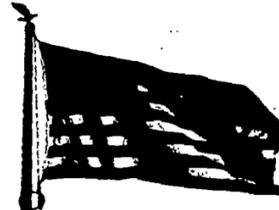


# THE BUGLE



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Thursday, December 16, 2004

Vol. 48 No. 30

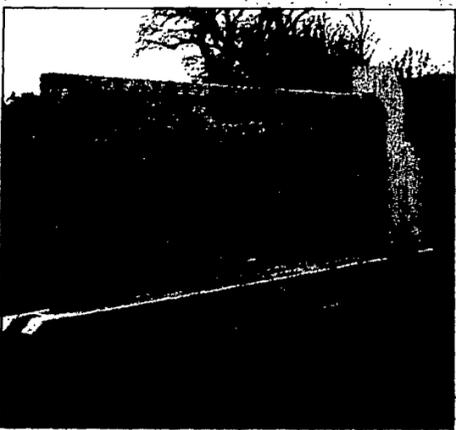
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### Inside this edition...



#### 15 new bases

The Morton Grove Board approved the purchase of 15 new bases for lampposts along Waukegan Road. For the story, turn to page 4.



#### Fenced Off

The Park Ridge Park District has decided to install fencing around the entire perimeter of Woodland Park. For the story, turn to page 3.

### Index | Weekly Vol. 48 No. 30

Police Blotters.....	6
Commentary .....	8
Seniors.....	10
Business.....	11
Sports.....	13
Life .....	15
Real Estate.....	17
Classified .....	19

### In the News

Justice Department ends investigation of Morton Grove, pg. 2

Niles Police Sergeant graduates public safety program, pg. 4

### In Commentary

Park Ridge Uptown plan clears another hurdle, pg. 8

## Friel says Park Ridge ignoring drug problems

Park Ridge Ald. Larry Friel (7th) declared that it was time for Park Ridge residents and public officials to stop ignoring drug problems in the community at the last city council meeting Monday, Dec. 6.

"I feel there's a drug problem in our community," Friel said. "We shouldn't put our heads in the sand."

While Friel is the first to admit that he isn't sure what path to take in order to address the drug problem, he does feel that public officials need to make a greater push for awareness.

"I don't know what the solution is," he said, "but we need to make it a priority."

Friel said that he has had three personal contacts with families where drugs were a problem.

"There was one death," he said. "I think the level of awareness needs to be increased. Parents need to take a better inventory in their homes, we need more parental responsibility."

But it's not just a problem for the families it touches, Friel argued.

"It's a community problem." He intends to bring up the issue of drugs again at the city's next public safety meeting, Thursday, Jan. 6.



### A Work of Art

Caroline Merk, 3, decorates her gingerbread house at the annual Howard Leisure Center gingerbread house decorating party.

## MG Board approves '05 budget Village manager says projected deficit may not occur

BY ANDREW SCHNEIDER  
editor@buglenewspapers.com

The Morton Grove Village Board approved the 2005 budget at the meeting Monday night and denied an 11th-hour request by Trustee Rick Krier to cut almost a million dollars in order to eliminate a projected \$500,000 deficit. Krier's amendments came under fire from other board members

who said he should have proposed them earlier in the process, even as recently as last Friday.

"The budget process started last May," said Trustee Dan Staackmann. "If you'd had it even last Friday, it would have been OK. But this is the 11th-hour and it sure smells of politics to me."

Staackmann is the 'Action' Party's candidate to succeed sit-

ting Mayor Dan Scanlon in the upcoming municipal elections, April 2005. Krier is the 'Caucus' Party's candidate to fill the same post.

Krier answered Staackmann's charge by saying that he wanted to unveil his proposals all at once, on paper so the board could discuss it at length.

"I knew I would be open to a

Continues...

'05 BUDGET page 2.

## Niles Police receive \$150K in federal funds Monday targeted for public info sign, op center

The Niles Police Department will receive \$150,000 in federal funding in the recently-approved Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations spending bill, village officials and U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky announced Monday.

According to Niles Deputy Police Chief Charlie Giovannelli, \$100,000 of the federal funds will be used to cover the installation of a public information sign similar to the "Amber Alert" signs that are placed on expressways around Chicago and inform motorists of traffic information as well as

emergency notifications. Giovannelli believes that a similar sign, constructed near the police station, could serve the Niles public and motorists just passing through.

"If you think about it," he said, "Niles is really the atrium to Chicago for those in the northwest suburbs and the atrium to the northwest suburbs for those in Chicago. This sign could allow us to provide public safety information and quality service to our residents and motorists."

Giovannelli said that the proposed electronic sign would display traffic information, public events and notifications as well

as news of any significant disaster should one ever strike the area.

As for the sign's placement, both Giovannelli and Niles Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said a consultant had determined that the best location would be a small hillock just north of the Niles Police Station on Milwaukee where it joins Waukegan.

"What we want to do is get an information sign that can communicate with motorists and the public," Giovannelli said. "We want to provide more public safety."

The remaining \$50,000,

Giovannelli said, will be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to help create an emergency operations center (EOC) in the Police Station that would serve the needs of Niles and its neighbors should a large-scale natural or man-made disaster strike.

"The emergency operations center is the beating heart of our command," Giovannelli said.

Once the federal dollars have cleared, Giovannelli said he expects that the project would be completed within a year, or as fast as possible.

"We should be able to move

Continues...

NILES POLICE page 3.

NEWS

'05 Budget

(Continued from page 1)

charge of politics because of this," he said, "but I wanted to make sure that I had it all down on paper."

Krier said his proposed cuts were extrapolated from spending on the same line items in 2002 and 2003. Several of the cuts that Krier identified were disqualified in the meeting by staff, such as

"Trust the staff, we will bring you home a victory."

-Ralph Czerwinski, village administrator

decreasing the contribution to the police and fire pension funds.

"I can't support these cuts," said Trustee Jim Karp. "I have no problem looking at them, but with cuts to the police and fire pension funds, I can't support it."

Krier's largest frustration with the budget, he said, was that it neither cuts costs nor increases taxes.

"I just thought it would be irresponsible to run a deficit," he said. "In some of these areas, the cuts hurt. But I think it spreads the pain around."

Under his plan, Krier said that not only would no lay-offs be

required, instead all village employees would receive their cost-of-living salary increases.

During the half-hour discussion, Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski interjected that the staff had, in previous years, budgeted more money than they needed to spend and that consequently, the budget deficit projected for 2005 simply might not come to pass. He also argued that shunting any unbudgeted revenue resulting from Krier's proposed cuts into the village's general fund would force staff to return for board approval if expenditures exceeded what was budgeted in Krier's proposal.

"Do you want to come back in October and end up doing two budgets in one year?" Czerwinski asked. "Trust the staff, we will bring you home a victory."

In the end, the board concurred with Czerwinski, voting 5-1 against Krier while continuing their accusations that he was playing politics.

"I think that this is just grandstanding to get your name in the paper," Trustee Steve Blonz said.

Though defeated, Krier did thank Trustee Dan DiMaria who seconded his original motion, clearing the way for the budget debate.

Department of Justice ends Morton Grove inquiry

The village of Morton Grove received a letter last week informing them that the U.S. Department of Justice was no longer investigating them for violation of the federal Religious Land Use Protection Act (RLUPA).

The letter stated that the village had been under investigation by the Justice Department for violation of the act, which was designed to ensure that public bodies could not legislate cultural or religious biases, but which many local planning and zoning boards throughout the nation have said prevents them from rejecting a bad development if it is proposed by a religious institution.

Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski informed the village board about the letter at their meeting Monday night. He said letter stated that the village was under investigation following their rejection of the Muslim Community Center's then-proposed mosque and school expansion to the Muslim Education Center located at 8601 Menard on November 26, 2003.

According to the letter, the investigation ceased following the board's approval of a special use permit for the mosque in November.

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NEWS

Vandals force Park Ridge Parks to install fence at Woodland

Citing continued instances of vandalism, Park Ridge District Commissioners voted last week to install fencing along the exposed northern, eastern and western borders of Woodland Park.

The Park, located north of Oakton between Greenwood and Northwest Hwy., has, for some reason, attracted vandals who like to drive on the grassy area. The vandalism costs the Park District time and money to repair, ultimately making a fence cost-effective.

The new fencing will cost approximately \$20,000.

