



FAREWELL NILES CLERK
 Marcia Jeandreas officially retires this month
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HOLIDAY FUN
 Hey Kids, check out the Bugle Kids page for fun activities
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THE BUGLE



DECEMBER 21, 2006

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Notre Dame ownership officially transferred

School excited about new direction

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
 STAFF WRITER

A definitive agreement for the transfer of ownership of Notre Dame High School in Niles was announced on Dec. 18.

Notre Dame High School in Niles will now be governed by a group of lay persons designated by Francis Cardinal George as an Association of Christian Faithful (ACF). The agreement is effective on Jan. 1, 2007.

"We're very excited about the news," said Teresa Connelly, of the media relations department at Notre Dame High School. She said that the students and

staff have been proceeding as normal during the process. During the winter break, a whole wing of the school will receive new windows and other work will be done as well.

Officers will include a Catholic priest who will serve as chaplain. The ACF will also appoint a larger board to consult on a variety of school operations.

"We have appreciated the support of Cardinal George and the Archdiocese superintendent of schools, Nicholas Wolsonovich, Ph.D., as we have worked to construct a new model for lay leadership in our school," stated Joseph Gurdak, chairman of the new corporation and president of the school's advisory board.

"We are pleased that the

teaching mission of Notre Dame High School will continue," said Father David Tyson, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Indiana Province, in a press release. "Our priests have served there for many years and we extend our prayers and good wishes for a bright future to the entire Notre Dame community."

Golf Mill Santa Claus a big hit



Golf Mill Shopping Center's Santa Claus has been making the journey from the North Pole to Niles for the past four years and there isn't anywhere else he'd rather work.

"I love this mall," said Santa, with a great big smile. "I love the people here."

Santa was recruited by another Santa and he is associated with Naturally Santa Inc., a company that hires Santas with natural, real, long, white beards and authentic Santa looks. This

See Santa, page 4

Morton Grove will issue bonds for Skokie Museum

Mayor Krier breaks 3-3 tie with 'yes' vote

By Tracy Yoshida Gruen
 STAFF WRITER

Morton Grove Mayor Richard Krier voted yes, breaking the tie regarding the village acting as a "conduit" to issue bonds to assist with the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie at a special board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Trustees Roy Kogstad, Dan DiMaria and Dan Staackmann voted against the issuance of the bonds through Morton Grove.

Two of the main reasons that some of these trustees didn't

"It was a very emotional meeting."

Joe Wade
 VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

support the bond issuance was that they felt the village of Skokie should handle it and they didn't want to set a precedent for other groups who may approach the village in the future with similar requests.

"It's not a Skokie issue, it's not a Jewish issue, it's a humanitarian issue," said Krier. "I was sad that three trustees couldn't bring themselves to support this."

Krier said that every trustee
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Keeping warm during the winter months

During the winter months everyone tries to stay warm and the local villages offer warming centers to residents in need of assistance.

Marty Friedman, director of family services for the Village of Niles, said that the village offers assistance under certain weather conditions, such as if the national weather service issues a wind chill warning, if the temperature and wind chill combined is 35 below zero or if there are three consecutive 10 degree days.

During those conditions, the senior center is open as a warming center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and then the fitness center is open till 10 p.m.

If someone needs a place to stay overnight, Friedman said they can put them up at a hotel if they can't afford it. If they can afford it, Friedman said they will still get a discount since they are working through the Village of Niles.

Friedman said if someone's heat isn't working then they

might need assistance, but he said they help more people in need of a cool place to stay during the hot summer months. Sometimes during the winter if there are consecutive cold days they may hear from residents who have run out of food and need assistance in that capacity.

Friedman said that although there isn't a big homeless population in Niles, the police department will occasionally get a homeless person come into the station in need of shelter. In

these cases, the police will page the human services department and they will put the person up at a hotel for a few days.

In Morton Grove, residents are recommended to call the police and fire departments if they are in need of a warming center. The departments would then get a hold of village hall and a warming center would be created.

In Park Ridge, two of the firehouses and the public works building are used for warming centers.

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Marcia Jeandreas retires

Served as village clerk for six years

By Andrew Schneider
EDITOR

"Let's have a round of applause for Marcia at her last official board meeting," one of the Niles trustees said at the November meeting of the village board. Marcia Jeandreas officially retires Dec. 29 after six years as the Niles village clerk.

It has been Jeandreas' job to supervise elections, the taking of minutes and the issuing of public notices as well as take notes and dictated letters from the mayor. Jeandreas, who lives in Prospect Heights and serves as chair of their planning commission, has spent 20 years in government. Though she's retiring her position in Niles, she doesn't expect that she'll stop being involved in government. "I guess I'll never get away from government entirely,"

Jeandreas said. Though she doesn't expect a complete escape from government, Jeandreas did say that she hopes to be able to spend more time gardening, she's a master gardener, and expects to spend at least two days a week baby-sitting her grandchildren.

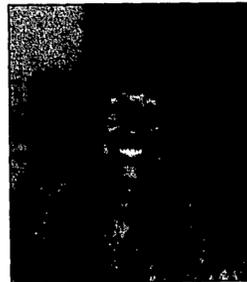
One of the biggest challenges of clerk's role is taking dictation from Niles Mayor, Nicholas B. Blase.

"When the mayor wants to dictate," she said, "the mayor wants to dictate."

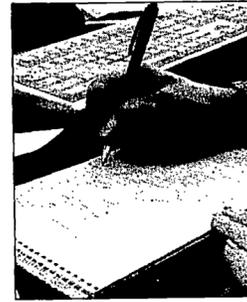
Jeandreas knows shorthand and her successor, Marlene Victorine also knows it.

"There aren't too many people who can do it any more," Jeandreas said. "It's one of the job requirements." Blase wished Jeandreas the best in retirement.

"I've been very fortunate to have very efficient people in [Marcia's position]," Blase said. "She was certainly one of the best. I'm going to miss her."



Marcia Jeandreas



Shorthand is a skill that is declining and necessary for the position of Niles village clerk.

It has to be global warming

My father doesn't believe in global warming. OK, it's been a little warmer than usual this week, but I'm not going to weigh in on the debate here, instead, a small vignette before the holidays really kick off this weekend.

We were picking up the remains of another birthday party last week; taking out a bag or two of discarded wrapping paper, washing dishes and putting together packages of left-overs for the young ones of



Page Two
ANDREW SCHNEIDER | EDITOR
the family to take home. Dad picked up some of the cargo to help me to my car. We walked out of the back door

and down our walk past the neighbor's driveway.

The driveway wasn't empty - standing next to her car was a woman on her cell phone. My dad greeted her.

"Some weather," he said.

"Yeah, wow," she replied.

"It's global warming," my dad said.

I should say, for the record, my dad works in the energy industry and does not believe in global warming.

"Can anyone doubt that global warming is real?"
See Column, page 8

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MG Board discusses bike path

The board room at Morton Grove Village Hall was more crowded than usual and one of the reasons was to discuss a proposed Techny Bike Trail Project that would go through Morton Grove, Glenview and Northbrook.

The bike path was proposed as a way to provide access for commuters to the Village of Morton Grove's Metra railway station Cook County Forest Preserve, with future connectivity to other stations in Glenview, Golf and Northbrook.

A few residents came to the board meeting to share their concerns with the project. They said that the bike path would be basically in their backyards and

they were concerned about the proximity of the strangers to their property as well as garbage on the trail.

Other residents spoke about the safety of the pedestrians that would be separated from the rail tracks by a chain link fence. They said a chain link fence would not offer adequate protection for the pedestrians.

The proposed path would parallel the Metra railroad tracks (Milwaukee North Line) in Morton Grove and Glenview. It would start at Beckwith and continue north into the Village of Glenview. The project was first presented to the public and to the Morton Grove and Glenview village boards in 1996.

As part of the project, a new bridge over Golf Road is required. Funding of the bridge has been secured from the state through the Village of Glenview. The bike paths leading up to the bridge need to be completed prior to the bridge construction.

The bike path is proposed to be 10 feet wide with two-foot wide shoulders on each side.

A husband and wife who are familiar with the railroad business informed the board that there are many deaths that happen on railroads and they are concerned about the safety of pedestrians.

Another resident said that he lives by a bike trail and has not experienced any problems with the proximity.

Jewish Congregation of Niles holds 'Christmas Eve at the Synagogue'

Christmas Eve events are not strictly for churches.

Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, will hold a "Christmas Eve at the Synagogue" event.

At the event, while their neighbors celebrate Christmas Eve, those at Ezra Habonim will have catered Kosher Chinese food and watch a movie.

The following are other upcoming events at the Synagogue located at 4500 Dempster St. in Skokie:

Tot Erev Shabbat
Friday, Dec 15, 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Monthly Shabbat service for young children and their families. Those interested can celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Ginsburg and stay for a delicious Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm. Gan families welcome. Come and bring your children

and grandchildren. Reservations for dinner a must.

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Bonds

continued from page 1

basically agreed that it wouldn't cost the village anything.

"It was a very emotional meeting," said Joe Wade, village administrator. A Holocaust video was shown at the meeting and Holocaust survivors and sur-

vivors of other tragedies in history spoke at the meeting.

The full house included some speakers who have been publicly against Morton Grove's involvement, such as Resident Pat Kansoer. The village manager of Skokie was present, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, as well as a survivor from Cambodia.

"It was pretty moving," said Krier.

Krier said that with everything going on in the world and genocide still existing it sometimes takes something like the museum to make people stop and think about those issues.

"I look at it as an opportunity for Morton Grove to be able to be involved in this," said Krier.

