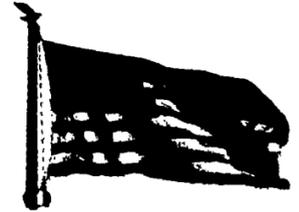




NOV 24 2004

THE BUGLE



Since 1957

Thursday, November 25, 2004

Vol. 48 No. 27

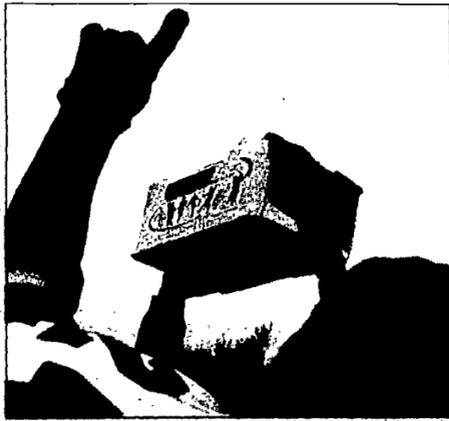
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Inside this edition...



Blast from the past

Carolyn Kosiba puts the trimmings on her hot dog during the Niles Park District's 50th Anniversary Sock Hop last Friday night. For the story, turn to page 10.



Hawks move on

Maine South head coach David Inserra holds up the IHSA box containing the documents necessary to play in the championship game after their victory against Wheaton Warrenville Saturday. For the story, turn to page 11.

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In the News

- ☐ Final Uptown Plan presented to Park Ridge Council, pg. 2
- ☐ MG Trustee Jim Karp says political career is not over, pg. 10

Notice

- ☐ The Bugle's offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Elevator planned for Niles Police Station



Inaccessible
A special report
from The Bugle

Existing ramp will be repaired, stay in place

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER
editor@buglenewspapers.com

An elevator will be constructed at the new Niles Police Station, village officials said Friday, in order to provide access to those who might have difficulty ascending the over 120-foot long ramp which was originally intended for use by persons with disabilities. The elevator will satisfy state and federal accessibility requirements instead of the ramp.

Four weeks ago, The Bugle reported that there might be a problem with the ramp. Though the village initially said the ramp was in compliance with all accessibility laws, a survey by accessibility specialist and architect Doug Mohnke revealed problems with the ramp's slope and handrails. The village began working with their contracting company, Ragner Benson and architect Phillips Swager last week to fix those problems.

"It has to be corrected," Niles
Continues...

INACCESSIBLE PAGE 4.

