

Weekly THE BUGLE



Thursday, January 8, 2004

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NilesBugle.com • ParkRidgeBugle.com • MortonGroveBugle.com

Medical campus considered for former Abt property

BY WENDY ELLIS
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A Des Plaines developer's plan to put a medical campus and general office space on two adjacent properties along Waukegan Road will be presented to the Morton Grove Village Board of Trustees at its meeting Monday, Jan. 12.

The two properties, 8930 and 9000 Waukegan, include a multi-story office building once home to St. Paul Federal Bank, and the former Abt Electronics property.

Morton Grove Economic Development Director Tim Angell says the village plan and zone commission gave unanimous approval to the project at its meeting Dec. 16, and will recommend the village board do the same.

The project includes a major renovation of the two existing buildings and the reconstruction of a warehouse area into a park-

ing garage at the rear of the old Abt building. The application, by developer Debb/Kosich, LLC, calls for Illinois Bone and Joint Institute to become a major tenant of the project, primarily on the Abt property. That building would be reconstructed to include medical offices, physical therapy space, an outpatient surgical center and indoor parking facilities. Illinois Bone and Joint currently has two other locations, one in Des Plaines and one on Dempster St. in Morton Grove. There are currently no plans to close those facilities. The project would also bring in 200 new jobs to the community.

If the Village board gives its approval to the project, the developer can then apply for the special use permit that will be required to operate more than one structure on a single lot.

Why did Abt leave? The company's departure and the ramifications for Morton Grove are discussed on page 4.



The former Abt Electronics building on Waukegan Road in Morton Grove stands empty and covered in the weekend's snowfall. Discussions about the building's future include plans for a new medical campus.

Drivers handle first snow-fall responsibly

The first challenging snow of the season came down on the heels of the New Year and local drivers seemed to handle it with caution. Only minor traffic accidents were reported Sunday evening in Niles, Morton Grove and Park Ridge. Although fender benders or a car in the ditch may be a headache for drivers, there were no major accidents with injuries reported by any of the three police departments.

Deputy Chief Thomas

Swoboda of Park Ridge said there were ten accidents handled by his people Sunday, one involving a woman 7 months pregnant. "She was taken to Lutheran General just as a precaution," said Swoboda.

In Niles, slippery streets and packed snow kept squads busy answering calls for 8 minor collisions, which Day Shift Commander Daniel Halley says all seemed to come at one time. His advice to drivers getting reacquainted with win-

ter? "Slow down, keep a good distance between vehicles, and start breaking ahead of time. If you begin to slide, turn into the slide and feather the brakes." Seasoned drivers know the rules, but often have to be reminded when the first good snowfall of the season arrives. Halley also says driving an SUV doesn't make you invincible.

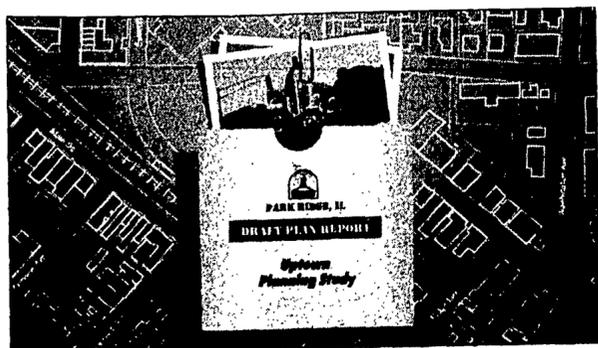
"SUV drivers are a little more courageous because they have the ability to take off

faster and drive through deep drifts," said Halley. "But they forget their stopping ability is the same as a two wheel drive vehicle."

Timing may have helped the situation. Because it was Sunday evening following the New Year's holiday, many people were intending to stay home and prepare for a start to the new work week the next day. Now that the first snow is behind us, however, everybody should be a little more cautious behind the wheel.

Crossword puzzle will return next week

Due to more cancellations we were unable to publish the crossword puzzle for the week's issue of The Bugle. We apologize for this inconvenience but would like to acknowledge Ralph Demopoulos, whose name was left out as the first to complete the 12/25 crossword because of an oversight and Leo Madura who was the first to complete last week's crossword puzzle. Thank you for your continued interest.



The Changing Face of Uptown

Uptown Redevelopment has been called the most important issue facing Park Ridge in 50 years. For the first part of our five-part feature, "The Changing Face of Uptown," turn to page 14.



2003: Year in Review

Above, former Park Ridge Mayor Ron Wietecha waves goodbye to the city council. For more of the top stories of 2003 in our second installment of the year in review, flip to the back page.



Hawks and Dons battle

Maine South forward Mark Duric #24 gets roughed up going up for a rebound in Maine South's 65-64 victory over Notre Dame Saturday night January 3. See page 15 for the story.

News



An Illinois State Police investigator gathers evidence at the scene of shooting involving the Des Plaines police at the Oak-Leaf Commons strip mall near Lee and Oakton, Thursday morning January 1, 2004.

Des Plaines police involved in shooting

The Des Plaines Police Department was involved in a shooting incident at the Dunkin Donuts at 1080 E. Oakton last Thursday, Jan. 1. Police arrived at the store in response to a 9-1-1 hang-up call. No one was located the payphone outside and officers began checking the area. They observed someone at a strip mall in the 1500 block of Lee St. and asked if he needed assistance. According to police, he immediately produced a long blade knife and attacked an officer by approaching in a threatening manner while holding the knife over his head.

Police said a second officer came to the assistance of the

other officer and the man attempted to attack him. The second officer stumbled while backing away from the man. When the man continued to quickly approach the stumbling officer, the first officer shot him.

The man was provided with medical attention after being subdued and transported to Lutheran General Hospital for treatment. The man was tentatively identified as Daniel Peterson of Neillsville, Wisconsin. Charges filed against him include Attempted Murder of a Police Officer and Attempted Armed Robbery. According to police, Peterson attempted to rob a near-

by TCF Bank but was unsuccessful.

The shooting incident is under investigation by the Illinois State Police Public Integrity Unit to determine if the shooting was justified.

"Whenever we're involved in a shooting incident this State Police come in to investigate," said Des Plaines Police Sergeant Nick Treantafeles. "We're one of several places they have jurisdiction. They're an independent agency that comes in to conduct an unbiased investigation."