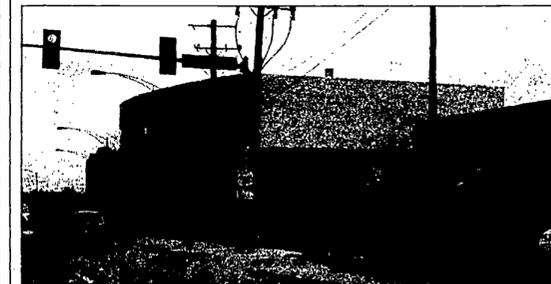
Park Commissioners had hoped that a less extensive fence that was previously installed might serve to deter vandals driving on Northwest Hwy., but it has proven ineffective. Stakes are already in place along the park's perimeter where the fencing will be installed.



Painted posts mark the place where a fence will be installed on the eastern border of Woodland Park. The fence is needed to deter vandals.

Niles Police

(Continued from page 1)



A hillock just north of the Niles Police Station on Milwaukee where it joins Waukegan is perfect for a public information sign according to a village consultant.

along and get it completed by the end of the year," he said.

Schakowsky praised Niles Mayor Nick Blase and his staff, not only for their day-to-day work but also for providing her with the specific information that allowed her to snare the federal tax dollars for Niles.

"I am very pleased to have secured these critical funds for the village of Niles to help improve the safety of our law enforcement and our residents," said Schakowsky. "Law enforcement officials must have the best equipment and latest

technology available in order to communicate with each other and the residents they are entrusted to protect during an emergency."

Blase similarly praised Schakowsky, thanking her for her efforts of behalf of Niles' first responders.

"I want to thank Congresswoman Schakowsky for her continued concern for the village of Niles," he said. "The funds will go a long way to making sure the village has the specialized police equipment necessary for any emergency situation."

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NEWS

**Waukegan Road spruced up...again**  
Morton Grove will buy 15 new lamppost bases to replace damaged ones

The Morton Grove village board approved a measure Monday to purchase 15 new bases for lampposts located along Waukegan Road, installed about four years ago after the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District.

A TIF district is created by a municipality in order to foster growth in an economically blighted area. Tax revenues in the TIF's boundaries are frozen for all bodies except the sponsoring municipality, which can then invest money in infrastructure and development projects that will be repaid out of future tax revenues. TIFs have a potential life-span of 23 years.

The 15 new bases will replace existing bases that have either corroded because of the high amount of salt used on Waukegan Road or have cracked as a result of collisions with cars. They will be purchased at a total cost not to exceed \$20,000.

The new bases will be swapped with some of those one the street that are corroded but not necessarily cracked. Those will be sand-blasted, repainted and, in turn,



Paint peels from the base of lamppost along the Waukegan corridor. (Bugle file photo by Allen Kalota)

swapped with others on Waukegan until all the old posts are replaced. Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski said that the lamppost bases were selected by the village from the company's inventory.

"They gave us what we requested," he said. "We asked for [bases with] a powder-based paint.

Looking back, if we were to do another road, we'd use a wet-base paint."

The newly painted bases will be painted with a wet-base paint and will be on a regular maintenance schedule with the village's public works department like fire hydrants.

**Niles Police announce graduation of Sergeant Stankowicz from Northwestern's Center for Public Safety**

The Niles Police Department is pleased to announce the recent graduation of Sergeant Stankowicz from the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University. Sgt. Stankowicz has successfully completed the ten (10) week Staff and Command program held in Evanston, Illinois from September 27, December 3 2004. This program, which was implemented by the Center for Public Safety in 1983, has graduated over 6,900 students both nationally and internationally. Sgt. Stankowicz was a student in class number 200 which accommodated a total of 31 students for the ten-week program.

The School of Police staff and Command provides upper-level college instruction in a total of twenty-two core or mandatory blocks of instruction and utilizes nine additional blocks of instruction during each session. The major topics of study include: Management, Organizational Behavior, Human Resources for Law Enforcement, Budgeting, Staffing Allocation, and

Personnel Deployment. Each student is academically challenged through a total of eighteen academic examinations, projects, and quizzes in addition to the extensive research paper that is a required part of the curriculum. Upon successful completion, students may be awarded a total of eighteen semester college credit hours.

The Center for Public Safety was established at Northwestern University in 1936 with the specific goal of expanding university-based education and training for the law enforcement community. Since its inception, the Center has broadened its original objective and now provides a variety of courses and training programs in the area of Police Training, Management and Executive Development.

The Niles Police Department anticipates a variety of benefits from Sergeant Robert Stankowicz's attendance at this program. Many of the program's graduates go on to achieve a variety of leadership positions within their respective agencies.

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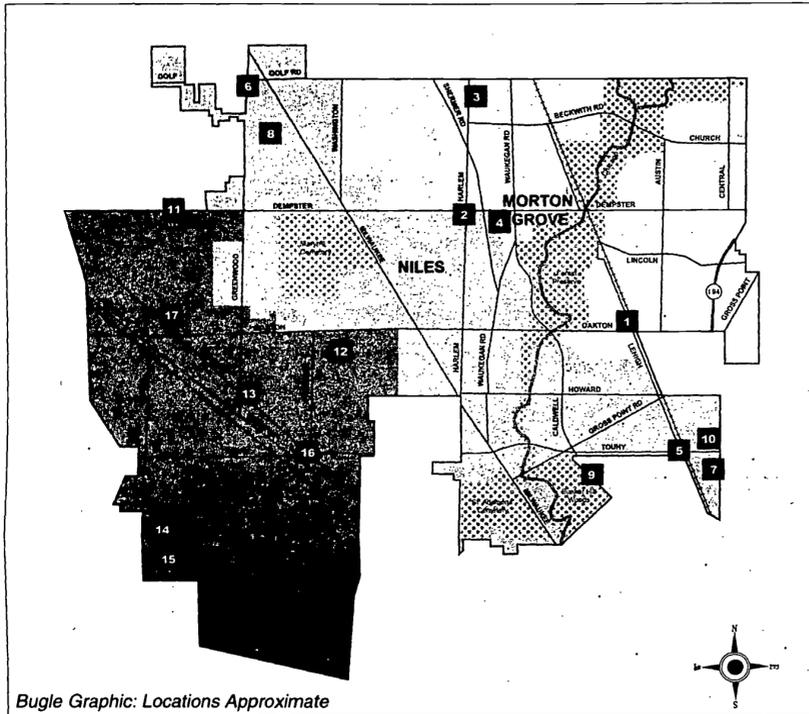
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# POLICE BLOTTER



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

### MORTON GROVE

The following items were taken from official reports of the Morton Grove Police Department for the week ending December 10, 2004.

#### 1 Switcheroo (6300 Oakton)

A 27-year-old Des Plaines man was arrested and charged with a felony after store security at the Menards store in the 6300 block of Oakton watched the man switch the UPC codes on three pieces of construction equipment and replace them with codes of lesser prices items Monday evening December 6, 2004.

Police said store security watched the man on security cameras as he removed the tags from inexpensive sanders and place them on reciprocating saw, an electric screwdriver, and a hacksaw. The items were valued at \$537.98 but the tags the man place on the items only valued them at \$159.42. Police said although the man told them he had nothing to do with the items being mislabeled, a security video showed otherwise. The man has a court date of Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 106 in Skokie.

#### 2 Flashing Red Light not Rudolph (Harlem and Dempster)

A 20-year-old Des Plaines man was arrested Sunday night December 5 allegedly using a flashing light to change traffic

signals so he could speed along Dempster Ave.

According to police, an officer on patrol noticed the traffic light change spontaneously near Harlem and Dempster and that the emergency traffic signal changer light was activated but there were no emergency vehicles approaching. The officer also said he noticed the man's car had tinted windows. The officer said he followed the man for about five blocks until he stopped the car. He also said he continued to see the traffic signals change spontaneously.

The officer said when he stopped the car the driver told him he had a prescription for tinted windows. The officer, however, told the man the prescription exemption did not extend to cars manufactured after 1997. The man was driving a 2000 Acura TL.

The officer also noticed the flashing light device plugged into the man's cigarette lighter and when he asked the man about it the man admitted to using it to change traffic signals, police said.

The man was charged with Transportation and Operation of a Traffic Control Preemptive Device, Illegal Use of a Flashing Red Light, Speeding, and Tinted windows.

The man has a court date of Jan. 3, 2005 at 9 a.m. in Room 104 in Skokie.

#### 3 Heavy Appliance Theft (9400 Harlem)

A 55-year-old Morton Grove woman told police someone removed two washer/dryer combinations and a dishwasher from her front lawn and driveway after she left them outside while she remodeled her home in the 9400 block of Harlem. The woman told police someone removed the appliance sometime between Monday night Dec. 6 and Wednesday afternoon Dec. 8.

