basin.

The entire Cadet whirlpool system is UL® tested and approved for guaranteed safe operation.

Call 1 (800) 524-9797, ext. 199, or visit www.us.amstd.com, to locate the nearest American Standard dealer.

Ask the Home Ranger

We are planning to remodel our guest bathroom on the first floor, but we don't want to spend a lot of money. What would you recommend?

I would recommend that you don't spend a lot of money. And guess what? Hiring a good plumbing contractor is often the best way to make sure you stay within your budget. The first rule of thumb for tight budgets is not to move the location of the fixtures. Put the new toilet over the trap where the old toilet was, and the new shower stalls, lavatories, faucets or baths where the old fixtures were. This cuts your installation costs and lets you put some of the money back into better bath products. We all want the best for our guests... good products, properly installed to function efficiently. A professional contractor will make sure you get the most out of that tight budget.

Our water heater recently began making a "banging" sound. Are we in for some major problems?

It's yelling for help, poor thing. Not to worry, you can save the day without even reaching for your wallet. Instead, reach for the manual that came with your water heater. You'll see that it recommends draining a gallon every month from the faucet valve at the bottom of the tank. This helps run off any deposits left behind by the heated water. It's the build-up of those deposits that caused your problem, forming a layer that, when heated, makes that "banging" sound your hear. At this point, you may have to drain a gallon or two of water to eliminate all of the deposits.

Questions for the Home Ranger? Send it to: The Home Ranger, c/o The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Information Bureau, 200 E. Randolph, Suite 5000, Chicago, IL 60601. Or E-mail at: www.phcib.org

Feel-good Features
Cadet whirlpools offer a comfort-focused design with molded arm rests and elbow rests located at the back lumbar area. A form-fitted backrest includes a gentle recess allowing for ergonomic water jet placement.

All Cadet whirlpool models feature a convenient deck-mounted air switch with on/off control. The air switch is color-matched and provides safe, reliable operation.
Five whirlpool sizes range from 5 feet x 32 inches x 19 3/4 inches to 6 feet x 42 inches x 19 3/4 inches. Cadet whirlpool models



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Home Style

Energies used in the home

ELECTRICITY:

Electricity is not a primary energy source. It is another energy source that must be used to create it. A generator converts one form of energy - heat, mechanical or chemical - into electric energy. Most electric generating facilities today use mechanical energy, the rotational motion of a turbine. In a typical power plant, a turbine generator can use steam, wind, hot gas or falling water to turn it. The steam can come from several energy sources, including a nuclear reaction; natural steam (geothermal energy) from the earth; combustion of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, coal or oil; and, in smaller plants, combustion of wood products, garbage or other waste.

Electricity is delivered from the generating facility to the home by conducting wires that are strung on overhead poles or encased in underground cables. Virtually all of the nation's electricity is generated within the U.S. borders, although the primary energy used for generation may be imported, particularly in the case of nuclear and oil-fired plants. Small amount of electricity in New England and the Northwest come from Canada.

FUEL OIL:

The oil product used for home heating, known as #2 oil, fuel oil or heating oil, is refined from crude petroleum. It is light brown in color, has a distinctive "oil" smell and, like all liquid fuels, pools on the ground if released. Heating oil is delivered from the oil refinery to local storage facilities through a pipeline system, tank truck, barge or railroad and then to the home by tanker truck. It is stored at the residence in an underground or above-ground tank, indoors or outside the home, depending on local regulations. Currently, about 50 percent of the petroleum and refined petroleum products used in the United States comes from domestic sources; the balance - both crude oil and petroleum products - is imported from a variety of countries around the world and transported in ships.

NATURAL GAS:

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas, primarily composed of methane. Because it is a very simple hydrocarbon (chemical symbol CH₄), its principal combustion products are harmless carbon dioxide and water vapor. Natural gas is lighter than air, and if released, tends to dissipate into the air.

Since natural gas has no odor

of its own, chemical odorants are added to the gas so that it can be detected in the event of a leak. Many people describe the odor as that of rotten eggs. Despite the sour smell of the odorant, natural gas is not toxic.

Natural gas flows from production areas through underground gas pipelines to the local gas distribution company. It is delivered to the home, as needed, through underground distribution lines made of metal or plastic. No on-site storage is needed with natural gas.