Treantafeles said that the State Police investigation is conducted in order to independently justify the use of force.

Morton Grove mentioned in book

BY WENDY ELLIS wellis@buglenewspapers.com

A newly published book about land use in the United States devotes several pages to the Village of Morton Grove and its "gallant effort" to face the challenges of re-development.

"Halfway to Everywhere: A portrait of America's First-Tier Suburbs", is a look at how some of the oldest big city suburbs are dealing with land locked borders, home-town industries with a desire to

grow, and giving new life to blighted areas.

Former Village Administrator Larry Arft is quoted in the book, along with Economic Development Director Tim Angell, and Mayor Dan Scanlon.

Author William Hudnut III cites Morton Grove as a village that has come to grips with its physical limitations, and has begun to implement a comprehensive plan not to give in to rundown buildings, boarded up storefronts and general malaise.

"Morton Grove deserves credit for discerning the signs of the times and seeking to align itself with them,"

the book states at the end of Chapter 8. "Morton Grove is trying to reinvent itself for the time ahead."

The book was published by the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C. of which Morton Grove is a member. Author Hudnut visited the village at length in 2000 to do research for his book, after meeting Village planner Bonnie Jacobsen at a conference. For Angell, the book is a verification of the work he's done since joining the city 3 years ago. "It shows our citizens and village trustee that we're on the right track."

The Morton Grove excerpt can be seen on the village web page, www.

News

Life after Abt for Morton Grove

BY WENDY ELLIS wellis@buglenewspapers.com

For Morton Grove, there is indeed, life after Abt. That's Abt Electronics, which until May of 2003, was Morton Grove's largest sales tax generator, putting as much as \$3 million annually into city coffers. But last year, Abt moved its operations to a 30 acre site in Glenview, and since then, village administrators have been trying to find new ways to generate revenue for the village.

Many of those money makers, such as an increase in the local option sales tax, and shifting the cost of garbage pickup directly to the resident, have been the subject of heated discussions at recent Town Hall meetings. But Jan. 1, 2004, has come and gone, and those new taxes and fees have now, or will soon, take effect.

More than one frustrated taxpayer has asked why Morton Grove let Abt Electronics go, but Village officials are quick to point out that they did everything in their power to keep the electronics retailing giant within

the village limits. In the end, it all came down to space.

"The village approached them and said 'what can we do to keep you?'" said Tim Angell, Morton Grove's Economic Development director, but the village couldn't offer what it didn't have. "They would have needed 10 acres at least and we didn't have it at the time."

"We were choking over there," said Bob Abt. "Morton Grove was extremely nice to us, but we had a chance to get 27 or 28 acres in Glenview and we had to act on it." In fact, a few months later, 3Com bought the U.S. Robotics facility in Morton Grove and shut it down. That opened up a 20 acre parcel, but it was too late.

It wasn't the first time Abt needed more space. The firm moved from its Dempster Street location in Niles to Waukegan Road in Morton Grove in 1989.

A few years later it bought the property at 8930 Waukegan, location of Oscar's restaurant and the Illinois Bell Building, and built a larger retail facility. Still, they needed more warehouse space and the village

found them some elsewhere in Morton Grove. That, however, was not an ideal situation.

"In 1999 the Abts internally decided they needed a much larger facility and they would never have a warehouse separate from their showroom again," said Angell.

"We need everything in one spot. When the customer buys a TV they want it now," said Abt. "It used to take our guys 2 hours to load a truck. Now they do it in 5 to 10 minutes."

Abt's dilemma simply illustrates a new reality for villages like Morton Grove that have no where to expand. Any new development is actually re-development. "We don't have 10 or 20 acres of green field," said Angell. "We're lucky now that we can get 2 acres of land to offer businesses."

New business is not impossible, however. Menard's has moved onto the old US Robotics property, and a new Saab Dealership opens up in the next couple of weeks. Plans are also underway to build a medical campus on the old Abt site on Waukegan Road. Life goes on.

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The Maine Course



Bob Dudyecz

Resolutions are important." This was our breakfast topic on the last day of 2003 where individual pledges were discussed among friends openly and vigorously. Some of us pledged to: give up smoking, lose weight, eat healthier, save money, go back to school or to drink less alcohol. Especially my friend Ernie who talked about weight loss as he delicately prepared his third bagel. He said, "After a meal, people resolve to lose weight. When they're hungry again, there goes the resolution." Resolutions are pretty harmless because even though most folks mean well, they go back to old habits by mid January. On New Year's Day, I met with a friend for lunch. We

sat at a hospital and talked in the cafeteria where I told him about yesterday's partying and some funny stories about carousers and their year-end antics. He dutifully smiled but I wondered why he wasn't laughing. It suddenly occurred to me that I was chatting aimlessly and selfishly to the son of a very sick mother.

He had flown in from a neighboring state the previous week and this exhaustive care giving was wearing him down. He was concerned for his mother and as I looked closely, I saw fear that had imbedded itself in eyes that longed for comfort. I was embarrassed to realize I was talking about silly stuff while he was facing his mother's mortality.

I settled down and listened as he talked of better times with his mom and it was fun to note how the little details brought him joy. An hour later it was time to leave and it appeared that my buddy was revitalized.

I later found my list of resolutions and realized how self-centered they were. Every one of them was aimed toward one's self and therefore easily broken because we comfortably forgive our-

selves. I then resolved to be different. My New Year resolution was changed to do something good for a fellow American at least once a week.

Maine Township's mission has always been to help people in need. Sometimes efforts can involve helping to remove water soaked household goods after a flood, providing emergency shelter, distributing much needed food, or simply helping work through paperwork to get government benefits for prescription drugs.

The more than 30 dedicated staff at our Township fulfills our original "resolution" made over 150 years ago. We pledge to keep doing our jobs every day to the best of our ability in 2004. Let us know if you or someone you know who lives in the Township needs help. Call us or consult our website www.maine-township.com for details on what we can do.

We resolve to continue offering everything from a box of food to a disadvantaged family, individual counseling for those in need, and to improve the overall quality of life for our residents.

Happy New Year!