The woman told police the appliances were valued at more than \$2,200.

#### 4 Thief needs baby supplies (6900 Dempster)

Police said the manager of the Dominick's store in the 6900 block of Dempster may have thwarted the theft of \$356.80 worth of diapers and baby formula Saturday afternoon Dec. 4 after he watched a woman in her thirties fill a shopping cart with 10 packages of Huggies and 10 cans of Similac baby formula and head for the door. The manager told police when the woman noticed she was being watched she abandoned the cart and fled. The manager said he chased the woman into the parking lot and watched her get into a tan Chevy Blazer driven by a man. The manager was able to provide police with license number of the SUV, but police said the plates were registered to a 2002 Ford SUV. The manager told police he recognized the woman from previous shoplifting attempts.

### NILES

The following items were taken from official reports of the Niles Police Department for the week ending December 14, 2004.

#### 5 Forgery (5600 Touhy)

A 57-year-old Niles woman called police Tuesday morning Dec. 7 after her bank called her to tell her someone tried to cash a check for \$900 from her account. The woman told police the check must be a forgery because she had the check number in question still in her checkbook. The woman closed the account.

#### 6 Credit card fraud (9100 Terrace Dr.)

A 54-year-old Niles man called police Monday Dec. 6 after he discovered someone had used his debit card and pin number to remove \$940 from his account.

#### 7 Cashier Tap Till (5600 Touhy)

A 41-year-old cashier at the Wal-Mart store in the 5600 block of Touhy was arrested Monday afternoon Dec. 6 after store security, using a surveillance camera, watched the woman remove \$284 in cash from her drawer and place it in her pocket. The woman has a court date do Jan. 20, 2005 in Skokie.

#### 8 Possession of Alcohol (300 Golf Mill)

A liquor license inspector for the city of Niles cited Kings Buffet in Golf Mill for possession of alcohol without a liquor license Tuesday afternoon Dec. 7. According to the report, the liquor inspector called for a Niles police officer and that the police officer found several cases of beer in the kitchen cooler. There was no mention in the report of any patrons of the restaurant drinking. The restaurant has an ordinance hearing Jan. 20, 2005 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall.

#### 9 Honest Speeder (Caldwell and Lexington)

A 23-year-old Niles man was arrested Dec. 11 after a Niles police officer clocked the man allegedly doing 78 m.p.h. on Caldwell near Lexington. The man told police he knew he was stopped for speeding and when the police officer showed him the radar gun readout the man said "I believe it." The candid driver was arrested for going over 40 m.p.h. and will have a chance to tell the truth again Jan. 14, 2005 in Room 103 in Skokie.

#### 10 No Sitcom (5700 Touhy)

An employee at the Circuit City store in the 5700 block of Touhy told police a black man in his forties placed a 15 inch Zenith panel LCD under his coat and walk out of the store Friday night Dec. 10. The employee

was only able to get a description of the car as a silver Ford. The employee described the thief as 6 feet 2 inches tall about 230 pounds wearing a black trench coat. The television was valued at \$819.96.

### PARK RIDGE

The following items were taken from official reports of the Park Ridge Police for the week ending December 14, 2004.

#### 11 Burglary (2200 Woodview)

A home in the 2200 block of Woodview was burglarized sometime between Nov. 26 and Dec. 5. Police said someone forced first forced open a garage door then forced open an adjoining door to the home.

#### 12 Burglary (400 Michael John)

A home in the 400 block of Michael John was burglarized sometime between October 22 and Dec. 4 after someone opened the garage service door and then forced open a door to the kitchen.

#### 13 Burglary (400 N. Northwest Hwy.)

A storage locker in a multi-unit building was burglarized Tuesday Dec. 6 after someone pried open the locker door.

#### 14 Burglary (800 S. Broadway)

Someone forced open the rear door to a home in the 800 block of Broadway Thursday night.

#### 15 Burglary (800 S. Broadway)

Someone burglarized another home in the 800 block of S. Broadway Thursday between 9 a.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. Friday. Police said the thief forced open a side door.

#### 16 Video camera stolen (100 block N. Busse Hwy.)

A video camera valued at \$1,000 was stolen after the owner set the camera down for a moment at the park.

#### 17 Holiday decorations vandalized

Holiday decorations in the 2100 block of Glenview, 1100 block of Knight, and the 1200 block of Linden were damaged Saturday night Dec. 4. Damage was estimated to be at least \$330.

### SUMMARY OF CRIME:

Morton Grove	
Theft-4	
DUI-4	
Niles	
Theft-10	
Forgery-1	
Excessive speeding-1	
Park Ridge	
Arrests	
Park Ridge residents-5	
Non-resident -13	

## NEWS

# East Maine Dist. 63 Board President Receives Statewide Award

As one of those credited with sound management and upgrading the academic standards of East Maine School Dist. 63 during tough financial times, School Board President Jane Wojtkiewicz has received recognition for her outstanding leadership. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has named her the school board president of the year.

The Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for 2004 Outstanding School Board President was presented Nov. 21 by Jesse Ruiz, Chairman of ISBE, at a joint conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators, and Illinois Association of School Business Officials held in Chicago. Approximately 1,000 attended the award ceremonies.

Initially appointed to fill a vacancy in 1997, the Glenview resident ran for re-election and has been on the Board of Education for seven years where she served the last three as its President. With its seven schools, the highly diverse district serves approximately 3,500 stu-

dents in unincorporated Des Plaines, Glenview, Morton Grove, Niles, and Park Ridge.

Still "recovering" from the surprise of winning this prestigious award, Wojtkiewicz has commented, "I am so very proud to bring such recognition to our school district. This success is absolutely all about the cooperation and commitment of every member of our administration, staff, and the entire Board of Education on behalf of student learning and educational excellence."

"We are also so very fortunate to have Dr. Kathleen Williams, a Superintendent who works so diligently to ensure that we have a good understanding of the needs and values of our community, and who inspires the staff to stay focused and keep their work aligned with our mission and our vision priorities," she said. "Our schools are positive learning environments."

Wojtkiewicz added that the school board has worked hard for years to engage the public concerning the district by providing information to residents and listening to their concerns. "We believe the

process which included focus group meetings, a community task force, and many other approaches helped to increase community awareness and build the trust that eventually led to the successful referendum this Fall," she explained. Her district's referendum was among only eight in the entire state that passed.

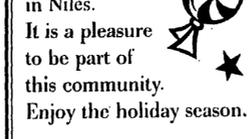
In her professional life, her educational background is in health information technology. She also holds an Illinois State certificate in nursing assistance. She is currently employed in a local orthopaedic surgical practice.

The 18-year resident of the district has been married to her husband, Alan, for 31 years. The couple has two sons. Both sons are graduates of the District 63 school system and are currently pursuing higher education in finance and law enforcement.

The award she received was named for Thomas Lay Burroughs who was the chairman of both the Illinois State Board of Education and the Board of Collinsville School Dist. 10. Burroughs was widely recognized as an exceptional, dedicated leader who died young at age 40.

## Happy Holidays, Niles!

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you - our friends and neighbors here in Niles. It is a pleasure to be part of this community. Enjoy the holiday season.



Jeffrey Cardella  
8141 N. Milwaukee  
Niles, IL 60714  
847-470-8953

Marc F. Grote  
7627 N. Milwaukee  
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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.

# COMMENTARY

THE BUGLE

Thursday December 16, 2004

## THE BUGLE

In Service to the Community

### Editorial Board

**Publisher**  
Richard Masterson  
**Editor**  
Andrew Schneider  
**Production Manager**  
Rory Scott

## SOUND OFF!

What do you think is appropriate amount to spend on Christmas gifts for your immediate family?



Accompanied by his daughters Aaron Shlesman of Niles said jokingly, "Nothing." Later he added, "these are just wonderful girls." -Aaron Shlesman-Niles.



