



**SMOKEY OR SMOKE-FREE?**  
Have your say on the Niles smoking ordinance  
**NEWS, Page 2**

**NEW LIBRARY URGED**  
MG Director calls for new building  
**LETTER, Page 14**

# THE BUGLE



AUGUST 31, 2006

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## Super Impact

By filling a long-vacant space in Niles Civic Center Plaza the new Super H Mart has definitely made an impact on the area. But it is also having an impact on smaller retail spaces in the plaza and the area around it. For more, see page 9.

# Super H Mart opens in grand style

**Ceremony draws local, state officials, foreign dignitaries**

By Andrew Schneider  
EDITOR

Over 500 people of all nationalities were on hand for the opening of the new Super H Mart in Niles' Civic Center Plaza Friday, a ceremony marked with speeches, clowns, flowers and sales.

The store, located in a former Dominick's is the chain's first location in the Midwest. Formerly they had been located primarily on the East Coast and specialize in Korean foods but also offer all the products found in most mainstream grocers.

The grand opening event

last Friday was attended by officials like Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase and State Rep. John D'Amico as well as the Korean Consul-General in Chicago and high-ranking members of the Korean business community in the United States and abroad.

"Welcome to Niles," Blase said during the opening ceremonies. "We're proud to have you as part of our community."

The opening fete was an impressive spectacle featuring speeches in both English and Korean, traditional clowns and flowers presented to key dignitaries by children in Korean costume. After the speeches had been given all the dignitaries pulled cords releasing a temporary 'Grand

See Super H Mart, page 4



A boy in traditional Korean dress was one of two children on hand to present dignitaries with flowers after they spoke at the Super H Mart grand opening festivities on Friday, Aug. 25.

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# Mueller named new Niles Fire Chief



## Borkowski promoted to Deputy Chief

Fire Department. "Wear it with pride as a symbol of your office," Kinowski told Mueller.

The torch was passed from Niles' long-time Fire Chief Harry Kinowski to its new chief, Barry Mueller, during the village board meeting Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Mueller, previously the deputy chief is a 29-year veteran of the Fire Department. Kinowski presented him with his chief's badge, a badge that has been worn by every paid-chief of Niles.

Mueller said the experience was humbling. "I'm very excited, honored and humbled," he said.

"We have a great fire department in Niles and I'm looking forward to leading it."

Mueller began his career in Niles as a firefighter/paramedic in 1977, was promoted to lieutenant in 1984, district

See Chief, page 2

# Back to School

Last week students all over the Chicago-metro area headed back to school, an event that was undoubtedly full of excitement and anticipation for some and dread for others (or maybe a touch of dread for every student).

I remember the return to school as a dreaded moment; it meant that the summer of fun was over and that structured learning was about to commence.

But the summer wasn't just about running around terrorizing the neighborhood for me, it was also a time to read the books I wanted to read instead of those assigned to me by teachers (as I grew older I tended to ignore the required reading in favor of my own, much to the detriment of my grades).

Now that the summer's over and parents can bundle their little ones off to school it's important to remember that students are more successful when their parents are involved both at the school and in their child's educational growth at home.



Page Two  
ANDREW SCHNEIDER | EDITOR

According to the National Education Association when parents are involved in their children's education, they do better in school. Their website (www.nea.org) offers a variety of tips for parents on how they can support their child's education.

Parental involvement can mean simple things like reading to your child, checking homework at night, discussing their progress with teachers and, importantly, limiting TV and video game time on school nights.

When I returned home from school I wanted to watch cartoons. My mother would only allow half an hour of TV time

See Column, page 10

# 3 residents share opinions at smoking ordinance hearing

## One more hearing to be held tonight

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Three residents shared their opinions regarding a smoking ban in public places in the Village of Niles at the first public hearing on Thursday, Aug. 24.

Andrew Przybylo and Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio conducted the hearing.

Przybylo explained that if the village does not create its own ordinance than it will have to follow Cook County's ordinance that includes a "total smoking ban" in public places, just as every other home-rule body would. Przybylo said the goal is to create an ordinance that is fair to all residents. For example, he believes informing customers at the door if it's a smoking, non-smoking or partial facility is a good idea.

"We prefer to have our own ordinance and listen to our own citizens," commented Przybylo, who encouraged residents to attend the next public hearing on Thursday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

"One micro inch at a time, we're eliminating our freedoms," said Bob Salani, who strongly opposes a smoking ban. He and his wife believe

that a smoking ban would deprive smokers of their freedom. His wife said that is wrong to "demonize a product that is legal."

"I'm totally against a smoking ban," said Bob Ryan, who shared Salani's opposition to a smoking ban, although for different reasons.

"We'll lose revenue for the Village of Niles," said Ryan. He was concerned that customers would go to other towns nearby that allows smoking and then the village would lose revenue and as a result, taxes for residents will go up.

Another woman felt very differently than the two other speakers. She said that her daughter can't go to restaurants because she has asthma and is bothered by the smoke. She believes that it should be banned in restaurants.

After the residents spoke, Przybylo said that everyone at the hearing spoke from the heart and made excellent comments that will be taken into consideration.

Trustee Louella Preston said that she is allergic to smoke and can understand the health concerns related to smoking, but at the same time, she is also very concerned about maintaining people's freedom.

Over in Morton Grove, he and boards have been reviewing the ordinance and the options.

## The Public Speaks Out

When an off-track betting facility was approved by the village of Niles there was an outcry from some individuals who believed that the will of the people was being ignored, that the village wasn't giving its residents a chance to comment on a momentous change in village policy.

Now the village is going out of its way to seek public comment on a new smoking ordinance that is also of great importance and only three residents took advantage of the opportunity.

It's not too late. The village will have one more public hearing on this issue tonight, Thursday Aug. 31 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The village and The Bugle urge you to attend and voice your opinion.

boards have been reviewing the ordinance and the options.

"I've been talking with different mayors," said Mayor Richard Krier. "We're wrestling with the same thing that Niles is."

Krier said that it is a topic the village may discuss publicly in the fall.

## Chief

continued from page 1

chief in 1994 and deputy chief in 2000.

"I've enjoyed every job that I've held," he said. "I'm confident that it will stay that way."

Steve Borkowski, a 25-year veteran of the force, was also promoted to deputy chief from district chief, filling the position made vacant by Mueller's promotion.

"I'm looking forward to working with the firefighters," he said Tuesday, "and serving the village and its residents."

Borkowski was hired in 1981 as a firefighter/paramedic, promoted to lieutenant in 1989 and district chief in 1999.

# Niles approves engineering contract for Milwaukee Ave.

## Committee to be formed to guide design

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen  
STAFF WRITER

Moving forward with the Milwaukee Ave. project, the Niles Village Board approved a contract with Smith Engineering to head the design project at the last village board meeting.

Smith Engineering is the same company that is working on the reconstruction south of Harlem to Albion. By going with Smith Engineering, the streetscape project will go from Monroe all the way to Harts, as opposed to Monroe to Birchwood.

The ultimate goal is to beautify Milwaukee Ave. that has a traffic count of about 32,300 vehicles per day and is also one of the most active commercial districts in the village.

The next step will be to form a

"The committee will likely look at other municipalities that have done similar projects and decide what they want their streetscape to look like, regarding sidewalks, landscape, benches and more."

Steve Vinezeano  
ASST. VILLAGE MANAGER

committee that will likely be composed of two village board members, Asst. Village Manager Steve Vinezeano, Community Development Director Chuck Ostman and Niles Chamber of Commerce Director Katie DiMaria.

Vinezeano said the committee will likely look at other municipalities that have done similar projects and decide, what they want their streetscape to look like, regarding sidewalks, landscape, benches and more.

Vinezeano said that the village is pleased that the project will go all the way to Harts, because it will include the "central business district." In addition, with the new development coming to that area, he noted that the village will still be able to have control over what the streetscape appearance will be.

The reconstruction of the south end and the streetscape project will occur simultaneously. Construction will likely start in 2008.

The contract was awarded to Smith Engineering for \$184,000, which includes design work and creating working drawings. The village received an ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program) grant of \$804,000 and the village itself will put out \$200,000 of motor fuel tax funds.

The village has been studying the Milwaukee Ave. corridor and collecting the public's opinion and now they are ready to move from the conceptual phase to the design phase.

# Residents upset over MG video snafus

## Village argues technical difficulties

A few residents approached the Morton Grove Village Board with concerns regarding the broadcasts of the board meetings, and more specifically, the recent TIF workshop meeting.

At the past few village board meetings, a couple of residents have expressed their concerns that their comments were being edited out of the video tapes.

The most recent concern the residents had is that there is not a video tape of the TIF workshop, due to what Mayor Richard Krier described as likely to be an "operator error." There was no sound on the video tape.

Resident Chris Arns said that the village should work on making sure meetings are recorded and available to the public. He said that some of the statistics and results from the TIF meeting troubled him because he said there was a

"lack of uniformity." He said that he wanted "closing the TIF early" to be an option on the list, but he said there was not enough time to vote on it.

Resident Sherwin Dubren said that if the village knew they had an important meeting such as the TIF workshop coming up they should have scheduled a more experienced person to do the videotaping. Krier said an intern did the taping at the TIF meeting.

The village recently provided a meeting that included the concerned residents and the village technician, Roger.

"I found it enlightening," said Dubren, about the recent meeting. "I'm very impressed with him (Roger). I think he's a very knowledgeable person."

Krier said there are definitely some technical difficulties that the village is trying to resolve. He has explained several times that they only have one employee that handles the technology and he said that fire and police matters always take priority.

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Patrons crowd up to the entrance of the Super H Mart following the grand opening festivities Friday, Aug. 25.

Below: Patrons sort through fresh produce at the Super H Mart after its grand opening ceremonies Friday, Aug. 25. The store also features fresh meat and produce.



**Super H Mart**  
continued from page 1

Opening Sign' to reveal the new Super H Mart sign.

Traffic in and around the Civic Center Plaza was backed up most of the morning and several police officers were required at the entrances and key points throughout the parking lot to provide traffic control.

"Within this store customers can also experience the culture and cuisine of Korea," said the Korean Consul-General at the event.

In order to create that experience H Mart officials, have created tenant spaces within their store that are home to

"Welcome to Niles. We're proud to have you as part of our community."

**Nicholas Blase**  
MAYOR OF NILES

American tenants like Foster Bank and Pizza Hut as well as more traditional Korean businesses and restaurants in addition to a full-service produce, meat and seafood areas and dry goods areas. The overall effect makes the store feel not just like a grocer but also a small shopping mall.

The new store fills a vacant location inside one of Niles Tax Increment Financing or TIF Districts. TIF Districts are used by municipalities to spur development in blighted

areas. Most TIFs are based on increased property values resulting from development but the Civic Center TIF is one of the last remaining sales tax TIFs which are no longer permitted under Illinois law.

"When we first heard that H Mart was interested in coming to Niles we sent someone to the east coast to check it out," Blase remarked at the event. "We were very impressed and seeing the renovations inside we were also impressed."

"Hopefully this is the first of many stores to come to the Midwest," D'Amico said at the event.

H Mart officials at the event said they intend to open an additional 4 stores in the Midwest with the Niles store as a starting point.

**The Tenants\***

In addition to the grocery store, Super H Mart also has a variety of tenant spaces. Those include:

■ Foster Bank	■ Natural Store The Face Shop
■ Leekaja Hair	■ Family Video
■ The Amore	■ Flower & Gifts
■ GuGu Jewelry	■ Mom's Health Land
■ Ribbon	■ Lovelee Fashion Jewelry
■ Hikosen Cara	■ Beautiville
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■ Fancy Pencil Land	■ Wellbeing Town
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\* does not include food court

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**D71 budget in the black**

Supt. estimates \$100K overage

Niles School Dist. 71 is heading in the right direction, which is in the black.

The school district approved the 2006-2007 tentative budget on Aug. 15. The district has allocated \$8,314,226 for expenditures and anticipates \$8,653,416 in revenue, creating a balanced budget.

Supt. Raymond Costa predicts that they will be in the black by about \$100,000, because he said they never receive all of the tax money. Last year, Costa said the school district was in the black by about \$30,000, so he says they are moving in the right direction.

"I'm a firm believer in trying to squeeze as much from the public's nickel as possible."

**Raymond Costa**  
SUPERINTENDENT

In the past, the district went out to referendum and wasn't as financially sound as it is today. So, what's the secret behind this year's budget?

Well, Costa said that one key component is that the enrollment is down from 560 last year to 492 this year due to a large eighth grade class that graduated last year. As a result, the number of personnel was reduced. There were also retirements as well.

Another reason is that one of the district's tax increment

financing (TIF) district zones ended, creating \$200,000 more in income.

Last year, the district's revenue was at \$8.3 million and this year the revenue is \$8.7 million, part of it coming from the \$200,000 from the closed TIF and the rest from the increase in the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

Costa said that he tries to stay away from referendums whenever possible and he said at this time it is unnecessary.

"I'm a firm believer in trying to squeeze as much from the public's nickel as possible," said Costa.

Costa said the first day of school was successful and he enjoyed eating lunch with students and seeing their smiling faces.

**Loyola Academy announces second semester Honor Roll**

Loyola Academy is pleased to announce that the following area students' second semester achievements in the 2005-2006 school year have merited them honor roll distinctions. Students with a 93 percent unweighted average are named Loyola Scholars. Students with an 89.5 percent or higher weighted average earn First Honors, while students with an 84.5 percent weighted average earn Second Honors.