News

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Niles Park District bans cell phones in some areas

At the Niles Park District's December Board of Commissioners meeting, a cell phone ban was approved and went into effect January 1st, 2004. Executive Director Joe LoVerde says this ban is aimed to stop individuals from taking pictures of someone without their knowledge in an inappropriate place and manner. The Niles Park District cellular phone ban will prohibit the use of phones that have photo capabilities in sensitive areas. Such areas are locker rooms and shower facilities. To alert the public of this new measure, the park district has displayed signage in the appropriate facilities. Those caught in violation of the ban will be fined for the first offense and terminated from the facility for a repeated offense. LoVerde said he is confident all the users of our facilities will police the enforcement of this ordinance.

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~PRODUCE~

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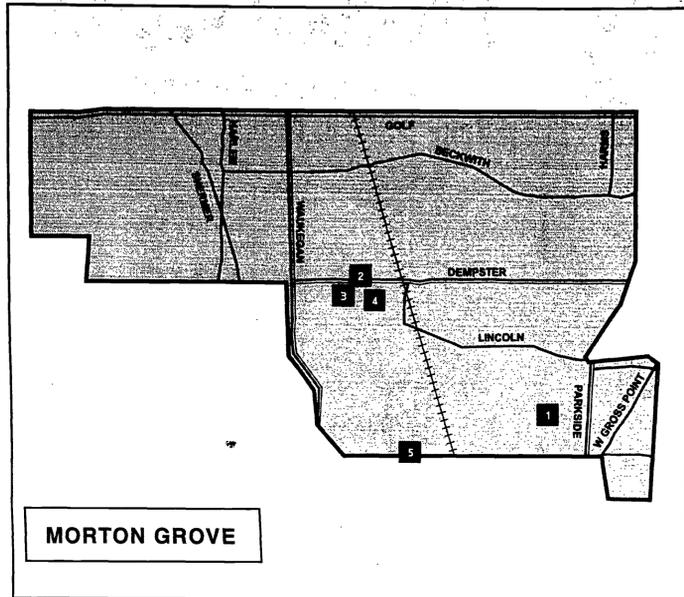
~GROCERY~

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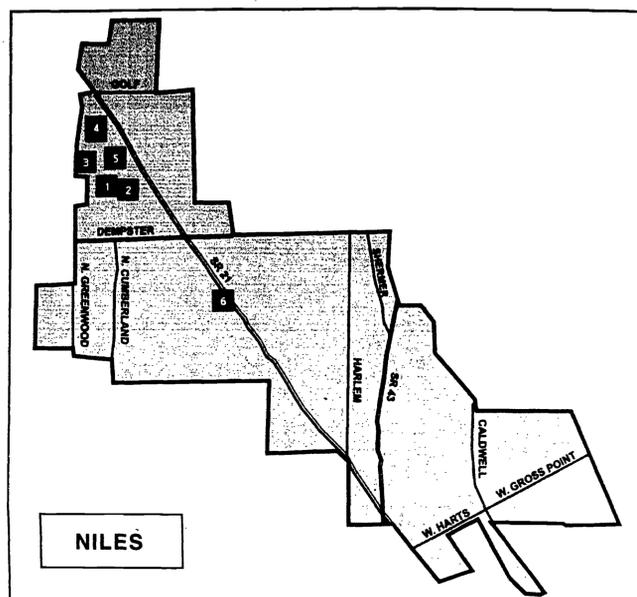
~LIQUORS~

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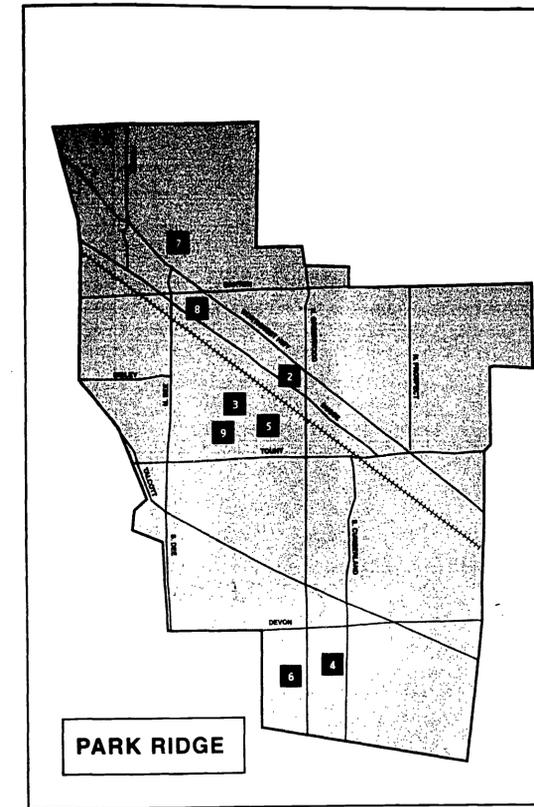
POLICE BLOTTER



MORTON GROVE



NILES



PARK RIDGE

MORTON GROVE

The following items were taken from official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending Jan. 2, 2004.

- 1 New Home Owner Finds Gun (5800 Monroe)**
A man who moved into a home in the 5800 block of Monroe three months ago was surprised when he found a gun behind his furnace, Wednesday afternoon December 24. The .32 cal. chrome semi-automatic handgun and an 8 round magazine were turned over to police. Police said they are processing the gun.
- 2 Expensive workout (6800 Dempster)**
A 20-year-old Des Plaines man told police \$150 in cash and his health club membership card were taken from his wallet while he was in a health club in the 6800 block of Dempster, Wednesday morning December 24.
- 3 Wallet removed from locker (6800 Dempster)**
A 33-year-old Morton Grove man told police his wallet containing his car key, credit cards, and identification were taken from his locker at a health club in the 6800 block of Dempster, Monday night December 22. The man said he locked the locker.
- 4 ID Camera taken (6800 Dempster)**
Someone removed the photo ID camera that is used to photograph new members at a

health club in the 6800 block of Dempster, Wednesday December 24. The camera is valued at \$200.

5 Man arrested for shoplifting (6300 Oakton)
A 69-year-old Park Ridge man was arrested for shoplifting Friday afternoon December 26 after store security watched the man open a package containing a toilet repair kit and remove the bag of screws. The man also was seen placing a bolt grip set, and a box cutter into his pocket. Police said the man went through the check-out and purchased \$225.27 worth of merchandise, but never took the items out of his pockets. Security stopped the man after he checked out. The items in his pockets were valued at \$31.47.

