Dist. 64 Board, Teachers negotiate contract

ANDREW SCHNEIDER

Teachers in Niles/Park Ridge Elementary School District 64 haven't had a contract since Aug. 1. They demonstrated in Uptown Park Ridge's Hodges Park Tuesday, Oct. 6, in an effort to make the community more aware of the ongoing negotiations between themselves, the Park Ridge Education Association (PREA) and the Dist. 64 School Board. At issue in the new contract are the rising costs of insurance for teachers and a restructuring of the District's salary schedule, according to PREA leader and Carpenter Elementary School Art Teacher Fred Klonsky.

"The District has made a radical proposal that would restructure the salary schedule," said Klonsky. "Under the proposal, teachers would pay the entire cost of their health insurance, and the District would pay the teachers' salaries only 80 percent of the District's $40 million budget. Their new proposals would work to restructure the salary schedule and would make the race longer." Dist. 64 has approximately 325 teachers. Their salaries and benefits make up 80 percent of the District's $40 million budget. Their new proposal would work to restructure the salary schedule. If teachers had to pay for their health insurance, instead of the District covering it for them, they would pay an additional premium. "Some teachers pay $8,000 per year currently," he said.

According to Klonsky, the Board's proposal would ask teachers to shoulder a portion of their additional costs, instead of the District covering them outright. "For many of us, our spouses have far better insurance than we do," said Klonsky. "We stay in the insurance program just so that the pool is larger. That way, the costs go down for everyone, including the District." Klonsky also argued that the District had no reason to put teachers to shoulder a portion of their additional costs; they were in good faith.

"The District maintains a 20 percent fund surplus," he said. "At the end of each year, 20 percent of the surplus must remain in the bank." Dist. 64 Board President Dean Krone argued that the 20 percent fund withholding was not actually a surplus, but was instead used as a back-up, in the event that their share of tax revenues was not refunded to them by the state immediately. "We've had to dip into that fund regularly to make the community aware of the race longer," said Klonsky. "Once we had to go as high as 18 percent." Board Member Joe Baldi, who serves on the District's negotiating team said that the Board's proposal, which included a pay increase of 4.2 percent, was competitive with the salary and benefits packages of surrounding districts.

There are several areas we identified where we weren't competitive with the surrounding districts," said Baldi. "We feel that our proposal addresses those areas." Baldi also said he felt negotiations were proceeding smoothly.

"We've been in negotiations since April and we've agreed on several items," he said. "There are some we haven't agreed on yet, but it just seems like the normal course of negotiations."

Maine Township plans garbage referendum

ANDREW SCHNEIDER

A referendum may be placed on the primary ballot in March 2004 that would give Maine Township the authority to contract between residents of the Township's unincorporated area and their garbage removal service provider, eliminating the current problems caused by the operations of multiple garbage removal companies. If the referendum is passed, it will impact Niles, Park Ridge, Morton Grove, and all other municipalities bordering the unincorporated area according to Township Supervisor Bob Dudycz.

"There's no wall around the unincorporated area," said Dudycz. "Multiple trucks have to pass through the surrounding communities to make it to the area putting additional strain on their roads and any problems resulting from the trash problems, such as vermin, can still spread to neighboring communities." Currently, residents of the unincorporated area contract individually with one of the garbage haulers. The results in increased heavy truck traffic down the streets, which three trucks would have to travel instead of one, and multiple trash pickup days.

"Because of the multiple trash pickup days at any time you can drive through the unincorporated area and see trash on the curb," said Dudycz. "There may be no problem with it, it may be that resident's trash pickup day, but it hasn't improved the appearance of the area." Because residents can change garbage carriers at will, it also results in payment delinquency, service stoppages, and scofflaws. "Some residents will throw their trash on the street even if they haven't paid for service," said Dudycz. "Some residents will throw it in their neighbors' yards. I would say that 90 percent of the problem we have between residents would be solved if we could standardize trash pickup.

Residents of the unincorporated area have asked the Township to do something about the trash service in the past.