**From Park Ridge**, our Freshman Loyola Scholars are Elizabeth Appelt, Andrew Boychuck, Colin Humanski and Claire Tighe; Freshman First Honors go to Andrew Brito, Anna Marie Brodech, Caroline Davies, Patrick Falson, Gavin Farley, Tasia Hoffman, Thomas Kaminski, Alex Muench and Cassandra Pilarski; Freshman Second Honors go to Nathaniel Armstrong, Gary Lee and Brenda Lodyga; our Sophomore Loyola Scholars are Kelly Caputo, Angela Ginocchio, Kellyn Jackson and Christopher Miller; Sophomore First Honors go to Kathleen Burns, Hannah Cushing, Katie Festle, Tina Frukacz, Michael Habschmidt, Shannon Joyce, Stephanie Makos, David Saladino and Veronica Wilson; Sophomore Second Honors go to Phillip Falson, John Gagliardo, Ryan Guso, Gregory Isaac, Michael Kusack, Jade Narrido and Daniel

Steinfelds; our Junior Loyola Scholars are Kathleen Burns-Wick, Jacqueline Cichon, Andre Frukacz and Erin Sullivan; Junior First Honors go to Kelly Block, Joseph Daly, Jacqueline Davies, Claire Demos, Jessica DiMeo, Kathryn Durkin, Kathryn Iraci, Elizabeth Kaczmarek, Lauren Lee, Lucas Michals and Sara Miletic; Junior Second Honors go to Peter Buchcar, Brendan Farley, Jennifer Kapst, Clare Keesey, Nora Koziol, John Lahart and Katherine Nickele; our Senior Loyola Scholars are Erin Daly, Mary Habschmidt, Nora Murphy, Angelica Paleczny and Alex Tidei; Senior First Honors go to Kathleen Collins, Maura Falls and Daniel Miletic; and Senior Second Honors go to Martin Grego and Sara Rzepkowski.

**From Morton Grove**, our Freshman Loyola Scholar is Kathryn In; Freshman First Honors go to Steven Higgins and Emily Szachowicz; Freshman Second Honors go to Jennifer Favaro, Brianna McNamara, Nicole Morisco, Nikhil Pillai and Daniel Yoo; our Sophomore Loyola Scholars is Sonu Joseph; Sophomore Second Honors go to Kevin Condon, Mateusz Placek and Brenda Sekosan; our Junior Loyola Scholar is Christine Favaro; Junior First Honors go to Michael McLean, Charles Morello III, Cyrus Rashtchian and Denise Salinas;

Junior Second Honors go to Michael Bermudez; our Senior Loyola Scholar is Jerry Mandujano Jr.; Senior First Honors go to Kimberly Bauer, David Roti Jr. and Conrad Ziembinski; and Senior Second Honors go to Andrew LaCorte.

**From Niles**, our Freshman Loyola Scholars are Alexis Bargione, Christine Bassig-Santos and Tomas Stanislawski; Freshman First Honors go to Kevin Kopolnek and Patrick Sen; Freshman Second Honors go to Christine Penkala; our Sophomore Loyola Scholars are Jena Chorath, Monica Gutierrez, Erin Mueller, Beatrice Toda and Charles Vasis; Sophomore First Honors go to Katie Dessent, Nancy Geden, Megan Konor and Radoslaw Stanislawski; Sophomore Second Honors go to Kiley Bielecki-Mooney, Daniel P McDonough and Paulina Placek; our Junior Loyola Scholars are Jeff Chorath and Michael Looby Jr.; Junior First Honors go to Joshua Dessent, Shawn Lopez and Franci Rueve; Junior Second Honors go to Betim Arifi, Kimberlie LoVerde, Emily McGuinn and Nancy Shaba; our Senior Loyola Scholar is Katherine Magdongon; Senior First Honors go to Maura Kopolnek and Mary Naples; and Senior Second Honors go to Joseph Penkala.

**Marasas graduates from Roosevelt U.**

Robert Marasas, of Niles, recently graduated from Roosevelt University with a bachelor's of science in business administration. Marasas is a finance major. Roosevelt University awarded bachelor's, master's, doc-

toral and certificate degrees to about 1,200 graduates this May.

Roosevelt University is a private, independent university with campuses in the Chicago Loop and northwest suburban Schaumburg.

**Back to School**



Kids at Hynes Elementary in Morton Grove headed back to school last week along with kids from all over the state.

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# Lost purse found with \$5,000 inside

## MORTON GROVE

### 1 Lost Purse Contains \$5,000 USC (8700 Callie)

Police said a woman reported that she lost her black leather purse while she was walking in the area on Aug. 22. The purse contained a state ID, a cell phone and \$5000 in USC.

### 2 Storm Door Smashed (7400 Churchill)

Unidentified person(s) smashed the front storm door by unknown means on Aug. 22. The victim was home all day but did not hear anything unusual.

### 3 Forgery (7200 Dempster)

The Morton Grove Police received a phone call from the Deerfield Police that three subjects have been in custody since Aug. 15 for possessing forged/fake bank checks and merchandise from the store's Morton Grove location. A group of offenders have been using checks with the same fraudulent account/routing numbers and have defrauded the company of \$16,000 in the last two months, said police. The Morton Grove location lost close to \$8,000 from the crime ring.

### 4 Woman Saw Man Trying to Open Her Vehicle (5900 Madison)

Police said the homeowner was awakened by a suspicious noise on Aug. 24. She looked out her bedroom window and saw a dark colored full sized van with windows all around it, said police. The woman saw someone attempt to open the rear passenger side door of her Ford escort and when she yelled out the window the male jumped into the van and fled eastbound on Madison.

### 5 Vehicle Damaged (8900 Linder)

Unknown person(s) dented the left front panel and part of the left rear of the victim's vehicle between Aug. 20 and 21. The police said the damage could have been done using a rubber coated bicycle handle. The victim said there were three children riding their bikes in the area that night.

### 6 Possession of Cannabis Arrest (9100 Menard)

Police arrested a 29 year old Morton Grove male for possessing 7 grams of Cannabis and for driving with a suspended license on Aug. 22. The bond is set at \$1,000.

### 7 DUI/Possession of Controlled Substance (Waukegan and Church)

A 41 year old Morton Grove man was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and possessing a controlled substance on Aug. 19.

### 8 DUI Arrest (6500 Eldorado)

Police charged a 51 year old man from Morton Grove of driving under the influence of alcohol after he crossed over lanes and almost hit the police squad car on Aug. 19. The bond is set at \$1,000 and the court date is Sept. 5.

### 9 Retail Theft (7200 Dempster)

Police arrested a 34 year old man from Niles for retail theft after he stole a \$19.99 picture frame from the store he is employed at Aug. 21. The bond is \$1,000 and court date is Sept. 27.

## NILES

### 10 Loud Explosion (9400 Milwaukee)

A number of pieces of wooden debris were found on the ground after a wooden box was blown up by an unknown device on Aug. 25. The Cook County Sheriff's Police Bomb Squad came to the scene. The complainant said the box was empty when he placed it next to the garbage dumpster on Aug. 24.

### 11 Assisting Other Agency with Gunshot Wound (7900 Caldwell)

Police said a victim was shot in the back above his left shoulder blade on Aug. 26 following a dispute at a bar in Chicago. The victim, who was shot while driving away in his vehicle, did not know he was shot until he got home and passed out.

### 12 Man Dies While Playing Tennis (8000 Foster Lane)

Police said a 70 year old Niles man was playing tennis with his friend on Aug. 26 when he fell to the ground for "no reason." The man, who was a teacher, was transported to

Lutheran General Hospital and was pronounced dead at the hospital.

### 13 Thousands of Dollars in Jewelry Stolen from Home (7100 Greenleaf)

Police said the victim's son's friend stayed over at her home while she was away and the friend stole \$3,500 in various jewelry on Aug. 24. The subject stole the jewelry while the son was sleeping, said police.

### 14 Subjects Climbing Trees (8200 Golf)

Police said the complainant saw suspicious subjects climbing trees in the rear alley on Aug. 20. The subjects were both 17 years old and were given tickets for curfew and consumption of alcohol by minors, said police.

### 15 Chicken and Utensils Stolen from Vehicle (5600 Touhy)

Unknown subject(s) stole \$36 worth of chicken and utensils from the victim's vehicle that was in the parking lot on Aug.

18. The victim left the items in the back seat of the vehicle with the left window partially open. When the victim returned, the items were missing.

### 16 Open Burning (6900 Jarvis)

Police said a pile of logs were burning in the backyard of a residence on Aug. 22. The premise had multiple burn piles from previous fires being started. The police met with the tenant who had no idea how the flames started.

### 17 Battery Arrest (6500 Ebinger)

A 21 year old Niles man was arrested on Aug. 27 for battery after swearing at and kicking an officer. The bond was set at \$1,000 with a court date of Sept. 18.

### 18 DUI Arrest (7900 N. Caldwell)

Police arrested a 23 year old Niles man on Aug. 20 for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving on a revoked license. Bond is set at \$3,000. The man has a case pending in Lake County as well.

# Two men charged in burglary of club

Two subjects were charged on Aug. 22 for the burglary of a locker at X Sport Fitness Club on Milwaukee Ave. in Niles.

David W. Winfrey, 45, from McHenry, IL and Ransom A. Yates, 51, of Fort Meyers, FL were arrested for the burglary.

The subjects were stopped by the Morton Grove Police department after a dispatch was sent out by Niles Police. A Golf Mill Target store security agent saw the subjects using a gift card that was paid for by one of the credit cards that was taken from the locker burglary in Niles on Aug. 15. In addition to the burglary, the men were also charged with the possession of burglary tools, unlawful use of a credit card, theft and



David Winfrey



Ransom Yates

possession of stolen property.

More than \$6,000 in cash was recovered, which was on one of the offenders at the time of the arrest. The arrests helped clear burglary cases in Skokie, Schaumburg, Lake Forest and several jurisdictions in Florida. Both of the offenders are being held at the Cook County Jail on bonds of \$250,000 pending an Aug. 30 preliminary hearing in Skokie.

## Blotter

continued from page 6

license. Bond is set at \$3,000. The man has a case pending in Lake County as well.

### 19 Warrant Arrest (8300 Golf)

A 22 year old Glenview man was arrested on a warrant for conditional lease violation on Aug. 26. The bond is set at \$5,000.

## PARK RIDGE

### 20 Laptop Computer Taken from Vehicle (1800 W. Fenton)

Police said unknown subject(s) stole a laptop computer worth \$1,000 from an unlocked 1997 Mercedes between Aug. 17 and Aug. 18.

### 21 Burglarized Storage Room (200 Thames Parkway)

Police said unidentified person(s) entered the victim's storage room by unknown means on an unknown date and time. The incident was reported on Aug. 20. Once inside, the subject(s) entered the victim's locker and stole keys.

### 22 Smashed the Glass on Screen Door (1900 W. Burton)

Unidentified person(s) smashed the glass on the front screen door of a residence between Aug. 17 and Aug. 18. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

### 23 Garage Burglarized (200 Gillick)

Police said sometime between Aug. 22 and Aug. 23 unknown person(s) entered the victim's detached garage by

unknown non-force means and stole two mountain bicycles (\$500.)

### 24 Numerous Items Taken from Vehicle (2700 W. Habberton)

Police said between Aug. 16 and Aug. 17 unknown subject(s) entered the victim's unlocked VW Passat and 99 Ford expedition and took a Sony laptop, sunglasses, two ipod chargers, \$200 in USC and cigarettes.

### 25 BB Gun Shot at Vehicle (First block of N. Summit)

Unknown person(s) shot the rear window of the victim's 1996 Acura with a BB type gun on Aug. 17. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

### 26 Possession of Controlled Substance Arrest (600 N. Prospect)

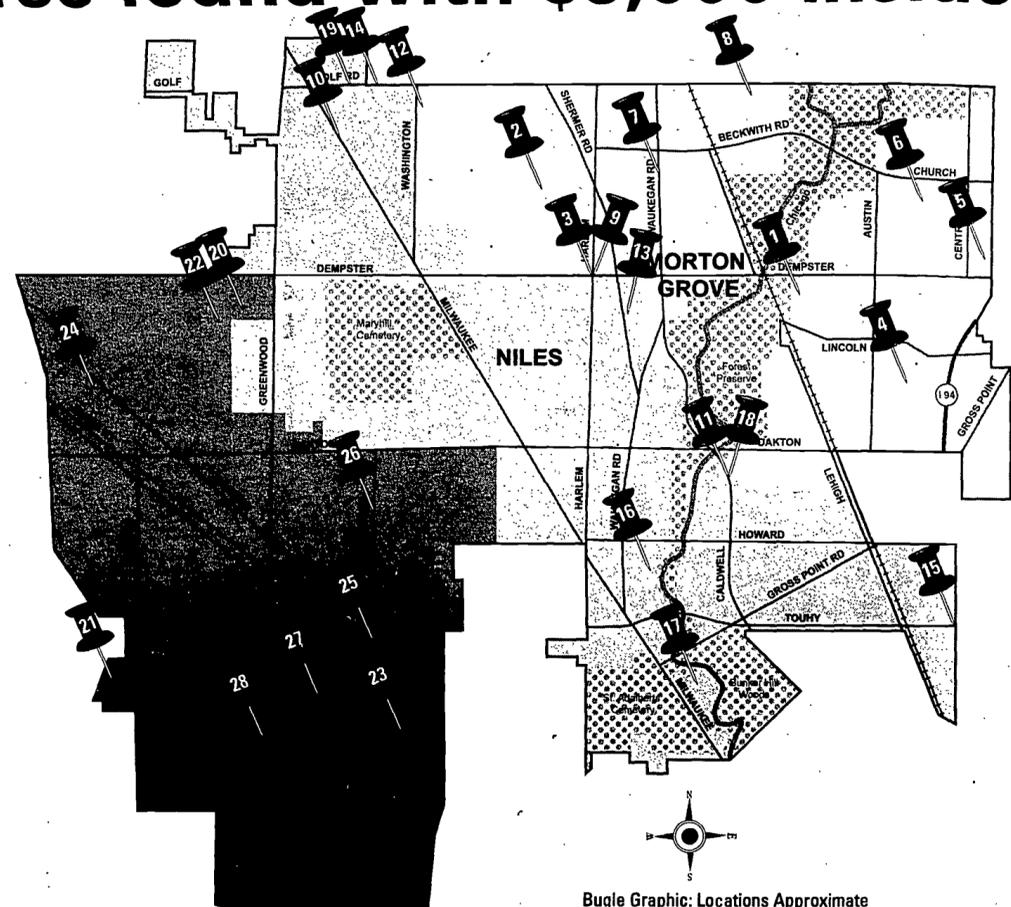
Police arrested a 20 year old Park Ridge man on Aug. 18. The subject was charged with possession of a controlled substance. Bond information is not available. The court date is Sept. 18.