5 Senior scammed in car repair scheme (6000 Crain)
An 89-year-old Morton Grove woman was scammed Sunday afternoon December 28 after she was approached by three men in the parking lot near a popular restaurant on Golf Road. The woman told police after she parked her car the men approached her and told her they could repair the damage to her car. The woman, however, told the men she was meeting someone for lunch. When the woman returned to her car the three men followed her home and rang her doorbell. They went to the garage with the woman to give her an

estimate on the repair. The woman said two of the men kept her near the car while the third man tried to gain entry to her house, which was locked. The woman agreed to have her car fixed and gave the men \$80. The woman went into the house and the men drove away without doing the work.

The following items were taken from official reports of the Niles Police Department for the week ending Jan. 2, 2004.

- 1 Retail theft (400 Golf Mill)**
A 43-year-old Evanston woman was arrested Monday afternoon December 29 after security watched the woman remove rings, necklaces, earrings, and pendants from a store display and leave the store. The woman was released on a \$50,000 recognizance bond.
- 2 Retail theft (220 Golf Mill)**
A 33-year-old Morton Grove woman was arrested for shoplifting Monday evening December 29 after store security watched the woman remove one necklace, two bracelets, and 10 pairs of earrings from a display in a department store at 220 Golf Mill. Police said the woman then went into a dressing room and when she exited the jewelry was no longer visible. Police recovered the jewelry from her pocket. The woman was released on a \$50,000 recognizance bond.
- 3 Retail theft (200 Golf Mill)**
A 16-year-old Park Ridge

girl was arrested Wednesday night December 31 when store security watched as the girl took women's clothing into a dressing room and when she exited the clothing was no longer visible. The clothing was valued at \$11.99. She was released to the custody of her mother after paying a fine.

4 Retail theft (400 Golf)
A 41-year-old Prospects Heights man, who had at least \$50 in his pocket, was arrested for shoplifting a pair of earrings valued at \$52.00 from a department store at 400 Golf Mill, Thursday afternoon, January 1. The man was issued a compliance violation, paid a \$50 fine and was released.

5 Ensemble theft (200 Golf Mill)
A 27-year-old was stopped by store security at a department store in Golf Mill, Wednesday evening, December 31 after she was observed store security removing a shirt and a pair of jeans from the store. The ensemble was valued at \$68.

6 First DUI of 2004 (Milwaukee and Greenleaf)
A 23-year-old Niles man earned the distinction of being the first DUI arrest for 2004, when he was arrested at 18 minutes after midnight when a Niles police officer clocked the man going 60 mph in a 35 mph area along Milwaukee Ave. The man was eventually stopped at Dempster and Ozanam. Police said the man told them he had a few beers. However the man failed a field sobriety test. Two hours later the man refused to sign a recognizance bond to be released

telling police he was too drunk to understand what he was signing, the report said. The man was issued citations for DUI, speeding, no proof of insurance, improper lane usage.

The following items were taken from official reports of the Park Ridge Police for the week of Dec. 26-January 1, 2004.

- 1 Vandals costing thousands of dollars of damage throughout Park Ridge**
At least 25 cars in Park Ridge have had windows shot out by BB guns over a six day period beginning December 26 police said Monday January 5.
- 2 Vandalism (600 Delphia)**
Someone broke the rear window of a 1995 Lincoln Town Car parked in the 600 block of Delphia Friday afternoon December 26.
- 3 Vandalism (400 block Seminary)**
Someone broke the window of a 1999 Mercury parked in the 400 block of Seminary December 26.
- 4 Vandalism (100 block of S. Bonnie)**
Someone broke the window of a 1993 Chevy parked in the 100 block of S. Bonnie December 26.
- 5 Vandalism (300 block Knight)**
Someone broke the window of a home in the 300 block of Knight Friday night December 26.
- 6 Vandalism (1200 block Castle)**
Someone using a BB gun shot out the front window of a residence in the 1200 block of Castle Friday

night December 31.

- 7 Burglary (1300 N. Dee)**
A home in the 1300 block of N. Dee was burglarized Monday night December 29 when thieves kicked in the rear door.
- 8 Theft (2100 Bouterse)**
A thief stole a mannequin that was placed in a shopping cart in a garage in the 2100 block of Bouterse Friday night December 26.
- 9 Theft (200 Aldine)**
A pair of diamond earrings of unknown value were stolen from a home in the 200 block of Aldine sometime between October 27 and December 27.

Winter Wonderland Open House

Wednesday, January 14, 2:30 p.m.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

CIVICS

Monday, Jan. 12

- 3 p.m. Village of Niles Fire & Police Commission Meeting
- 7 p.m. Village of Morton Grove Board of Trustees regular meeting.
- 7:30 p.m. City of Park Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

- 7:30 p.m. Park Ridge Library Board Committee meetings.

Thursday, Jan. 15

- 7:45 Park Ridge Library Board of Trustees Meeting.
- 7 p.m. City of Park Ridge Appearance Commission meeting.

COMMUNITY

Sunday, Jan. 11

- The Niles Historical Society will host the Rev. Dick Anderson who will entertain audience members with song and commentary. Anderson has held programs at the Historical Society in the past and has been a hit. The program will be held at 2 p.m. at the Historical Society, 8970 Milwaukee Ave. It is open to the public, admissions is free. Hot cider and dessert will be served immediately following the program. For more information, call (847) 390-0160 or for reservations if there are more than four people in your party.

PARKS

Thursday, Jan. 8

- 7 p.m. Morton Grove Park District Recreation and Facility Program Committee meeting followed by a Parks and Facility Maintenance Committee Meeting followed by an Administration and Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Thursday, Jan. 15

- 7 p.m. Park District Board Meeting

Schools

Monday, Jan. 12

- 7:45 p.m. High School District 219 will hold its regular board meeting at 7700 Gross Point Rd., Skokie.

Meetings for governmental bodies are held in the following locations:

Niles

Village of Niles: Niles Civic Center, 1000 Civic Center Dr., Niles, IL.

Niles Park District: Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles, IL.

Park Ridge

City of Park Ridge: City Hall, 506 Butler Pl., Park Ridge, IL.

Park Ridge Park District: Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701

Sibley Ave., Park Ridge, IL.

Morton Grove

Village of Morton Grove: Village Hall, 6101 Capulina, Morton Grove, IL.

Morton Grove Park District: Prairie View Center, 6834

Dempster St., Morton Grove, IL.