"There is no set amount. I don't work well on a budget." -Amy Bulgatz- Northbrook



"Anything is appropriate as long as it makes them happy." -Nancy Ponce- Westmont



### The Last Hurrah (of the HOs, and Sympathizers) My apologies to Edwin O'Connor

Well, they've gone and done it, at least the first half of it. The Park Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) recently approved the developer's plan for Target Area 2 (TA2) of Uptown Redevelopment (UR), sending a rec-

ommendation to the City Council that they approve the combination residential/retail complex on that site. (Who are the HOs - NNSE pun intended - and Sympathizers? The HOs are members of the soon-to-be-defunct HomeOwner party that has been in power in Park Ridge for a long time - for far too long. The Sympathizers are non-HOs who pass the Duck Test - they think like HOs, they talk like HOs, they vote like HOs, so they must be HOs.) The P&Z approval came in spite of

the fact that the public at the public hearings on that approval were overwhelmingly critical of important aspects of that plan. The P&Z approval came in spite of the fact that our own Zoning Ordinance specifically state that P&Z cannot approve any plan that doesn't "do no harm". (Zoning Code, Section 2 - Intent). The P&Z approval came in spite of the fact that ALMOST ALL previous and current public input, including that of the HO-appointed Uptown Advisory Task Force (UATF) of five years ago, has spoken AGAINST Uptown Redevelopment plans that are too dense, too tall, don't contain open, GREEN space, and that don't promote easy pedestrian and vehicle connectivity with the Prospect/Main/NW Hwy part of Uptown - all of which parame-

ters/recommendations the current TA2 plan certainly does not meet. So, why did they approve it? Because they're all HOs. They're all in it for the money. Oh, not personally; but on the word of the developers and City Staff that this project will be a financial, as well as a public, success. (Sound like the fox counting the chickens to you?) So, how did they approve it? They "packed" P&Z. (Did you know that the Mayor recently appointed to P&Z a member of HIS PERSONAL BUSINESS OFFICE STAFF? Doesn't this begin to sound a little like Chicago?) And they relied ALMOST ENTIRELY on the guidance and efforts of City Staff, people of like mind that the HOs have hired and to whom they've delegated authority - and responsibility - and who were NOT elected by you.

So, a bad plan gets steamrolled through - because the HOs want their Last Hurrah, their last big splash before they sink below the political waves next April - at which time NONE of the seven (or eight) aldermanic seats will be contested by HOs. They are now lame ducks. And they're using that "power" (of no chance for public repudiation at the polls over this decision) to steer the Titanic, the ill-fated vessel that will be puffing along for the next fifty to one hundred years in Uptown, or until it runs into the iceberg of real life - neither of which will happen on their watch. If you're upset - and you should be, for no other reason than their arrogance, there's still a way to stop this shipwreck. But that's for next time. Chuck@ParkRidgeBugle.com

## Letters

### Does MG need an OTB?

Dear Editor,

Several months ago, after a Morton Grove Village Board Meeting that I attended, Trustee Karp of the Action Party approached me with a question. He wanted to know what I thought about bringing 'off track betting' to Morton Grove. At that time, I told him it was a very bad idea, because of the attraction it would have to less

than desirable patrons. I thought that was the last of this issue, until I found out that there was a discussion before the Morton Grove Appearance Committee considering this proposal. The site chosen would be next to the Menards on Oakton and Lehigh. No one can dispute the economic advantages of allowing this kind of business to enter Morton Grove, but do we really need this? Since there are no other similar betting establishments in our vicinity (closest may be Waukegan, IL), I'm sure there were approaches made to all our surrounding suburbs for this

kind of facility, and it seems like Morton Grove is the only one seriously considering it. This location is just a few blocks from a high school, so you can bet the kids will be in there. It is interesting how this venture has been kept in low profile by Morton Grove government, as it has not been on any of the agendas of the board meetings. Along with the non-publicized TIF projects, this may be another one we will be saddled with when we wake up one day and find a betting parlor in our village. Sherwin Dubren, Morton Grove

### Who am I? Why am I Running?

Dear Editor,

Who am I? I am not a politician and my other habits are good also. I am a non-politician who has worked all his life and see that the direction the village is headed is not toward a "bright future". We need better solutions to reverse the financial, moral, and trust problems we are faced with today. Why do I run? I run to provide non-coercive solutions to problems while respecting the inherent rights of all individuals equally. I run to change from the regular cadre of disgusting business as usual. I oppose not enforcing local village codes and ordinances... lack of response to residents needs... slipping items through without full open-Continues... WHO AM I? page 9.

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## Who am I?

Thursday December 16, 2004

THE BUGLE

ness and public input... the appearance of conflict of interest of those on the inside... the appearance of wheeling and dealing regarding those wishing to do business with the village. Common sense as well as ethics should prevent partisan campaign contributions by those who benefit from public funds. Elected officials, like Caesars' wife, should not have even the appearance of impropriety. One question must be asked - am I the best person for this job - for me to make that claim would be presumptuous. Am I good enough to make a

change for the better, absolutely! How? By being outside the hierarchy, I will be at the political fulcrum point, a deciding vote for a vast array of local issues. Insider politicians carry political obligations ahead of considerations of the true interested parties - the voter/taxpayer. I suffer no such infirmity. I am opposed to the currently centralized institution run by a host of politicians who primarily control my "voluntary decisions" ranging from whom I may select as my government representative, to controlling the size of my toilet tank. As a member of the Board of

(Continued from page 8)  
Trustees, I will be in an important place to reverse the village's destructive economic trend. Spending must be controlled, openness and transparency must return, residents must trust their government again. A just government respects the rights of all people equally and grants special favor to none. The punishment of wise men refusing to take part in the affairs of government is to live under the government of unwise men. Roy Kogstad, Morton Grove Caucus Party Candidate for Village Trustee

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**Morton Grove Senior News**

**MORTON GROVE SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS RELEASE**  
Contact: Bud Swanson, Family & Senior Services, 847/663-6110  
December 13, 2004  
**2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Morton Grove Senior Center Members can begin renewing their Memberships for 2005 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon starting Monday, Dec. 20 at the Senior Center. An individual Morton Grove resident who registers for 2005 and pays the annual rate of \$15.00 will enjoy:  
The annual Members-Only party. A 15% discount on all Senior Center trips and classes.  
Three issues of the Traveler Times newsletter.  
Passage on the Seniortran bus.  
Six issues of the Seniors in Morton Grove newsletter.  
Diabetes screenings.  
Usage of computers in the Senior Center Library.  
A personalized identification card.  
The annual fee for a married resident couple is \$25. The annual fee for an individual non-resident is \$25. The annual fee for a married non-resident couple is \$40. For more information call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

**DIABETES SCREENING**

Many people with diabetes go undiagnosed because they are unaware of the signs and symptoms. Some of the warning signs are frequent urination, excessive thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, increased fatigue, irritability and blurry vision. Diabetes screening is offered at the Morton Grove Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28. Screening is free for Senior Center Members and \$1 for all others. Please fast for 12 hours. Water is allowed. Hold diabetic medications.

**Maine Township Senior News**

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.

**YOGA CLASSES**

Mondays, January 10 to March 14  
No Classes on Jan. 17 & Feb. 21  
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Instructor: Diane McDonald  
Cost: \$40.00 for 8 classes  
Hatha Yoga is an ancient art of

**Niles Senior News**

**NSC Highlights**

For more details on the programs listed below and/or to find out about membership requirements, or our other programs and activities, such as 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**

Christmas Eve Day: Friday, December 24th (except for those already registered for the Christmas

**Park Ridge Seniors**

The Park Ridge Senior Center is planning a Theater Tour on Wednesday, January 19. Departure is at 9:00am. This tour will give an in depth look at two of the most beautiful and historic venues of Chicago's Theatre District.

The first stop will be at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, originally known as the Oriental Theatre at 24 W. Randolph. The second stop is the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph. The tour will showcase the glittering vintage decor

**SENIORS**

stretching and limbering of the body to increase health, vitality and self-awareness. Wear comfortable clothes and bring an exercise mat to class.

**NEW PROGRAM...**

**HUMANITIES TREASURES PROGRAM**  
Wednesday, January 26  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
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Join Herman Halperin and David Crown for an interesting afternoon of films, books and informal discussions on life, literature, music and the arts. Sponsored by Oakton Community College & The National Council on Aging, Inc.

**Eve Day Luncheon**

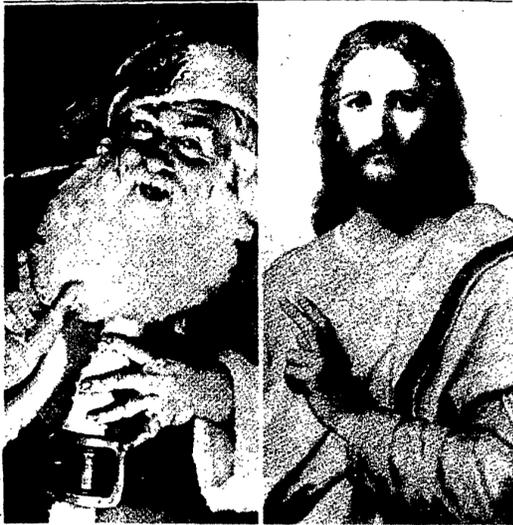
New Year's Eve Day: Friday, December 31st

**CHRISTMAS EVE DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**

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 Deadline: Friday, Dec. 17th.