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Third party forms in Morton Grove

There is a new, third party in Morton Grove, and it is called the Reform Party.

The Morton Grove Reform Party is planning to field three candidates in the upcoming Morton Grove trustee election in April '07.

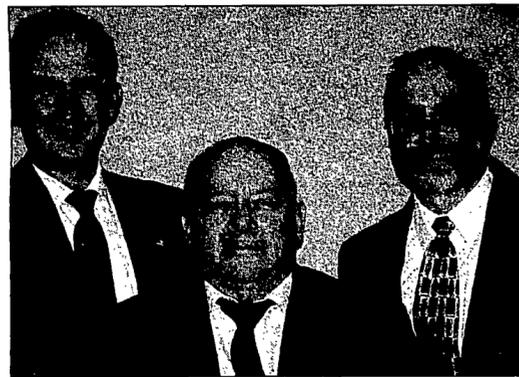
The three candidates are Sherwin Dubren, Bill Luksha and Bruce Tarpey.

The party has decided to form because they believe that Morton Grove needs another choice this fall.

All three candidates are long time residents who feel they have strong management skills and that they can bring new ideas and thinking to the village.

The Reform Party says it will focus on holding down taxes, improving government ethics, and bringing new retail business to the village. They want to put a strong emphasis on solving resident problems and helping them to interface with the various departments of the village.

One of the candidates, Sherwin Dubren, has been a frequent contributor of letters to The Bugle Newspapers over the past years giving his opinions on problems and



From left, the three candidates of the Reform party, Bill Luksha, Sherwin Dubren and Bruce Tarpey.

offering ideas to village affairs. He has served on the Morton Grove Natural Resources Commission, using his background in horticulture. He is known locally as the 'apple man' because of the small orchard located on his property. Recently, he led a group of concerned citizens to have IDOT investigate the deficiencies of the pedestrian cross walk on Waukegan Road, just south of Dempster. His efforts resulted in IDOT improving the signage and

motivating IDOT to send requests to Morton Grove to make other improvements there, such as better lighting. He has an engineering degree from Purdue University, and has been a Morton Grove resident since 1986.

Bill Luksha has earned an MBA from Loyola University. Bill also is active in community affairs. He is a trustee at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a local church. Bill is active with the Boy Scouts of America, especially with the

Sea Scouts, in which he is an instructor and counselor. Bill was a manager with AT&T Teletype (Skokie) for 10 years. In that position, Bill developed successful computer products for personal computers and government projects. Bill's wife Dale is a school teacher, and principal for 30 years. They lived first in Skokie and then in Morton Grove, since 1977.

Bruce Tarpey worked at Signode/I.T.W. in Glenview for 25 years, the last 13 1/2 years as the supervisor of Manufacturing Engineering Services.

He is currently at MPC Products Corporation in Skokie, there the past 15 years. He is a Vietnam veteran, and a member of American Legion Post 134. He has acted as chairman of his company's United Way charity drive. Bruce has a B.S. in Management (with honors) from Northeastern Illinois University, graduating in 1986. Bruce's wife Patricia is the secretary of the athletic department at Maine South High School, for the last 14 years. They have lived in Morton Grove since 1972.

Santa

continued from page 1

Santa has been growing his beard for 38 years.

While walking through the mall with Santa, the children's faces lit up and adults and seniors smiled and waved at the jolly man dressed in his colorful "Workshop" attire. While we were sitting at the table at the food court, children came up to hug him and he was delivered the newspaper, as he is every morning at the mall.

Santa said that the smiles he gets when people see him is what he loves most about his job.

While he is in Niles, the community welcomes him and treats him like a celebrity. Golf Mill Ford sponsors a car for Santa and the salon at Sears does his hair everyday so he's always looking his best. They even provide him with tips on how to keep his hair well moisturized. The Courtyard Marriott gives Santa a place to stay while away from Mrs. Claus in the North Pole.

This year, many boys are asking for Pokemon cards and video game systems and girls are asking for American Girl dolls.

Santa's busy working everyday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., with two one-hour breaks. He said the breaks are very important so that he can relax and get refreshed.

Even though the hours are long, seeing the children's faces light up with joy makes it all worth it for Santa. And there are those touching moments as well.

Trying to hold back his tears, he reached into his pocket and pulled out a "spirit bell." He said he gives the bells to children who are in need of help, such as disabled children. One time he had a girl who told him that her mother didn't think she deserved anything good for Christmas. Heartbroken, Santa just told her that her mom doesn't realize what a wonderful girl she is; but hopefully one day she will. He said that she hugged him and he realized that he boosted her self-esteem in just a short while. He calls this one of his "prime moments."

With a smile on his face, he walked back over to what he calls "his office," the big soft red chair at center court of the mall, ready for another enjoyable and touching day.

SCHOOLS

Dist 64 to hold three community forums

Park Ridge Niles School Dist 64 will be holding three community forums in January to talk about the future of Dist. 64 schools.

Sponsored by the Community Finance Committee, the forums will provide residents with the opportunity to review the finance committee's research and recommendations, evaluate the options the board has developed to maintain a high quality of education and express their opinions before the board makes any decision regarding a potential referendum.

The first forum will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Emerson Middle School in the multi-purpose room. The second forum will be held on Saturday, January 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Field School in the north gym. The final forum will take place on Tuesday, January 16 at Lincoln Middle School from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the main gym.

The forums are designed to be drop-in open houses, in which

Forum info

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people can stay for as little or as long as they would like to.

Guests will receive a briefing packet and walk along a series of information stations. They will be able to talk informally with the Community Finance Committee members and other hosts. At the end, guests will visit a Listening Post to record their opinions, ask for more information or offer suggestions.



St. Juliana first graders prepare for Jesus by sharing with others

The first graders at St. Juliana School have been preparing their hearts for Christmas by collecting new stuffed animals during this Advent season. The animals will be delivered to Swedish Covenant Hospital where they will help comfort

children who are treated in the emergency room. The St. Juliana first graders know that through this act of generosity, children who must visit the emergency room will feel a little less alone this holiday season.

Maine East students to perform in festival

Maine East's Drama 3 - 4 production of Uncommon Wasserstein: A Tribute to Wendy Wasserstein has been chosen by the Illinois High School Theatre Festival to be performed at the festival this January as a Showcase production. This year's festival, called A Timeless Gift, will be attended by close to 4000 Illinois high school theatre students. Students from around the state will gather at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana January 4-

6 to attend theatre workshops and productions. Maine East's production of Uncommon Wasserstein: A Tribute to Wendy Wasserstein is a student directed piece that is a compilation of 8 scenes and monologues from 5 of Wendy Wasserstein's most memorable plays, including Uncommon Women and Others and The Heidi Chronicles. This is the 3rd time the drama department has entered a showcase in the festival and the 3rd time the department has been selected

to perform. The drama 3 and 4 students who will be performing are: Arbella Al-bazi of Niles, Elle Burke of Morton Grove, Laura Carstons of Niles, Vicky Hurst of Des Plaines, Amanda Illic of Morton Grove, Maria Kanelos of Niles, Zak Karner of Park Ridge, Caroline Lazar of Des Plaines, Vicki Matej of Niles, Orhai Nooru of Des Plaines, Dana Parker of Niles, Eli Taylor of Niles, Frieda Trovela of Morton Grove, and Tyler Wilsey and Connie Zakharia, both of Niles.

Maine South A.P. Hawks are state champs



Maine South's Constitution Team, a group of seniors who answer questions about the United States Constitution, won their state competition at the downtown Dirksen Federal Building earlier this month. The team heads on to Nationals in Washington next year. Good Luck.

Caucus trustee candidacies challenged

A challenge to the candidacy of all three Morton Grove Caucus Trustee candidates was filed with the Village of Morton Grove Clerk's office on Friday, Dec. 15.

Resident Patrick C. Kansoer Sr. filed the challenge, saying that the three candidates failed to follow state election law by omitting information that is required under the statutes.

Kansoer said there was

some error as to the office and election in the nomination papers.

"I hold no personal animosity toward any of the three," stated Kansoer, in a press release. "It's my belief however, that the care taken in filing nomination papers is a good indication of the type of governance we could expect."

"I double checked and I didn't see anything that stuck

out," said Morton Grove Village Mayor Richard Krier, about the errors Kansoer referred to.

Krier said that the electoral board of Morton Grove will hold a hearing on the objection. The board is made up of the mayor, the village clerk and the longest standing trustee, which is Dan DiMaria. There may be an appeal process.

The date for the hearing has not yet been set. Krier said corporation counsel is reviewing this matter as well.

Village Clerk Carol Fritzhall said it is too premature to make any comments about the issue and that she hasn't had the chance to look everything over yet.

Kansoer said that the clerk signed and approved the documents in question.

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Vehicle stolen from Dunkin' Donuts lot

MORTON GROVE

1 Vehicle Theft (8700 block of Marmora)

A vehicle was stolen from the 8700 block of Marmora. He met with his co-worker at Dunkin' Donuts and his co-worker drove him to work on Dec. 9. When he came back the victim discovered his vehicle was gone.

2 Damaged Windshield (6000 block of Crain)

Unknown person(s) damaged the victim's windshield on Dec. 9. The victim said that nothing was taken from the vehicle and he said that the damage was possibly caused by a snow plow kicking up a projectile.

3 Theft of Gas (9500 block of Waukegan)

Unknown driver pulled up in a red Camry to pump 8 and filled 16.866 gallons of gas worth \$40.12 in his gas tank and drove away without paying on Dec. 11.