### 27 DUI arrest (Stewart and Cumberland)

Police arrested a 42 year old Park Ridge man at Stewart and Cumberland on Aug. 22. He was charged with disobeying a stop sign and driving under the influence of alcohol. The bond is \$1,000 and court date is Sept. 7.

### 28 Zero Tolerance Arrests (Belle Plaine near Talcott)

An 18 year old from Park Ridge was charged with zero tolerance with respect to alcohol use and a 16 year old was charged with curfew and zero tolerance. They have \$75 bonds and court dates of Sept. 25.



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

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GROCERY/FROZEN		
SPRITE, COKE & DIET COKE \$2.99 Ea 12 Pkz	Pegasus EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL \$16.99 Ea 3 Lt	Pagliacci CRUSHED PEAR PUREE 99¢ Ea 28 Oz
Assorted WISHBONE DRESSINGS 2 For \$5.00 Ea 16 Oz	HEINEKEN BEER \$12.99 Ea 12 Pkz	Raconto ARTICHOKE HEARTS \$1.99 Ea 14 Oz
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## Letters to the Editor

### MG TIF survey flawed

**Dear Editor,**  
At a recent open meeting in Morton Grove on the Lehigh Ferris TIF development plan, the village consultant S.B. Friedman put together a presentation, and attempted to get attending residents views on various projects that the consultant deemed important. As it turned out, many of the people were either against the ideas they put forward, or felt there were more things left off the list for discussion. A summary report is on the Morton Grove web site, but it does not list all the topics that came up for discussion.

The topics themselves were couched in such a language as to confuse the participants. For example, 'Develop New Public Library' was not specific enough, as this is interpreted as putting it inside the TIF area, whereas many people who voted for this don't want it there, but in a more central location in the village. The village is currently in the real estate business, buying up property at inflated prices, taking out loans for payment when they don't even know what they want to put on this land. Since attendees were not told the costs of all these grandiose projects, and how it would impact on their tax bills, in many cases they voted for them because they sounded attractive, when taken at their face value. As part of the last village comprehensive plan, a survey was taken of 700 village residents. In that survey, over 65 percent of the responses said the present village library was good, and most of the remainder said it was fair.

I think 700 voices are more

significant than the 140 people polled at the latest TIF meeting, where only 34 people thought a new library was a good idea. If the village truly wants to get a better idea of what the residents want, they have to broaden their survey to include more residents, and provide them with more information on the costs of each project.

**Sherwin Dubren, Morton Grove**

### Smoking bans wrong

**Dear Editor,**

Unfortunately the abrogation of citizen rights by local governments continues with the continued push to ban smoking in private business. Smoking may not be pretty or healthy, but who has the responsibility to challenge it? I would suggest that the idiocy and usurpation of power via local government intrusion has got to stop. For government to mandate that something that is legal to manufacture, legal to sell, legal to buy, and legal to do, but can not be done in someone's private business is well beyond the boundaries of government responsibility. To forbid smoking in government buildings where the general populous needs access is fine and reasonable, but should not be extended to private businesses. Is there a consideration to ban smoking in homes where there are both smokers and non-smokers present? Isn't that just as "dangerous" and in actuality in greater need of attention (children with no choice)? Why are tobacco growers still subsidized for Pete's sake? The total lack of logic is just bewildering.

The local government makes no investment in private business, people are free to either enter or not enter, individuals

can elect to either work there or not work there, but if you forbid smoking, it is only the owner, the person that has invested his time and money, that has now lost his rights.

I have witnessed and read the incredible comments of restaurant and bar owners requesting or praising the action of their local government to ban smoking. For an owner to negate their rights and express a desire for the government to ban smoking in their establishment is an appeal of either the weak, the dumb, or both. They apparently want local government to do their dirty work: "I didn't ban smoking; it was the damn government that did it". They are the owner; they don't wish to allow smoking for whatever reason in their establishment, then don't permit smoking! See, that's their right. That's how the system is supposed to work. Apparently accommodating potential resistance is of more importance than doing what they consider appropriate. It is considerations like this that make all of us have to punch one for English.

Please remember, this is not about smoking but about the government rape of individual rights. Maybe, just maybe some local governments will find the "jewels" to do the right thing and not succumb to political correctness, but I doubt it. By the way, according to recent reports, more than 80 restaurants have previous to Naperville's consideration for a smoking ban, chosen not to allow smoking. See, you really don't have to trample on citizen rights for the system to work. I can only wonder whose denial of rights is next.

**Jim Strnad, Lisle**

## National Treasures

**W**e live in a modern world, where youth and all things young are worshipped, but since I was a little kid I have always been captivated by senior citizens, they have always charmed me. Their stories of the "olden days" were always fascinating. Tragically we are losing too much of our living history and in this we are seriously remiss.

Our world has changed so much in just a short time. One friend who was twelve in 1950 told me how he would take a bus as far as it would go and would hunt in farmer's fields. Imagine a twelve year old getting on a bus with a shotgun today! These are people who survived the worldwide Great Depression, several wars including two World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. Add to this the myriad personal tragedies and trials and you have a wealth of wisdom that lies untapped and too often forgotten and lonely. We need these stories to enrich our lives and to fulfill our own potential. We waste these national treasures and every year more and more are gone from this earth forever.

When I was about eight or nine I got the chicken pox and, because my mom was working, I had to stay with my grandma Julie. She was not wealthy, but she was statuesque, tall and beautiful like a movie-star. She loved me and tended to me so well, feeding me chicken soup and putting calamine lotion over my itchy skin. During this time she told me many stories, but especially emphasized the Nazi death camps before and during World War 2. One story she told me haunts me still today. It was of a little girl who went to bed in a camp and snuggled with her mother, but



**Another Perspective**  
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

became very cold at night. In the morning she found her mother dead and this was why she was so cold.

It was just a while ago that I discovered that her father, whose surname was Hoffman, was a painter specializing in synagogues. He spoke fourteen languages. This might have been why she told me those stories. They were very heavy for a little boy, but they set my mind against judging people by their race, origins, or color and taught me about man's inhumanity to man. Knowing those stories made me a better person and without them my life would have been lessened.

Because of our family situation my maternal grandfather played a significant role in my life and acted in many respects as a father to me. He taught me about bravery. He owned a machine screw shop and moonlighted as a cabbie to make ends meet when business was slow. When I was five he was robbed in his cab at knife point. He had given the guy some of his money and in a rage the guy stabbed him in the head and ran. My grandfather chased him for three blocks with the knife sticking out of his head, caught and beat him and got all his money back. "That was money to feed my family, that @###!~@!", he would say. He told me he was

**See Perspective, page 12**

## H Mart expected to bring in \$400K to Niles

**By Tracy Yoshida Gruen**  
STAFF WRITER

The new Super H-Mart had its grand opening this past weekend and it is expected to boost sales revenue in Niles and revitalize a part of the Civic Center that has been vacant for more than two years.

David Esposito, of the Village of Niles, said that the super market that sells Korean, other Asian and American food products may bring in \$400,000 to \$500,000 for the village every year, which is 1% of their anticipated \$40 to \$50 million annual sales. Esposito said that these figures are just estimates at this point, but the market is expected to do very well.

"It'll definitely help the Village of Niles," said Community Development Director Chuck Ostman. He said that most of the guests at the grand opening were Koreans or Asians. However, he feels that it is a great store for people of all nationalities because it has a bakery, meat, seafood, produce and more.

Esposito said that the new

store will "absolutely" attract more Koreans and Asians to the Civic Center, but non-Asians as well.

"I think in the future they will start to see more non-Asian customers," said Katie DiMaria, director of the Niles Chamber of Commerce. At their other locations, DiMaria said that their customers are 50% Asians and 50% non-Asians.

DiMaria and Esposito both commented that the store is very well laid-out and sells quality products.

"This is a win-win situation," said DiMaria.

Ostman said that the old Dominick's site has been vacant for about two and a half years and has been difficult to fill. He said that as he drives through the city, he has noticed that there are a good number of vacant Dominick's sites.

"It's a very fine store for a lot of residents because of the wide base of products," said Ostman, who said they were fortunate to have them be a part of the Civic Center and the Village of Niles.



Local, state and even international dignitaries were on hand for the opening of Super H Mart in Niles last Friday. The store is expected to draw traffic to the Civic Center Plaza and bring in around \$400,000 in sales tax revenue.

## Master limited partnership index has much potential

**By Malcolm Berko**  
COPELY NEWS SERVICE

**Dear Mr. Berko:** A trusted friend who works in the oil service business overseas recommends

### TAKING STOCK

that I invest 20 percent of my portfolio in Alerian MLP, which is a new master limited partnership index trading on the New York Stock Exchange. It owns

MLPs that specialize in crude oil, refining, transportation, natural gas and storage stocks. I would invest \$100,000 in this index stock.

My broker says he never heard of it and it's probably a foreign stock. I like the concept of an index fund because of its important national visibility to the financial community. I like it better than closed-end funds, few of which ever do well anyway.

**See Stock, page 10**

**BY JEFFREY CARDELLA**  
*Special to The Bugle*

**EDWARD JONES**

**Want to Really Retire When You Retire? Work Hard at Investing**

With Labor Day at hand, it's a good time to reflect on your work — specifically, how long do you plan to keep working? And when you retire, will you retire for good, or will you still work in some capacity? These are important questions — and the answers can have a big impact on your savings and investment strategies.

As you think about your retirement plans, you might be surprised at the expectations of many of your fellow workers. Some 67 percent of employees anticipate working for pay during retirement, according to the 2006 Retirement Confidence Survey, issued by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. And many of these people undoubtedly think they will have to work.

How can you avoid becoming a working retiree? For one thing, you can work at being a good investor — and you can make sure your investments are also working hard.

### Work to Become a Good Investor

What sort of work does it take to become a good investor? Here are some steps to consider:

- **Work to identify your goals.** It's important to identify and quantify your goals. For example, if your biggest goal is achieving a comfortable retirement, think about when you want to retire, where you want to live and what sort of lifestyle you desire. Then, try to determine how much this type of retirement will cost. The answers will help you chart your investment course.

- **Work to achieve investment discipline.** Whenever the market is down, you may be tempted to take "time-outs" from investing. But the best investors are the ones who continually invest, no matter what market conditions look like.

- **Work with a professional.** By working with a qualified financial professional — someone who knows your situation and has the skills and tools necessary to navigate the investment world — you can create an investment strategy that's right for you.

### Keep Your Investments Working Hard

To help attain your financial goals, you need to work at investing — but you also need your investments to work hard, too. That means you may not want to overload your portfolio with fixed-income vehicles, such as Treasury securities and certificates of deposit (CDs), if you are seeking growth. While these investments typically offer stability of principal and regular interest checks, they can be "lazy" in the sense that they may not always keep up with inflation or provide the growth potential you are seeking to achieve your goals.

To get those growth opportunities, include high-quality stocks in your diversified portfolio. Historically, stocks have "outworked" and outperformed all other asset classes — and outpaced inflation. Of course, stock prices will always fluctuate, so there is the potential that you can lose some or all of your money, and, as you've probably heard, past performance does not guarantee future results. But by investing in good companies and holding your stocks for the long term, you may be able to increase your chances for growth. (Keep in mind that the government guarantees payment of principal and interest on Treasury securities, and that CDs carry FDIC insurance. Stocks do not carry either of these benefits.)

**Hard Work Can Pay Off**  
No matter what your plans are for retirement, you can help your cause by working hard at investing — and using investments that work hard for you.

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

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## Unemployment rate increases during July

The unemployment rate in Illinois rose two-tenths of a point to 4.7 percent in July, which is slightly lower than the nation's 4.8 percent rate.

On the up side however, the total employment in Illinois rose by 29,000 following two straight months of a decline of more than 7,000 jobs. As employers added seasonal jobs last month, the state's industrial sector saw an

increase in the number of jobs.

In July, manufacturing employment grew by 2,200, marking the second month since last October that manufacturing saw an employment increase. Currently, there are 680,000 workers in manufacturing. In the past twelve months, however, manufacturing has lost 9,300 jobs in the state of Illinois.

## Watergate Hotel is a bargain in its last days

By Chris Barnett  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Washington - History students, conspiracy buffs and anyone looking for a bargain-priced spacious room in the nation's capital should check into the Watergate

### BARNETT ON BUSINESS TRAVEL

Hotel before it morphs into a pricey condo complex.

The symbol of corruption and arrogance at the highest levels of government is closing its doors Dec. 31. But its notoriety lives on.

The Watergate was the bunkhouse for five men with CIA connections who were arrested at 2:30 a.m. on April 17, 1972, for a bungled break-in of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the office building next door. The incident toppled the Nixon administration.

More recently it was dubbed Hookergate when lobbyist Brent Wilkes - an unindicted co-conspirator in an influence-peddling scandal that cost San Diego Congressman Randy

"Duke" Cunningham his seat in Congress - allegedly ran poker parties and more in hospitality suites to entertain powerful guests in the time-honored Washington way. (The hospitality suites later moved to the Westin Grand on Capitol Hill to be closer to the seats of power. Wilkes has denied involvement.)

If you reserve a room at the Watergate now, just don't expect to find the elegance, sharp service and sweet smell of power from its earlier days. Today, the federalist decor and furnishings look tired; the hotel feels terminal. That's no real surprise since the owner, Monument Realty, hasn't sunk a dime into sprucing up the hotel for at least a couple years. Instead, Monument is battling Watergate complex residents who are fighting its closing and conversion into luxury condominiums now selling for \$840,000 for a one bedroom flat up to \$9 million for a penthouse.

The Watergate's room rates could be the best deal in Washington on a per-square-foot basis. Deluxe rooms with 500 square feet start at \$149.

## Column

continued from page 2

and then I was supposed to move on to homework and, gulp, piano practice.

My family allowed a little more leeway as I grew older, something that worked in inverse proportion to the level of my grades.

Research has shown that parental involvement and monitoring of children's time is even more important to success as the different kinds of entertainment has proliferat-

ed. When I was a kid the only distractions I was contending with were the Nintendo Entertainment System, the TV and the great outdoors.

Today, you can add a whole host of other things from cell phone text messaging, computer gaming, four or five different game systems and, still, the great outdoors.

As we go into this next school year be sure to invest the time to help your child succeed. Not only will the improvements mean better grades and increased

prospects for college success down the road, studies have also shown that these kinds of improvements work together and create less absenteeism, better behavior in school, increased self-esteem and better relationships.