**Whose birthday is it, anyway?**

We believe the important news at Christmas is not who comes down the chimney, but who came down from heaven. We invite you to come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



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**BUSINESS**

**Edward Jones offers "Why Invest" strategy report**

From the 25 percent unemployment rate in the 1930s through the oil embargo and deep recession of the 1970s to the war on terrorism and economic uncertainties of today, the country's financial markets have prospered during the past 75 years despite these short-term setbacks. "Your success as an investor depends on your ability to maintain perspective. In fact, apparent reasons not to invest may actually be reasons to consider investing more," said Alan Skrainka, Edward Jones chief market strategist and author of the new report, "Why Invest?"

In the new report Skrainka takes readers on a journey through the past seven decades, outlining the tumultuous issues that have sidelined the markets. Despite these setbacks, Skrainka found that the stock market has grown and prospered during these times.

"Today we are again facing a slew of concerns such as the war on terrorism, the war in Iraq and economic worries," said Skrainka. "But, as we've seen, these difficulties are as unique as you might think. In fact, they're no more daunting than the other challenges we've overcome."

Skrainka compiled the following statistics for stocks from the past 70 years:

- Only one negative (-.1 percent annually) return for a decade was in the 1930s.
- The market posted positive returns in 67 of the 69 "rolling" 10-year periods.
- Stocks outperformed bonds or T-bills in 85 percent of those periods.
- Stocks were the highest-returning asset in all 59 rolling 20-year periods since 1926.

For a free copy of the study, stop by the Niles Edward Jones investment office.



**PR Chamber installs officers**

The new and old Boards of Directors for the Park Ridge Chamber met this week at the new MJ2 restaurant in South Park. The end of the year ritual was fun for all.

Seated Left to right: Sandy Svizzero, Sr. Vice President; Mary Schurder, Director; Chelle O'Connell, new Executive Director; Patricia McGuire, Director.  
Standing row: Left to right - Dick Barton, Communications Committee Chair and Director; Paul Hoefert, Treasurer; Marc Dennison, President; Rudy Smolka, Director; Tom Higgins, Director; Curt Edlund, 2003 Past President; Ann Witek, Director; Grace Popovic, Director.

**Save money and protect the great outdoors**

Summer is the time to enjoy the great outdoors: sunbathing, swimming and sports. Of course, when you want to take a break from the summer heat, nothing feels better than the cool, air-conditioned indoors. You might not realize, however, that staying cool indoors might be damaging your future chances to enjoy the great outdoors.

Most air conditioners use R-22, a refrigerant that can harm the ozone with chlorine emissions. You can protect the environment while staying cool this summer with products designed to deliver quality air conditioning to your

home without harming the earth's protective ozone layer.

How? You can choose an air conditioner that uses R410A. R410A is a refrigerant that does not emit the chlorines that deplete the protective ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere.

Some R410A air conditioners offer a surplus of benefits in addition to protecting the environment. For example, the Tempstar brand line of air conditioners and heat pumps using Enviromax R410A refrigerant offers you these benefits:

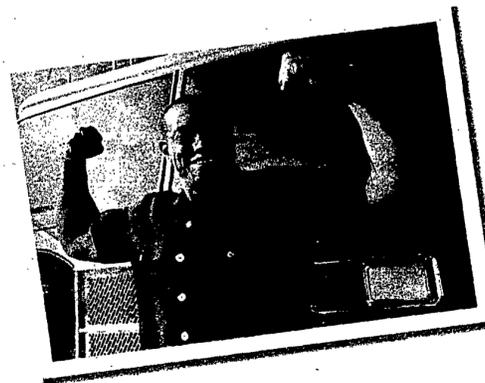
1. Cost-efficiency: The Tempstar Enviromax 2400 operates at a high-efficient 14 seasonal energy efficiency

ratio to save homeowners as much as 40 percent on utility bills when compared to older, less efficient units.

2. Conservation: The energy efficiency of the Tempstar Enviromax 2400 saves both money and the earth's resources year after year, and its refrigerant is more environmentally friendly than traditional R-22. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved R410A as an alternative for R-22, because it doesn't contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer.

3. Quiet and comfort: The enclosed two-speed fan reduces operating sound levels. A compressor sound jacket further reduces operating noise.

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# Holiday Gift Guide

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# SPORTS

## Sick of BCS sham? Boycott the bowls!

There are 28 bowl games, and I plan to avoid watching even one second of any of them. Please join me in this fan's BCS - Boycott College Sham. The people who run NCAA football don't care about the athlete-students they claim to represent. They don't care about fairness. And they certainly don't care about you and me.

So let's celebrate this holiday season by skipping the Holiday Bowl. The 27 others, too. None of them mean a rat's rear anyway.

Including the Orange Bowl. Especially the Orange Bowl. National title game? Please. Why are USC and Oklahoma more deserving than Auburn, Utah or a half-dozen others? Because sports-writers, coaches and computers say so? Right.

The evening of Jan. 4, I will go to a high school basketball game, take my wife to a movie, play board games with my kids - anything but watch a sham title game.

I have been in this business for 22 years and have been a fan a lot longer than that, and I'm still waiting to hear one good reason why Division I-A football should be the

only NCAA sport lacking an equitable way to crown a champion. And it's not just the title game. The entire system is a mess. A joke. A billion-dollar sham.

Coaches are sniping at each other for refusing to make public which six colleagues downgraded Cal in the ESPN/USA Today sham poll. In the AP's sham poll, several writers also mysteriously changed their minds, unwittingly conspiring with the coaches to send Texas, not Cal, to the Rose Bowl for a \$15 million payday.

Hmmm. In Journalism 1, I was taught we should report the news, not make it.

OK, I'm willing to make news, too - by leading operation Boycott College Sham.

Don't watch bowls. Don't buy products sold by bowl sponsors. Show the sham artists exactly what you think by giving them the attention they deserve: none.

Twenty-eight bowls. Not one second of our time. Are you with me?

**GIMME A Z!**

Sure, new Illinois football coach Ron Zook is a retreat. Sure, he failed at Florida, though the degree to which he failed - aver-

aging "only" eight wins over three years - would be hailed as supreme success in Urbana-Champaign.

And sure, I would have rather seen AD Ron Guenther target some major program's hot assistant who was ready for prime time. The next Barry Alvarez is out there somewhere.

All that being said, Zook is a more-than-acceptable replacement for Ron Turner.

He's an enthusiastic, hard-working Midwesterner and reputedly an excellent recruiter.

**HEISMAN HOGWASH**

I have a columnist friend who hates college football. He just about never watches a game. He pays little attention when the sport's highlights are shown on ESPN.

Oh, and one more thing about my buddy (I won't print his name because he'd be too embarrassed): He's a Heisman Trophy voter.

How many of the 922 others who received ballots are similarly clueless? Several hundred, methinks.

Not that it matters anyway, because there really is no way to pick - as the Heisman folks say in their propaganda - "the best collegiate football player in the United States."

No full-time defensive player ever has won it. No offensive lineman. No small-college player.

The Heisman Trophy is for quarterback and tailbacks at a high-profile school. Period.

Although a quarterback (USC's Matt Leinert, Oklahoma's Jason White or Utah's Alex Smith) will win the Heisman this year, the big debate is whether a freshman - Oklahoma tailback Adrian Peterson - should carry the vote.

Being a freshman is a neat little hook, and Peterson is a fine runner. But how could anybody choose him over Cal's J.J. Arrington, who had more total yards, had better averages per carry and per game, caught 17 more passes and also played for a great team?

How? Because Peterson has been more hyped, and that's the name of the game.

The Heisman Trophy is no more about rewarding the best football player than the Orange Bowl is about rewarding the best team.

Call 'em Sham 1 and Sham 1A. You decide which is which.

Mike Nadel (mikenadel@sbcglobal.net) is the Chicago sports columnist for Copley News Service.

## Hawk wrestlers have an old-fashioned 'Donny Brook'

The Maine South wrestlers had all that they could handle with the Niles West squad. The Hawks won 8 of 14 bouts to seal a 39-10 victory last weekend.

"After checking line ups we told the kids that this was going to be an old-fashioned 'Donny Brook,'" said Coach Craig Fallico. "They, of course, did not know what that meant. After the duel, they now have a pretty good idea."