Submit events to : Calendar@buglenewspapers.com

SOUND OFF!

What's your opinion of the Bears recent firing their coach?



"I'm not really a sports person. I don't have an opinion." *Theresa Krebs - Niles*



"I think it's a going to be a good idea." *Art Boldetski - Niles*



"I haven't thought about it much. But if he's not getting the job done get rid of him." *Ed Brandon - Niles*



"I liked that coach. Everybody liked him." *Fely Fernandez - Skokie*

Opinion

To the editor of The Bugle,

I would like to inform the public of a recent decision made by Mayor Blase and the Village council (trustees) regarding insurance benefits to Village employees. They have passed a policy that requires employees to pay for their insurance. Now, I know that many people in the public sector for business pay for their insurance. Please let me explain what I am writing this letter. I am here to state a case for the police officers. Most men and women that get into law enforcement do so because of the benefits and pension plans offered. You will not get

rich being a cop. Lately, our mayor has reminded us of cutbacks in business as a whole. He has said that many businesses have had to ask their employees to contribute to or pay all of their insurance costs. A police officer is not the "general" workforce employee that our local government would like to categorize us as. Our job requires that we put our lives on the line everyday. I have been spit on, bitten, had fingers broken and more.

Niles has never lost a police officer in the line of duty but the risk is there every day. I have had friends on the Chicago Police Department killed in the line of duty. I have been to funerals

of police officers that I did not personally know. When a police officer is killed, it makes the news and everyone feels sorry for the officer and his or her family. But time causes people to forget until another officer is killed or hurt. Those families have to go on and they depend on benefits to do this. I am trying to inform people that we as a society greatly need fine men and women with good character to fulfill this job. Without certain benefits, we run the risk of not being able to attract these men and women to this job.

A Niles Police Officer

Letters Policy

The Bugle encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. To be considered for publication, all letters must be signed with the writer's full name. An address and telephone number (which will not be printed) must be provided for verification purposes. Letters exceeding 250 words may be edited for length or punctuation. No potentially libelous letters or letters containing personal attacks will be printed. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Fridays.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, 7400 N. Waukegan, Niles, IL 60714 or fax to (847) 588-1911.

BUSINESS

The Bugle

Thursday January 8, 2004



Photo by Allen Katar/Bugle

Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes since 1905

BY PATRICK FERRELL
Correspondent

To the unfamiliar, the fact that a funeral home's roots lay in the livery business may seem odd.

But that's exactly how the Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes got its start.

"My grandfather was in the livery business," owner Jody Wojciechowski said. "He started with horses and carriages. Then he went to limos. He used to get calls from funeral homes wanting to rent cars."

"He got so many calls he decided to start his own funeral home. He gave up the livery business and it turned out the exact opposite; they started the funeral home and started renting cars from others."

The original funeral home, then named simply Wojciechowski Funeral Home, was in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood.

"We can trace our roots back to 1905," Wojciechowski said. "We've been family owned for three generations."

A second Chicago location was opened in 1950 by Wojciechowski's father, Joe Wojciechowski Jr., at 6250 N. Milwaukee Ave.

When the Bucktown neighborhood became more gentrified in the early 1990s, Wojciechowski and his brother Mark, closed the original funeral home in Bucktown and opened a location at 8025 W. Golf Road in Niles.

The name was also lengthened to its current state, Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes.

The name change was intended to attract a broader base of families from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, Wojciechowski said.

The Chicago location still attracts a "very traditional Polish Catholic" clientele. "People still come to us because of our Polish Heritage,"

Wojciechowski said. "It's much more diverse in the Niles area." One of the funeral directors speaks Polish while another is female. Both are feathery in the funeral homes' caps, Wojciechowski said.

"We have a female funeral director," he said. "That's not very common in the business. Some families are more comfortable talking to a woman. Women who have lost their husbands may come in and want to talk to a woman."

Wojciechowski is also proud of the family-owned aspect of the business.

"Family-owned funeral homes have started disappearing in the past 10 years," he said. "We've always found we could do a better job with some things. We want to make sure we are giving the quality you are going to pay for. Corporations have different priorities. They have a board of directors and stockholders. Our priorities are to the family."

Business Briefs

Morton Grove Chamber holds Awards and Installation Dinner

On Thursday, Jan. 22 the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold its annual Installation and Awards Dinner at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 Milwaukee in Niles.

The evening will honor traditional VIP Business Person of the Year Award to Dino Karageorgis, owner and operator of Champs Sports Bar & Grill. The evening will also present anniversary awards to the 5, 10, 15, and 30-year member businesses, showing appreciation for commitment and support throughout the years.

A new addition to the event will be recognition of their Members of the Month and the announcement of the Member of the Year. The 2004 Board of Directors will be installed by State Representative Louis Lang.

For more information, contact the Chamber at (847) 965-0330.

Re/Max agents from Chicago area optimistic about 2004 home market

2003 has been a record year for home sales in the Chicago area. The number of homes sold in the Chicago area during the first 10 months of 2003 was 127,813, up 7.8 percent from the same period in 2002, according to Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois.

The Illinois Association of realtors reports that the median cost of a single-family home in the Chicago area during the third quarter of 2003 was \$233,400, up 8.6 percent from the third quarter of 2002. The median price of a condo or townhouse rose to \$185,200 for the quarter, an increase of 6.6 percent.

According to a sampling of top Re/Max agents from across Chicagoland, home sales activity should remain brisk, with strong demand for housing in most market areas.

Jim Merriam, regional director of Re/Max Northern Illinois, takes an optimistic outlook. He believes that if mortgage rates rise by no more than 0.5 percent, and the economy continues to improve, 2004 home sales could hold some surprises on the upside.

"Much depends on what mortgage interest rates do over the course of the new year," said Merriam. "Will those rates be pushed up by an improving economy or remain relatively stable? Most experts predict modest rate increases in 2004, but only time will tell."

Norwood Park Home Schedules Open House, Jan. 14

Norwood Park Home will be holding their "Winter Wonderland Open House" on Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Norwood Park Home, 6016-6020 N. Nina Ave., Chicago.

Visitors will have the opportunity to tour Assisted Living (Sheltered Care) accommodations and learn about Norwood Park Home's programs and activities. In the process, they'll be able to meet staff and residents.

For more information, call (773) 631-4856.