Currently, about 87 percent of the natural gas used in the United States is domestic; almost all of the rest comes from Canada through underground pipelines.

oil refinery or natural gas processing facility in its liquefied form to local storage facilities through underground pipelines and tank trucks, and to the home by truck. At the home, it is stored in an above-ground tank under pressure. When it leaves the tank, its pressure is reduced and it becomes gaseous. Propane can also be purchased in small, refillable tanks for use with such equipment as outdoor gas grills. In areas that do not have access to natural gas service, propane can be used in most natural gas equipment with only minor modifications.

Currently, about 65 to 70 percent of U.S. propane supplies are derived from natural gas; the balance comes from the crude oil refining process.

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Home Style

Heatherfield residences in Glenview selling well

Sales of homes at Heatherfield in Glenview, a residential development by The James Companies, have been brisk, with over 100 homes under contract or deposit. Located on Waukegan Road just south of Willow Road, Heatherfield will feature 300-plus residences when completed, including single-family homes, villas, townhomes, rowhomes, and condominiums.

"People are attracted to the community for its east Glenview location and accessibility to shopping, entertainment and transportation," said Warren James, a principal of one of The James Companies. "Once they're on site, the unique land plan, extensive landscaping and quality home designs keep them here."

Interest in the single-family homes has escalated since construction began in January. Priced from the mid-400,000s, the Heatherfield features five customizable floor plans, including traditional second-floor master bedrooms, first-floor master bedrooms and a ranch model, these single-family residences offer formal or combined living and dining rooms, great room, loft, full basement, patio, first-floor laundry, and attached two-car

garage. High-end amenities include hardwood floors, Corian countertops and cedar shake roofs.

Sales of the townhomes, rowhomes and villas are also very strong. Priced from the mid-200s, the Rowhomes come in three models and are reminiscent of city living, with all the advantages of the suburbs, including an interior courtyard. Heatherfield's Townhomes are attached single-family homes in the traditional style, priced from the upper \$200,000s. Larger Villas, attached single-family homes, are priced from the mid-\$300,000s.

All Heatherfield homes include state-of-the-art appliances such as ranges or cooktops, microwave ovens, built-in dishwashers and other amenities appropriate to this upscale community.

Heatherfield is situated on a 90-acre parcel of land with more than 45 acres of landscaped green space and seven "pocket" parks. The property will include more than 90 varieties of trees and shrubs.

The community is adjacent to a 10-acre Glenview Park District park. Lake Michigan beaches, Ravinia Music Park, walking and

bicycle paths, and numerous golf courses are just minutes away. A new Jewel/Osco borders the community at the 11.6-acre Shops of Heatherfield.

Heatherfield is easily accessible to major expressways, and a new Metra station will soon be within walking distance to Heatherfield.

Every Heatherfield homebuyer is part of The James Companies' Reservation to Residency program, which provides future residents with an overview of the events that will take place from home selection through the first year of home occupancy. This process includes options to customize each home.

Sales are being conducted from the sales trailer at Heatherfield, located on Waukegan Road just south of Willow Road in Glenview. Sales hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call (847) 486-9700.

USE THE BUGLE

Smart Valve 2000 brings new life to toilets

The new Smart Valve 2000 from American Standard offers the perfect solution for do-it-yourselfers and plumbers alike who are looking for a high-quality, affordable and easy-to-install fill valve to revive existing toilets. American Standard has upgraded its Smart Valve product offerings with decreased noise levels and universal retrofitting on virtually any toilet.

"There's a high demand for the Smart Valve 2000. No other manufacturer offers consumers a high-quality flushing system that can be installed 15 minutes or less," said Abid Khaleel, team leader, repair parts division for American Standard. "This product has been field-tested for reliability and brings new life to old toilets with features such as a whisper-quiet operating system and water-saving capabilities."

Installation as Easy as 1-2-3
In three easy steps, even novice do-it-yourselfers can retrofit almost any brand of toilet with a Smart Valve toilet repair kit. The Smart Valve 2000 features an easy twist-and-lock height adjustment for easy installation.

To install, first remove the old fill valve. Next, fix the height of the Smart Valve 2000 unit with

the twist-and-lock height adjustment. And finally, install the valve and connect the water line.

Enhanced Features Set A New Standard
The Smart Valve 2000 sets a new standard for superior construction. American Standard engineers conduct a rigorous 20-year cycle testing process to ensure lifetime dependability of the unit.

Once installed, the fully-enclosed valve is maintenance-free and provides a positive shut-off and quiet refill.

American Standard also introduced new accessories to complement the Smart Valve 2000 line of products, including a toilet repair kit, replacement seal, flapper, flush valve, Aquameter water control and replacement trip levers available in chrome, brass and white.