The Hawks got wins from Kevin Contorno at 112 lbs. with a major 14-2 decisions; Nick Lagattuta at 119 lbs. 6-4; Dan Olszewski at 130 lbs. with a 19-3 tech fall; Matt Heller at 145 lbs. with a 9-6 decision; Alex Gersch at 152 lbs. and Rick Loera at 171 lbs. Both received FFT victories; and A.J. Haduch at 189 lbs. and Mark Corsello at 257 lbs. BOTH pinned their opponents. Maine South is now 7-1 overall and 2-0 in their conference with another battle on their mats tomorrow as Waukegan travels to face the Hawks on their home turf.

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**BOWLING SCORES**

Niles Senior Men Bowling League  
 TEAM STANDING

W	L
#5 Minelli	58 39
#15 Skaja #2	55.5 36.5
#8 Dr. Bello	54 37
#20 Northshore	52 39
#9 Miners	48 43
#16 Malec	44.5 39.5
#9 Miners	43 41
#15 Heatmasters	47.5 43.5
#17 Tam Cal	47 44
#12 Candle Light	47 44
#2 Callero + Catino	46 45
#7 J Barber	45.5 45.5
#13 State Farm	45 46
#18 Malec	44.5 46.5
#1 Seasons Hospice	44 47
#6 Colonial #1	44 47
#10 Skaja #1	43 48
#4 FDR Post	42 49
#11 Colonial #2	41 50
#13 Alliance	39 52
#14 REMAX	35 56
#3 Semko	32 59

"HOT SHOTS"

Dan Stojek	627
Joe Sapienza	616
Harold Packer	579
Todd Bavaro	569
Dave Handler	547
Arnold Krebs	546
Ken Daluga	537
Laszlo Koos	533

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE**  
 Bowled Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Points	Won	Lost
Bielinski and Bono Dental	58	26
Classic Bowl	58	26
Niles Dairy Queen	44	40
NorthSide Community Bank	40	44
Candlelight Jewelers	31	53
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	21	63

High Series/High Games

Millie Kroll	483/171
Lois MacAdam	477/169
Gertie Schultz	468/191
Sandy Panuce	459/163
Kay Pecoraro	177
Camille Berg	171

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BAKED GOODS

15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67 indicating starting points for clues.

- DOWN
1 Shamu, e.g.
2 In a minute
3 Challenging
4 "That Girl" girl
5 Abominable.
6 Coming up
7 One-million link
8 Light-sensitive cells
9 Starlike
10 Hardtack
11 Likewise
12 Flush
13 Trial balloon
18 Miss Scarlett, e.g.
23 Goaded, with on
24 Chili go-with
25 "Summer": Beach Boys album
27 Bible and Borscht
28 Lake Geneva resort
29 Greeting from Pooh
31 Holy mackerel!
32 "Johnny B. ..."
33 Violinist Mischa
34 Chicago expressway, with the
36 Prince Edward's title
39 Kind of campaign
43 Viewpoint
45 Prepares to propose
46 Held dear
49 Make up for
50 Massachusetts peninsula, with 61 Down
51 Norway's patron saint
52 Telephonic WXY
53 Royal Russian
55 Call to the phone
56 Stew pod
57 Compost deposit
60 Weed killer
61 See 50 Down

By Charles Preston



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- ACROSS
1 Federal factory inspectors, for short
5 Barbershop leftover
9 Selling point
14 A horse of different colors
15 Horrors!
16 Barbershop request
17 Southern specialty
19 Calculator button
20 Secondly
21 Timeline division
22 Slitherer
24 Vacation souvenir
26 Chew the fat
27 What ecce means
30 Dressing gown
35 Escape by trickery
36 Leg up
37 Auctioned off
38 Wallace, of Reader's Digest
39 Tuna or potato
40 Johnny-...lately
41 Nursery need
42 Sitcom equine
43 Largest country in Africa
44 Skin diving devices
46 UFO crew
47 LPN's group
48 Anwar, of Egypt
50 Hollywood Bowl performance
54 Coal unit
55 Rice Krispies sound
58 Matching
59 Strawberry
62 Discussion group
63 Stellar
64 Fearsome fellow
65 Last name in civil rights
66 Saxophone, e.g.
67 Wheel's companion

LIFE

EVENTS CALENDAR

GOVERNMENT

Monday, December 20
-7:30pm Park Ridge City Council
Tuesday, December 21
-6 p.m. Niles Park Board meeting

COMMUNITY

Sunday, December 19
-St. Mary Choir will hold a Christmas concert under the director of Mr. Craig Kamptner on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. The Concert will be held at the Church, located at 794 Pearson St. in Des Plaines.
Friday, December 24
-St. John Lutheran Church in Niles will hold Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5pm and 11pm on Friday, Dec. 24. The 5pm service will include a special children's sermon. Bother services will feature many Christmas hymns and carols and especially, the singing of Silent Night by candlelight. For more information, contact the church office at (847) 647-9867.
Tuesday, January 25
-Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster, Skokie, announces Hebrew reading classes starting Jan. 25. The classes will run for eight weeks on Tuesday evenings. Beginning Hebrew reading will be 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and intermediate reading will be 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Non-synagogue members are welcome to attend. The fee for the course, including materials, is \$25 for members and \$40 for non-members. The instructor is Charles Kreisberg, a synagogue member. For more information, call (847) 675-4141.

Fight Cancer With These 10 Foods

BY JENNIFER GROSSMAN
NewsUSA

(NUI)-

More than a third of all cancers could be prevented by changes in diet and exercise. One of the most important things you can do to reduce your risk is lose excess weight - and one of the best ways to lose weight is through a filling, fiber-rich diet including plenty of fruits and vegetables. But that's not the reason why the National Cancer Institute recently approved the dietary guidance: "Diets rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of some types of cancer and other chronic diseases." These foods are packed with antioxidants and other compounds that protect your DNA and fight free radical damage. Since these substances work synergistically, it's best to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables rather than relying on one particular produce item to serve as a magic bullet against disease. That said, recent studies have uncovered

- specific benefits in the following foods that would recommend making them a part of any healthy diet.
1. Tomatoes: Lycopene, also found in watermelon and pink grapefruit, has been linked to lower risk of prostate, ovarian and cervical cancer. It also targets the free radical that is implicated in lung and digestive cancers.
2. Broccoli sprouts: One forkful triggers a cascade of antioxidant activity that lasts for days.
3. Berries: Blueberries, cranberries, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes - all rich in anthocyanins that repair and protect DNA.
4. Soybeans: Isoflavones such as genistein may help prevent and treat prostate cancer and may reduce breast cancer risk.
5. Tea: Both black and green contain powerful compounds shown in countless studies to lower the risk of several types of cancer.
6. Pumpkin: This unsung super-food is a super-rich source of both beta-carotene and alpha-carotene, two hard-working carotenoids that combat lung and ovarian cancer.
7. Spinach: Popeye's favorite may help ward off cancers of the liver, ovaries, colon and prostate. The active antioxidant lutein is also found in kale and other leafy greens.
8. Garlic: Allium veggies (which also include onions and scallions) work to get your body's own antioxidant defense systems in gear. This process provides protective benefits against stomach, esophageal and breast cancers.
9. Pineapple: The enzyme bromelain may inhibit the growth of malignant cells in both lung and breast cancer, while the phenolic compounds also provide a protective benefit.
10. Apples: Can one a day help keep cancer at bay? Studies show quercetin may reduce the risk of lung cancer and impede growth of prostate cancer cells. Other antioxidants together with pectin help halt colon and liver cancer cell replication.
To learn more about produce with anti-cancer prowess, go to www.dolenutrition.com.

No-regret holiday fare for conscientious eaters

(NUI)-

The holidays are synonymous with rich, indulgent foods and luxurious meals. If you're trying to lose or maintain weight on a low-fat, low-calorie program, it can feel like there's little to celebrate and even less to eat. Try this great recipe for a low-carb version of a holiday classic.
HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD
1/2 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
1/2 cup Atkins Quick Quisine Bake Mix
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
8 large eggs, separated
9 tablespoons granular sugar substitute
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
2 tablespoons strong brewed decaffeinated coffee
Whipped cream, flavored with ground ginger and sweetened with granular sugar substitute, for garnish
Heat oven to 350 F. Butter a 9-inch round cake pan.
Whisk flour, bake mix, cocoa powder, baking powder, salt, nutmeg, cinnamon, ground ginger and cloves in a bowl to combine.
Beat egg yolks and sugar substitute with an electric mixer on high speed until thick ribbons form when the beaters are lifted, 3 to 4 minutes. Beat in butter until smooth. Add heavy cream, fresh ginger and coffee; beat until thoroughly combined, about 1 minute.
With a clean mixing bowl and beaters, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form, about 3 to 4 minutes. Mix one-third of egg whites into batter to lighten. Gently fold remaining egg whites in two additions until just combined. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake until cake has risen and set, and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 22 to 25 minutes.
Cool cake in pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Remove cake from pan and let cool completely on a wire rack. Serve with a dollop of flavored whipped cream.