The Bugle runs business profiles to highlight those businesses that support the publication.

Business Calendar

Saturday, January 24

The Park Ridge Chamber will host its annual Dinner Dance at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect, Park Ridge. For more information, contact the Chamber at (847) 825-3121.

Wednesday, January 14

The Niles Chamber of Commerce will host a Business After-Hours at Unforgettable Edibles/Blackthorn Manor, 7280 W. Devon in Chicago. The networking event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP to the Chamber a couple of days in advance if you wish to attend. (847) 966-7606.

Does your business have an event coming up that you'd like to see featured on our business calendar?

E-mail your events to:

news@buglenewspapers.com

or fax to (847) 588-1911.

Events listed in the "Business Calendar" are compiled from submissions to *The Bugle*. The editor reserves the right to edit any submissions.

PARK RIDGE

Thursday January 8, 2004

The Bugle

Snow removal sensitive to the environment

BY WENDY ELLIS
wellis@buglenewspapers.com

Park Ridge snow removal efforts continue very smoothly according to Park Ridge City Manager Schuenke. The city plows and salts all arterial and collector streets and up to 150 feet around each intersection.

Schuenke noted that there might be snow pack midblock on some streets. Unlike Niles and other surrounding communities Park Ridge does not salt secondary streets, only arterial streets, collector streets and 150 feet around intersections.

According to Schuenke, even with the decreased plowing and salting Park Ridge still has some of the best snow removal in the area, second only to Niles.

The primary reason for decreased salting is for environmental concerns.

"I can look at my parkway every spring and notice a part of it is dead from the winter salting," Schuenke said. "We are a tree community and less salt,

reduces the damage to those plants."

Salt also washes away into sewers, where it travels into streams, rivers and eventually lakes. This excess salt in the water causes problems for plants, fish and animals.

"This is a very forward thinking concept," Schuenke said. "I consider Park Ridge to be more advanced than other communities in this respect."

Withholding salt from the middle of these secondary streets also helps the budget, saving taxpayers an estimated \$100,000-\$120,000 a year. Despite this large savings, Schuenke says this reason is secondary to the environmental concerns.

Those finding problems with ice-covered streets will have to think of the beauty they will reap when spring rolls around and the flowers begin to bloom. In the sub zero conditions it may be hard to consider those times but Schuenke says that the sacrifice is important.

"Yes you have to drive a little slower at times," Schuenke said. "But in the end it's worth it."

Racing down the hill



Cold weather hasn't deterred Park Ridge's youth from utilizing the Centennial Park Hill for some winter fun. Monday saw 240 people visiting the hill.

Sledding at Centennial Park is at your own risk. The warming shelter which is located in the Senior Center is open during scheduled hours when the sled hill sign is posted as open.

A wind chill factor of below 20 degrees or a temperature of below 10 degrees will close all rinks and sledding.

Photos were taken last winter and are courtesy of the Park Ridge Park District.



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Park Ridge creates new residential fire suppression requirements

All new applications for a building permit for a new house in Park Ridge, must include four copies of fire suppression system drawings stamped and licensed by a professional engineer since Jan. 1, 2004. Applications without those drawings will not be processed. Park Ridge has required all

new construction in Park Ridge, commercial and residential, to have automatic fire sprinkler systems since Mar. 1 2001. The sprinkler requirement was part of the comprehensive revision of the portions of the Municipal Code that deal with fire operations and fire prevention.

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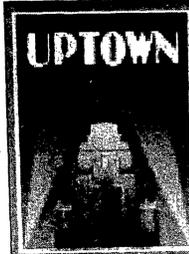
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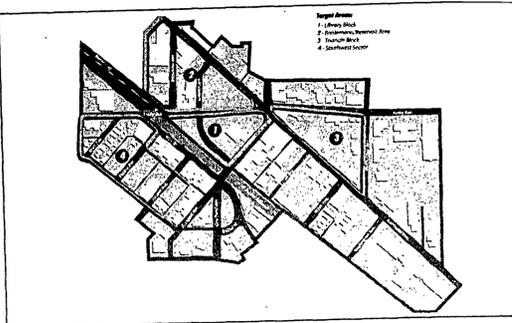
PARK RIDGE

The changing face of Uptown



Over the next five weeks, The Bugle will be bringing its readers a running feature on Park Ridge's Uptown Redevelopment, an issue that has been called the most important decision for Park Ridge in the last 50 years. In an effort to promote the redevelopment efforts and inform the community, the feature on Uptown Redevelopment will be split into five different areas: "History" (Jan. 8), "Target Area 2" (Jan.

15), "Target Areas 1, 3, 4" (Jan. 22), "Financing" (Jan. 29), and "The Next Fifty Years" (Feb. 5). With the selection of a developer for Target Area 2 as little as three months away and ground-breaking as few as four months away, it is important that the citizens of Park Ridge are informed and that they avail themselves of the remaining chances for public input on the issue of Uptown Redevelopment.



Events in the Uptown Redevelopment Effort

■ 1996-Park Ridge Comprehensive Plan passed by the City Council. The plan was meant to encompass the entire city. It only provided general guidelines for the future of Uptown.

■ 1998-Bredemann auto dealer properties at Summit Ave. and Northwest Hwy., and Meacham Ave., Touhy Ave., and Busse Hwy. The city paid 3.8 million for the two parcels, which it planned to incorporate into a general redevelopment of the area.

■ Dec. 1999-Uptown Advisory Task Force was formed. It consisted of 26 individuals appointed by then-mayor Ron Wietecha. 10 members were members of city boards, commissions, or the council. The remaining 16 were prominent members of the community. The task force was assisted by city planning staff and the consulting firm of Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen, and Payne (TPAP).

■ Mar. 2001 - Leaking discovered in Uptown reservoir. Repairs are

conducted to patch reservoir.

■ Jan. 2002- Uptown Advisory Task Force submits Uptown Master Plan to City Council. The master plan was incorporated into the Comprehensive plan and used to develop specific goals for the Uptown Redevelopment effort. The master plan divided the Uptown area into four different target areas. One of the recommendations made was that the reservoir be moved from its current site because of the difficulties involved in constructing

atop it.

■ Mar. 2003 - City officially proposes the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in the Uptown area to encourage development. The idea was initially explored in late 2002 but the public process was begun in early 2003.