Unsurprisingly, research seems to indicate that the most important thing in a child's life are his parents and those who treat the schools as schools and not as 9-months worth of daycare have more success, well-balanced and happier children.

## Stock

continued from page 9

Please help me out. Who is Alerian? Where can I buy it? What do the shares sell for? What is your opinion of it?

G.R.  
Elkhart, Ind.

Dear G.R.: Your broker may not be able to read or his reading skills are limited to traffic signs, wanted posters and fortune-cookie inserts. If he's been in this business for six months, he would know that Alerian is an investment advisory firm that focuses on managing portfolios of master limited partnerships for institutional clients.

Alerian MLP Index Series (AMZ-\$254.75) is one of the multitude of new exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, whose numbers are increasing at exponential rates. And yes, AMZ will be the index poster child for the MLP industry.

Most people should know that an ETF is basically an investment company that pools investors' assets, using money to meet objectives in a specific category. For instance, an ETF may only invest in Japanese, Austrian, German or Russian stocks. These are called single-country ETFs.

Other ETFs invest only in oil company stocks or gold-mining stocks or natural resources, or the stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500, the 30 issues of the Dow Jones Averages or the Nasdaq 100. Some ETFs invest only in utility issues, technology issues or drug company stocks. The list is endless.

Because there is so much interest in coal, crude oil, natural gas, refining, propane, barge transportation, natural gas liquids, exploration and refined product MLPs, Alerian decided to form an MLP of 50 of the top issues in those categories. So AMZ owns names like Star Gas, Buckeye Partners, Enbridge Energy, Valero, Northern Borders, Kinder Morgan, Enterprise Products, K-Sea Transportation and Plains All American, to name nine of the 50 top issues.

I believe your friend gave you good advice. Four hundred shares of AMZ will cost you \$100,000 and give you sound representation in 50 of the most prominent energy MLPs, which will be managed by Alerian Capital Management, one of the premier management companies in this specialized field. The components of this ETF will be calculated by Standard & Poor's using a float-adjusted market

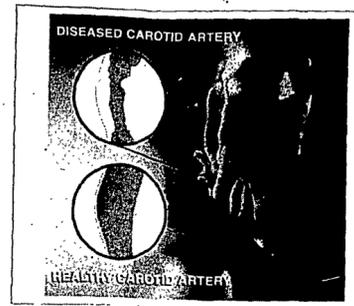
capitalization methodology, and will be disseminated real-time on a price return basis by the New York Stock Exchange. This will be the first and perhaps only energy-related benchmark index.

In 1998 the capitalization of this market sector was paltry \$4 billion. By 2004 it grew to \$37 billion and last year the market cap reached \$74 billion. Catherine Kinney, of the New York Stock Exchange, believes this number could double in the next five years to more than \$150 billion and some 80 percent of these issues will trade on the Big Board. In fact, the energy MLP sector seems on a trajectory similar to the real estate investment trust explosion that began in the 1980s.

These MLPs, which are primarily engaged in the transportation, storage, processing of crude oil and natural gas, are becoming an increasingly important investment category. This AMZ index should be enormously helpful to investors who want to track the performance of this important industry.

Please address your financial questions to Malcolm Berko, P.O. Box 1416, Boca Raton, FL 33429 or e-mail him at malber@adelphia.net.

# HAVE YOU HEARD



AVOID A STROKE IN JUST 10 MINUTES  
NILES COMMUNITY HELPS REDUCE  
THE RISK OF STROKE

Residents living in and around the Niles, Ill., community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Life Line Screening will be at the Leaning Tower YMCA on September 8th. The site is located at 6300 West Touhy Ave in Niles. Appointments will begin at 9:00 a.m.

A stroke, also known as a "brain attack", is ranked as the third leading killer in the world, and the second among women. Through preventive screenings, the risk of having a stroke can be greatly reduced.

Screenings are fast, painless and low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology, and scan for potential health problems related

to: blocked arteries which can lead to a stroke, aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which are a strong predictor of heart disease. Also offered for men and women, is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis.

"If it hadn't been for Life Line Screening, I would have probably had a stroke." Mary Coburn - Elmhurst, Ill.

Each screening requires ten minutes or less to complete. A complete vascular screening package, including the Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Ankle Brachial Index (hardening of the arteries) screenings is \$109. Sign-up for a complete vascular package; include the osteoporosis screening and pay only \$129.

Life Line Screening was established in 1993, and has since become the nation's leading provider of vascular screenings. Over 60 ultrasound teams are on staff to travel to your local community, bringing the screenings to you. These non-invasive, inexpensive and painless, ultrasound tests help people identify their risk for stroke, vascular diseases or osteoporosis early enough for their physician to begin preventive procedures.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721. Pre-registration is required.

## NORWOOD CROSSING RATED AMONG TOP 10 PERCENT OF NURSING HOMES IN ILLINOIS

Norwood Crossing (formerly Norwood Park Home), a not-for-profit long-term care facility at 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago, was ranked in the top 10 percent of nursing homes in Illinois as determined by Consumer Reports Nursing Home Quality Monitor. Only 29 nursing homes were grouped in the top category of the hundreds that were surveyed. The results appeared in the September issue of Consumer Reports as part of its annual Nursing Home Watch List in conjunction with a feature article on key facts to consider when choosing a nursing home.

"We are particularly pleased to receive this special designation that comes in the wake of two consecutive perfect inspections by the Illinois Department of Public Health," said Mike Toohey, executive director of Norwood Crossing. "It confirms our ongoing effort to make Norwood Crossing one of the top not-for-profit nursing homes in the Chicago area. We are constantly measuring the quality of care that we offer our residents, always striving to be the best. It paid off. Norwood Crossing is one of the best in Illinois, and thanks goes to the fine staff that is keeping us there."

In conducting the investigation, Consumer Reports examined three dimensions of qual-

ity. They looked at deficiencies cited in each nursing home's three most recent state inspection surveys, the staffing levels for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses/ licensed vocational nurses and a variety of other quality indicators related to resident care.

The Consumer Reports Nursing Home Quality Monitor identifies for-profit and not-for-profit nursing homes that are likely to provide better-quality care and those likely to provide poorer-quality care. The Quality Monitor is designed to be a guide for families in search of a top-quality nursing home.

According to Consumer Reports, the most effective use of the Quality Monitor is "to look first to the potentially good facilities in your area and avoid those on the potentially bad list. Particularly worthy of consideration are any good homes close enough that you can visit often. Having a relative in a facility near you is important, and visiting frequently helps ensure better care."

In addition to Skilled Nursing Care, Norwood Crossing offers Assisted Living, Respite Care and Post-Hospitalization Care. It currently is in the process of transitioning from a long-term care facility to a Continuing Care Retirement Community



### Niles Park District Announces New Fall Sport & Rec Programs

Niles Park District will be offering new Sport and Rec programs this Fall. Adult (18 & over) programs include: Co-Ed Dodgeball League, Men & Women Basketball Leagues, Co-Rec Adult Volleyball League, and Retired Men's Basketball. Youth Programs include: Boys Dodgeball League, and Basketball & Volleyball Academy's. High School programs include: Co-Ed Fresh-Soph. Dodgeball League, and 7 on 7 Flag Football Leagues. Tot Classes are also available. Please check our website, www.niles-parks.org for a full listing of programs, dates and fees, or call (847) 967-6975 for information.

## Liberty Bank to Offer Free Document Shredding at Community Garage Sale & Craft Fair To Benefit Disadvantaged Children

A new aspect is now part of the Second Annual Community Garage Sale & Craft Fair to be held Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge. Liberty Bank for Savings announces it will bring a professional document shredding truck to the event so residents can shred up to 25 pounds of paper at no charge.

With increased concerns over identity theft, residents are finding proper document shredding to be one proven way to fight this type of crime, says Township Supervisor Bob Dudycz. Maine Township is proud to co-sponsor this service with Liberty Bank.

Spaces for vendors are selling quickly but reservations are still being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. This year's event will include the crafts on the same grounds instead of being separated as in the past. Proceeds from the events benefit the Maine Township Adventure Camp for disadvantaged youth and Emergency Food Pantry.

Residents are invited to participate in a number of ways. People can reserve a space to sell their own treasures at either event. Spaces are \$20 for the Garage Sale and for the Craft Fair. Residents can also make a donation of cash or merchandise to the Garage Sale. Donated merchandise will be sold by Township staff to help raise funds.

Maine Township will not accept donations of clothes, large and/or heavy furniture, firearms, explosives or any type of weapons. Donations of the following are especially sought: small working electronics, children's games, children's furniture and accessories, garden tools and small hand tools.

"These are fun events to raise money for two worthy causes - disadvantaged children and hungry families," says Dudycz. "We encourage our township residents to participate, to give financial support, or just come by to shop."

For more information or to obtain a space reservation form contact one of the following: Garage Sale participants call Marie at 847-297-2510, Ext. 270. Craft Fair participants call Therese at 847-297-2510, Ext. 260. Information is also posted on the township website www.maintownship.com.

## Niles Park District Holds Introduction to Hockey for Only \$5!

Niles Park District is once again offering 'Intro to Rookie Ranger Hockey' for only \$5.00! This 2-week class is for the first-time skater ages 4-7 or 8-13 years, boys and girls. All required equipment is provided free of charge. For ages 4-7 years, one parent per child is welcome to participate on the ice with their child, but parent must provide their own skates. Rental skates are available. Classes begin September 9th with class times on Monday after school, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Hockey and registration takes place at IceLand Ice Rink, 8435 Ballard Road. For more information, please call (847) 297-8031. This is a great opportunity to try hockey with very little investment!

Other Instructional Hockey Programs available are Rookie Rangers (beginners), Power Rangers (intermediates) and All Girls Ranger Hockey (all levels.)

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Perspective

continued from page 8

scared, but his family needed that money and there was no way he would let that thief hurt them. Keep in mind he was a wisp of a man and I was about his height when I entered seventh grade. I am short and his story was an inspiration to be brave, especially when your cause was just. It also taught me to hate stealing.

When I was nineteen, during my first year in college, my dad died. He was only 47 and for the second time I had lost him. It was a hard knock and at a time when I most needed him, that transition from boy to man. As I looked at his body laying in the casket I was afraid. I really needed all that knowledge and wisdom, but it was lost forever. I could not ask him how or what to do again.

We need our ancestors. We need to know them and their stories. This knowledge tells us about ourselves, our origins and can guide us in our destinies. When we lose them without knowing about their lives we lose a bit of ourselves. We live in a world wracked

with change and challenged by malevolent forces. Our world can be raving along and yet, with the knowledge of our dead, we can be calm as the eye of a storm. While all around us may seem lost their stories of their own personal tragedies and trials, overcome, can inspire us to get through our own.

Without this perspective it is difficult to plot our course. Too many people find themselves in a future not of their making caused out of a lack of knowing their own history. The Niles Library worked on an effort to capture the histories of some of our veterans. We can do the same, right now in our own families. We can keep a journal and include in it our thoughts and feelings on the great events of our lives.

These people, their memories and their lives, are our national treasures. This collective knowledge and wisdom must not be lost, yet we live in a world of lost knowledge. We must remember. If we do not and if we allow ourselves to forget our origins and our stories we will find ourselves making the same mistakes our forbears made.

Kogstad urges investigation after audit, MG Mayor doesn't

Audit says no fraud committed in Osco outlot deal

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen STAFF WRITER

Sikich auditors have been investigating allegations made by Morton Grove Village Trustee Roy Kogstad regarding Village Attorney Terry Liston's purchase of a site east of the Osco drug store on Dempster and a possible conflict of interest.

"We have come to the conclusion that the allegations do not constitute fraud as it relates to the audit of the village for the year ended Dec. 31, 2005," states the letter. The letter also states, "We are concerned by the allegations and recommend that the village consider an independent legal, rather than accounting, investigation into the appropriateness of the transactions."

In the letter from Daniel Berg, CPA, of Sikich, they explained that the investigation is the reason for the delay in the issuance of the village's comprehensive annual financial reports.

"I never said it was fraud

"I never said it was fraud either. I am glad to see that the auditors have come to the same conclusions that I have been saying for over a year."

Roy Kogstad MORTON GROVE VILLAGE TRUSTEE

either," said Kogstad, who believes the purchase is a conflict of interest. "I am glad to see that the auditors have come to the same conclusions that I have been saying for over a year."

"I don't know if he has a personal vendetta," said Krier, about Kogstad. Krier said that the Sikich company is saying that they found nothing fraudulent. Fraud for audit purposes is defined by Statement on Audit Standards No. 99, "Consideration of fraud in a financial statement audit" as either the misappropriation of assets or the intentional material misstatement of the financial statement.

In the letter, it also states, "While the alleged acts may be

inappropriate or unethical acts by the village and its officials the acts do not constitute fraud." Kogstad said he is concerned because this statement doesn't just involve one person, Terry Liston, but it refers to the village and its officials. Therefore, Kogstad said it involves the reputation of the village as a whole.

Kogstad said he has called for an outside independent investigation into the purchase of the property for a long time, but he said he has not had the support of other trustees and Mayor Krier.

In addition, Kogstad believes that Morton Grove should revise its ethics ordinances to include the provisions of the Cook County Ethics Ordinance. He requested that an ordinance be prepared by staff, with the guidance of the Illinois Municipal League and other outside independent counsel (as needed) to come in front of the board for a first and second reading at an upcoming board meeting.

"Let's not wait until we find ourselves in the same position as Nick Blase, or Mayor Daley or Governor Rod Blagojevich or former Gov. George Ryan," stated Kogstad.

Donation made for Chamber Scholarships



The Niles Chamber of Commerce received their sixth annual donation from Norbert Johnson, director of the Clark-Halladay Memorial Foundation for their scholarship fund on Aug. 3. The Niles Chamber of Commerce has provided school scholarships to children in Niles in need of assistance for the past six years. Pictured from left to right are Katie DiMaria, Dr. Pamela Lowe, Bob Rominiak, Norbert Johnson and Melinda Kubak.