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# REAL ESTATE

THE BUGLE

Thursday December 16, 2004

BY ROSE BENNETT GILBERT  
Copley News Service

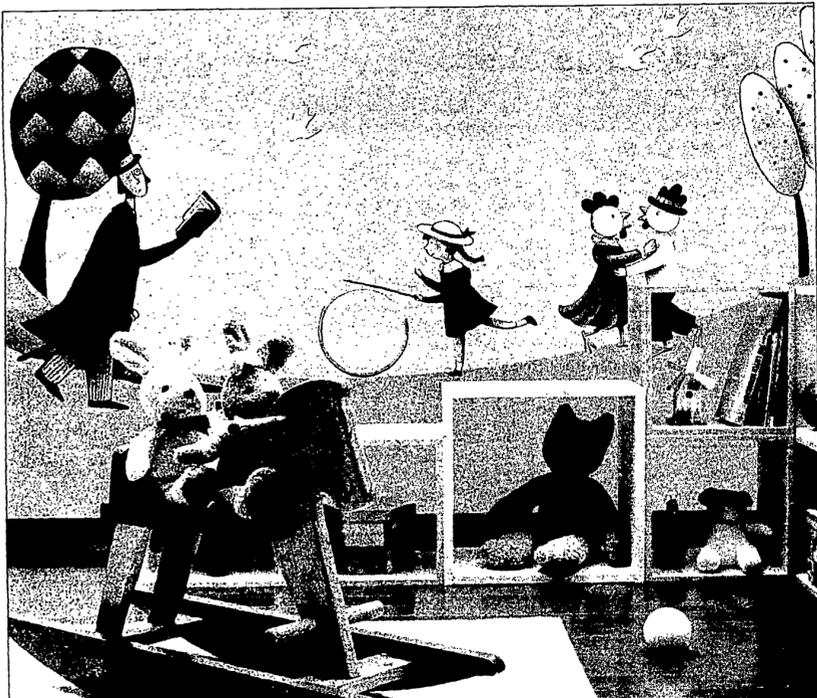
## Decor Score Murals will be magical in baby's room

**Q:** I'm doing over the nursery for our (last!) baby, and would love to be able to hire an artist to paint an original story mural on the wall. Unhappily, with three girls under 10, the budget won't let me. Do you know of any great wallpapers or decals that might give the effect of a mural?

**A:** Painted, papered or otherwise, murals work great decorating magic in a room, breaking through the finite dimension of a flat wall to open the room to a view, to another time and place, and a feeling of space that goes beyond your actual floor size. No wonder murals have been a popular form of wall decoration, from the Lascaux caves to Pompeii to 18th century dining rooms.

Today, murals come prepacked and ready to go up in any room that needs a new decorative dimension. One of the top mural resources is York Wallcoverings of York, Pa. Have a look at their Web site, [www.yorkwall.com](http://www.yorkwall.com), and click on "products" tab to search their library of sample books. Another new feature, "search by room" offers inspiration room-by-room. Like most magical products, wall-covering murals are not inexpensive. So if your budget is your driving concern, you might consider contacting a local college or high school art class. Ask the teacher to recommend a promising student. Chances are he/she will thrill to a commission.

The newest mural idea of all, a new category of innovative art called transForms fine art transfers, makes it easy for anyone to



become an artist, as long as you can follow simple instructions: peel, press in place and rub to transfer the art to any smooth surface. The whimsical scene in the tot's playroom we show here was created with transForms Transfers,

which are available at home centers, department and specialty stores for \$20 to \$1,200. Have a closer look at [www.transforms.net](http://www.transforms.net).

**Q:** My husband has dragged home a couple of old solid oak or chest-

nut doors and wants to install them in place of the doors that came with the house, which are some sort of plastic, I think, but look OK to me. In order to install the old doors, we'd have to replace the moldings, too. I told him if you

say it's a good idea, we'll do it (but think hard: it will cost a bundle).

**A:** A no-brainer, this: go for the old doors. They will make a huge difference in sound-control, yes, but most important, in the architectural "heft" of your house.

Top New York designer Jeffrey Bilhuber told me that one of the first things he does in a home makeover is to replace flimsy, run-of-the-mill doors with heavy, quality millwork. (He also replaces standard hardware like doorknobs and switchplates, for the same reason - "It gives the house a feeling of quality.")

**Q:** We are painting the upstairs TV room and wonder if we should choose a dark color, even for the ceiling? We mostly watch TV at night, and would like the room to feel warm and cozy.

**A:** Warm, cozy, and much smaller, too, especially if you paint the ceiling dark. That's because light colors recede from the eye (so you see more space than actually exists) and warm color advance (closing in the space). If you decide that's the ambience you want to create, consider painting the ceiling with a semi- or gloss paint. The sheen will give life to the dead space and keep the dark color from pressing oppressively down on your head.

Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. Please send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or online at [copleysd@copleynews.com](mailto:copleysd@copleynews.com).

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Visit Copley News Service at [www.copleynews.com](http://www.copleynews.com).

## A greener view: The madness of squirrels

BY JEFF RUGG  
Copley News Service

**Q:** I have a holly bush about 8-feet-tall that has been seriously attacked by squirrels the past two seasons. My next-door neighbor's 12-foot-tall holly bush is only about 20 feet away and it is untouched. On more than a few times, I have collected enough chewed branches to fill a five-gallon bucket. The squirrels seem to go berserk with this bush. Please help.

**A:** Squirrels are squirrely. They

use chewed branches for nesting material, as a source of food and for the water from the sap. Sometimes they aren't careful enough to carry the branch all the way back to the nest and sometimes they just eat the ends and drop the rest.

I have a silver maple tree that they will eat in the spring and occasionally over the rest of the year. They don't bother another silver maple that has branches mixed into the first one and they don't chew on the honeylocust branches that mix in with the other two trees. Does this one tree taste bet-

ter or is the sap sweeter or more abundant? I can't see any difference in the three trees. They are all the same age and size. The squirrels don't nest in any of them.

Since your holly is small enough, you could spray a coating on it that would repel the squirrels. There are several products that either use hot pepper or rotten eggs to make the coating unpalatable. You can find them near the wild-bird food section of the store or at specialty stores that sell wild-bird products.

Generally, such products are not too useful for stopping a wild ani-

mal from eating a plant that it wants for food. They need to be re-sprayed after rains and after new growth. In this case, the squirrel isn't using the plant as a food source, the plant is small and there won't be any new growth for several months. Snow will not wash it off as fast as rain, so it might last long enough for the squirrel to develop the taste for your neighbors holly or to stop eating hollies altogether.

**Q:** This fall we built a pond in our yard. This will be our first winter with it. We feel confident about the information we have received

on closing down the pond for the winter, however we are unsure about how to clear out the water from the bottom drain, which is under the liner. Could you advise us?

**A:** Typically, you don't have to do anything at all to the water in the bottom drainpipe. Only if there is an area of the pipe that is exposed to the cold air, where the water could freeze would there be a possibility of damage.

The pipe that runs from the pump up to any waterfalls might drain

Continues...

A GREENER VIEW page 17.

## REAL ESTATE

### Do-it-yourself patio tips Thinking of installing a brick patio?

**H**ere are some tips from Laura Schwind, a registered landscape architect for Pine Hall Brick, the largest supplier of clay pavers in the United States.

\* Consider the size. Most people make their patios too small. The

average patio is 150 square feet. To get an idea of the size and space, place furniture, a grill and your kids' toys in the proposed area and outline the area with a garden hose.

\* Decide on the shape. Rectangular and linear patios are considered more formal. A curved patio allows

you to bring planting beds into the space, adding interest by creating depth and dimension.

\* Choose the pattern. The most popular pattern is herringbone but you can use a combination of patterns or colors to make your space more visually appealing.

### A greener view

(Continued from page 16)

clear when the pump is removed for the winter. If there are low spots that might hold water, it is often a good idea to blow air through the pipe to remove the water. A leaf blower or a utility vacuum can be used to remove the water.

**Q:** I know it is late in the season, but my grass is still growing. Although my grass is very green, I have blotches of light green. The blotches are circles from 1- to 2-feet in diameter. I have had grub problems, but I treated the lawn with GrubEx. Do you have any idea why there are light green patches?