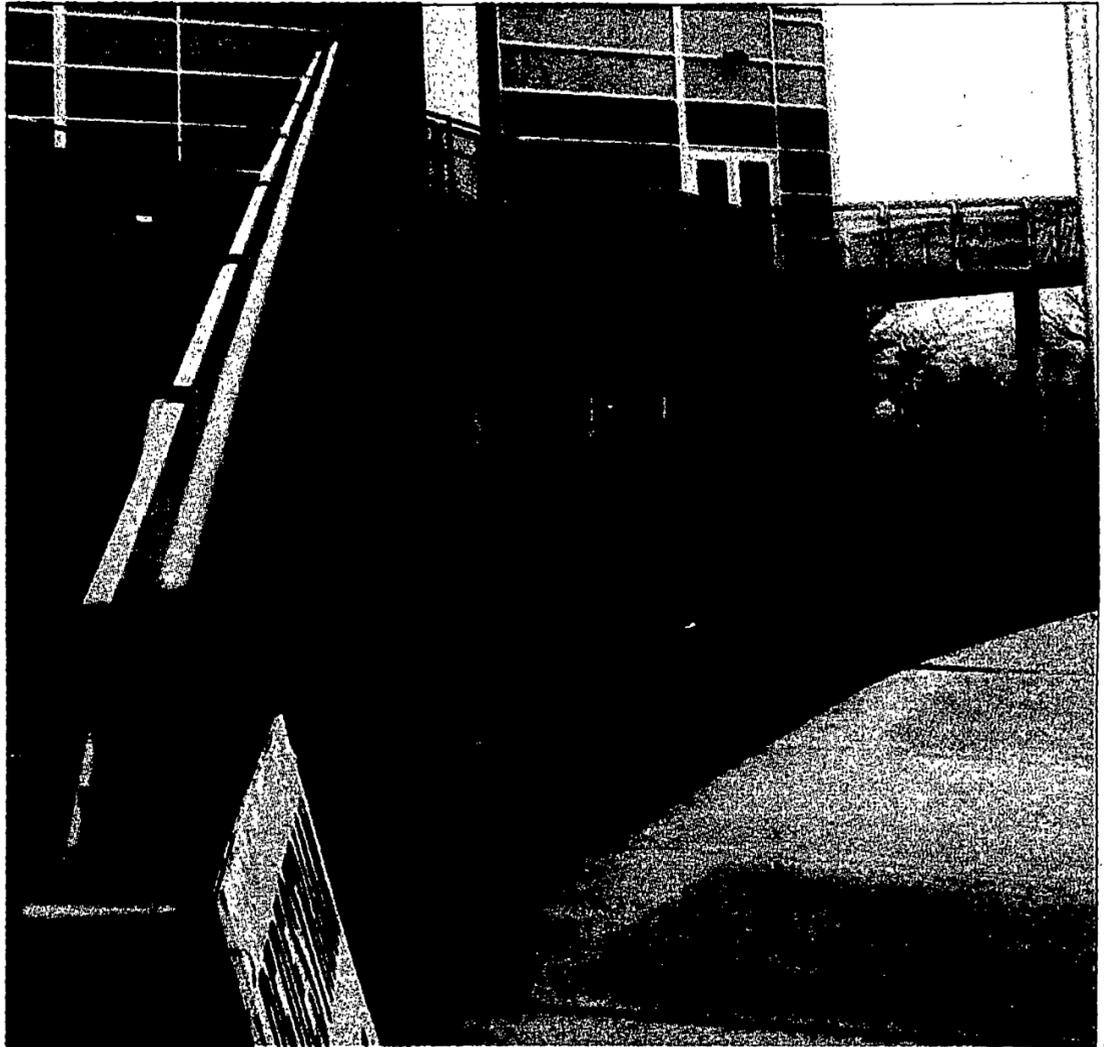


Photo by Allen Kalata/Bugle

Uplifting

The village of Niles intends to construct an elevator to allow access to the recently completed Niles Police Station at Touhy and Milwaukee. The elevator will discharge onto the level area before the station's front door, pictured above. It will make the building more convenient to those with disabilities who will no longer be required to use a ramp that currently leads to the entrance.

Mosque approved 4-1 by MG Board

Conditions may cause MCC to reject agreement

A special use permit that will allow a new mosque and school addition to be built at the Muslim Education Center (MEC) located at 8601 Menard in Morton Grove was approved by the village board Monday night. 32 conditions were attached to the permit. The final vote was four to one with Trustee Rick Krier opposed.

Representatives of the Muslim Community Center (MCC), which owns the MEC, said that several of the

conditions were unnecessarily burdensome on the MCC and that their board might not approve the project with the village's conditions attached. If the MCC board rejects the special use permit and, thus, the federally mediated agreement, it could land the village back in court.

"If the MCC board rejects the special use permit that means we're back in court," said Yasir Aleemuddin, the MCC's general counsel.

MCC President Mohammad Kaiseruddin said that the MCC's board is scheduled to meet in about three weeks, on Sunday, Dec. 11 and that the special use permit will either be taken up by the board then, or at a

special meeting which could be called as early as next week.

Members of the village board expressed frustration that MCC representatives tried to alter the 32 conditions at the board meeting. Among the objectionable conditions were clauses requiring the MCC to end all non-religious activity at the expanded facility by 10 p.m., forbidding occupancy of the prayer hall and the community room in the basement by more than 675 individuals and restricting the MEC School to only kindergarten through eighth grade classes.

During hearings of the vil-

Continues...

MOSQUE page 3.

Krier to lead 'Caucus' slate

Sitting Morton Grove Trustee Rick Krier will lead the Caucus Party's slate as their mayoral candidate for the April 2005 elections, party leaders announced over the weekend.

Krier was the only Caucus Party candidate to be elected to the village board in the last election. The 2005 slate will also feature Georgianne Brunner, Rita Minx and Roy Kogstad as trustee candidates and Carol Fritzshall as a candidate for the village clerk.

Saying that they expected an uphill fight, Caucus Party officials said that their platform is to

Continues...

KRIER page 4.

NEWS



Mayor Nick Blase said. According to Blase, the decision to construct the elevator was made last week when village officials learned that a 64-year-old woman was unable to make it to the top of the ramp because of its extreme length. The woman, Ginger Lane, was an employee with the advocacy group Access Living. She often tests ramps with her manual wheelchair.

"We made the decision when we learned of the involvement of advocacy groups," said Blase. "Even if [the ramp] can be made to conform we're going to put in an elevator because, for some people, it may still be difficult to get up the ramp and we want [access to the building] to be convenient."

Plans for the elevator are still in

the preliminary stages, but Blase said it would be located on the building's exterior and would discharge onto the level area in before the building's front entrance 14-feet off the ground.

Village Manager Mary Kay Morrissey said that architects were currently developing plans for the elevator and that no final determination on either the design or the location had been made. No time-frame was set for completion of the elevator, but Morrissey said it should definitely be finished within the next six months.

"We'd like to see it completed as soon as possible," she said.

In the meantime, the ramp will be fixed so that it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Illinois

Environmental Barriers Act, which set guidelines for accessibility. The ramp is currently in violation of those regulations because of improper slope, missing grading above the set of stairs, and various smaller problems with the handrails.

In order to ensure access, until the elevator is constructed, the village is considering installing an intercom at the bottom of the ramp.

"We're looking at options like an intercom," said Morrissey, "so that someone could come down to help a person up if they needed it."

The new police station was completed earlier this year. It replaced a smaller building that the Niles Police had occupied since the 1960s.

(Continued from page 4)

ART KASSUL IN CHICAGO PREMIERE COMEDY

The Return of Herbert Bracewell

I didn't know he'd been away. Boy! Is he still alive?

Herbert who?

Box Office: 773/327-5252

THEATRE BUILDING CHICAGO
1225 W BELMONT AVE

Krier

restore trust in Morton Grove government through open and unbiased discussion of all issues, reestablish fiscal integrity and undertake "compassionate" repair of village problems.

Last week Morton Grove's Action Party announced that its slate would be led by Dan

Staaekmann and that three of the Party's incumbents, Mayor Dan Scanlon, Trustee Jim Karp and Clerk Marilyn Sneider would not run again. But they believed that their slate was the best to lead Morton Grove in the future.