Advertisement for OIL EXPRESS Fast Lube Systems. Features CITGO logo and a large "\$6 OFF" discount. Lists services: Full Service Oil-Filter-Lube, Transmission Service (reg. \$54.99), Differential Service (reg. \$24.99), Coolant Flush Service (reg. \$54.99), and Transmission Flush (reg. 79.99). Includes address for Niles: 8430 W. Dempster Street, between Greenwood & Cumberland, next to McDonald's. Phone: (847) 827-0500. Also lists Chicago location: 1340 Lee Street, (847) 296-7059.

Large advertisement for Super H Mart Niles Branch Grand Opening Big Event Sweepstakes Drawing Event. Features a man holding a drawing ticket and a BMW X5 3.0i. Text: "Do not miss once-in-a-life-time chance from August 25, 2006. 1250 special gifts are ready just for you. You may be the one." Includes a list of prizes and drawing dates from August 25 to December 2, 2006. Drawing date: December 3, 2006 (Sun) 01:00 PM. Drawing place: Super H Mart (main hall). Super H Mart logo at the bottom right.

Letter to the Editor

# Library director says MG needs a new building

**Dear Editor,**  
Does Morton Grove Need a New Library? Well, yes!

As Library Director, I admit to no small measure of satisfaction when a patron recently said he had "no problem finding materials" and that he finds the Library "adequate." The goal of every MGPL staff member is to meet the needs of each and every resident so they can be as satisfied as that patron. Unfortunately the patron's satisfaction with things as they have been led to the conclusion that nothing needs to change at the Library.

But we all know one size does not fit all. One patron's source of satisfaction is also another's inadequate or inaccessible collection. Would a fire department with ladders only tall enough to meet the needs of one or two-story homeowners provide enough safety for everyone in the village?

Over the years the staff at MGPL has done an excellent job of meeting the changing needs

of the community despite clearly inadequate space. It may then seem surprising to some that there is a need for a new building.

But it has been apparent for some time that Morton Grove does need a new library building. A 1998 space-planning study determined that the library should be 50% larger than the current building just to adequately house the existing collection and services. To meet state standards for a community our size we need a building more than twice the size of the usable space available now. Half the adult collection is inaccessible to anyone unable to climb stairs. While we have an elevator (added before ADA requirements), there are steps between it and the mezzanine bookshelves.

Not only is the collection difficult to access, the Library's small size means we cannot add a book to the collection without removing one. For a population of over 22,000, our

collection should contain between 139,000 and 201,000 volumes. This number ensures that we can meet the varied needs of the increasingly diverse population. MGPL currently has only 119,000 books, which must be shared among classics and popular titles, both adult and children's, in the full range of interests such as education, mysteries, history, business, romance, science, philosophy, religion, ethics, and countless others.

Given the lack of space, the minute a book is no longer popular, it becomes a prime candidate for removal to make room for a newer work. We cannot build depth into the print collection, much less house enough audiobooks, DVDs, CDs and other recordings to meet even minimum state standards: while the state recommends a minimum of 24,000 audio and video titles, we currently hold only 14,000.

The age, design and size of the library limit many more

aspects of our service to the community. Increasingly, MGPL is the place citizens use to access the Internet with a high-speed connection. Finding a job, staying in touch with others, or privately researching a topic without such Internet access is daunting, and the Library is the only place in town that offers this service. And we do not have enough or even proper space to meet this demand. We cannot conduct our popular computer training sessions for more than one person at a time or in a space that allows some privacy.

Several factors have come together to make this the best time to finance a new library with minimum impact on Morton Grove taxpayers. We can take advantage of revenue from the Lehigh-Ferris TIF tax increment to pay for the bonds to cover some portion of construction costs of a new library. Using TIF funds to finance a new library means the TIF can return a benefit to the whole

community using revenue that is going to be collected anyway. The Lehigh-Ferris TIF will be generating increasing tax-increment revenue for 17 years, corresponding closely to the period during which construction bonds would be paid off. Undue delay means a portion of the construction bonds won't be covered by TIF revenue and would have to be paid for some other way.

With a growing population for the first time in several decades, a dedicated revenue stream from the TIF, a Library Board, Village Board and Administration that recognize the power of a library to benefit the whole community, now is the best moment for Morton Grove to build its new Library.

For more information on the new library project, please visit me at the Library or go to: <http://newlibrary.webrary.org>

**Ben Schapiro**  
Director, Morton Grove Public Library

# SPORTS

## JackHammers on the verge of making history

The JackHammers are on the verge of history. Coming into the final week of the regular season, the JackHammers are tied for first place in the Northern League East Division with the Kansas City T-Bones.

The JackHammers are staring their first playoff spot since the 2002 season right in the eyes. Things are really heating up. As you read this, the JackHammers will be in the middle of a three-game series with the T-Bones at Silver Cross Field that very well could decide the season. If you don't come out to Silver Cross Field this week, you may need to get your pulse checked.

For those of you on the verge of deciding whether or not they want to come out to the game, know that the JackHammers current home stand (August 29-September 3) is the final one of the regular season. Maybe you want to check out Silver Cross Field for the first time or maybe you want to check out the food? Whatever the reason, why not come out to Silver Cross Field to find out what sort of entertainment the JackHammers offer? Win or lose, I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

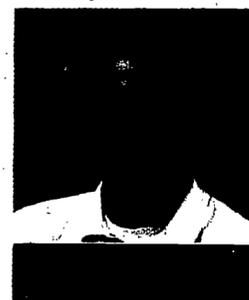
Wednesday August 31 it's the Budweiser Pint Glass giveaway to the first 1,000 fans 21 and over. The JackHammers have their final Friday Night Fireworks of the season on September 1. Legendary entertainer Myron Noodleman brings his offbeat antics to Silver Cross Field on September 2. It's Fan Appreciation Night on September 3. The JackHammers remaining schedule can be found online at [www.jackhammerbaseball.com](http://www.jackhammerbaseball.com).

For those of you interested in ticket information, don't hesitate to call (815) 726-BALL. I am always interested to hear what fans have to say. Please feel free to email me with any comments/questions you may have. I'd be happy to talk to you about some baseball or answer any questions about this JackHammers team. I can be reached at [jversteeg@jackhammerbaseball.com](mailto:jversteeg@jackhammerbaseball.com).

## Bowling league seeks members

The Catholic Women's Bowling League is looking for anyone who can lift and throw a bowling ball to join their league.

The league is searching for bowlers, regular and subs, for



the Wednesday night Catholic Women's Bowling league at Class Bowl. They meet at 7:30 p.m., starting on Aug. 30. Those interested can call Mary Wasilewski at 847 965 7366.

## ND defeats St. Pat's

ND Football 2006 is off and running as the much anticipated Fall Sports Season has arrived. To have St. Pats as an opening football game was as classic a

### COACH HENNESSEY'S WEEK IN REVIEW

confrontation as anyone could want. With lots of summer preparation behind, ND and St. Pats lined up on a long Saturday to play games on the freshman, sophomore and varsity levels.

The day got off to an unusual start as the freshman football game was delayed due to a shortage of referees. The 11 AM start did not seem to deter the great enthusiasm and spirit that the ND Frosh, under head coach, Pat Kelly (ND '81 Alum), brought to the game. A defensive struggle entered the 4th quarter with St. Pats on top 6-0. St. Pats scored two touchdowns in the 4th quarter as our freshman lost 21-0.

The sophomore game, played at Hanson Stadium, had all of the hard hitting and intensity that a first game contest brings about. The Dons scored on their opening series on a TD pass

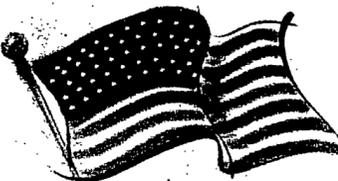
from Eric Hennessey to Joe Gutierrez as head sophomore coach, Augie Genovesi, managed an efficient drive down the field. The ND Defense, led by Kyle English, Sean O'Hara, and Denis Walsh kept St. Pats scoreless until 40 sec. were left in the game. A 10 yd. TD pass tied the game at 6 - both teams missed their extra points. In a tremendously quick turn of events the ND Sophomores recaptured the lead on a 60 yd TD pass from Hennessey to Gutierrez, and they earned their opening game victory by a score of 13-6.

The ND Varsity Football team took inspiration from the Sophomore win, and after stopping St. Pat's field goal attempt, senior running back Matt Jackson sprinted 67 yds on the Dons opening drive to put ND ahead 6-0. St. Pats recovered a fumble and scored early in the second quarter to take the lead 7-6. The ND offense, under the direction of QB, Jeff Larsen, immediately orchestrated a 13 play/77 yd drive to take a 12-7 lead that they would not relinquish. The ND Defense, led by senior linebackers, Brendan McAleer and Jason Burgos, and

junior linebackers Bo Cisek and Joe Springer, kept St. Pats in check the entire game. Defensive tackles, Shane Murray and Mike Gill, and def. backs P.J. Cummings, Brendan Murray, Joe Ufheil, Mike Casey and Peter Fudalej (big interception in 4th quarter) stopped every St. Pats opportunity. The ND offensive line, Jeff Hokl, Vince Cullotta, David Hays, Matt Gallery, and John Gawron, opened the way for running backs Tom Sheehan, Tim Swieton, and Matt Jackson to net over 200 yards on the ground. QB Jeff Larsen scored on 3 short yardage sneaks and Matt Gustafson kicked two PATs. All phases of the ND Game contributed to this win. Great punting by Rich Ruff kept St. Pats down in their own zone, and a lot of great efforts by many other ND Varsity players made the difference throughout the game.

ND looks forward to its home opener this coming Friday, Sept. 1 as we host Rigdewood at 5:00 PM (soph. Game) and 7:30 PM (Varsity start). Come on out and join us for a great night of football.

-Source, ndhsdons.org



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## Royal Polynesian Review at Niles Senior Center

### Niles Seniors

#### Royal Polynesian at Men's Club

Friday, September 8 11:00AM - 2:30PM \$12.

Last call for tickets for this annual event. Lunch features the always tasty hamburgers and brats, freshly grilled to perfection by our master chefs. Then "journey to the islands" with the Royal Polynesian Review. Reserved seating! Cost includes lunch, entertainment and raffle. Check for ticket availability.

#### Fall Classes

Fall class registrations have been underway for several weeks. Full class descriptions plus any prerequisite info appear in the August Naturally Active. Advanced Registration is required for all classes. Classes that don't meet the minimum number of participants will be canceled so don't wait until the last minute to register.

Oil and Water Color Classes, Tuesdays (8/22- 12/5), 9:00-10:30AM \$30

Microsoft Word II, Tuesdays & Thursdays (9/5 - 10/12) 11 - 12:30 \$30

Creative Card Making, Thursdays (Sept - Dec) 9:30-11AM \$10/class

Bridge for Beginners, Thursdays (9/7 - 11/9) 12:00 - 2PM \$35.

Intro to Computers, Mondays & Wednesdays (9/11 - 10/18) 9-10:30AM \$25

Woodcarving with Irv, Wednesdays (9/13 -11/29) 9 - 11:30 \$25

Pool Lessons, Thursdays (9/14-10/12) 1-3 PM \$12

Ceramics, Thursdays, (9/7 - 12/7) 1-2:30 \$35

Quilting, Fridays (9/15- 10/6) 9:30-11 AM \$15

The Carving Center with Frank, Thursdays (9/21-12/14) 1-2:30PM \$25

Pre Intro to Computers Tues & Thurs (9/26-10/5) \$20

ONE SESSION CLASSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

How to Buy a Computer 1-day class, Friday, 9/22 10-11:30AM \$1

Cooking on a Budget, 1 day class Wed., Sept 6 1:00-2:30 FREE

#### Referrals for Construction and Home Maintenance

The Niles Senior Center is creating a referral list of Construction and Home Maintenance services for our members. If you are interested in having yourself or your company considered for outside referral, please contact Angelo Ginger Troiani at the Center (847 588-8447). By mail: submit your/your company's name to the Niles Senior Center (999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, IL 60714): Address, Phone Number, Trade or Service, Short History of your Company/Services, Up-to-Date Referrals, and Hours of Operation.

#### Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights

Wednesday, Sept 6 11AM - Noon

If you're planning a home repair/improvement project, it is important to ask the right questions to protect your investment. Ginger Troiani, Senior Citizen Construction Advocate for the Niles Senior Center, will discuss

## Close enough for government work

By Tom Margenau  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

**Q:** Wait a minute! In a prior column, you wrote that you worked for the Social Security Administration for 32 years, yet in all that time, you never paid into Social Security. Can you explain that?

### YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

**A:** Odd, isn't it! And what was especially embarrassing is that for most of my career, I was in public affairs. In a way, I saw myself as a Social Security salesman who didn't even use the product he was peddling. I felt kind of like an Allstate agent who carries State Farm auto and home insurance for his personal needs.

But I wasn't alone. Most older federal government employees do not pay into Social Security. For that matter, many state and local government employees don't pay into Social Security, either. Various laws prevented us from doing so.

Despite what many people think, there was no conspiracy behind these laws. There was no deliberate attempt by lawmakers to set up wonderful pension systems for government employees and a demographically doomed social insurance program for everyone else.

Here is the real story. When the Social Security Act was passed in the mid-1930s, most workers did not have any kind of retirement pension plan. So of course,

they were expected to directly benefit from Social Security. But certain large employee groups already had established pension plans. These included federal government employees who were covered by the civil service retirement system and railroad workers who were covered by the railroad retirement pension system. So Congress decided to exclude them from Social Security. Also, at the time, Congress felt they could not mandate a federal pension plan (Social Security) on state and local government entities. So employees of these agencies were given the option of joining Social Security or setting up a separate pension system. Over the years, the majority of all state and local public employees opted to join the Social Security system.

In 1984, Congress mandated that all newly hired federal employees would be required to pay into Social Security. And because it was politically embarrassing to be making Social Security laws that did not apply to themselves, they decided to include members of Congress, the president, vice president and Supreme Court justices in with all other Social Security taxpayers. So today, railroad workers, a few older federal government employees (like myself), and about 30 percent of state and local public employees are the only large groups of workers not covered by Social Security.