4 Harassing Phone Calls (8200 block of Central)

A woman received a phone call from a man and when she told him he had the wrong number he used profanity towards her on Dec. 10. The woman then received about 10 phone calls from a blocked number. When she answered a handful of them the caller used profanity toward her again. The victim called Comcast and got a trace on the number.

5 Suspended Driver's License Arrest (Dempster/Waukegan)

Police arrested a 20-year-old Morton Grove man on Dec. 10 for a suspended driver's license. The bond is set at \$1,000 and the court date is Jan. 10.

6 Retail Theft Arrest (6300 block of Oakton)

A 48-year-old Niles man was arrested for retail theft at the 6300 block of Oakton. The man was stopped and arrested for stealing items worth \$35.96 from the plumbing section. The court date is Jan. 26.

NILES

7 Knife held at Neck (7700 block of Nordica)

Upon entering the front entry foyer to his apartment a subject pushed him in further to the foyer and held a bladed knife to his neck on Dec. 16. Another subject was present as well. The two subjects asked for his wallet that contained credit cards and black lap top bag. The sub-

jects then fled away in a vehicle.

8 Disorderly Conduct (8500 block of Goff)

The complainant was shopping with his wife when a subject stuck a camera cell phone under his wife's dress and took a picture while her back was turned on Dec. 17. The officer was unable to retrieve that type of picture from the subject's cell phone.

9 Shot in Arm with BB Gun (8700 block of Dempster)

While he was taking out the trash, the victim was shot on his right arm with a BB gun on Dec. 17. The victim had a small bruise on his arm but refused medical treatment.

10 Retail Theft (9000 Golf Road)

Unknown subject concealed miscellaneous jewelry and cosmetics with a value of \$101.90 and left the store on Dec. 17.

11 Burglary to Business (7000 block of Oakton)

Unknown person(s) burglarized a business at the 7000

block of Oakton on Dec. 16. The man took \$1,500 in USC. The man dressed in a purple jacket was seen in a security video with a small hammer in his hand that he used to smash the front glass door.

12 Battery in Mall (300 block of Goff Mill)

The victim was standing near the entrance when the victim was struck in the face with a closed fist by unknown subject(s) on Dec. 17. The victim fell to the ground and was struck again.

13 Burglary to Residence (8800 block of Washington)

Unknown subject gained access inside her home through an unlocked kitchen window. The victim found Discover credit cards, a gold necklace, a stereo and pictures of her mother missing.

14 Leaving the Scene of Crash (7000 block of Carol)

An 18-year-old Niles man was arrested for leaving the scene of a vehicle crash on Dec.

16. The subject said he didn't remember hitting another vehicle. The man was charged with leaving the scene as well as a zero tolerance violation, as he was drinking and driving.

15 Retail Theft Arrest (200 Golf Mill)

A 26-year-old Niles woman was arrested on Dec. 16 for retail theft. The woman stole \$213.93 worth of items, including a three piece bowl set and clothing. The woman said she stole the items so she would have Christmas gifts for her children.

PARK RIDGE

16 Burglary to Business (800 block of Higgins)

Unknown subject(s) entered the business by kicking in the rear door sometime between Monday, Dec. 11 and Tuesday, Dec. 12. The victim was given a missing property form.

17 Burglary to Vehicle (1200 block of Tyrell)

Unknown person(s) entered the victim's unlocked 2005 Honda Accord sometime between Thursday, Dec. 7 and Monday, Dec. 11. A Cannon camera worth \$365 and \$10 in USC were stolen from the vehicle.

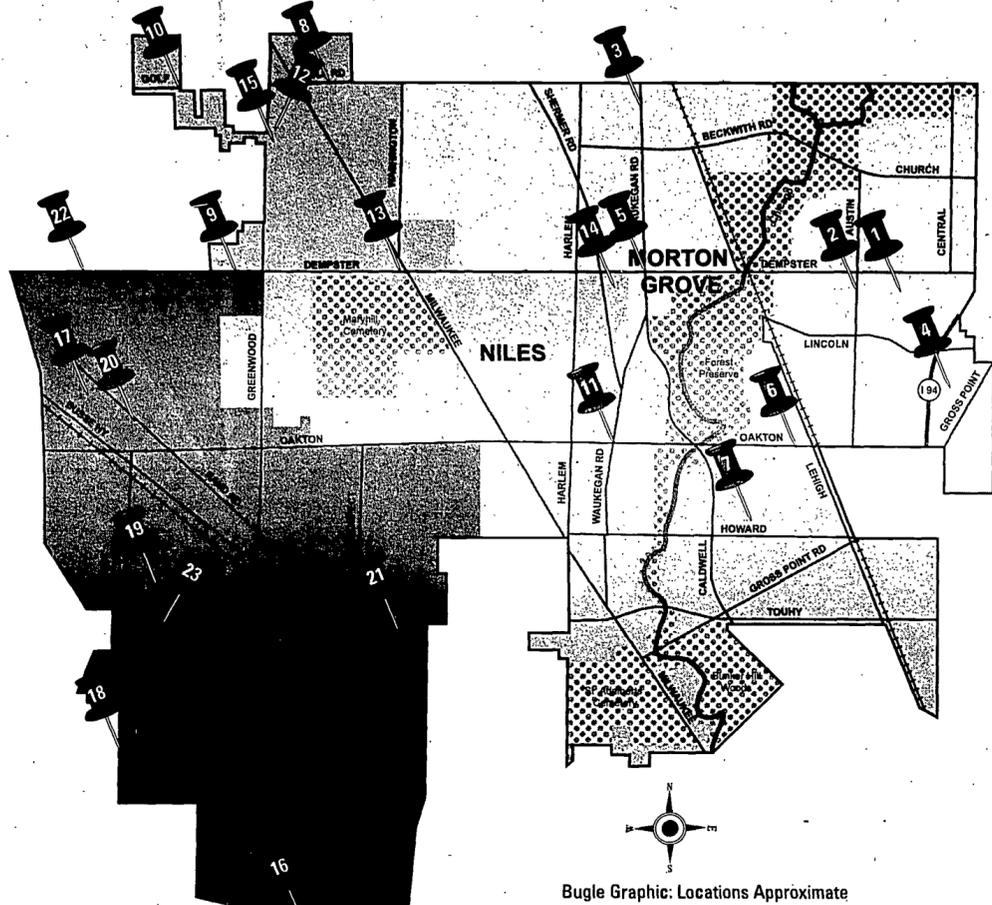
18 Burglary to Vehicle in School Parking Lot (1100 block of S. Deo)

Unidentified person(s) entered the victim's 2001 Jeep Cherokee by breaking the window on Tuesday, Dec. 12. A Sony radio worth \$250, speakers with a value of \$150 and a \$200 amplifier were taken from the vehicle.

19 Burglary to Vehicle (500 block of N. Broadway)

The victims heard a noise and observed a person walking away from their 2003 Toyota Sequoia on Wednesday, Dec. 13. The victims discovered the vehicle ransacked and a Cobra radar detector worth \$175 was missing.

See Blotter, page 7



Bugle Graphic: Locations Approximate

Man arrested for public indecency at Niles Library

A 31-year-old Mt. Prospect man was arrested for public indecency at the Niles Public Library on Saturday, Dec. 9.

An officer observed the man in a kneeling position in a "stack" or aisle upstairs in the library. He was touching himself inappropriately and was completely exposed. A patron originally informed the officer of this inappropriate behavior.

The man was charged with one count of Public Indecency/ Committing a Lewd Act.

When questioned by Niles detectives, the man admitted to regularly committing similar acts in area libraries such

as the Niles, Skokie and Chicago libraries. He also has an outstanding arrest warrant for the same offense in Lake County.

"I'm glad this turned out this way, as far as the capture of the individual," said Niles Public Library Director Cary Czarnecki. "I have never seen him in the library before."

The man has a court date of Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m. in Skokie. The bond is set at \$50,000. Records show that he is living in Mt. Prospect, but he says he is homeless and travels between his mother's home in Niles and father's home in Buffalo Grove.

Blotter

continued from page 6

20 Vehicle Window Broken (1100 block of N. Northwest Hwy)

Police said unknown subject(s) used an unknown object to break the driver's side window of a victim's 2005 Nissan Pathfinder sometime between Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8. The estimated cost of the damage is unknown.

21 Business Spray-Painted (100 block of S. Washington)

Unknown subject(s) spray painted the rear overhead garage doors of a business on Sunday, Dec. 10. The estimated cost of damage is unknown.

22 Charged with Trespassing (2600 block of Dempster)

A 15-year-old juvenile who was told not to enter school

property was discovered in the auditorium of Maine East High School on Friday, Dec. 8, said police. The teen was charged with trespassing and released on his own recognizance. The court date is Jan. 2.

23 DUI Arrest (Touhy and Broadway)

A 36-year-old Niles man was arrested at Touhy and Broadway on Wednesday, Dec. 13 for speeding and failure to signal, improper lane usage and driving under the influence. The bond is set at \$1,000 and the court date is Jan. 22.

24 Warrant Arrest

A 19-year-old Chicago man was brought to the department by Niles Police on Sunday, Dec. 10. The subject has an outstanding warrant out of Park Ridge for reckless driving. The bond is set at \$10,000 and the court date is Dec. 22.

Wit and Wisdom from the Niles Police Sign

For flu shots, contact the Niles Senior Center. State law requires carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home by January 1.



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\$1 million missing

As you likely know, our library is top-drawer. It is staffed by knowledgeable, friendly and truly helpful people. They provide services at a volume comparable to a library twice our size and spending. But, may I tell you about a group you likely know little about and maybe have never seen or heard of? They involve the mystery of the missing \$1 million and are your Library Board of Trustees

Since joining the Niles Library Board years ago, I have never seen a more involved or dedicated board. There have been dedicated or involved individuals, but the current Library Board of Trustees is incredibly devoted and really motivated to build the best library of the future and without breaking the bank. American libraries were founded with the unique concept of getting information (books) into the hands of the common man. Since that time information systems have evolved rapidly.