"We look forward to the campaign," said Krier. "We think

(Continued from page 1)

that the Action Party has put together a formidable slate and we're going to give it our best shot. If elected we will make some changes in the villages."

Krier also said he was proud to be running with the other candidates who, he believed, would make a great addition to the vil-

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815-965-2900 www.ndhsdms.org

BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

Edward Jones

Giving Financial Gifts? Know the Rules

As the holidays draw closer, you may be spending time looking for the right gifts for your loved ones. This year, why not skip the hassles and, at the same time, give a gift that can improve the recipients' financial outlook?

Before you gift-wrap those 100 shares of Company XYZ stock, however, you'll want to know a few things about making this type of transaction. Both you and your loved one will benefit more from your gift — if you know the rules.

Understanding Gift Taxes

When you give a financial gift to another individual, you won't get a tax deduction, but, most of the time, you won't have to pay a gift tax, either. However, if you give more than the "annual exclusion amount" (\$11,000 for 2004) to one person (other than your spouse) in a single year, you'll have to file a gift tax return. You probably still won't need to pay a gift tax; you can give up to \$1 million during your lifetime before you incur these taxes. And you won't use up any of this amount until your gifts to one person in one year exceed the annual exclusion amount. So, for example, if you make a \$15,000 gift in 2004, you have used up only \$4,000 of your lifetime limit.

Any amount you use out of your lifetime gift tax exclusion counts against the *estate tax exclusion*, which is \$1.5 million for 2004 and 2005. For example, if you use \$200,000 of the limit by making gifts during your lifetime, you have reduced by \$200,000 the amount that can

pass through your estate free of the estate tax. (The estate tax is scheduled to be repealed in 2010, but this could change. In any case, see your tax adviser before making any substantial financial gifts.)

Do the Math Before Giving Stocks

Once you know the gift tax rules, you can decide how much stock you want to give away. You'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock (its cost basis), how long you've held the stock and the fair market value of the stock at the date of the gift. Recipients will need this information to determine capital gains (or losses if and when they decide to sell the stock you've given them).

Gifts for IRAs

You don't have to actually give stocks to help your intended recipients make progress toward their financial goals. As an alternative, consider giving your loved ones money to add more shares of stock (or bonds or other investments) to an IRA. For 2004, investors can put up to \$3,000 in a Roth or traditional IRA (or \$3,500 if they are 50 or older). If your intended recipients have fully funded their IRAs for 2004, they can apply your gift for 2005, when the IRA contribution limit is \$4,000 (or \$4,500 for those 50 or older).

Happy Holidays...

By giving stocks or other financial gifts, you can brighten the holidays for those you care most about — and your generosity will be felt for years to come.

JEFFREY Cardella can be reached at Edward Jones, 8141 N. Milwaukee, Niles, 847-470-8953

THE BUGLE Thursday November 25, 2004 5

Minelli Bros
7780 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles (847) 965-1315

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Saturday 8:30-5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:30-2:00 P.M.
We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct pricing errors.

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SALE ENDS WED., DECEMBER 1

~MEATS~

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|--|---|--|
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| FRESH BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST \$1.99 LB | LEAN GROUND CHUCK 3 LBS OR MORE \$2.89 LB | LEAN JUICY SIRLOIN PATTIES \$3.69 LB |

~DELI~

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ECKRICH LITE HAM \$2.98 LB | WISCONSIN SWISS CHEESE \$2.98 LB |
|--------------------------------------|--|

~PRODUCE~

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| FRESH SPINACH 99¢ 10 OZ BAG | GOLDEN RIPE BANANAS 39¢ 1 LB | CALIFORNIA NAVEL ORANGES 59¢ LB | PERUVIAN SWEET ONIONS 59¢ LB |
| GREEN CABBAGE 19¢ LB | | | |