See Security, page 18

## Blood pressure screening held at MG

### Morton Grove Seniors

#### Blood Pressure Screening

Periodic blood pressure measurement is helpful in determining if health is threatened by high blood pressure (hypertension). Hypertension is a contributor toward strokes, heart disease and kidney failure. Unfortunately, hypertension usually has no symptoms so a person can feel great and not know they have it. Free screenings are offered from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 in the Morton Grove Senior Center.

#### 'What did you say?'

For people who are having problems hearing or who ask others to repeat what they've said, this free seminar and screening is for you. Linda LeBlanc, M.S., CCC-A (Clinical Audiologist) will be at the Morton Grove Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 to discuss different types of hearing loss and ways they can be helped. After the discussion she will be conducting free hearing tests. Register by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 before Sept. 6.

#### Morton Grove Advisory Commission on Aging

The Morton Grove Advisory Commission on Aging will hold its next monthly meeting at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. The Commission provides an arena for discussion and planning of services and programs to benefit Morton Grove's senior citizen population. All interested residents are welcome to attend.

#### AARP Driver Safety Program

AARP's "Driver Safety Program" is an eight-hour two-day course for motorists age 50 and older. It focuses on the physical changes that accompany aging and on ways drivers can compensate for these changes in improving their driving skills. Additionally, drivers will find that by completing this course they may receive a discount on a portion of their automobile insurance. Courses are now offered monthly in Morton Grove with the next course times from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Thursday, Sept. 14

in the Prairie View Community Center. Then in October the course dates have been changed to 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Oct. 14 and 21 at the Morton Grove Senior Center. The cost of the course is \$10. Call the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223 to sign up.

#### 'Ten Little Indians' at Drury Lane

In true Agatha Christie fashion, a mysterious mansion full of strangers watch as each one disappears, keeping the audience guessing until the very end. The plot twists and turns keeping the audience on the edge of their seats while many of the odd characters provide the hilarity. This show is a must-see for mystery fans and Morton Grove Seniors will depart from the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14 and return at 5 p.m. The cost is \$55 for Senior Center Members and \$62.50 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center.

#### Trash or Treasure

The Morton Grove Senior Center is now accepting contributions for its Third Annual "Trash or Treasure" Rummage Sale which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16. Donations of all kinds including clothing, tools, household items, books, music, and knick-knacks are gratefully being accepted by the Center. Clean out those closet drawers or attic and basement accumulations and donate goods to: the Morton Grove Senior Center, 6140 Dempster Street in Morton Grove. All contributions are appreciated and proceeds will be used to enhance activities at the Center. The Center will accept goods from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information please call 847/470-5223.

#### Computer Classes

The "Computer Keyboarding Class" is great for the "hunt and peck" keyboarders as well as "old world typists" who want to increase their speed and accuracy. This one-day class from 9 to 11 a.m. will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Morton Grove Fire Station #4 at Lincoln and Callie Avenues. The fee is \$10 for Senior Center Members and \$12 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center

before Sept. 8. "Getting Started with Computers" is a class designed for students with little or no computer experience. There will be lots of hand-on exercise and loads of fun in this four-week course from 9 to 10:30 a.m. starting Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 at the Morton Grove Fire Station #4 at Lincoln and Callie Avenues. The fee is \$32 for Senior Center Members and

\$37 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Sept. 15.

The "Internet" course is designed for beginner Internet users and explorers who want to increase their Internet knowledge and proficiency. This four-week series meets from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting Sept. 30 through Oct. 21 at the Morton Grove Fire Station #4 at Lincoln and Callie

Avenues. The fee is \$32 for Senior Center Members and \$37 for non-members. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Sept. 15.

#### 'Shear Madness'

Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for "America's favorite whodunit comedy" on Wednesday, Sept. 27 in the quaint downstairs theatre at See Morton Grove, page 18

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The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. All residents and property owners are invited to apply for membership. Membership includes a free subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details all activities for the upcoming month. Most activities take place at Maine Town Hall located at 1700 Ballard Rd. in Park Ridge. Members pay individually for whichever activities they want to participate in. For more information contact the MaineStreamers at 847-297-2510 or visit us at [www.Mainetown.com](http://www.Mainetown.com).

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Ginger, Gene and Judy sing and dance to some of the greatest songs ever. We'll put the words up on the screen so you can sing along and we will marvel at some of the greatest dance scenes in movie history. Refreshments will be served.

#### Intro to Computers Class

Mondays, Sept. 25 to Nov. 27, (No class on October 9 & 30), 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Instructor: RJ Bruno, Cost: \$35 for 8 classes

A laptop computer will be available to you throughout the class at no charge. This class introduces you to the world of computers. Learn computer terminology, gain familiarity with the keyboard and learn how to use a mouse and the toolbar.

#### Intro to Microsoft Word

Mondays, Sept. 25 to Nov. 27, (No Class on Oct. 9 & 30), 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Instructor: RJ Bruno, Cost: \$35 for 8 classes, Prerequisite: Introduction to Computers

A laptop computer will be available to you throughout the

class at no charge. This class will review common computer basics, but will move quickly into an introduction to Microsoft Word.

#### Handyman Guides 2006 Available

Fresh off the press... the brand new 2006 Handyman Guides are available to residents at no charge. The guide lists numerous handymen that offer services that included plumbing, painting, roofing, remodeling, snow-plowing and many more. The book MUST be picked up at the Town Hall and is limited to one per household.

#### Day Trip

The following Day Trip is currently on sale. In order to sign up for a Day Trip you must first sign up to be a member and then a reservation form will be sent to you. To become a member call the MaineStreamers at 1-847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trips depart from the State of Illinois Building, 9511 Harrison St. in Des Plaines.

## Security

continued from page 16

Now some of you may have heard that when Congress changed the law in 1984 to require all newly hired federal employees to pay into Social Security, they also set up a one-time opportunity for older federal government employees like yours truly to switch to Social Security. And some of you may wonder why I didn't do it. Actually, I still sometimes wonder myself why I didn't do it. I had many friends and co-workers within the Social Security Administration who insisted that the new Federal Employee Retirement System, called FERS, that combined

Social Security with a smaller federal retirement pension, was the wise economic way to go. But I and many of my long-in-the-tooth cohorts opted to stick with our old civil service retirement plan (the devil we knew).

To this day, I'm not sure I made the right choice! But here I am: an old retired Allstate agent with State Farm insurance!

Questions may be sent c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Or send e-mail to [yoursocialsecurity@copleynews.com](mailto:yoursocialsecurity@copleynews.com).

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## Morton Grove

continued from page 17

one of Chicago's best-known venues. On an ordinary day at the Shear Madness hair salon, the regulars stop by for their weekly set and style, and a little gossip. But when a scissor job gone bad leaves the upstairs landlady dead as a doornail, the crazy company of customers

and stylists find themselves locked in and fingered for murder. Full of mischief and mayhem, "Shear Madness" brings a wacky cast of characters to life. The bus departs from the Senior Center at 12:30 and returns at 5 p.m. The cost is \$56 for Senior Center Members and \$65 for non-members. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Sept. 1.

# LIFE

## The grill, as American as grilled chicken

By Ron James  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

### The Grill

In 1952, George Stephen Sr. loved to spend his weekends burning the family meal in his Mount Prospect, Ill., backyard. Like a good many of his fellow

#### PERFECT PAIRINGS

grilling enthusiasts, the Chicago blue-collar worker was frustrated with the uneven and uncontrollable flame of his open brazier. One day after a particularly scorched meal, Stephen had an epiphany that would forever change the grilling world.

He went to the shop where he was employed to fabricate metal buoys and began to work on his vision. He welded three legs to the lower half of a buoy and made a shallower dome to use as a lid. He added a small metal disc to catch ash, a lower grate for the charcoal and a top grate for grilling food.

His neighbors laughed when they saw the contraption, calling it sputnik and other unkind names. But after they tasted the barbecue cooked on Stephen's invention, they stopped laughing and asked him to build one of their own.

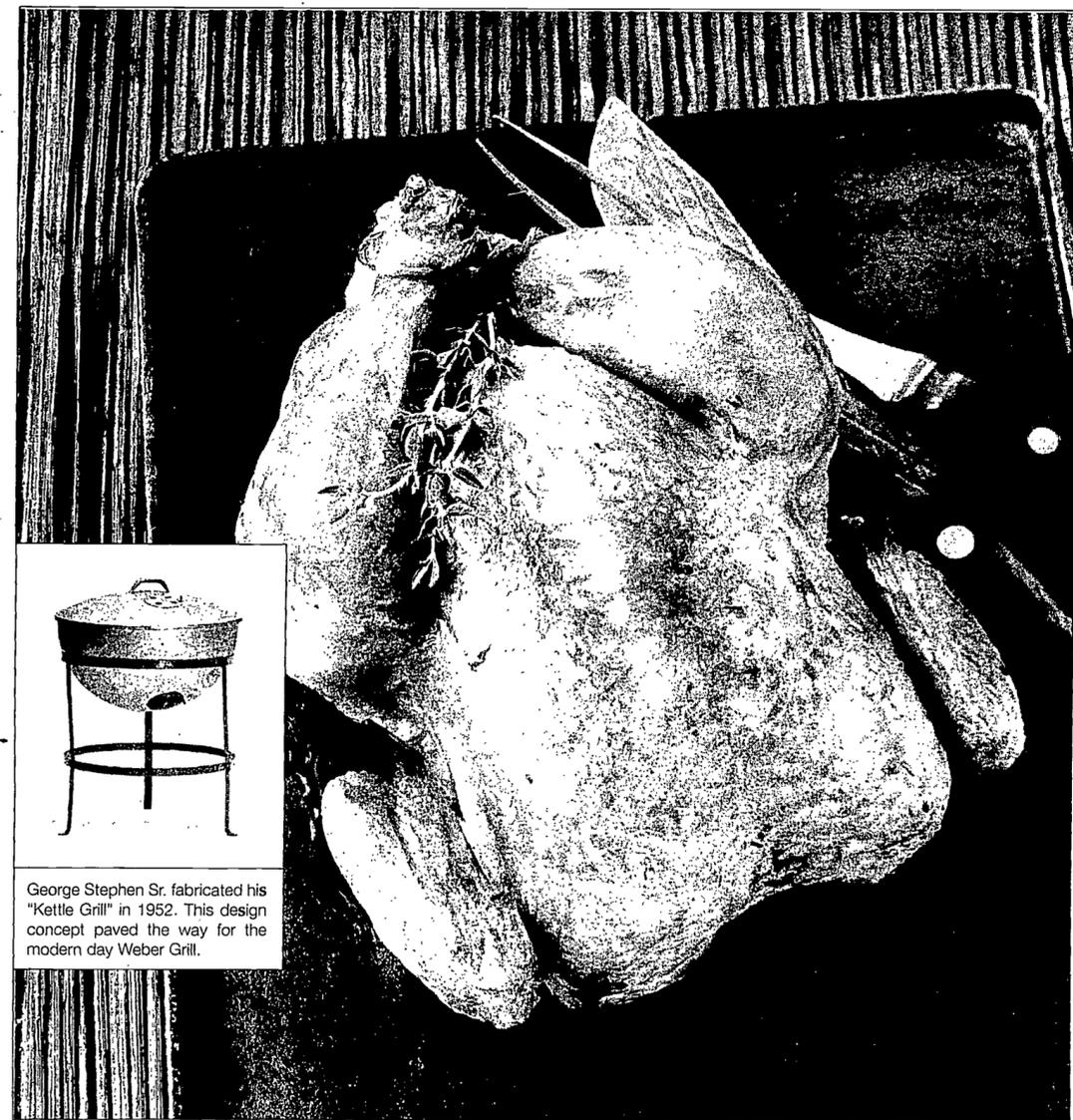
Stephen talked his employer, the Weber Bros. Metal Works, into helping him manufacture the grill, which he called George's Kettle Grill.

Stephen became sole owner of the business in the late 1950s and changed its name to Weber-Stephen Products Co. He kept Weber in the name just in case the grill thing didn't work out. Fortunately, sales were great. Today, the Weber grill is an icon that evokes passion and wonderful memories of great outdoor meals.

Today, there are thousands of dedicated Weber users who share recipes and stories on the Weber Nation Web site ([www.webernation.com](http://www.webernation.com)). Here's an abbreviated version a post by Terry Knox of Illinois.

"When my oldest daughter was starting to date, she asked a question on how one knows a relationship is meant to last. As a male, this was a difficult question until I realized my marriage, was approximately 25-plus years and my Weber was just about that old. I told my daughter that a relationship is like a new Weber grill. ..."

"Out of the box is looks great



George Stephen Sr. fabricated his "Kettle Grill" in 1952. This design concept paved the way for the modern day Weber Grill.

and it cooks food fine," Knox continued. "But with age and continued usage, the tastes just get better and you love the Weber even more - just like I learned to love your mom over these past years. Well, my daughter listened to my comparison - ran inside and told my wife - 'MOM, DAD just compared you to our WEBER GRILL!'"

#### The Dish

Grilling is truly America's favorite pastime. About 85 million U.S. households own an outdoor grill. One American favorite is grilled chicken. How well you blacken

See Pairings, page 20

### Brined Whole Chicken with Lemon & Thyme

#### Brine:

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 2 lemons
- 1 (3½ - to 4-pound) whole chicken
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 6 to 8 whole sprigs fresh thyme
- Yields 4 servings.

#### To prepare brine:

In large pot, combine sugar, salt and dried thyme. Squeeze lemon juice into pot and add juiced lemon halves. Add 1 gallon of cold water and stir mixture to dissolve sugar and salt.

Remove and discard neck, giblets, wing tips and any excess fat from chicken. Submerge chicken in brine, breast side down, cover and refrigerate for 3 to 4 hours.

Remove chicken from pot and discard brine. Pat chicken dry with paper towels. Lightly brush outside of chicken with oil. Season with pepper inside and out. Place garlic and fresh thyme in chicken cavity. Tie legs together. Grill, breast side up, over indirect medium heat until juices run clear and internal temperature reaches 170 F in breast and 180 F in thickest part of thigh, 1 ¼ to 1 ½ hours. Transfer chicken to cutting board and let rest for about 10 minutes before carving. Serve warm.