Another Perspective
MORGAN DUBIEL | COLUMNIST

Abraham Lincoln spent much of his day reading telegraph messages, a device invented in 1844. Since then the rate of change has been accelerating: 1876 - telephone, 1877 - phonograph, 1896 - radio, 1935 - fax machine, 1939 - television, 1945 - ENIAC Computer, 1947 - transistor, 1954 - color television, 1961 - laser, 1965 - email, 1973 - cell phone, 1974 - Altair 8800, 1989 - World Wide Web, 1990 - Online Search Engine, 1992 - Web Browser, 1994 - Palm Pilot, 1996 - Google, 1999 - P2P, 2002 - iPod, 2004 - Podcasting, WiFi and a bunch of other acronyms for things

that you don't even know about are coming to market and even getting old, dated and worn. It is hard to keep up, but libraries are no longer just about books. The concept now is that they are an "information commons", a place to gather and learn. All this change can be expensive.

Here we solve the mystery of the missing million: for the last two budgets the current Board of Trustees have held back over a million dollars of spending. I bet you did not even notice, but to get that done they faced enormous challenges and stiff opposition. Some budget meetings were contentious and the implication was that without this spending we would lose services and the library would be harmed.

How did it go? A recent Niles Library survey showed that 95% of respondents responded "yes", when asked if they were getting all they needed. Right now we are working to start continuous improvement committees that will include every employee from full to part-timers. Using this broad-based brain power we expect

to meet the goal of finding ways to improve services through innovation while keeping costs down. Trustees represent all sides: patrons, employees and taxpayers and these trustees take their trust seriously. It is possible to even cut library taxes.

The current Library Trustees are a dynamic and involved group. They take classes on library management, create their own spreadsheets for budget analysis, and do research on costs. They have as a group and individually come up with dozens of money saving opportunities, new ideas and new directions for the library to take. They have gotten a greater degree of information and participation from the department heads, so as to improve their understanding of the library's dynamic role. Virtually everyone right down to the frontline employee has "know-how" or "personal knowledge". By being open to the ideas of all, we expect to generate new and better ideas on how to go forward, while at the same time keeping costs/taxes low.

This has been a difficult

and challenging process as are all worthwhile endeavors. If they are successful they will have created a model that would reduce taxes and provide improved services at the same time. It could possibly change the way all government is run. It is hard work, but these trustees are unpaid, so the wage of a lazy one is the same as that of a hard worker - zero.

Yet, they won't quit and are the kind of people you really respect. There will never be a plaque raised in their honor, but you can do your part in recognizing them. If you know them or meet them, give them a pat on the back for a "job well done". They need it. Your current hard working Niles Library Board of Trustees are: Dennis O'Donovan (President), Maureen Polcyn (Treasurer), Barbara Nakinishi (Secretary), Pat Cross, Fred Kudert, and Daniel Vonder Heide.

We need more like them in government and we won't get them without your support.

Column

continued from page 2

al warming is happening, after this weather," she said to my dad.

"Oh yeah," he said. "Global warming is here."

As we walked out to my car, me shaking my head at my dad, I told him he should be careful about baiting people about things like that. She really believes that global warming is a serious problem.

"I'm sure she does," dad said. "That's why she's waiting to pick someone up and, while she stands there, leaves the engine idling."

Another Note

Thanks to the many people who have expressed their sympathy to me about my late Aunt Sandy I wrote about in my column last week. I appreciate the sentiments and it's nice to know that someone reads. My mom (her sister) also appreciates the sympathy.

As this is the last column before Christmas, I would like to re-iterate what I wrote in last week's column and urge readers to spend as much time as possible with their families and friends this season. It truly can be the most wonderful time of the year.



Irrationality leads to poor investment returns

By Lynn O'Shaughnessy
COPLLEY NEWS SERVICE

Do you know how well your mutual funds have been doing?

For many of you, this will sound like a question that

MONEY & YOU

would stump only a simpleton. Turn on your computer and you can probably find the performance figures for any mutual fund within seconds.

But I'm not talking about those numbers. What I'm curious about is whether you know much about your returns. The reason this is so important is because most of us are experts at sabotaging the returns of our personal clutch of mutual funds.

Our weapons are unchecked fear, greed and a behavior that we should have left behind in middle school: an unbendable desire to do whatever the heck everybody else is doing.

What's become quite indisputable - thanks to an avalanche of academic papers - is that we gut our own returns with our brain waves. Our investment returns, you see, are far more dependent on our behavior, which is often irrational, than on any given fund's performance.

Behavioral finance experts can rattle off what prompts our irrationality. We are pained far more by losses than we are encouraged by gains, so we dump funds when they have lost money. Many of us only feel emboldened to embrace the market again when stocks have nearly reached the pinnacle of Mount Olympus again.

Being addicted by this buy-high, sell-low habit isn't our only transgression. We react to talking heads hyping stocks or mutual funds without giving any thought to whether their advice should be any more credible than the homeless guy holding a poster board at a busy intersection.

We get drawn in by the herd's euphoria. Before dot-com stocks became nearly as worthless as kindling, how many of us started hoarding tech stocks because everybody else seemed to be cruising along a yellow brick road that led to Buffett-sized fortunes?

One of the latest studies that illustrate investors' innate ability to blow it comes from Dalbar Inc., which conducts an annual quantitative analysis of investor behavior. The results share a dreary sameness when it comes to measuring Americans' investment prowess.

In its 2006 exercise, Dalbar examined what kind of returns the typical investor in stock and bond funds would have pocketed from 1986 and 2005 and compared them with two major market benchmarks.

During the past two decades, Dalbar estimates that the average stock fund investor would have generated a yearly return of 3.9 percent. That will probably strike you as underwhelming even before I share what the Standard & Poor's 500 Index generated during that same period: The S&P 500 rose an average of 11.9 percent annually.

Investors' performance stinks because their irrational feelings compel them to regard the market as a high-stakes dodge ball game. They flee when they fear their nest egg is going to get smashed by a well-aimed ball, and they return to the court when they feel emboldened. Investors think they know when to dash in and out of the market, but they don't. Not even the experts know.

The gulf between the market average and investors' typical returns will look even more yawning when you plug in some dollar figures. If the average Joe had invested \$10,000, he would have walked away after 20 years with a mere \$21,494. In contrast, the S&P 500 would have produced a nest egg of \$94,755. That's a difference of \$73,261.

Even though bonds aren't as volatile as stocks, Dalbar suggests fixed-income investors are just as skittish. While the long-term government bond index generated a 9.7 percent annual return in the 20-year period, the average bond investor would have eked out a 1.8 percent annual return. Using the same \$10,000 initial investment, the fixed-income investor would pocket \$14,287 versus \$63,699 for the benchmark.

Foster bank fined \$2M

Foster Bank, which has a branch in Niles, was recently fined \$2 million as a result of failing to notify the federal government about suspicious financial activity.

The activity, which involved \$22 million in wire transfers from a Foster Bank account to beneficiaries in India, Pakistan and the

United Arab Emirates, took place between 1998 and 2002.

Foster Bank agreed to pay the penalty, neither admitting or denying findings by the U.S. Treasury financial crimes enforcement division.

Banks are required to report potential money laundering, terrorist financing and other types

of activity that may appear to be suspicious. According to the government, the bank improperly exempted two money services business customers from Bank Secrecy Act requirements.

Foster Bank opened in 1989 and has branches in Chicago, Niles, Arlington Heights and Naperville.

Wal-Mart donates funds to CrimeStoppers



The Niles Wal-Mart on Touhy recently donated \$1,000 to the Niles CrimeStoppers organization. The organization helps fight crime in Niles by offering rewards in exchange for tips. Pictured above, Wal-Mart management present CrimeStoppers board members with the check.



BY JEFFREY CARDELLA
Special to The Bugle

Edward Jones

This Year, Give a Gift That Lasts

PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT

The holidays are upon us, which means that it's time to search for those "perfect" gifts. This year, why not add financial gifts to your shopping list? They can make a big difference in the lives of the people you care about.

What types of financial gifts should you consider giving? Let's look at a few possibilities:

Contributions to Section 529 plans - If you have a child (or grandchild) who will be headed off to college in a few years, you may want to contribute to a Section 529 college savings plan. Your contributions may be tax-deductible if you are participating in your own state's plan. Plus, your earnings and withdrawals will be exempt from federal taxes as long as the money goes toward paying college costs. (However, withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes.)

Contributions to an IRA - If you know a loved one has an IRA, consider making a contribution. Many people don't fully fund their IRA each year - so any help you can give toward that goal will be important.

Stocks - Consider giving shares of a company that produces products or services that are used by your intended recipient. If you're going to give away some of your own shares, you'll need to know what you originally paid for the stock, how long you've held it and its fair market value at the date of the gift. Recipients of your gift will need this information to determine gains or losses if they decide to sell the stock. You'll also need to determine if you have to pay gift taxes. You can give up to \$12,000 per year, free of

gift taxes, to as many people as you want: over your lifetime, you can give up to \$1 million without incurring gift taxes.