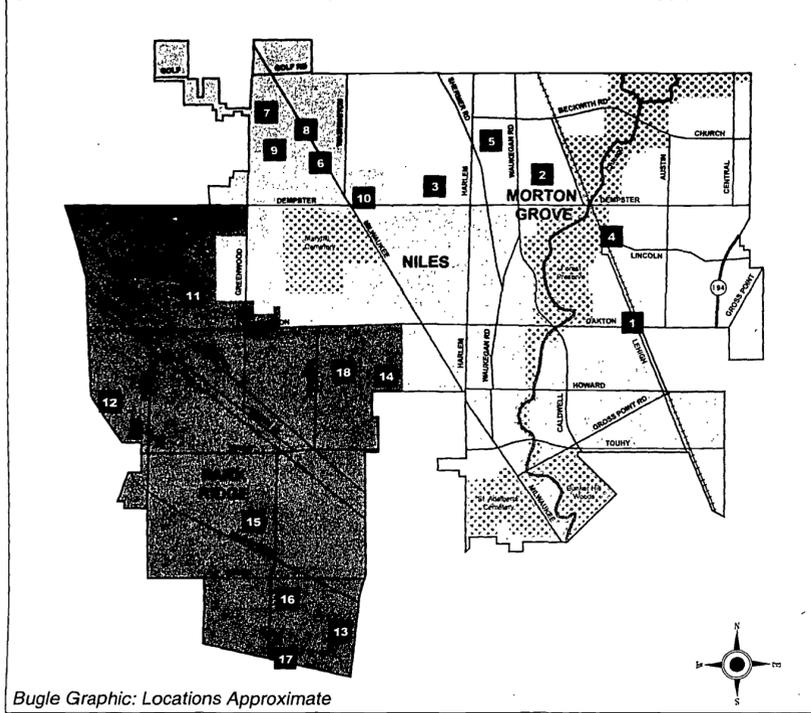
~GROCERY~

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| NURETTI 100% OLIVE OIL \$3.99 17 OZ BTL | ZANELINI PASTA 2 FOR \$1.00 1 LB | NONNI'S BISCOTTI DECORATIVE COOKIE JAR \$9.99 6.39 OZ |
| CENTRELLA TOMATO SAUCE 4 FOR \$1.00 8 OZ CAN | HILLS BROS COFFEE \$4.99 34.5-39 OZ CAN | MRS GRASS NOODLE SOUP \$1.19 5 OZ BOX |
| MARCONI CORN OIL \$3.99 GAL | LANGER'S CRANBERRY JUICE 2 FOR \$5.00 64 OZ BTL | JAY'S POTATO CHIPS 2 FOR \$4.00 12 OZ BAG |

~LIQUORS~

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| STROHS BEER \$10.49 30 PKG 12 OZ CANS | EARLY TIMES \$15.99 1.75 LITER | VENDANGE WHITE ZINFANDEL \$3.99 750 ML |
| BAILEYS IRISH CREAM \$16.99 750 ML | CAVIT PINOT GRIGIO OR PINOT NOIR \$7.99 750 ML | BUDWEISER \$7.99 12 PKG 12 OZ BTLs |

POLICE BLOTTER



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

MORTON GROVE

The following items were taken from official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending November 19, 2004.

- 1 Battery theft (6300 Oakton)**
A 38-year-old Skokie man got more charges then he needed when Morton Grove police charged him with retail theft for allegedly shoplifting a battery pack from the Menards store in the 6300 block of Oakton Thursday morning November 11.
According to police, a security guard at the store watched the man on security camera as he opened a power tool kit and removed the battery. The security guard said the man placed the battery into a similar tool kit and then paid for that kit. Security said the man paid for the tool but was stopped just beyond the registers because of the additional battery. Although the report lists the value of the power tool set at \$134.99 it does list the value of the battery. The man has a court date of January 3, 2004 in Skokie.
- 2 Jeans stolen (6800 Dempster)**
A 37-year-old Chicago woman was charged with shoplifting five pairs of jeans from the Marshall's store in the 6800 block of Dempster Tuesday evening November 16. According to police, a security guard at the store watched the woman enter the store along with two other women carrying large flat bags. The security guard along with another guard at the store watched as the woman removed five pairs of jeans from the display rack and carried them to different section of the store. The guards told

police they watched the woman remove the security tags and place the items into her bag and walk out of the store before they stopped her. The guards told police the other two women purchased items and then left. The five pairs of jeans were valued at \$100.

- 3 Man arrested on outstanding warrant (7200 Dempster)**
Morton Grove police arrested a man on an outstanding warrant after they found him waiting in a car outside the Loehman's store in the 7200 block of Dempster Thursday afternoon November 11. Police were led to the man after questioning a 22-year-old Elmwood Park woman regarding a retail theft charge at the store.
In that incident, security guards at the store watched the woman place a pair of women's panties into her purse along with other lingerie items. The items were valued at \$120.
- 4 Storage locker burglarized (6400 Lincoln)**
A plastic latch on a storage locker located on the ground floor of a condominium building in the 6400 block of Lincoln Ave. was just not enough to keep someone from removing nearly \$4,000 in tools from the locker.
According to police, the 61-year-old owner of the locker called police Wednesday October 27 after she discovered the plastic latch on the locker had been cut and a number of items from the locker were scattered on the floor near her car. The woman told police her 38-year-old son, who lives at the same address was unable discern what was missing until November 9. The woman told police

her son discovered numerous tools and fishing gear were missing. According to the report, the man called the police on November 11 with an itemized list. Among the items stolen from the locker were a \$500 trolling motor, a Woodstream fishing tackle box with tackle valued at \$200, and a \$1,200 DeWalt 18 volt self leveling laser kit.

- 5 Car stolen (7100 Church)**
A green 1993 Toyota Carry was stolen from in front of the owners home in the 7100 block of Church sometime overnight Sunday November 14. The 43-year-old owner of the car told police someone stole her car sometime after 11 p.m. because her husband had come home at that time and parked the car in front of their house.

NILES

The following items were taken from official reports of the Niles Police Department for the week ending November 22, 2004.

- 6 High Speed Chase (9000 Milwaukee)**
A 23-year-old Glenview man led police on a high speed chase in the westbound lanes of Howard St. near Milwaukee Ave. in the early morning hours of Saturday November 20.
According to police, a Niles police officer on patrol saw a cargo van traveling at 100 m.p.h. southeast on Milwaukee Ave. swerving from center lane to curb.
Police said the van struck the rear of a black Honda Civic and continued to elude the police officer trying to curb the car.

Police said the driver of the van lost control at Sibley and Elmore and jumped the curb and drove onto the west parkway lawn hitting a stop sign and a tree. The car stopped in a row bushes in the east parkway lawn at 120 Sibley.
At this point police said the man started to run from the scene, but police were able to capture the man and handcuff him.
Police said the man smelled of alcohol and the man admitted to drinking at a friend's house. The man refused field sobriety tests.
Besides a DUI arrest the man was charged with aggravated fleeing of the police, speeding, driving with a suspended license, and a number of other traffic violations. He appears in court December 7, 2004 in Room 107 in Skokie at 1:30 p.m.