From "Weber's Real Grilling Cookbook" by Jamie Purviance (\$22)

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# 'Idlewild' energy demands big-screen

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

## New Releases

**IDLEWILD** - The explosively all-out black musical and gangster romp "Idlewild" has been "on the shelf" for two years, and soon may go to the shelves

## FILMS IN FOCUS

where movies have their long twilight on DVD. But its energies and images require the big screen of theatrical viewing. This is true even though the essential jamboree is not past talent jamborees like "Stormy Weather" or "The Cotton Club" but the giddy pastiche of music videos. That's a rather tawdry lineage in modern movies, and yet the debut director and writer, Bryan Barber, gives it an exciting push and rush. Utilizing the lead rap talents of OutKast (whose videos he did), Barber has Andre "Andre 3000" Benjamin and Antwan "Big Boi" Patton as stars. But it's in the the Depression '30s of fictional Idlewild, Ga. Percival (Benjamin), earnest son of a truly stiff undertaker (Ben Vereen, stripped of musical clout), grows up as the pal of

jumpy Rooster (Patton), raffish accomplice of a bootlegging hood (Ving Rhames, performance ruled by cigar). Easy to peel apart for flaws, "Idlewild" is also easy to enjoy if you go with its jived earthiness. As entertainment, it beats watching Samuel L. Jackson kill snakes, and much else right now. A Universal Pictures release. Director, writer: Bryan Barber. Cast: Andre Benjamin, Antwan Patton, Terrence Howard, Ben Vereen, Macy Gray, Ving Rhames, Malinda Williams. Running time: 1 hour, 55 minutes. Rated R. 3 Stars.

## Recent Releases

**THE ILLUSIONIST** - After you've seen a humongo dork like the "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequel, exuding effects like a bulimic whale, it can be more satisfying to view CGI touches more selectively used by "The Illusionist." A European production directed by Neil Burger, adapting Steven Millhauser's story "Eisenheim the Illusionist," it's an old-fashioned entertainment, but seductively retro. Edward Norton brings his razored edge and rather cerebral sexiness to Eisenheim. He dazzles audi-



The all-black gangster romp "Idlewild" demands big-screen viewing.

ences in Old Vienna (late Hapsburg era) with stage magic that evolves into conjuring ectoplasmic spirits. A Yari Film Group release. Director: Neil Burger. Writers: Neil Burger, Steven Millhauser. Cast: Edward Norton; Paul Giamatti, Rufus Sewell, Jessica Biel. Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes. Rated PG-13. 3 stars.

**ACCEPTED** - Many of us, usually in the dazed grind of sophomore year, would have loved to create and rule the college of our dreams. In "Accepted," Bartleby Gaines does just that.

Bartleby, though no scrivener in the Melville mode, is a wiseguy. He's a verbal smartie but academic slacker. As his friends, even some oafish ones, get their college acceptances, he's left with a cold pile of rejection letters. His parents, who seem to do little for their son but provide easy targets for his zingers, are indignant. Well, this is a high school comedy gone off to college, so inevitably most of the adults are idiots. Frozen out of the collegiate rat race, without even a munch of cheese, Bartleby conspires with a pal to

fake a letter from a nonexistent school. And then the Web site, then the whole damn place, using an abandoned psychiatric hospital. Their new campus is the South Harmon Institute of Technology. Piece together the initials, and you have the core of comedy. An IFC Films release. Director: Steve Pink. Writers: Adam Cooper, Bill Collage, Mark Perez. Cast: Justin Long, Adam Herschman, Blake Lively, Columbus Short, Lewis Black. Running time: 1 hour, 32 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 1/2 stars.

## Pairings

continued from page 19

chicken on the outside without leaving it raw inside is a good indicator of your grilling prowess. The secrets are indirect heat, planning and patience.

For this dish, lemon-thyme brine not only flavors the chicken but helps keep it moist during grilling. You might find it easier to grill if you cut the

chicken in half beforehand. Or you can use a rotisserie or chicken grill stand to cook whole chickens as well.

Don't cook a whole chicken over direct heat; you would have to turn it constantly for a couple of hours and you would be cooked before the chicken. Plan the right amount of cooking time. And be patient - once the chicken is done, you need to let it rest at least 10 minutes. If

you do, the juices will stay inside the meat instead of running out when you carve it.

## The Wine

Almost every wine will go with grilled chicken. The exception might be a big, bold red, which would overpower the bird. A rose, light zinfandel, merlot or pinot noir would be perfect. We've selected a Rosenblum Cellars, Vintners

Cuvee XXVII Zinfandel (\$10), an inexpensive but very tasty light-style red.

Although Rosenblum Cellars is primarily known for its award-winning zinfandels, they now produce other exciting wines, such as cabernet sauvignon, merlot, petite sirah, syrah, chardonnay and viognier. Located in Alameda, Calif., the winery does not grow grapes but instead contracts for grapes

from California's best vineyards. This wine is a product of the Rosenblum's cuvee program, which blends two or more wines regardless of vintage. They also add up to 25 percent of other varietals into the mix in the winemakers' attempt to enhance flavors, mouth-feel and structure. The wine has a bright jammy raspberry and cherry flavor with layers of black pepper and spice.

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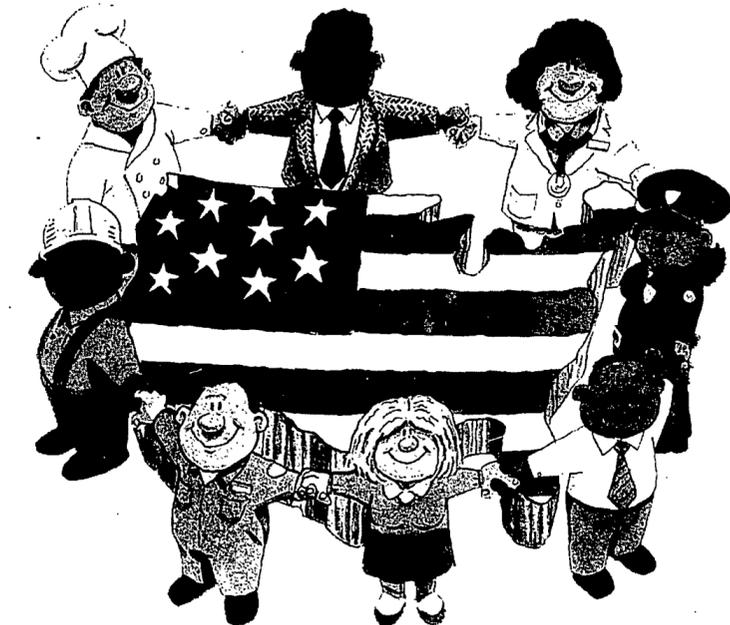
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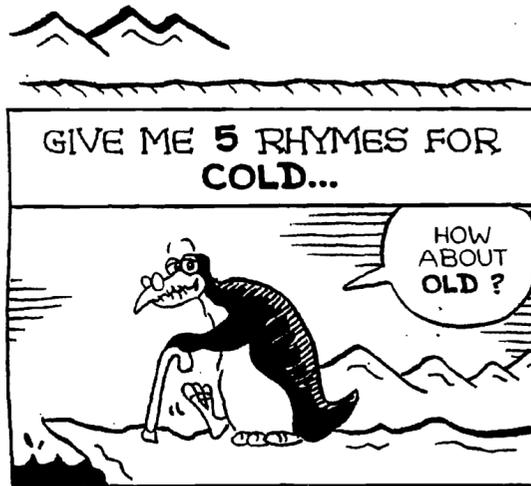
The Bugles offices will be closed Monday, September 4, 2006 in honor of Labor Day. Have a safe & happy holiday. Your Friends at The Bugle

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**REAL ESTATE**

**Rising rustic trend a big hit**

**By Rose Bennett Gilbert**  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

**Q:** We want to put a great room addition onto our house, which is a 1920s-vintage center-hall colonial. Our problem is we'd like a less formal, more

**DECOR SCORE**

relaxed atmosphere in the new addition - not contemporary, but with more natural materials, like a stone fireplace. How would that work with the rest of the house, which is pretty much 18th century and a little on the formal side?

**A:** The transition is not as difficult as you might think. Just be careful to cross-reference enough elements to keep the new room from coming as a shock when you step through its doorway.

In the photo we show here, there's a comfortable blend of the rustic - in the stone fireplace - and the traditional - especially the windows with their almost mission-style wooden framing. The furnishings (by Bob Timberlake, www.bobtimberlake.com; 800-481-1995) are an easygoing blend of the casual - like the wicker on the seating pieces - and the traditional - like the classic mantel, wooden cocktail table and gathered, full-length draperies.

The amalgamation creates an atmosphere you could call "rustic on good behavior," naturally warm and inviting but not downright casual.

Rusticity, by the way, seems to be rising in popularity as a style of home decorating. The reason, according to a Trendease Report from International Furnishings and Design Association, New York, is what's known as the "new economics of information," the fact that we now have access to a bewildering of local, national and international events and interests at the stroke of a computer keyboard or the push of a cable remote control.

With all the outside world coming in on us at a scary rate, some of us are "embracing things that are familiar and comforting," like rustic designs and products, says Trendease.

That includes those of us who are scared of technology and those of us who work with technology all day and want to come home to "anything but another modern gizmo."

**Q:** We have an Arts and Crafts-style bungalow with a small window on each side of the fireplace. I'd love to replace them with stained glass, but don't have the resources. I've seen gels you can apply to glass. Would faux stained glass be just too awful?

**A:** Although you often see old windows with simple squares of stained glass rather than pictorial renditions, you'd be walking a very thin line between traditional and tacky.

Before you give in to an impulse you're already uncom-



fortable with, consider an affordable alternative to actually replacing the windows: hang panels of stained glass over your plain windows. You might be lucky enough to find a couple of windows at an architectural salvage yard, or a glass artist's studio.

There are also modern manufacturers of traditional stained glass designs. One to investigate is Meyda Tiffany (www.Meyda.com; 800-222-4099), which hand-cuts and handcrafts stained glass windows, following Louis Comfort Tiffany's traditional techniques.

**Q:** Is one born to the "manor" or "to the manner"?

**A:** I'd have sworn that the expression is "to the manor born." But erudite reader Arlette Ballew has taught me better. She points out that sources as reliable as William Shakespeare maintain that the phrase was originally "to the

manner born." To wit, Hamlet's complaint about the manner in which his fellow countrymen quaffed their wine. Never mind that he'd been to that "manner born" himself, guzzling was still declassé, he said (or something close to that).

In this column, we may be more about manors, but from here on, we promise to mind our manners, too.

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.

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**HOME HOW-TO**

**Painting over floor vinyl**

**Step 1**  
While wearing gloves, thoroughly clean the vinyl floor with trisodium phosphate (TSP) or an ammonia-based cleaner. Allow it to dry. Remove all traces of wax. Sand the floor lightly to roughen its surface, thereby improving its ability to hold paint.

**Step 2**  
Use a roller to apply a primer with a built-in sealer. Use two coats and let dry thoroughly.

**Step 3**  
Brush on a finishing coat of a "porch and floor paint" of your choosing. This will create a durable surface. Dry thoroughly.

Use various techniques like sponging, combing, or spattering paint to add unique designs to the flooring.

Copley News Service / Paul Penzick

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## Big drama for a rather small entryway

By Christine Brun  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Regardless of the style of home in which you live, the entryway is one place where a little extra privacy and formality can go a long way toward

### SMALL SPACES

setting the tone you hope to achieve. The word "foyer" comes from the French, meaning "hearth and home" - the center of activity and attention. If your front door opens up right into your room, there is public commotion going on in what ought to be a private space.

A foyer was a given in homes from the 1800s and early 20th century. Even in the 1950s, there was at least an ornamental screen or a partial wall with turned wooden spindles that reached to the ceiling and provided a shield between the entry and the main living space. Today the concept has come down to a 3-foot square of tile that separates the front door from the living room.

But there are ways to soften the entry, no matter how tiny. One solution is with a dramatic container that will also allow you to create a subtle sense of the changing seasons. The one pictured here has a great deal of personality and could serve as a holder for spent corn stalks, dried wheat or cattails in honor of autumn. This rustic-contemporary piece is a mere 10 inches deep and can hide almost anywhere.

Notice that you can make more impact if you lift a vessel off the floor. Then the foliage or flowers displayed can fan out at eye level to create a soft, graceful barrier. When

wintertime comes, switch out the fall decor for a display of evergreen boughs that you can adorn for the holidays. Springtime offers gorgeous boughs of cherry blossom or lilacs that you might combine with curly willow for a sense of movement.

A plethora of flowers that grow in taller stalks can be yours in the summertime: Delphinium, sunflowers and giant zinnias are just a few that might brighten your entryway. Silk flowers and foliage would also do the trick.