The Smart Valve 2000 line has been fully tested to ensure superior quality and lasting performance.

Call 1-800-524-9797, ext. 199, or visit www.us.amstd.com, to locate the nearest American Standard dealer.

Home Style

New bath fixtures update Turn-of-the-Century design

American Standard introduces Reminiscence, a new collection of luxurious bath fixtures, featuring the elegant, graceful charm of vintage styling.

Reminiscence updates the romantic design of the past with innovative engineering of today. Smoot, generous curves reflect turn-of-the-century style while state-of-the-art design provides timeless luxury and unmatched performance.

"Reminiscence helps make a bath or powder room a warm, comfortable haven," said Lance Nordell, team leader, product development and marketing for chinaware at American Standard. "The collection adapts the look of vintage bath while adding modern comforts and performance."

The Reminiscence collection of distinctive, affordably-priced fixtures includes a free-standing bath, two-piece toilet, pedestal and countertop lavatories and a console vanity top. The beautifully-matched fixtures are available in a full range of colors.

Free-Standing Baths Create Luxury with Style
The Reminiscence free-standing bath offers gentle, over-

sized-curves and unique, antique-styled ball and claw-foot legs to create a classic, elegant design. An extra deep bathing well, raised head rest and molded arm rests create a luxurious bathing experience. A slip resistant surface provides an added safety measure.

The "slipper tub" is available in all American Standard colors with either a black or white backing. Each has an end-drain outlet and is crafted of durable, high-gloss acrylic for easy, trouble-free installation and cleaning. Overall dimensions are 72 x 37 x 27 1/4 inches.

Two-piece Toilet Offers Style and Performance

The Reminiscence two-piece toilet echoes the vintage styling of the baths. The round-front toilet offers the distinctive design in the base, rim and tank. A sculpted, raised decorative tank cover completes the design. A side-mounted flush lever is standard in chrome with a color-matched ceramic handle. An optional polished brass lever is available.

The Reminiscence toilet provides superior flushing perfor-

mance, and a front jet and fully-glazed two-inch trapway virtually eliminate clogging.

The toilet is equipped with the new Smart Valve water control. The fully enclosed valve is maintenance-free and provides a positive shut-off and a quiet refill.

Lavatories Blend Style with Function

The Reminiscence pedestal lavatory and self-rimming countertop lavatory continue the vintage styling. The pedestal lavatory presents a smooth, graceful pedestal. The basins in both lavatories are complemented with a raised decorative backsplash. Broad deck areas provide generous space for toiletries. The pedestal lavatory measures 25 x 20 x 34 inches. The countertop lavatory, crafted of vitreous china, measures 22 x 18 inches and fits standard 20 x 17-inch oval counter cutouts.

Call 1-800-524-9797, ext. 199, or visit www.us.amstd.com to locate the nearest American Standard dealer.

Energy fact sheet: Natural gas

What Is Natural Gas?

Natural gas is a combustible, gaseous mixture of simple hydrocarbon compounds, usually found in deep underground reservoirs formed by porous rock. It can be found by itself or in association with crude oil or hydrocarbon condensates - gases that liquefy at normal atmospheric pressure and closely resemble kerosene.

Natural gas was formed millions of years ago when plants and tiny sea animals were buried by sand and rock. The pressure and heat from the earth turned them into petroleum and natural gas.

The main ingredient in natural gas is methane (CH₄). It also contains minor amounts of other gases, including ethane, propane, butane and pentane.

Natural gas is one of the cleanest burning fuels, producing primarily carbon dioxide, water vapor and small amounts of nitrogen oxides when combusted.

Natural Gas Today
Natural gas service is delivered to 55 million American homes through a 1.3-million-mile pipeline network. Gas service is available in all 50 states.

Three segments of industry are involved in making sure America gets the natural gas it needs. Production companies explore, drill and extract gas from the ground. Pipeline companies transport the gas from the wellhead to the "city gate." Local gas utilities deliver the gas to local customers. Some companies perform more than one of these functions and others, such as aggregating supplies and storage.

Traditionally, gas customers have purchased their supplies from their local gas utility, which is regulated by a state agency. Today, however, many gas customers can choose their gas supplier. They can continue to buy from their local utility, they can buy directly from a producer or they can buy through an unregulated gas marketing company. Currently, about 70 percent of the gas being sold in the United States can be purchased through customer choice programs that are operating or proposed. Initially, large industrial and commercial customers participated in these programs, but the number of residential customers now able to choose their gas provider is growing rapidly.

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