- 7 Power wrenches recovered (Golf Mill)**
A 26-year-old Streamwood man was arrested for shoplifting Thursday evening November 18 after a store security guard at the Sears store in Golf Mill watched the man on a surveillance camera place eight impact drills under his clothing and attempt to leave the store. An air impact drill is about the size of an electric hand drill.
Security allowed the man to pass the cash registers before arresting him. The eight drill were valued at \$1,289.92.

PARK RIDGE

The following items were taken from official reports of the Park Ridge Police for the week ending November 13-18, 2004.

- Burglary (1700 Church)**
A home in the 1700 block of Church was burglarized sometime over the weekend of October 15-18. The owners of the home discovered the rear door forced open and an undisclosed amount of cash missing, but did not report the burglary to the police until a month later.
 - Burglary (600 N. Goodwin)**
A home in the 600 block of N. Goodwin was burglarized sometime between Saturday November 13 and Monday November 15 after someone forced open a basement door.
 - Burglary (100 Brickton)**
A home in the 100 block of Brickton was burglarized Wednesday afternoon November 17 after a thief entered through a basement window.
 - Car burglary (600 Oriole)**
A \$150 CD player and at least \$130 in CDs were taken from an unlocked 1991 Ford Probe parked in the 600 block of Oriole overnight Saturday November 13.
 - Van burglary (500 S. Lincoln)**
A 1996 Dodge Caravan was burglarized while in the owner's driveway in the 500 block of S. Lincoln Ave. sometime overnight November 15. The owner reported CDs and cash missing. The van was not locked.
 - Van burglary (1300 S. Brophy)**
A cellular telephone and an undisclosed amount of money were taken from a 2001 Dodge Caravan parked in the 1300 block of S. Brophy overnight Friday November 12. The van was not locked.
 - Van burglary (Brophy and Higgins)**
Tools valued at \$1,000 were stolen from a van parked in the street near Brophy and Higgins Monday afternoon November 15. Police said someone entered the van by breaking a side vent window.
 - Vandalism (600 N. Washington)**
Vandals smashed the rear window of a 1991 Toyota Previa while it was parked in the street overnight Friday November 12.
- SUMMARY OF CRIME:**
Morton Grove
DUI-5
Theft-1...
Possession of marijuana-2
Niles
Theft -8
DUI-2
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia-2
Park Ridge
Burglary -7
Vandalism-3
Theft-1
Arrests
Non resident-6
Park Ridge residents-3

BUSINESS



Buy or sell bonds? You may overpay

Are'n't bonds strictly for nineties? Isn't a bond investor somebody whose backup investment strategy probably involves a cash box and a Serta mattress? That sort of macho derision, which

was so popular during the stock mania of the 1990s, has withered away. Today, bonds have been discovered by a new crowd, who realize that bonds should no longer be treated like punch lines.
One reason for this newfound popularity is obvious. Many investors now consider the erratic stock market as trustworthy as an ex-spouse. But there's something else going on. The baby boomers have begun their long march toward oblivion, but before they reach that final milestone they will make a long pit stop at retirement. And it's during retirement when investors discover that bonds are as irresistible as a bowl of M&Ms.
With this growing interest in the \$25 trillion bond market, Wall Street regulators have apparently concluded that bond investors should no longer be treated like fools. That's right, fools.
Unfortunately, it's ridiculously easy to trick bondholders, because so many of them are mystified by even the most fundamental fixed-income basics. A report this fall on corporate bonds by the NASD, which is a securities industry regulator, noted that 60 percent of investors don't even understand that when interest rates rise, bond prices drop. Wow.
The researchers looked specifically at the municipal and corporate-bond markets, but the same overpricing phenomenon can be found with other types of bonds.

In the report on muni-bond pricing, the economists estimated that individuals paid double the trading costs of institutional bond traders. This might not sound too egregious unless you realize that the reality is completely different in the world of equities.
If you've ever traded individual stocks, you can appreciate how strange this is. After all, anytime you buy or sell a stock, you know exactly what the commission will be. Commission rates are available on your brokerage firm's Web site, in its printed materials, and you can always call and ask.
Brokerage firms, however, don't publish bond commission rates. And actually, many bond transactions don't trigger commissions anyway. A brokerage firm typically makes its money through what's called markups and markdowns.
When a brokerage firm offers you a bond, it's usually been sitting in its own inventory. The firm sells you the bond at a higher price than it paid. Reasonable markups are considered fair compensation for the brokerage firm for holding a bond. Unfortunately, there are few legal limits on how high these markups can be. Individual bond investors face another problem.
When you ask your brokerage firm to sell a bond for you, it's only natural to assume it's going to find the best price.