■ Aug. 2003 - TIF was adopted by the City Council for the Uptown area. In the same month, the council approved the Request

for Qualifications (RFQ) which were sent to about 150 developers. The RFQs set out the terms for a redevelopment of Target Area 2. Interested developers were required to return the completed RFQs by Nov. 3.

■ Dec. 1, 2003 - RFQs returned from 19 developers.

■ Dec. 15, 2003- Council narrows list to five developers. Specific proposals for TA2 due back by March 2004.



OUTSIDE IN INSIDE OUT

By Chuck Baldacchino

If not us, who? If not now, when?

As I write saying this may be; but it applies to Park Ridge.

We have in Park Ridge an enormous store of good people, good ideas, and good (great?) wealth. So why is it that we don't have the VERY best

schools, parks, city services, and civic leaders?

You might say we do; I say we don't. You might say I'm just being negative; I'd counter that you just haven't set the bar high enough.

You think our schools are the best? Check last November's Illinois School Report Cards. (<http://206.166.105.128/ReportCard/rchome.asp>)

Do a comparison between D-64 elementary schools (and the District as a whole) to other communities that you think might be

comparable to ours. If history holds true (and I believe it will), you'll see our elementary schools fare statistically badly next to those in many other towns - especially when compared on per-pupil spending.

These tests don't tell the whole story? Fine. Pick some measurements you like (there MUST be some) and compare with those. Don't be too disappointed if the results are the same.

And ask the leaders of D-207 why there are ever-declining numbers of National Merit scholars coming out of our local high schools - and why there are ever-growing reports of expanding substance abuse among ALL our school children.

Our Park District is being run better and better each year. But,

the residuals from previous bad management have yet to be expunged, and - considering that it's called the Recreation and PARK District, go try to find a pastoral spot to enjoy the parks without interruption by recreation or by massive vehicle traffic. Bucolic? Not that I can find easily.

City services? Our infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate to unsightly - if not dangerous - levels, especially over the last two decades. Do we need a new water reservoir? When was this detected? Why isn't it being fixed or replaced now?

Our streets? Walk, instead of drive. (That's better for you anyway.) Observe the cracks, potholes, and broken curbs that

go by so swiftly and smoothly as

you drive in your car. Traffic and parking? Need I say more? Do something!

If our infrastructure is so bad, is it good governance to participate in the building of an international airport in Peotone in the meantime? Is this a "guns or butter" issue? Where are our illustrious City leaders, elected and appointed both?

I don't say these things to denigrate Park Ridge. (I've been here for over 25 years; and I won't vote with my feet.) I say them so that you can ask the good people you elected and allowed to be appointed the opening question:

If not us, who? If not now, when?

Chuck@ParkRidgeBugle.com



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Niles Park District Events...

Niles Park District Tot Classes

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Cooking Monsters

Children make, eat or take home treats while learning basic cooking techniques. A recipe book will be sent home at the conclusion of class. Program is for children ages 3-5 on Wednesdays, 01/14-02/18 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Registration is being accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. For information, call (847) 967-6633.

Saturday Parent & Tot

Mom and Dad, now is your chance to spend more time with your little one. This class brings you together by participating in crafts, games, stories and songs. Program is for children ages 2-5 years on Saturdays, 01/17-02/21 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Registration is being accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard Street. For information, call (847) 967-6633.

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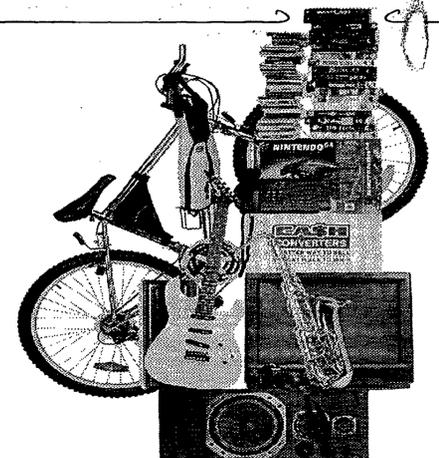
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Tony Smith Show - Fri. January 9, 9pm-1am (\$5 cover)
Ronnie Ross Show - Sat. January 10, 9pm-1am

Judy Roberts & Greg Fishman - Sun. January 11 5pm-9pm

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Helping Fido settle in

Q. We purchased Jake, a golden retriever puppy, just in time for Christmas as a gift for our 6-year-old son. Jake is more than 3 months old and fully weaned. We've had him for two weeks, and he still won't stop crying at night. It's keeping everyone awake. Help! — Tony, via e-mail

A. Jake's continued crying after two weeks is an indication that he hasn't fully settled in to his new home.

HOME

No matter how much love and attention you lavish on him, he still just left the litter, and he misses his mother, brothers and sisters. It's natural. However, two straight weeks of crying isn't common. Check with your veterinarian first. He or she may ask you to bring Jake in for a look to make sure the puppy isn't experiencing health problems that were missed or that developed since his first visit. If Jake hasn't visited the vet yet, take him right away to assess his health and start his first round of shots. Next, make sure the puppy has all the basic comforts: a crate to sleep in, food and water dishes, a collar and leash, grooming gear and a carrier. Add puppy-safe chew toys and treats. Now, put yourself in Jake's place. Imagine your first day in summer camp, or kindergarten, or other childhood settings that were new and unfamiliar. Jake could feel very much

the same: alone and confused. Give him lots of attention during the day, play with him often — and start his training in basic obedience. Spend more time on play at first than on obedience, but structure his day nonetheless. Make him feel like he belongs to the family and has a purpose in the household. A last tip: At night, place a blanket or towel containing your scent in Jake's crate along with a ticking clock. You might even try wrapping the towel around a warm water bottle. In short, make the crate feel like a new home. Settling Jake in may take a few more days, but it is possible to ease his transition.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com

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By Sam Mazzotta

Sturdy Stair Building Tips

Q. I plan to build some back steps to our mobile home in January. Enclosed please find a diagram of the stairs I intend to build. Do you think this design is stable enough for everyday use? — Mike P., Salem, Mo.