"They should be contacting the County," said Dudycz. "We have the least authority to do something about it." If voters support the referendum next March, that could change however, Dudycz said that another Township in Illinois had already passed a similar referendum.

"I expect the referendum to be real because there's a precedent," he said. "We should be able to have a draft of the referendum finished to present to the Township Board the second meeting in October or November. We have to have the final draft to the Cook County Clerk by December." If the referendum passes, Dudycz said voters won't see any increase in taxes and can probably expect the cost of their trash service to decrease.

"Because more people will be contracting for the service the cost for everyone will go down," he said. "We'll also be able to pursue recycling for the area. It's our intention to clean up the Township."
Morton Grove hires Chicago lawfirm to defend them against pending suits

WENDY ELIUS

Chicago law firm has been hired to represent the Village of Morton Grove in a suit filed by the Marathon Club regarding the Muslim Education Center (MEC) and its neighbors. The village is now working with Chilton, Yunhe, Porter and Young to draw up a response to the two lawsuits recently filed against the village.

A group of Morton Grove neighbors, the Morton Grove LLC, filed suit against the village and several of its officials, as well as the Morton Community Center, accusing the village of failing to equitably reduce its parking ordinances and allowing the Marathon to hold prayer services in the MEC school without a permit. The neighborhood also has a long-running racially motivated parking dispute during the Friday prayer services. The MEC is asking the village to let them build a mosque on the green space just north of Morton Grove school, but the village has denied their request saying the mosque plans are too big for the area. The MEC also filed suit, saying the plans meet all village requirements and that the village’s failure to allow them the use of a right of way that runs through the green space, is in violation of their civil rights.

Both suits were filed in Federal Court in Chicago. The Village will file a response to all the accusations before the court determines whether either suit, or any parts of them, have merit.

Niles Public Works Employees Run Stizell's, bottom, and Tom Polcyn, top, place a steel residential driveway into a six-inch stainless steel repair clamp on a water main at the bottom of an eight-foot hole in the backyard of a home at 8430 N. Caldwell. The break was originally discovered by Niles Police at 3:30 a.m., Monday Oct. 13 when water flowed down a residential driveway into the road.

THE BUGLE

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Morten Grove hires Chicago law firm to defend them against pending suits

TRACY YOSHIDA

G ardening, gobbling and witch-ens are just a few spooky characters that may be found in the upcoming Haunted Garage organized by the Niles Youth Council.

The event is planned for Friday, Oct. 24 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Members of the Niles Youth Council are busy planning the decorations and characters for the haunted garage, which is also a fund-raiser for the council.

Last year, the council raised about $500 with this event. Christine Eisenh, the new youth coordinator, has been meeting with the kids for the past few weeks and she is looking forward to the haunted garage.

"This haunted garage is really a good first event for us to have," said Eisenh. "Sometimes in November, the youth council will have their own meeting space at the Tam Golf Center.

"Hopefully, in the future it can become a second drop in center," said Eisenh. She said for now it will be council's meeting place. Her office will also be located in that center. "This year it's a nice place for them to meet.

As each meeting, there's been about 12 to 15 junior high school students in attendance, some new members and others who are returning. Eisenh said that since Ann's departure, or slightly before, the kids do not seem quite as moti-vated to pursue the haunted garage, which was once one of their most important goals.

"It's kind of on a hold right now," said Eisenh, who is willing to help the kids out with obtaining grants for the park. "Without the kids, I can't do it.

"They seem to be having a good time," she said, "so they need their meetings as well as with other fund-raisers and activities. Donated cookies, cakes and tables are also encouraged to fur-nish the council's new meeting space.

Those interested can contact the Niles Youth District.
Wendy Ellis

Wendy Ellis was named new Activities director at Morton Grove Senior Center in Niles, a Senior Housing corner in Chicago to work on her Master's in Education to work on her Master's in Education.

Niles Employees filledvoid during garbage strike

Thursday and Friday, the garbage bins remained empty because the employees ratified a new contract.

Designs by Rica caters to customers needs and likes

The Columbia born designer ran this company three years ago and grew in Chicago. She opened her own custom home and found herself 20 years ago, but partner troubles forced her to close after only one year. She went to work in home decorating department at Macy's in 1990, becoming a regular customer, receiving training and experiencing the home decorating business, while continuing on her own knowledge of fabrics to carry on.