But maybe you shouldn't be so trusting. This summer, the NASD fined eight securities firms for failing to obtain a fair bond price for a few of its customers. The firms were Charles Schwab, Edward Jones, First Trust, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, Prudential, UBS and Wachovia.
In paying fines and restitution totaling \$610,000, the firms neither admitted nor denied the charges, which is a standard Wall Street ploy. Some of the bond transactions were lulu. Merrill Lynch, for instance, paid an investor \$5,237.50 for his municipal bonds and sold them for \$5,350. This would have been an unremarkable trade except for what happened later in the same day. By golly, somebody unloaded the bonds for \$10,054. The next day, somebody else snatched up these bonds for an even higher price. The NASD later determined that the fair market value of the original owner's bonds was \$9,737.50. Somebody at Merrill Lynch sure goofed.
How do you avoid price gouging or incompetence? Cheer up. More ways exist to protect yourself than ever before. You'll just have to wait till next week to find out.
Lynn O'Shaughnessy is the author of "The Retirement Bible" and "The Investing Bible." She can be reached at LynnOShaughnessy@cox.net. Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.

Recent survey shows need for credit education

(NUI) - Just how critical is a good credit score? It is a key factor in determining whether you qualify for a home loan and the interest rate you'll pay.
On a \$150,000 home mortgage, a difference of just two percentage points can mean a savings of more than \$70,000 in interest over 30 years. Yet a new survey by HSBC indicates that seven in 10 consumers don't know their credit score. And nearly half don't know what makes up their credit score.
HSBC offers these six tips that could lead to a higher credit score.
* Make your credit payments promptly.
To help close the knowledge gap, HSBC launched its "Your Credit Counts" financial-education program for a second consecutive year.
HSBC's "Your Credit Counts" Web site (www.yourcreditcounts.com) offers a variety of resources to help consumers test their credit knowledge, better understand their credit report and assist them in managing their credit.
HSBC also has enlisted Tony Award-winning actress Phylicia Rashad and Emmy-winning actor Edward James Olmos to assist the "Your Credit Counts" campaign.
"Many people say they don't know where to begin to learn about credit," said Rashad. "For them, education is the ultimate tool in helping make good financial decisions, and that's what www.yourcreditcounts.com provides to anyone, anytime."
"Not only does the program help consumers understand credit, it can help them correct or improve their credit rating - and that gives them more and better financial options," added Olmos.
Through December 31, 2004, visitors to www.yourcreditcounts.com can register for a sweepstakes to win a \$25,000 grand prize as well as monthly prizes that include laptop computers, personal digital assistants and MP3 digital-music players.

Getting your credit report is easy and will soon be free

(NUI) - Obtaining a copy of your credit report is easy and, thanks to Uncle Sam, it soon will be free.
That's welcome news since it's a good idea, especially before applying for a loan or other credit, to know where you stand by checking your credit report (which details how well you pay your loans, bills and credit card purchases).
Under legislation passed by Congress in December 2003 and new Federal Trade Commission

rules, consumers can request a free copy of their credit report every 12 months.
Once you obtain your credit report, visit yourcreditcounts.com for tips on how to read and understand it - and on how to improve your credit standing, if necessary.
This Web site, sponsored by leading financial services company HSBC - North America, provides new tools and other valuable information about borrowing, saving and credit management.
The three major national credit bureaus - Equifax, Experian and

TransUnion - are establishing a centralized source for accepting consumer requests for the free reports. That source will include a dedicated Web site, a toll-free telephone number and a postal address.
The free credit report program rolls out across the country beginning Dec. 1, 2004, when consumers in 13 Western states can start requesting their reports. Residents of 12 Midwestern states will become eligible on March 1, 2005; 11 Southern states on June 1, 2005; and the remaining 14

states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and all U.S. territories on Sept. 1, 2005.
It's a good idea to time a request for your credit report well before you apply for a major loan, advises HSBC. Check your credit at least three to six months before applying for a home mortgage; for an auto loan, check your credit and line up financing with your bank or credit union before you start shopping. This will allow you sufficient time to review the report and correct any errors you find.

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HEADACHES?
Park Ridge, IL - A newly released free report reveals what leading medical researchers have proven to be the cause of most headaches. To discover the truth about what your own doctor may not know about your headaches, call the toll-free 24-hour recorded message at:
1-800-833-5154

COMMENTARY

Thursday November 25, 2004

THE BUGLE

THE BUGLE

In Service to the Community

Editorial Board

Publisher
Richard Masterson
Editor
Andrew Schneider
Production Manager
Rory Scott

SOUND OFF!

Do you find Thanksgiving dinner stressful or relaxing?



"It's relaxing. I spend it with my family. This year I'm invited out."
Anthony Scarlati-Niles



"It's relaxing. I'm single and I live alone. I'm still waiting for an invitation."
George Guendling-Niles



"It's relaxing because I'm not cooking. I have great grandchildren and I'm going to their house."
Roberta Rose - Morton Grove



TA2: A Potemkin Village?

Back in the 1780s, when we were just in the throes of becoming a working country, Catherine the Great was the monarch of Russia, having deposed her estranged husband, Peter the Great. She decided to take a tour of her Russia, and one courtier, Gregori Potemkin, in order to curry her favor, built a series of villages in her path that consisted of nothing but pretty fronts on termite-ridden huts and shacks. Thus is the origin of the term "Potemkin village", which has come to mean "an impressive facade or show designed to hide an undesirable fact or condition".

Well, guess what. Even after all these years, Gregori Potemkin IS NOT DEAD! He's alive and well, and he's trying to pass off the Target Area 2 (TA2) portion of Uptown Redevelopment (UR) to the people of Park Ridge as an impressive village.