Zero coupon bonds - These types of bonds can make nice gifts if you know that your intended recipient would like to achieve a specific financial goal - such as a new car, a dream vacation, etc. - in a given number of years. You buy a zero coupon bond - usually issued by the Treasury under the name of STRIPS - at a deep discount; when the bond matures, you - or in this case, the recipient of your gift - collects the full face value. In other words, the accrued interest is paid at maturity, so you - or the recipient - won't receive periodic interest payments. Keep in mind, however, that these "phantom" interest payments will still be taxed as ordinary income each year until the bond matures. Also, market prices of zero coupon bonds tend to be more volatile than those of bonds that pay interest regularly.

Charitable gifts - You may want to make a financial gift to an organization in the name of a loved one - especially if this person is an enthusiastic supporter of the charity. Your generosity will be appreciated, and you'll get some significant tax benefits. First, you may get an immediate tax deduction for your gift. Second, you'll avoid paying capital gains taxes by donating appreciated assets, such as stock or real estate. And third, you'll be removing an asset from your taxable estate.

A financial gift can brighten a loved one's holiday season - and your thoughtfulness will be felt long after the holidays are over.

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

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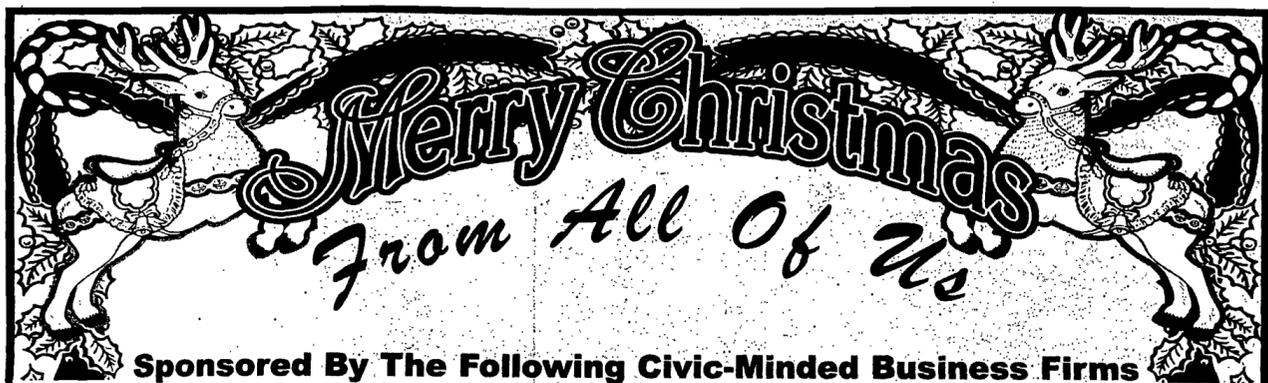
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS AND ITS SEASON
Dec. 17 The 3rd Sunday of Advent, at 4:00 p.m. CONCERT OF POLISH AND ENGLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS-KOLENDY Performed by Chicago Circle Choir & Children's Choir
Dec. 24 The 4th Sunday of Advent & Vigil of the Nativity 10:00 a.m. Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Mass 12:00 Midnight Shepherd's Mass (Pastor)
Dec. 25 Christmas Day - Solemnity - Nativity of our Lord 10:00 a.m. Mass of the Nativity
Dec. 26 8:30 a.m. Mass - Feast of St. Stephen
Dec. 27 8:30 a.m. Mass - Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Dec. 31 Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity - Solemnity - Humble Shepherd's New Year's Eve 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Mass
Jan. 1 New Year's Day - Nowy Rok 2007 10:00 a.m. Mass for God's Blessings

Christmas Services



St. John
The Parish Church of Saint John Brebeuf
8307 N. Harlem Ave. Niles, Illinois 60714 (847) 966-8145
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
December 25, 2006
Christmas Eve Liturgies 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 10:30 pm & 12:30 am (Polish)
Christmas Day 9:00 am, 10:45 am & 12:30 pm (Polish)
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY December 31, 2006 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am & 12:30 pm (Polish)
New Year's Eve 5:00 pm, 6:30 pm (Polish)
SOLEMNITY OF MARY January 1, 2007
New Year's Day 9:00, 10:45 am & 12:30 pm (Polish)
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD January 7, 2007 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am & 12:30 pm (Polish)

Our Lady of Ransom Church
8300 N. Greenwood • Niles, IL
Christmas-2006 • Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday - December 19 7:00 p.m. (English & Polish)
Saturday - December 23rd 11:00 a.m. (English & Polish)
CHRISTMAS MASSES
(We welcome everyone to celebrate the Lord's birth with us.)
Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24 4:00 p.m. Mass
12 Midnight (Carol service begins at 11:30 p.m.)
Christmas Day - Monday, December 25 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
New Year's Eve - Sunday, December 31-5:00 p.m.
New Year's Day - Monday, January 1 - 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Saint John Lutheran Church
7429 Milwaukee Ave. Niles, IL 60714
847-647-9867
CHRISTMAS EVE
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
4:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship
11:00 p.m. - Holy Communion Celebrated
CHRISTMAS DAY
9:30 a.m. - Festival Worship w/ Holy Communion
NEW YEAR'S EVE
9:30 a.m. - Holy Communion Celebrated

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CHRISTMAS 2006 SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24
4:00 pm Family Mass in the Auditorium Church will be focused towards the smallest of our parishioners.
10:30 pm Caroling with the Choir in the Auditorium Church.
11:00 pm Mass in the Auditorium Church
CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25
10:00 am Mass in the Auditorium Church
NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31
No Anticipated Mass
NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1
9:00 am Mass in the Auditorium Church



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RESIDENTS AT NORWOOD CROSSING GIVE "IZZY" A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS

Her name is Isabella. To the residents of and visitors to Norwood Crossing (formerly Norwood Park Home), she is affectionately known as "Izzy." She is mature and well-behaved for her nine years but acts more like her human age equivalent of 63. Izzy is part Labrador and part Retriever along with a few other breeds. On Christmas morning, she looks forward to the many canine presents carefully arranged under the tree in the Brandt Lobby. Most of them are from residents of the senior living community at 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago, where she volunteers.

Many gifts are decoratively wrapped and tied with ribbons. Others are buried beneath colored tissue paper in attractive holiday gift bags but all have cards with sentimental messages. Izzy is appreciative. In her well-mannered approach to Christmas morning, Izzy eyes the gifts with delight, lies down and begins pawing at them at first in a polite and subdued way. But soon, the wrappings are shredded, the ribbons in dis-



array and the gifts are revealed. They are dog biscuits, rawhide bones, squeaky toys, canine treats, decorative collars, and other similar gifts that only a dog could love. Like a child, Izzy prefers not to be disturbed so that she can play with her presents for the remainder of the morning. The gifts reflect the heartfelt joy and happiness that Izzy brings to Norwood Crossing residents. For most of the past few years, Izzy has become an important part of their daily lives. They appreciate her friendly disposition and nature, providing them with an outlet for their affection. Each day, the routine is

much the same. Beginning around 9:00 a.m., Izzy accompanies her mistress into the building. Before long, Izzy is unleashed and left alone to wander, greeting residents whose hands are extended to stroke her back, offer a soft pat on the head or rub her tummy. She leisurely walks from one Activity Room to another, but looks forward to the Link where many residents sit and watch the comings and goings outside.

At Norwood Crossing, the residents are all part of a large family, and Izzy is their family pet. For some, she rekindles memories that reach back to the time when they, too, enjoyed the Christmas season with a favorite dog or cat. So when Christmas arrives at Norwood Crossing, the residents are eager to bestow gifts on Izzy as a way of saying thanks for bringing so much joy to them. Izzy reciprocates. She continues to offer herself in a loving and affectionate way, sharing herself in the spirit of Christmas and eagerly looking forward to another year with her family at Norwood Crossing.

Super H Mart Holds End of Year Customer Appreciation Sales Event

Super H Mart, one of the largest Asian grocery markets in North America, is preparing, once again, to give out free gifts to its customers for a year-end event that will last from December 22 until December 31.

It is common, in Asia, for large or small markets to express their appreciation for their customers by giving various free gifts and having game-theme programs at the end of the year. Super H Mart is planning to

practice the Asian-style market event.

As a part of this year-end celebration, Super H Mart has a free gift, with purchase, for all customers. Also, free 2007 calendars, big sales, games and free gift-wrapping service will be ready for its customers.

During this event, people can experience the Asian-style Year End celebration at Super H Mart.

Niles Park District Ready To Play Ball!

Grade School Dodgeball Challenge

Join Niles Park District for our 1st Annual Grade School Dodgeball Challenge. This challenge is for boys and girls 3rd-8th Grade. Join as a team or an individual. Challenge begins with the 1st round December 26, 2nd round December 27, 3rd round December 28 and the Championship January 2. All teams are guaranteed 6 matches plus playoffs. Fee is \$8 per participant and registration deadline is December 21. Please sign up at Howard Leisure Center, Golf View Rec Center, or Grennan Heights. Call (847) 967-6975 with any questions.



Youth Basketball Academy

Niles Park District's Basketball Academy is designed to help the beginner as well as the more experienced player learn and develop the fundamentals of the game. Our Academy is for boys & girls grade 2-8. Session runs Monday, January 8-29. Grades 2-4 play from 4:30-6:00 pm, and Grades 5-8 play from 6:30-8:00 pm at Golf View Recreation Center. Fee is Res \$39; Non-Res \$44. Please register at Howard Leisure Center, and call (847) 967-6975 with any questions.

Liberty Hosts Successful Holiday Fundraiser



Liberty Bank and Rainbow Hospice recently hosted successful holiday events at the Pickwick Theatre to raise money for the hospice and collect food for Maine Township. Here, l to r, are Jackie Mathews, Rainbow's Special Events Coordinator; Marsha Golaszewski, a Liberty Marketing Coordinator, and Pegge Ferris, a Rainbow volunteer.