"It was my number one interest. While I was in school, I love all textures and colors," said the 32-year-old designer, who rents a home half a block, but customers do not know her. "It's the perfect thing to do and it was the best part of it," said the designer. "I'm not a lot of fabric and I'm able to do it. The fabric and decorating industry may be an early age, and has the practical training for a business of her own," said the designer.

"I recommend whatever the customers want because she will have to work at it," said the designer. "I don't recommend the things to sell. It's a great deal to sell them," said Rica. "It's been fantastic."

Tennis is everything. That was the jargon learned by Rica at the University of Illinois. She became interested in art while growing up in Chicago, and grew up in Chicago.

"I love it. It's the best thing I've ever done," said Rica. "I just need more customers."

"I didn't want to do," said Rica. "Certain fabrics are easier to sell than others. Rica said her job was not boring and always challenging. She enjoys creating new things. Over the past three years, while she has not been working with her customers, Rica's children and now has her oldest daughter working with her. She still resides in Highland Park with her dogs, and is planning to move to New York. She plans to move to New York. She plans to move to New York.
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Dons defeat Gordon Tech

(Photos by Allen Kaleta)

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S BOWLING LEAGUE
Bowled Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Points Points

Staja Terrace Funeral Home 24 11
Raymond Blazak, D.D.S. 21 14
Northside Community Bank 21 14
Candlelight Jeweler 19 16
Niles Dairy Queen 16 19
Millie Kroll 14 17
Baby Virtusjo 12 19

High Score
Marybeth Cruz 555
Mills Kroll 511
Daly Yematoire 506

Lois MacAdam/Baby Virtusjo 180

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The Village of Morton Grove is hosting free influenza (flu) and pneumonia immunizations for residents age 55 and older, as well as for those who have Medicare Part B. These immunizations are being held by the Cook County Health Department at 847-964-9924, for more information.

For further information on senior activities, trips, and programs, contact MaineMerchants at 847-297-2150 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or visit www.mainetownship.com.

Do You Have Any of These Symptoms?

- Discs are out of place
- Arthritis pain
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Nerve pressure
- Headaches
- Neck pain
- Back problems
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- Anxiety and stress
- Sexual dysfunction
- Allergies

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Flu and Pneumonia shots available

A film series about Alzheimer’s disease hosted by Glenbrook Terrace

Mr. Donel served as president of the Unit the past year and will assume once again the leadership of Auxiliary this forthcoming term.

Mrs. Jordan serves as the President for the Post and 2001. A hospital worker and former 2nd vice presi- dent in charge of fund rais- ing, she held a most successful Christmas Cerey holiday luncheon party. In addition she is also the current chair- person-Membership chairperson for this new organization.

The Village of Morton Grove will again provide influenza (flu) and pneu- monia immunizations for residents age 65 and older. Influenza vaccination is given annually and is the primary method for preventing the flu and its possi- ble severe complications. The pneumococcal immunization is usu- ally given once but occasionally every 5 years. Those over age 65 years and more than 5 years have passed since the last pneumonia shot. There will be no charge for these residents who have Medicare Part B and bring their Medicare card with them. Those who should not bring their Medicare card with them. For those residents who do not have the pneumonia shot will be $25.00. Those who should postpone their shot until they have passed since the last pneumonia immunization is usu- ally a one time dose but is occa- sionally given annually. Influenza Vaccine is given annually.

American Legion Volunteers Impact

Legion & Auxiliary to Hold Reunion

The annual reunion of the Se- nior leaders of the Morton Grove American Legion Post No. 24 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Morton Grove Memorial Club, 7260 N. Milwaukee Ave., Morton Grove. The evening formally offers a reunion of the past members and past post members and the new retired leaders of the post. These are Don Deem, pres- ident; Don the Post and Jack the Past Post, the Past Post 2000 commander. Planning the event are the retired leaders from the year before last, Terry Silber and Floyd Coviak.

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