The Gregori Potemkin in our case

isn't a single person. He's more a hydra, a multi-headed beast whose visages look suspiciously like: our City Manager, Tim Schuenke, and his staff and consultants; our (Acting) Mayor, Mike MaRous; the principals of PRC Partners, the folks who will make the most money from TA2; and, of course, last, but not least, our Park Ridge City Council.

Our (composite) Potemkin is creating a village called TA2 for his monarchs, the people of Park Ridge, to see. Oh, the physical characteristics of TA2 won't be shoddy or termite-ridden (not for THAT amount of money), but the arguments for getting it built in the first place are.

TA2 is "an impressive facade or show designed to hide an undesirable fact or condition". TA2 is a wild throw of spaghetti (I'd use another word, but this is a family newspaper) against the wall to see what sticks. And the reason to throw the spaghetti at all is as phony as the show.

The undesirable fact or condition is that our Uptown has a lot of empty stores. So, what's the solution? PUT

IN MORE STORES! (That's called "creating a retail critical mass". When that critical mass happens in subatomic physics, the result is a very big BOOM, but not of the pleasant kind.)

Another undesirable fact or condition is that our Uptown DOESN'T LOOK CUTE, LIKE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS. That is, there are no central "empty nester" condos to house people who will "activate" the renewed central business district by walking around buying things or eating out, thus drawing other local residents to do the same, and so on. So, what's the solution? MAKE PARK RIDGE LOOK CUTE, LIKE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS! 67' high, bulky 5-storey buildings, right up to the street line - because that's what activates retail.

Green space? Green space? We don't need no steenkin' green space. We got all the green space we need in the "Commons", east of the Library, and in Hinkley Park. (Never mind that NO ONE would ever sit in the Commons, or that Hinkley Park is a park in name only - it's really Hinkley Recreation Area; necessary, but noisy, and NOT a park.)

TA2 is a Potemkin Village. Our Potemkin Village - for the next 50 years. Where's Catherine the Great? Maybe she's not dead. Maybe she is.

Chuck@ParkRidgeBugle.com

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Letters

Community Fund needs your support

Dear Editor,

The Park Ridge Community Fund needs your support. The Community Fund was part of the United Way until suburban and Chicago merged. Our collected money would have to go to Chicago for distribution. The Community Fund board of directors decided to be independent and disburse the collected funds locally as needed. Please tell your employers to send your contributions to the Park Ridge Community Fund, where local people will grant the money locally.

John Skomasa, Community Fund board member

Think of those less fortunate than you

Dear Editor,

The elections are behind us. The trick or treaters have their fill of candy and even the clocks are changed. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Hanukah, will be here shortly as you start buying your turkeys and other things as you decide what family and friends you will have over, take time to think about the people in your village that need the winter jacket, boots or gloves.

These people have a roof over their head, but nowhere to go. They are too young to go to the township to get their meal or they don't have the transportation.

These people may be your neighbors or live in the same town as you. So, as you enjoy your holidays think of the people who are less fortunate than you.

M.S., Niles (name withheld by request)

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SENIOR

THE BUGLE

Thursday November 25, 2004

Maine Township Seniors

The following are some of the new classes, events, and activities available through MaineStreamers, the social senior organization of Maine Township. For further information on free membership or any of these events, call 1-847-297-2510.

GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

"Financial Gifts and Allowances"

Tuesday, November 30
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Presenter: Linda Waycie
No Cost - Registration Required

Have you wondered at what age a child should have an allowance and how much they should have? Should a child have a bank account? How can we help teach our grandchildren about money? Light refreshments will be served. This event is a collaboration with the Children's Home and Aid Society.

Niles Seniors

For more details on the programs listed below and/or to find out about our other programs and activities - events, trips, or classes - please check the November & December Naturally Active Program Guides or call the Niles Senior Center at 847/588-8420

NILES SENIOR CENTER CLOSED
Thanksgiving Holidays: Thurs., Nov. 25th & Fri. Nov. 26th
Christmas Eve Day: Friday, December 24th
New Year's Eve Day: Friday, December 31st

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON
December 31st

Alone at Christmas time? Family far away? Cooking too much trouble? If so, please join us for our 2nd annual Christmas Luncheon Celebration. This year our holiday meal is planned for Christmas Eve Day, Friday, December 24th, at noon. Doors will open at 11:30am and we'll celebrate until 2:00pm. This holiday celebration is FREE but we are requesting food or monetary donations to the Niles Family Services' Food Pantry. Reservation are required by Friday, December 17th. Reservation Deadline: Friday, Dec. 17th.

MEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY
SPECTACULAR, Friday, December 31st, 8:00pm - 12:00am.
Join us at the White Eagle, 6845

Milwaukee Ave, Niles, for this annual holiday event. Check-in begins at 10:30am, with programming starting at 11:00am. Lunch features a family style feast with beef, chicken, and fish, plus delicious side dishes. Entertainment will feature the Frank Martello Orchestra. There is limited space so don't wait until the last minute to purchase your ticket. You must register in advance; seating reservation requests must be submitted no later than Wednesday, Nov. 24th. If space is available, non-residents may purchase a ticket beginning Monday, Nov. 22nd. The cost is \$22 and includes lunch, table raffle, door prizes, and entertainment. CASH bar available.