Santa Visits The Bugle



The Bugle Newspapers received a very special visitor last week. Santa Claus (Jeff Carlson) visited the newspaper office and wished all a very Merry Christmas. Pictured above, from left, Gloria Caputo, reception, Andrew Schneider, editor, Tracy Yoshida Gruen, staff writer, Santa, Frank Montiel, production and Elizabeth Marcus, sales.

Kerasotes Theatres ShowPlace 12 - NILES
301 Golf Mill Center (West side of Golf Mill Shopping Center)
Niles, IL 60714
Office phone: 847-544-7380 ShowTime phone: 800-326-3264 #1643
ShowTimes for December 22-24, 2006

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) Fri & Sat: 11:00am, 2:40, 6:30, 10:10; Sun: 11:00am, 2:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) Fri & Sat: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30; Sun: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:00am, 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50; Sun: 10:00am, 12:50, 3:50
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:30am, 1:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40; Sun: 10:30am, 1:20, 4:40
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) Fri & Sat: 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00; Sun: 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00
ERAGON (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:20am, 12:45, 3:40, 6:20, 9:15; Sun: 10:20am, 12:45, 3:40
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 10:50am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05; Sun: 10:50am, 1:50, 4:30
APOCALYPTO (R) Fri & Sat: 11:50am, 3:30, 6:50, 10:00; Sun: 11:50am, 3:30
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) Fri: 9:50am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; Sat: 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20; Sun: 9:50am, 1:00, 4:10
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) Fri & Sat: 10:05am, 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35; Sun: 10:05am, 1:15, 4:20
THE NATHANIEL STORY (PG) Fri & Sat: 11:30am, 2:00, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15; Sun: 11:30am, 2:00, 5:10
HAPPY FEET (PG) Fri & Sat: 10:10am, 12:40, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30; Sun: 10:10am, 12:40, 3:45
MONSTER HOUSE (PG) Habitat for Humanity benefit show 10:00am Saturday only

'Cooking on a budget' at the Niles Senior Center

Niles Senior News

Cooking on a Budget

Begins Wednesday, January 3, 12 weeks

Join Charlotte Schneider from Allied Home Health Care as she teaches us how to cook mouth-watering and nutritious meals for one or two people on a budget. Samples will be served. Attend one session or all twelve sessions. (But signing up for all 12 is a real budget bargain - Sign up for all 12 weeks and pay \$12. If you prefer to sign up for only one or two sessions, the cost is \$2/session) You must register in advance (by December 22nd) No walk-ins please.

Meditation Encounter

Monday, January 8th and 22nd, 11:30 - 1:00 \$2

Learn a number of non-denominational meditation techniques will be demonstrated. No prior knowledge or belief system is required. Some of the meditations will be listening, observing the breath, tea or coffee drinking, standing

Laughter

Learn how a little giggling

can do you a lot of good, Monday January 8th and January 22nd 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. \$2.

The Attitude of Gratitude

Friday, January 12, 10:00-11:00 a.m. FREE

What does it mean to be grateful? What difference does it really make? In this penetrating seminar Om Jahari explains how physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being and relationships are all affected by whether or not we have a grateful heart. FREE...but please register in advance.

Enthusiastic Seniors' Group Seeks Members

This enthusiastic group wants you if you like to hum, sing or even whistle. If you can carry a tune, bring your voice! We want you if you play a con-

ventional reed, percussion, keyboard, or stringed instrument, guitar or ukulele. We'd especially love you if you play a harmonica, kazoo, washboard, spoons or whatever (have your own homemade instrument - we can incorporate it into the band!). No pay, but lots of fun! Join the Niles Senior Center Kitchenaires Kitchen Band. Call for our practice schedule or for more information (call MaryAnn 847 588-8420). Non-residents are welcome.

Internet Classes

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 16th - Jan. 25th 9-10:30 \$20

Explore the internet and learn the tools to successfully surf the world wide web. In this intensive 2 week, 4 session class, you will learn to master the skills needed to surf the net.

The King and I at Drury Lane

Thursday, January 18th 11:15 - 5:30 \$50.

You're sure to enjoy this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic with its enhancing musical score. But first, enjoy a fabulous lunch featuring your choice of Roast Sirloin of Beef or Stuffed Chicken Breast. Cost \$50. Call for ticket availability.

Art Insights

Thursday, January 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m. \$1.00

Join Char Hadley of the Chicago Art Institute as she takes us on a slide show tour of some of the most exquisite works of art displayed at the Art Institute. Participants in this program will also receive a complimentary family-pass to the Art Institute.

Family support can only help grandson

By Doug Mayberry COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a grandson who is not living up to our family's expectations. Our son divorced his dysfunctional wife. Because of her disastrous family life and

DEAR DOUG

abuse she was unable to become a good mother. The judge granted our son joint custody. His ex-wife committed suicide when our grandson was 15. We have done our best as a family to help our grandson move forward. The doctors are also trying with medications to help with his depression. Our family believes he can get through this, and he is getting slightly better. Are we

on the right track?

A: Yes, even though his progress is slow, your family's beliefs and continued support are the most contributions you can make. Always be positive and love him for who he is, not whom you prefer he would be. Unfortunately, over time, he has learned how his family and friends feel about him, and he has probably negatively tagged himself as being unable to accept the responsibility expected of him. As he grows older, he is learning he needs to mature and get out of his own rut, just as he sees his peers doing.

Continue your support for him without criticism, which almost always makes matters worse. Fortunately, most of us learn the most in making our

own mistakes. Help him to become more functional by being kind and telling him you understand how challenging life can be. As your family continues to encourage, your attitude will help him build and develop his self-esteem.

In your conversations, always be positive and inspirational. Tell him part of the joy of life is that we are all different; your love and patience will prove beneficial.

Q: Historically my holiday gifts to the kids and grandchildren have been mostly gift certificates, cash or checks. However, I no longer enjoy giving these things because they seem so impersonal, and rarely do I even learn how the money was spent. Starting in August I

decided this year to give more personal gifts such as jewelry, clothing and sports items for my family. No doubt some choices won't be liked, but I have thoroughly enjoying buying these items for them. Have I done the right thing?

A: Yes. Certainly it's your decision, and you should spend your money the way it works best for you. Shopping is always a challenge, but as you know your family and what they like, no doubt you have found some winning items. Shopping early means there are probably some bargains, which not only saved you money but also allowed you to purchase more expensive gifts than you could in December. Also, some retailers will allow your family to exchange gifts and it's easier if you saved your receipts.

Looking forward toward 2007

for a gift which is not affordable by your family now, you might consider offer to share their cost for a new television, refrigerator or even a car. This participation might be more satisfying to you.

Seek out what each family member idea of what a great gift would be. It could be a spa vacation, golf clubs or a cleaning lady. If you are nervous about what you are giving, prepare the recipient by being prepared to explain why you made that choice. Otherwise you may really shock them, and they won't know how to respond.

Consider starting an educational fund for your grandchildren and contributing to it each year. This would encourage them to consider their future options. Perhaps your daughter or daughter-in-law has always wanted a nice silver service and

See Doug, page 18

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Free New Year's Day luncheon at Morton Grove

Morton Grove Senior News

Free New Year's Day Luncheon

Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church at 2350 Dempster Street in Des Plaines will be hosting a free New Year's Day Luncheon from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 1. The day includes a wonderful lunch and a countdown celebration. For more information call the Church at 847/827-5519.

Cholesterol Screening

The Morton Grove Senior Center's monthly Cholesterol Screening will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Swedish Covenant Hospital will administer the screening, which provides a full lipid profile including total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and triglycerides. Results will be available within seven working days. Reservations can be made by calling the Morton Grove Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223. Fasting for 12 hours is also required but

water and medications are allowed. The cost is \$10 for residents age 65+ and \$12 for non-residents and residents under age 65.

Tai Chi Class

Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for a six-week Tai Chi class. Tai Chi uses slow, gentle movements to improve flexibility and build muscle strength gradually. It can help ease sore joints and muscles. The series of classes will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. beginning on Monday, Jan. 8. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Dec. 27 and pay a reduced cost of \$25 for Members and \$29 for non-members. After Dec. 27 the costs are \$29 for Senior Center Members and \$33 for non-members.

Making Glass

Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for an afternoon at the "Making Glass Studio" in Highland Park on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Travelers will observe a glass blowing

demonstration and hear about the history and science of glass. Following the presentation, all participants will have the opportunity to design and create a paperweight. The bus departs from the Senior Center at 1 p.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Please register in-person at the Senior Center, the cost is \$54 for Senior Center Members and \$62 for non-members.

'Mr. Taps' Tap Dance Classes

"Mr. Taps" takes audiences for a thrilling review of tap dance. From Vaudeville to Broadway Musicals, to The Hoofers Club, to the days of Rock & Roll and Rap & Tap. "Mr. Taps" will be appearing at the Morton Grove Senior Center at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11 and is sponsored by Summit Square Retirement and Assisted Living. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Dec. 28 and pay a reduced cost of \$1 for Senior Center Members and \$2 for non-members. After Dec. 28 the costs are \$2 for Senior

Center Members and \$3 for non-members.

The King and I at Drury Lane

It's an age of pleasantry in 1862 in Siam, and the King is looking to educate his children in the ways of the west. Anna Leonowens and her young son have been brought to the palace to help change the King's image. In this elegant setting, cultures clash, sparks fly and before we know it, love is in the air. This romantic musical includes many musical favorites like "Shall We Dance," "Getting To Know You," and "I Have Dreamed." Travelers from the Morton Grove Senior Center will take in this show on Wednesday, January 17. The bus leaves the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. Please register in-person at the Senior Center, the cost is \$73 for Senior Center Members and \$84 for non-members.