A. For folks at home without access to this diagram, Mike is planning to build a short wooden stair to the back entry door of a standard mobile home. This is a really good little carpentry project and, with care taken throughout the process, such an outdoor stair can be built within a day. Measurement guidelines should be followed closely; be patient and double-check all your figures. Outdoor steps (for example, steps leading onto a deck) are required by many state building codes to be at least 36 inches

wide (for exact requirements, contact a building inspector). This helps keep the stairs stable under your weight. In addition, the vertical distance between each step should be between six and eight inches, and the width of the tread should be 10 to 13 inches.

To get the exact height and width of the steps, get out your calculator and measuring tape. Then, measure the distance from the bottom of the mobile-home door to the ground (the rise), and the distance from the ground where the back of the steps will be to the point where you want the stairway to end (the run). Looking at the height of the rise will tell you how many steps you'll need (for example, a height of 35 inches can be divided into five steps, each with a height of 7 inches). The length of the run, divided by the number of steps, will give you the width of each step (i.e., a measurement of 55 inches divided by 5 steps equals a run width of 11 inches each). When you cut the risers, using sturdy hardwood, of course, use these measurements to cut accurately. Stair treads should overhang the stringers by an inch on both ends. As to stability, the X-brace

HOME

across the back of your steps should be sufficient to provide vertical stabilization. Make sure they are securely attached to the post boards on either side, but place only one nail (or bolt and nut, preferably) through the center where the boards cross so the wood can bend and warp with weight and weather changes with minimal damage. To increase overall stability, build a square frame around the entire back of the staircase. It serves as a flat, stable platform, keeping the back posts from sinking into the mud; the top can be bolted or clamped directly to the mobile home without compromising the posts, too.

HOME TIP

When cutting stair stringers, measure and cut the first one very carefully and use it as a template to cut the remaining stringers.

Send questions or home repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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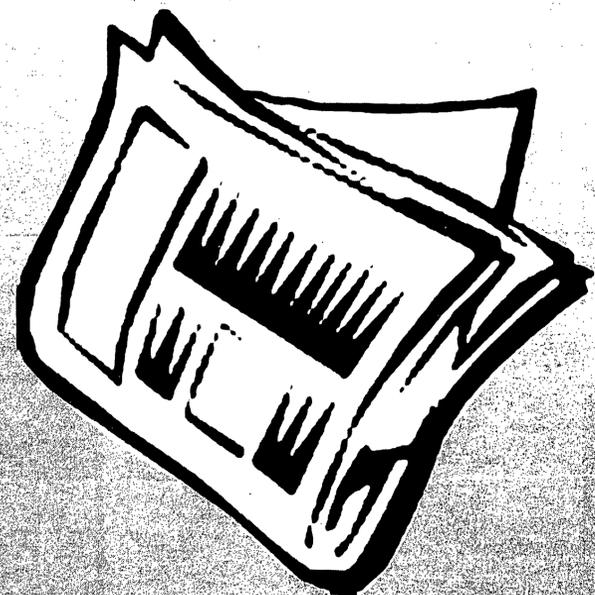
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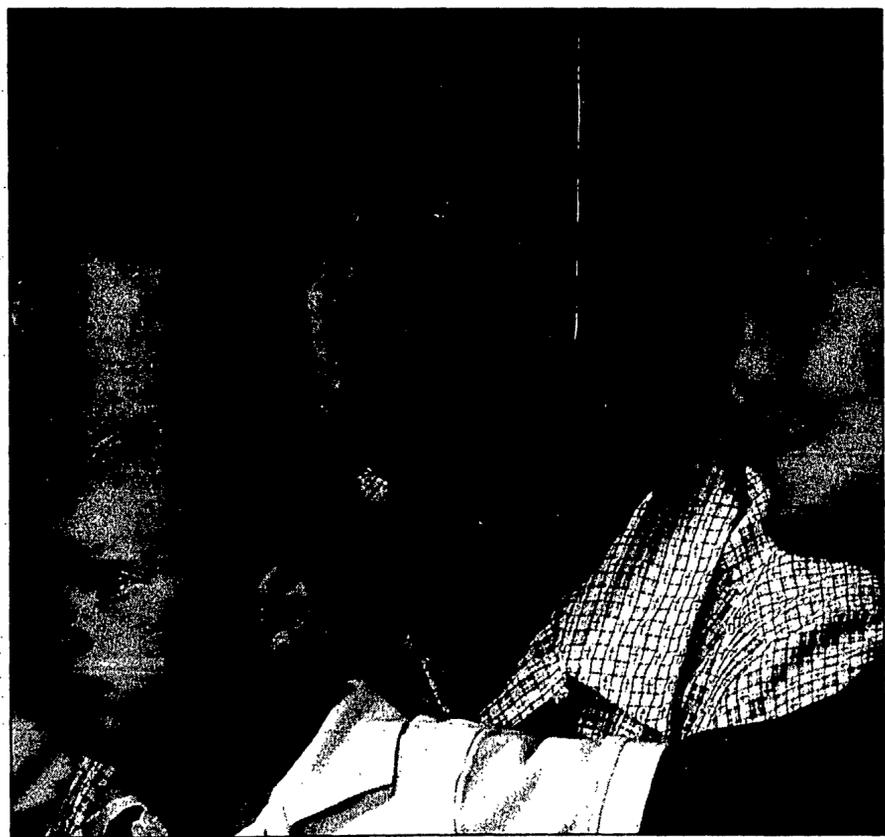
2003 In Review

In this, the second part of of "Year in Review" feature, some additional features and stories are pictured. The staff of *The Bugle* would like to again wish all the residents of Morton Grove, Niles, and Park Ridge safe and happy 2004. We look forward to another year serving you.

(Right) Explosion and Fire in Niles: An apparant suicide resulted in a car explosion in the garage pictured at right, on Greenwood Ave. in unincorporated Niles.

The explosion blew the garage door across Greenwood into the parking lot of Golf Mill Mall as well as starting the home on fire.

In this photograph, nvestigators look over the garage area. The car is where the man who committed suicide was found dead. Before the body could be removed from the car, the vehicle had to be moved out of the garage.



Above) In touch with mom: Safe in the arms of his father, Gyula, Daniel Orban, 2, reaches out to make sure his mother Rodita is near as they watch aerialists perform at the Carson & Barnes Circus, at Niles West, July 30.

Right) Principal caught fooling around: Nelson School principal Larry Mishkin kisses Bakon, a Vietnamese potbelly pig as part of an agreement he had with children if \$20,000 was raised. (Photo by Allen Kaleta)