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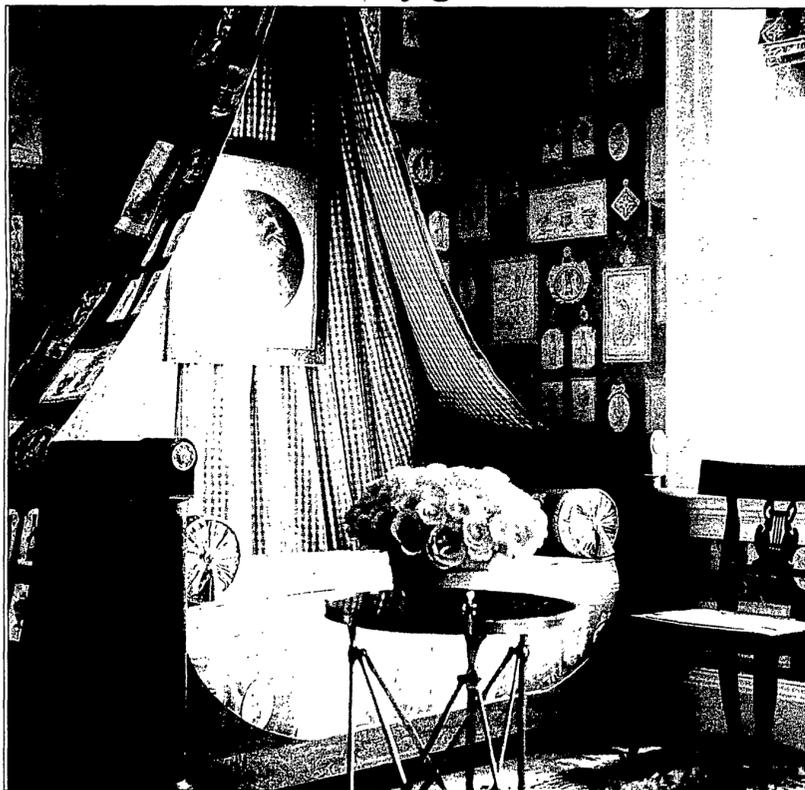
THE BUGLE

Thursday November 25, 2004

BY ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
Copley News Service

Decor Score Illusions of grandeur

Q: My husband is a Napoleon buff. He loves everything about the Empire Period. I thought it might be fun to do up his study in Empire pieces, but need help finding the right things, like wallpapers and fabrics. I've already located a campaign-style desk, which has a matching day bed. I've put a hold on the desk, but what about the day bed?
A: Grab it! You could have a grand, historical time turning out his entire office in Empire style, thanks to manufacturers such as Stroheim & Romann, who made the Neoclassical wall coverings and fabrics in the photo we show here.
It's going on three centuries since "little" Napoleon made such a big impact on European history AND design history, alike. Never mind that the Empire Style was derived from the warlike Romans and largely based on military symbols and traditions, like fistsful of arrows and folding furniture that could be taken on campaigns. We still appreciate its straightforward designs, rich materials, and handsomely masculine good looks.
You might borrow the elegant neoclassic attitude of this bedroom, with its canopied director's bed, clever interplay of fabrics and wallpaper patterns, and posh touches like the wall-mounted picture over the bed and crystal chandelier sparkling over all. It would make a den fit for an emperor, indeed (if you don't mind giving your husband such illusions of grandeur!).
For a closer look at the fabrics and wallpapers, click on



www.stroheim.com.
Q: We are starved for space. Both of us are in grad school, living in a fourth-floor walk-up with one tiny bedroom. We're outta here in a year, at worst, but in the meantime my husband and I are willing to devote a weekend to a fix-up - if we only knew what to do. Can you help?
A: How about a dozen you-can-do-it smart tips from one of the foremost design companies in the country, Greenbaum Interiors of Paterson, N.J. (www.greenbauminteriors.com) A source of creative design advice for more than half a century, Greenbaum's designers have laid out this 12-point plan for maximizing space in small quarters:
1. Decide the room's main purpose and use only furnishings that serve it.
2. Look for multiuse furniture, such as a sofa table that flips up for dining, ottomans that open for storage, a coffee table with drawers and shelves.
3. Choose accessories carefully. They don't take up much actual room but add immeasurably to the room's personality.
4. Use furniture in scale to the size of the room, for example, a love seat instead of a three-seater sofa in a small living room.
5. Match the color of large furniture to the color of the wall. You can make the sofa virtually disappear this way.
6. Use only a few colors and patterns in the same room. They "weigh" heavily on the eye.
7. Take advantage of vertical space, say, with an armoire or tall chest.
8. Use enough lighting. Dim rooms are dull.
9. Light colors make space look larger, but if you prefer dark walls, paint
Continues...
DECOR SCORE page 13.

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THE BUGLE

Thursday November 25, 2004

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Decor Score —
(Continued from page 12)
mouldings and trims light colors.
10. Under dress, rather than overdress windows to keep things feeling open.
11. Use mirrors, mirrors, mirrors to magnify space.
12. Look for necessities like TVs that have smaller footprints - flat-screen TVs, for example, and speakers that fit on shelves rather than take up precious floor space.
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Thursday, October 7th, 4:00 to 6:00pm
RSVP by October 5th

Session #2 "Beyond the Basics" Theme Calendar
Thursday, November 11th, 4:00 to 6:00pm
RSVP by November 9th

Session #3 "Holiday Photo Memories" Photo Book
Thursday, December 16th, Part 1, 4:00 to 6:00pm
Friday, December 17th, Part 2, 9:00 to 11:00am
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