Winter Wonderland

Join the Morton Grove Senior Center for a presentation on the winter wonders unfolding in local forests by a Naturalist from the Cook County Forest Preserve at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Register in-person before Jan. 5 and pay a reduced cost of \$1 for Members and \$2 for non-members. After Jan. 5 the costs are \$2 for Members and \$3 for non-members.

'Auroris' Dance Performance

Travelers from the Morton Grove Senior Center will enjoy the "Auroris" Dance Performance at Niles North High School in Skokie from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday, Jan. 25. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Jan. 2 and pay a reduced cost of \$1 for Senior Center Members and \$2 for non-members. After Jan. 2 the costs are \$2 for Senior Center Members and \$3 for non-members.

Mayflowers Tour Trips Program

Mayflower Tours will highlight their upcoming "Europe by Train," "Yosemite/Lake Tahoe/San Francisco," "Alaska," and "Hawaii" Tours from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 31 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Register for this free program

before Jan. 15 by calling the Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

'Barefoot in the Park' Theatre Trip

Morton Grove seniors will take in one of Neil Simon's best shows on Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Metropolitan Performing Arts Center in Arlington Heights. This merrily entertaining comedy about newlyweds who are as beguiling as Romeo and Juliet, but much funnier, as they try to settle down in a wildly impractical apartment at the top of six flights of stairs. The bus departs from the Senior Center at 6 p.m. and return at 10:30 p.m. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Jan. 2 and pay a reduced cost of \$37 for Senior Center Members and \$43 for non-members. After Jan. 2 the costs are \$43 for Senior Center Members and \$50 for non-members.

'Tommy Gun's Garage' Lunch Theatre

Go under the "El" track and give the secret password. Enter through the big metal door and be transported back in time to a 1920's speakeasy. Join the Morton Grove Senior Center as they enjoy this roaring-twenties Chicago experience on Wednesday, Feb. 14 that includes lunch choices of Prime Rib, Chicken, or Lasagna with Marinara Sauce plus a musical theatre comedy revue complete with gangsters and flappers. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. Please register in-person at the Senior Center before Jan. 15 and pay a reduced cost of \$70 for Senior Center Members and \$81 for non-members. After Jan. 15 the costs are \$81 for Senior Center Members and \$93 for non-members.

'Assassins' Musical Theatre Trip

"Assassins" lays bare the lives of nine individuals who assassinated or attempted to assassinate U.S. Presidents. Creators, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman bend the rules of time and space, taking the audience on a roller coaster ride where assassins and would-be assassins from different historical periods meet, interact and ultimately inspire each other to harrowing

See Morton Grove, page 19

Life Line Screening holds tests at Leaning Tower YMCA

Residents living in and around the Niles, IL community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Life Line Screening will be at the Leaning Tower YMCA on January 16th. The site is located at 6300 W. 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, IL

All four screenings take less than an hour to complete. A complete vascular screening package, including the Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm and Ankle Brachial Index (hardening of the arteries) screening is \$109. Sign-up for a complete vascular package; include the osteoporosis screening and pay only \$129.

Screening info
For more information regarding the screenings, or to schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1287 or visit us on the web at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Life Line Screening was established in 1993 and has since become the nation's leading provider of vascular screenings. Over 85 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 be preventive procedures.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1287 or visit us on the web at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

'Hollywood Sings' at Park Ridge Center

Park Ridge Senior News

January Dates

Finally got through the holidays!!! Have the winter doldrums set in yet??? The Park Ridge Senior Center has activities to help get over them. On Monday, January 8, a "Happy Birthday, Elvis" party is planned. Come for lunch first at 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. There will be 4 kinds of pizza, salad and a big cake in celebration of the event. After lunch, there will be a viewing of an Elvis movie and if you dress like Elvis or sing an Elvis song at lunch, you may win a prize. Member must make reservations in advance according to current policy. There is only a \$6.50 charge for the party.

'Hollywood Sings'

On Thursday, January it's off to "Hollywood Sings" at the Fireside in Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin. Departing the Center at 8:45 a.m. headed to the "Fireside" for another live band revue that pays tribute to the movie musical filled with great music, singing, dancing and comedy. However, lunch comes first with the menu featuring cream of carrot soup, chicken and rib combination, potato croquette au gratin, green string beans and coconut cake. Return to Park Ridge will be about 5:30 p.m. Reservations for members must be made in advance according to current policy. The \$84.00 charge covers lunch, show and motoro-

coach transportation.

Tribute to Arthur Fiedler

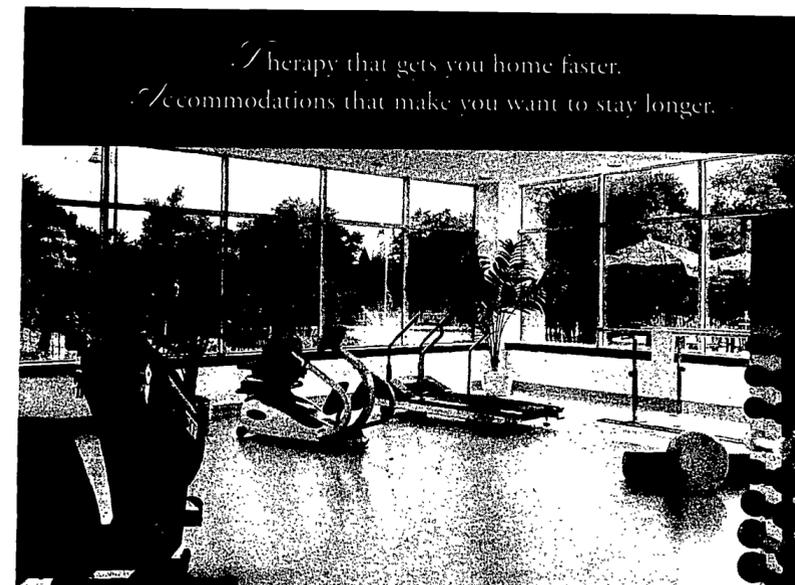
On Sunday, January 21 it's a "Tribute to Arthur Fiedler" at the Elgin Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the legacy of legendary Boston Pops musical director, Arthur Fiedler. The program will highlight classical works, popular tunes, and music from the Silver Screen. Seats are on the main floor. Prior to the show there will be lunch at Jimmy's Charhouse in Elgin. Included in the menu will be soup and salad, choice of prime top sirloin steak or wood roasted 1/2 chicken with potato, dessert and beverage. The bus leaves the Center at 11:45 a.m. and returns about 6:30 p.m. Members can make reservations according to current policy. The cost is \$86 for lunch, show and motorcoach transportation.

Other Activities

The Camera Club will not meet in December. The next regular meeting will be 10 a.m. on January 23, 2007. A video shot in the wilderness of Northern Minnesota, entitled, "The Boundary Waters" will be narrated by Louis Keesey who has fished those waters and studies its wild life since 1941.

Exercise classes

Exercise classes continue unless the weather is bad. So come for a good workout on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at either 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.



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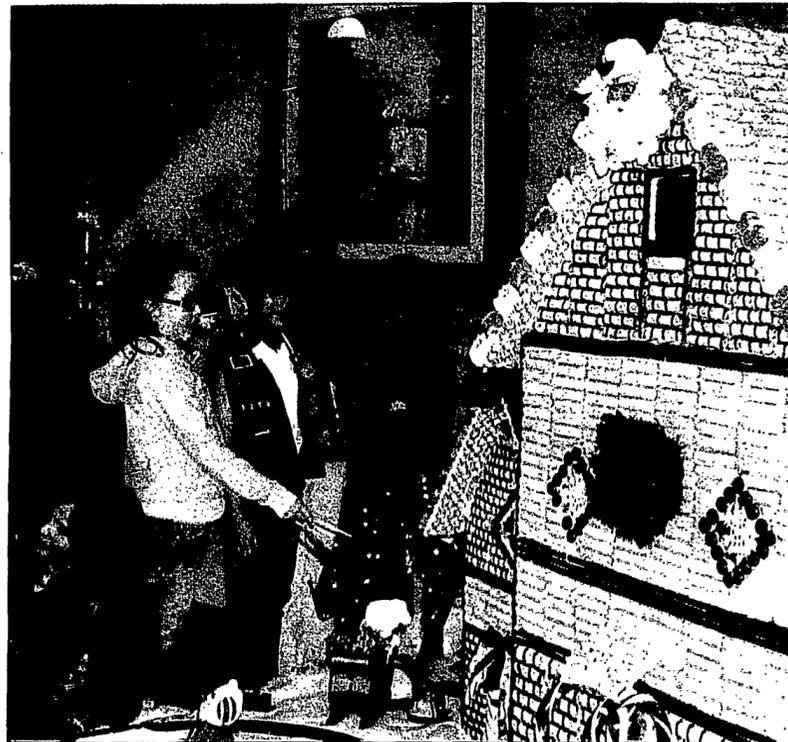
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Brownies from Troops 1359 and 152 (Mary Seat of Wisdom) are admiring the giant gingerbread house created by Chef Jose Medina at Summit Square. Over 30 Brownies came to carol for the residents last week. Another group, Angelica from the PR Community Church, also sang at the Open House.

VIPS and Residents Visit with Santa. Standing left to right, Twp. Supervisor Bob Dudycz, Fran Marshall of Summit Square, and Mayor Howard Frimark. Sitting on Santa's lap is Summit Resident Ruth Baker. Baby is Rosalie Butitta, great granddaughter of Summit resident, Dominic Butitta).