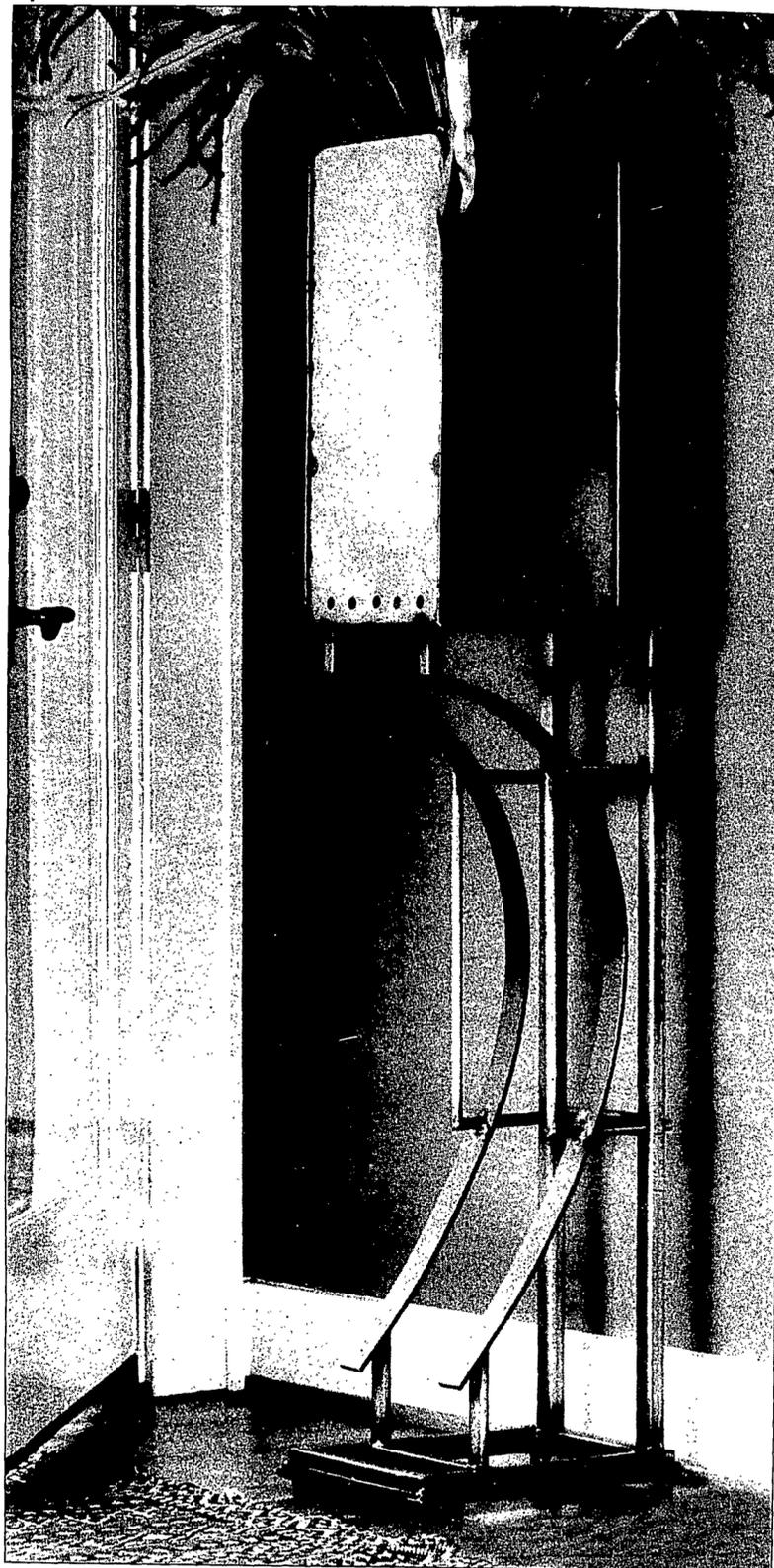
If you don't have the time to maintain such a display, try a narrow hall table or shelf in the style of your other furnishings as close to the front door as you can get it. Hang an appropriate size mirror or art piece above the slim surface.

You might want to add a small area rug, but take care not to buy something that will block the front door from opening with ease.

If space is available, consider a screen. For centuries the portable screen has served as a decorative way to bring a wall to where it's needed to block the view. Even a perforated screen gently creates a pathway to the rest of the house.

A mirrored screen adds the illusion of space and also lends sparkle to the decor. Other possibilities are wicker, wood, fabric and wrought iron. A companion screen is available to complement every style of furnishing.

If space is too precious even for a screen, hang a curtain from the ceiling and pull it to one side or tie it back to provide a visual separation from the rest of the room. You'll have the feeling of a foyer, regardless of the size of the area.



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## Crazy ants driving U.S. homeowners nuts

By Jeff Rugg  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

**Q:** I live on an acre of wooded property with pines and palmettos. Since May, I have had a huge problem with Caribbean crazy ants on my

### A GREENER VIEW

front and back patio. I hired a pest control company that, for the month of June, set bait traps and did weekly sprays, and now I am on a monthly service for this problem. The ants go away for a while, only to return en masse. Do you have any information or remedy to get rid of these ants?

**A:** Normally, ants will take bait back to the nest and kill the queen, or insecticides with a residual killing effect will work, but neither works well with these ants. Unfortunately, these ants nest in large colonies that can include multiple queens and multiple nesting sites.

Contact insecticides kill the ants they hit, so you have to spray as many nests and trails as possible. Baits work on the ants that eat them and should be placed in the nests and trails wherever active ants are found. Your pest control company will be able to supply you with more bait traps, if needed.

In the U.S., this is a new pest ant and until more is known about its lifestyle and what can kill it, this is all you can do.

**Q:** About two years ago, we purchased three white pine trees and had them planted on one side of our patio for privacy. After the one-year planting warranty was up, one of the three started to turn brown and, this May, we had it replaced with a beautiful Austrian pine from a different nursery. At the time of the second planting, we had the nursery people look into the hole for black top or other debris, but they came up with nothing.

Now, only three months later, the tree is starting to turn brown. Although the nursery is going to replace the tree, we feel there is something wrong with the location. We took a soil sample into the nursery and they found nothing wrong with the soil.

We would really like to correct whatever is killing the trees before replacing it again. The other two white pine trees

as flourishing right next to the one that keeps dying off. They all receive the same amount of water.

Do you have any suggestions for whom we should call or what we should do? This is very frustrating.

**A:** As I have said many times, there are only three things that kill plants: insects, disease and everything else. Unfortunately, this sounds like an environmental problem. There must be something different about this location, even though it is so close to the other two healthy trees. You water them all the same, but maybe this spot holds more water and the roots drown, or the water all runs off and the tree doesn't get enough water. Maybe the wind blows harder at this spot in the winter, because of the placement of the house and other trees. Maybe this tree is in the shade or sun longer, because of the house or trees. I don't know what it is, but there must be something.

Testing the soil is a good start, but what do you test for? Maybe there is a natural gas leak. Nursery employees are often not trained in all the aspects of tree health. They don't want to keep wasting trees and labor any more than you do, but they may not be able to help. Try having a licensed arborist check the site and the dying tree before planting any more trees.

**Q:** Regarding the enlightened information you gave the writer who wanted to get rid of patches of clover in the lawn - the fact that "clover can manufacture its own nutrients" - why, I wonder, did you not use a "greenview" and suggest allowing the clover to take over as an environmentally friendly ground cover instead of the so-yesterday lawn? Lawn grass is the most extravagant crop in the world as all you do is feed, water and mow - over and over again! Try clover - even the neighbors might like it!

**A:** I guess I need to be more careful about how I say that clover can manufacture its own nutrients.

Clover has the ability to develop root nodules that certain bacteria use as locations to convert nitrogen into usable chemicals that the plant uses; clover by itself, without the nodules, would still need to be fertilized. Clover requires bac-

### GARDEN TIP

#### Caribbean 'crazy ants'

The Caribbean crazy ant, *Paratrechina pubens*, got its name because of the species' quick and erratic nature.

■ **Location:** Most infestations have occurred in southeast Florida.

■ **Size:** Medium-small (2.6 to 3 mm long).

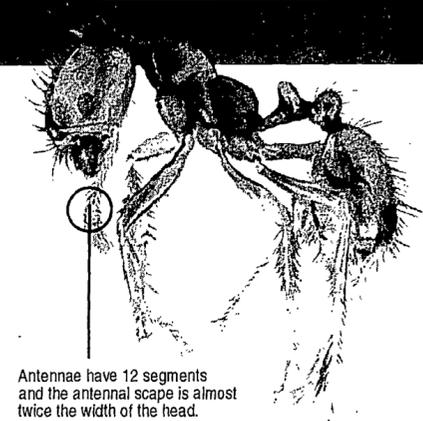
■ **Color:** Golden-brown to reddish-brown.

■ **Foraging and feeding:** Scavenging, feeds on dead insects.

■ **Nests:** Between railroad ties, under wooden debris, underground electrical conduits, cracks in cement. In various locations with multiple queens.

■ **Life cycle:** Colonies could have several hundred thousand ants.

Source: University of Florida Department of Entomology and Nematology



Antennae have 12 segments and the antennal scape is almost twice the width of the head.

Copley News Service / Paul Penzella

teria to do the work of converting nitrogen into nutrients it needs. Some soils need to have the bacteria applied when the clover is planted, otherwise the clover won't do well. This is true of many other legume plants, such as those used in prairie plantings and some vegetable gardens.

There are still plenty of other nutrients that clover gets from the soil, water, air and, potentially, from fertilizer.

Clover seed used to be a part of the grass seed mix used for lawns. It is still used in some mixes for low-intensity uses and low-maintenance lawns, such as roadsides or in detention pond areas.

One of the main problems with clover is that it flowers. The flowers attract bees and bees sting people. My sister was taken to the emergency room because she stepped barefoot on a bee in the clover of our yard.

Another problem with clover is that it doesn't look right in a maintained grass lawn. It looks fine in low-maintenance areas and should be used by anyone looking for a low-maintenance plant. In the proper location, it can make a good ground-cover plant.

**Q:** I've heard there's a way to prevent Norway maples from producing seed pods. Any

truth to that? We just moved and seem to have inherited a mess on the back patio.

**A:** I am sorry that I don't know any products for Norway maples. There is a product called Snipper that works on sweetgum trees to prevent the horrible seed balls that develop. If you can't find it locally, try this Web site, [www.treetech.net/snipper.htm](http://www.treetech.net/snipper.htm).

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

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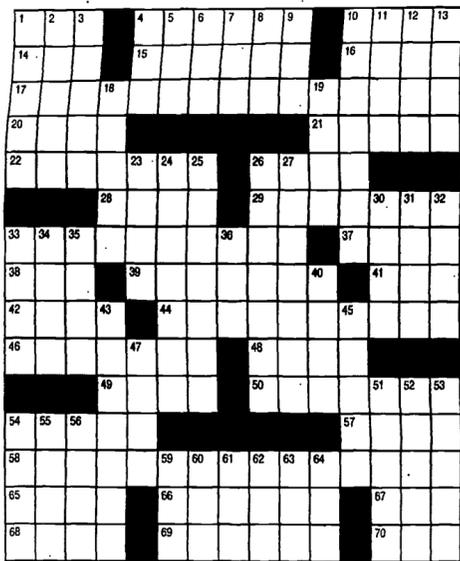
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COPLEY NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

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12 Adriatic seaport
13 2nd in charge
18 Regains good spints, with up
19 Both hands are up
23 This snowman won't melt
24 Intended
25 Became a contestant
26 Group for most algae
27 Met unexpectedly
30 Ply the oar: sl.
31 Round-on-both-sides snack
32 Iik
33 Blessing
34 Let loose
35 Leave as written
36 Lyrical Gershwin
40 Take \_\_\_ in the ocean
43 Clemens and Gompers
45 Shrub of the health family
47 Fish
51 Zoo lodgings
52 Take \_\_\_
53 Endures
54 Bar memb.
55 Tngger, stopt
56 Gift tag word
59 Female elephant
60 Exist
61 Free from
62 One worshiped
63 Stein filler
64 A flag color

Last Week's Puzzle Answers



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Be the First to send in the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and your name will be listed in next week's Bugle.

THE WINNER

1. Lorraine Truskolaski

Send your answers to the editor: Andrew Schneider Fax: 847.588.1911 E-mail editor@buglenewspapers.com

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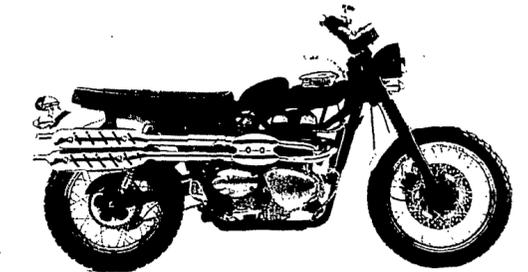
AUTO SCENE

New Scrambler's retro look belies a host of modern improvements

Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service
Because Harley-Davidson's Sportster is considered such a fabled model from motorcycling's past, it's difficult sometimes for people to remember the Sportster was originally a knock-off of the Triumph Bonneville.
Triumph models such as the Bonneville Scrambler and the Trophy were two-wheeling's icons in the 1950s and early '60s.
Actors such as Marlon Brando, Steve McQueen and Lee Marvin rode Triumphs and starred in movies on them. Charlie Vincent, Bill Baird and Bud Ekins raced them to championships. But good looks and good performance were not enough to keep from Triumph from going out of business in the '70s - not to be revived for almost 20 years. These days, Triumph is back making bikes that at least look as good as they did in their heyday, and the Triumph 900 Scrambler is the latest, and, I

think, best example. The retro look of these new models belies a host of modern improvements.
Swing a leg over the new Scrambler and fire it up and the first thing you'll appreci-

a thoroughly modern mill, displaced at 865 cc, with dual overhead camshafts and four valves in each of its two cylinders. The engine is still carbureted, not fuel-injected, so it needs a bit of choke and a



ate is the odious kick-starter has been replaced by a modern electric one. A 650-cubic-centimeter pushrod engine, dating from 1939, powered most original Triumphs; it was fast for its day - holding the world motorcycling speed record from 1955 to 1970. But it has been replaced by minute or so to warm up. It's rated at just 47 horsepower, but a flat torque curve and a smooth five-speed transmission make for a very easy-to-ride bike. And its fuel mileage can flirt with 50 miles per gallon.
The rider sits upright, in a "standard" position, on a

hard, retro-style banana seat. The seat is still as uncomfortable as it ever was. Early Triumph exhausts were infamous for scorching the boots and in seams of riders and passengers; this Scrambler's straight exhausts are heat-shielded, but still inconveniently placed.
Connoisseurs can adjust the handlebars - up for better off-road control, down for street use. The standard Bridgestone Trail Wing tires are made for on- and off-road use. So it is still possible, though not recommended, to go ripping off through a freshly plowed field.
The improved suspension would give you a better chance of making it to the other side upright, because it has been raised a couple of inches for more ground clearance. The twin Kayaba shock absorbers also will soak up 4.1 inches of suspension travel. If you drop the bike, however, know that you'll need to manhandle almost 500 pounds of machinery; that's actually

15 percent to 20 percent heavier than vintage versions.
Even without a windshield, the Scrambler was surprisingly easy to ride at freeway speeds - a welcome surprise. Of the few accessories currently available for this no-frills bike, there's an interesting package including a skidplate, solo seat, headlight guard and a "278" number plate that makes it a look-alike to McQueen's famed 1964 trials racer.
When Triumph introduced the 900 Scrambler, skeptics wondered if many people would be enticed by a bike that was more of a styling exercise than a true dual-sport. The market's answer came quickly: This year's production run is well on its way to being sold out.
Jerry Garrett is a freelance motorjournalist and contributing editor to Car and Driver. Visit Copley News Service at www.copleynews.com.

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