**A:** A slight discoloring of the grass is not a sign of grubs. Light green circles are a sign of fungal infection. Many of these diseases start in a small spot and spread in all directions, forming the circular pattern. Often, the grass recovers rather quickly and so the disease forms an ever-widening ring of discolored grass with healthy grass in the middle. When the diseased areas grow wide enough to touch, the pattern looks mottled and not circular.

At this time of year, most lawn grasses are going dormant and will not be too affected by the fungus. It should be watched in the spring and a fungicide applied.

There are a few fungal diseases that work in cold weather and even under snow, but there isn't much that can be done for treating them until the weather warms up.

### GARDEN TIP

#### Appetite for destruction

If squirrels aren't eating certain plants, they're using them to build shelter. They chew off branches for nesting material and as a source of food and water from the sap. Squirrel nests usually look like a pile of twigs and branches thrown together.

To deter their foraging, there are several brands of products that use either hot pepper or rotten eggs.

Generally, such products are not too useful for stopping a wild animal from eating a

Squirrel nest



Copley News Service / Pete Chenard

Your local lawn care specialists can more accurately diagnose the particular disease your lawn has. They can design an appropriate treatment.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at [info@greenerview.com](mailto:info@greenerview.com).  
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### HOME HOW-TO

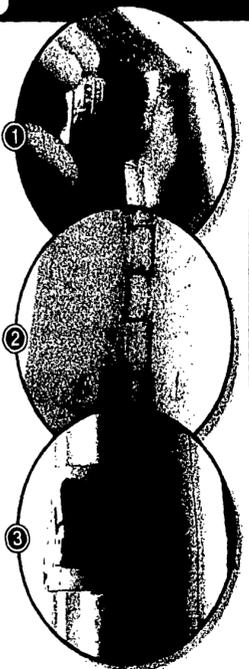
#### What causes doors to stick?

Most stuck doors can be corrected without a lot of sanding or planing. But identifying the cause is the first step in correcting the problem. A door can stick for many reasons:

1. New paint on the door frame or door.
2. Loose or improperly mortised hinge screws.
3. Misaligned strike plate.

#### OTHER FACTORS

- A settling house foundation or a sagging partition.
- High humidity (causes wood to swell).



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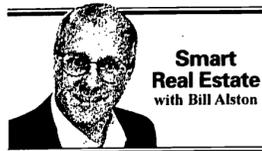
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Smart Real Estate with Bill Alston

### Selling your home during the winter

December and January are the two slowest months for selling real estate

here, but homes do get sold during these months. It is very important, however, to be aware of the factors that will help or hinder a sale. Pricing is critical. You are better off asking a lower price and leaving less room for negotiation, than pricing higher and leaving lots of room. Also, be aware of pricing brackets. Typical brackets are units of \$25,000 or \$50,000. Buyers instruct their agents to look in a certain price range, for example between \$300,000is \$350,000. If your asking is \$349,000 it will show up in their computer search

### REAL ESTATE

of properties. If you are asking \$351,000, it will not show up. Being below a price bracket will always generate more showings than being just over. Condition and appearance are always important. Go out of your way to make sure your home shows well. Clean, get rid of clutter, and make minor repairs. Don't forget to shovel and salt side walks and driveways. Make it as easy as possible to show your home. There are fewer buyers in the winter, but they tend to be more serious. As with any time of the year, they can't buy your home if they

can't get into it, when they need to. Is your home on the market this winter because it didn't sell during the busier season? If so, you must change something to make it sell now, and that something is usually price. If your home didn't sell in October or November at your current price, it probably won't sell now. Improve the condition of your home. Get objective opinions on making your home stand out to a buyer. Is your agent doing a good job? Are they advertising consistently? Having a Sunday open

house once or twice a month? Have they been making suggestions on how to make your home more saleable? If so, listen to them. If not, maybe it is time to change brokers. Selling real estate is a skill, and not every agent is at the same skill level. The end result? Homes do sell, even during the slowest months of the year. Yours can be one of them, if you do what is necessary. Call me at 847-967-6800 if you would like reprints of our three earlier articles on how to improve the sale price of your home, or to answer any other real estate related questions.

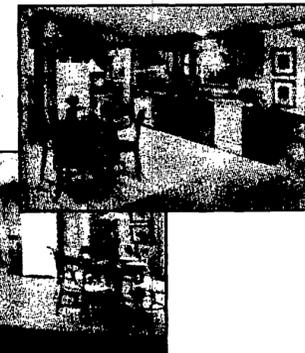
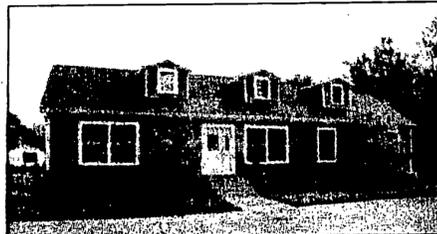
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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
DIVISION 0 - BIDDING AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS SECTION 02200 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS:  
Notice is hereby given that Wight Construction, Inc. is accepting sealed bids for: Niles Park District - New Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. Such proposals as herein concerned shall be for the following as described:  
Bid Package #16 Trim Carpentry  
Bid Package #17 Synthetic Flooring  
Bid Package #18 Hardwood Flooring  
Bid Package #19 Flooring  
Bid Package #20 Painting  
Bid Package #21 Gymnasium Equipment  
Sealed bids will be received by Wight Construction, Inc. at the place, date and time stated below and publicly opened and read there:  
PLACE: Niles Park District 6676 West Howard Street Niles, IL 60714  
Attn: Joseph LaVerde  
DUE DATE: January 6th, 2005  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
Any bid received after the time and date stated above will be returned unopened to the Bidder.  
A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on December

**LEGAL**  
21, 2004 at 10:00 AM at Niles Park District located at the main entrance. The successful bidder shall, upon acceptance of his bid, be required to procure and pay for a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the bid. Bonds shall comply with all laws of the State of Illinois governing public contracts let by governmental units. Bid security in the form of a Bid Bond, certified check or cashier's check made payable to Niles Park District in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the Base Bid is required. Bid security is required of all parties submitting a proposal.  
All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12). Plans and specifications may be purchased/non-refundable from B and H Industries via their web site at www.bhidustries.com, by clicking on "Visit E-Plan Room", "public jobs", and "Niles Park District - New Multi-Purpose Gymnasium", after 1:00 PM (CST) on Thursday, December 16, 2004. Order by reservation (allow 2-4 hours for printing) Cash, check or credit card accepted. (Please verify final cost with printer). (Distribution Locations) 80 Segers Rd., Arlington Hts., IL: 19

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Chicago, IL 60604

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Village of Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. at the Niles Municipal Building, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, to hear the following matter(s): 05-ZP-1 - Marcus Garvey, 650 E. Devon Avenue, Ste 157, Itasca, Illinois. Requesting a change in zoning from M to M-Special Use to relocate cellular antenna panels on existing monopole at 7007 Austin. The Village of Niles will comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. If you or someone you know with a disability require accommodation for a Village service or have any questions about the Village's compliance, please contact Mary Kay Morrissey, Village Manager, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, 847/588-8000.

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\$16.99 EACH 3 LTR

MARCONI  
**CRUSHED TOMATOES**  
\$1.09 EA 28 OZ

BOUTARI  
**WINES** KAVITIS-BLANC-RED-RETSINA  
\$5.99 EACH 750 ML

MARINARA  
**SEAFOOD MIX**  
\$2.99 EACH 1 LB BAG

BOYA  
**SARDINES IN TOMATO SAUCE**  
99¢ EACH 15 OZ

FIVE ROSES  
**ALL PURPOSE FLOUR**  
\$1.69 EACH 5.5 LB BAG

NUTELLA  
**HAZELNUT SPREAD**  
\$1.99 EACH 13 OZ

NEW ZEALAND GREENSHELL  
**MUSSELS**  
\$4.99 EACH 2 LB BAG

### COUPON

**SKIM MILK**  
\$1.79/EACH GAL

WITH A MINIMUM \$5.00 PURCHASE  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER  
EXPIRES 12-22-04

### COUPON

**75¢ OFF**

ANY PURCHASE OF \$10.00 OR MORE  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER  
EXPIRES 12-22-04

8800 WAUKEGAN RD. MORTON GROVE, IL.  
CORNER OF WAUKEGAN & DEMPSTER HOURS: MON-FRI 8-9 SAT 8-8

847-581-1029

Sales Dates Good 12/16/04 — 12/22/04