Summit Square holds open house

As part of the Open House, organizations and schools decorated trees. Visitors to the Dec. 9 Open House voted on their favorite which proved to be from PR Cub Scout pack 201. Other participants included:

- Brownie troop 1359 and 152, Mary Seat of Wisdom Girl Scouts
- St Juliana 3rd grade Angel Town
- Mary Seat of Wisdom, School of Religion



Summit Square resident Donald Timm, center, contributed \$500 to Maine Township Food Pantry. Here, Twp. Supervisor Bob Dudycz, left, and Mayor Howard Frimark thank Timm and also help collect food from the Summit's Open House on Dec. 9.

Glenview resident celebrates 103rd Birthday

Marion Wood says she will see another Super Bowl winner

Marion Wood was born 103 three years ago on December 1, 1903. She has seen a lot through the years and some of her favorite memories surround cheering on the Chicago Bears. Mrs. Wood celebrated with family and friends, culminating with a birthday luncheon on Monday, December 4 at Belmont Village Assisted Living

in Glenview.

All her life, she has been a Chicago Bears fan. "Being the only sister in a house full of boys, you become a sports fan. We all loved the Chicago Bears. I have always cheered on the team, no matter what kind of season they were having," said Mrs. Wood. She passed along her love of the



Marion Wood

Bears to her sons as well as her students. Mrs. Wood was a high school teacher in Chicago for 39 years.

Her favorite Bear is still Walter Payton, and she has a fondness for Jim McMahon as well. Eddie Payton, Walter's brother, has become a fan of Marion's. Payton visited Belmont Village where Mrs. Wood resides. "I was so touched by her and her love for my brother. She is a true fan of both the Bears and of Walter. Marion told me her favorite

memories of Walter when he was playing. It just shows how many lives he touched. Marion remembers his greatest moments," said Payton. Payton planned on calling Mrs. Wood to wish her a Happy Birthday and pay her a visit on his next trip to Chicago. "Marion was only 101 when I met her. Let me tell you, she's still got it," Payton joked.

Mrs. Wood remembers the rough years as well. No fair weather fan here. "A true fan sticks by their team no matter

what. Loyalty is very important to me," said Mrs. Wood.

Like many other Bears fans, Mrs. Wood's favorite player on the current team is Brian Urlacher. "He is a great player and a wonderful leader," said Mrs. Wood. And, she predicts the team will go all the way. "The Chicago Bears will make it to the Super Bowl this year. It is one of those storybook years. No one predicted it, but the boys played their hearts out. That's how you win in life, with a team effort," said Mrs. Wood.

Maine Twp. seniors plan winter trips and classes

Maine Twp. Senior News

Mainstreamers

The Maine Township MainStreamers 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 MainStreamers 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 MainStreamers at 847-297-2510 or visit us at www.maine-township.com.

Winterfest Luncheon

Tuesday, Jan. 9. Doors Open: 11 a.m. Lunch served: 12 noon. Chateau Ritz, 9100 Milwaukee, Niles. Cost: \$13 members/\$14 guests + \$1 fish

Come and enjoy a wonderful lunch featuring cream of asparagus soup, chicken breast Copenhagen filled with apple-celery dressing, mixed vegetables, wild rice, and sherbet for dessert. Guests will then enjoy a wonderful dance performance by the Ballroom City Dancers-Norm and Heidi. Bingo will follow. Reservations and cancellations must be received by Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Used Cell Phone Collection

Maine Township, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 usage for Senior Citizens. If you have a phone you would like to donate drop it off at Maine Town Hall. Distribution of the cell phones will occur at a program scheduled in Dec. Watch for all the details to follow.

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 MainStreamers at 847-297-2510 and ask for an application. All Day Trips depart from the State of Illinois Building, 9511 Harrison St. in Des Plaines.

Bowling Outing

Thursday, Dec. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Sims Bowling, 1555 Ellinwood, Des Plaines
Cost: \$13 members/\$15 guests. Come bowl with us. Newcomers are welcome to join in. You will enjoy two games of bowling, prizes, and a lunch featuring salad and pizza.

Chair Aerobics Class

Wednesdays, Jan. 3 - Feb. 28 (No class on Feb. 21) from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$12 for 8 classes
Instructor: JoAnn Kitching. Are you ready for a total body exercise? You will sit while exercising or, if standing, you may use the chair for support. This class will increase your strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination.

The Three Musketeers Trip

Shakespeare Theatre and Riva's Restaurant, Navy Pier, Chicago on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$85.50 members/\$90.50 guests

Participants will enjoy a wonderful trip as we start at Riva's Restaurant. Choose from roasted chicken breast served with mashed potatoes and Portobello sauce or four cheese rigatoni. Both entrees

are served with a salad of mixed greens and tiramisu for dessert.

After lunch we will leisurely make our way to the magnificent Shakespeare Theatre where we will be thrilled as we take in the spectacular stage musical - "The Three Musketeers." This production is filled with grand adventure, mistaken identities, and ill-fated romance.

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Asian excursion won't cost you a bundle

By Tom Roebuck
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Presenting a well-priced opportunity to experience some of Asia's most captivating destinations, Ritz Tours has introduced the new 11-day

FYI TRAVEL

winter special to Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong starting at \$1,800 plus taxes, per person, based on double occupancy, including airfare, hotel accommodations, sightseeing and more.

The tour begins with several days in Tokyo, the creative epicenter of Japan that blends a state-of-the-art financial marketplace with a rich mix of the ultramodern and historical. A half-day city tour brings travelers to the Imperial Palace, the Asakusa Kannon Temple, the Tokyo Tower featuring an elevator ride to the top for awesome views of the bustling city, and time in the Ginza district for shopping and exploring.

The next stop on the itinerary is cosmopolitan and sophisti-



Street shopping - The colorful Ladies' Market in Mong Kok is one of the best places to shop for clothes in Hong Kong. The many street stalls sell a diverse range of bargain items, including clothing, watches, toys and souvenirs. (CNS photo courtesy of Hong Kong Tourism Board)

cated Shanghai. Guests will have the opportunity to visit the stunning Yu Garden, the old Jade Buddha Temple, Nanjing Road for fantastic shopping, and the waterfront Bund. An optional tour to Suzhou, known as the "Venice

of the East," can be arranged. Free time on the itinerary allows travelers to experience the old-world feel and modern-day charm of China's capital of commerce and industry.

The tour concludes with several days in Hong Kong, a

bustling and vibrant destination boasting a rich blend of Chinese and European traditions. A half-day city tour includes breathtaking Victoria Peak, Stanley Market, Repulse Bay and Aberdeen's Floating Community. Visitors will have

ample free time to explore Hong Kong's popular shopping areas as well as enjoy other optional excursions.

FYI: The 11-day tour features round-trip airfare from Los Angeles or San Francisco; intra-China airfare; hotel accommodations; meals and entertainment per the itinerary; and the services of knowledgeable tour guides. Travel insurance is not included but can be purchased separately. Daily departures are available Jan. 3-March 15. For more information call 800-900-2446 or visit www.ritz-tours.com.

Stare at the sun - safely

Visitors to Crane Point Hammock, a 63-acre nature preserve in the Florida Keys, can get a close look at the sun without damaging their eyes. Every Wednesday through April, Dr. David Heesch will conduct solar observations using a solar telescope and a sun-spotter device, which enable participants to see many of the features of the sun's surface without damaging their eyes.

Should women travel alone?

By Joe Volz & Kate Bird
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Many older women routinely travel alone today. Some travel for fun, others do it to visit family or friends.

AGING LIFESTYLES

That's a far cry from the way things were when many of our older citizens were growing up. They grew into adulthood believing that solo travel for women was unheard of. Their mothers never traveled on their own.

For many widows and divorcees, solo travel became possible, or necessary, when their children grew. It's surprising these days what they see when they hit the road in today's alien world?

For starters, strangers are more likely to chat with a woman alone. On a trip to London, Muriel ate at the famous eatery, Ye Olde Cheddar Cheese Pub, where essayist Samuel Johnson was a fixture long ago. The custom here was to place single men and women at a long, rectangular table, if they were willing. Somewhat to Muriel's surprise, she enjoyed chatting with her neighbor and got some tips on out-of-the-ordinary tourist sights.

Cecily first started going on trips by herself after leaving her workaholic husband at home. Initially, she did not venture more than 100 miles from her Indiana home. Once, she stayed at a hotel on Lake Michigan for a few days to enjoy the sun and swimming. She found she liked the idea.

Cecily then broadened her range to include France and Ireland. Along the way, she had many pleasant and sometimes humorous experiences.

Once, while driving in southern Ohio, Cecily decided on the spur of the moment to visit her brother Bill in Cincinnati. It was late, so she stopped at the first motel she saw off the highway. Checking in, she thought the desk clerk was eying her strangely. The same thing happened in the restaurant with the waiter smirking as he served her.

The next day, Bill joined her. Almost immediately he said, "Cecily, you can't stay here. Prostitutes bring their clients here."

By sticking to a few basics, women travelers can protect themselves, keep out of dan-

ger and have a jolly time.

As Cecily discovered, women alone need to be careful in choosing a hotel or motel. Often you can check this out simply by observing who's going in and out. If there are couples and families around, it's likely to be OK.

It's a good idea to make a reservation ahead of time. This gives you the chance to scan travel books such as Frommer's or AAA in order to find an acceptable place. These books usually give a range of prices, so you can choose one that suits your budget.

Other women also are a good source for recommendations. At night, Pam said she calls the local police for suggestions. Police always know the places women should avoid.

Another rule is to never go exploring in a lonely place at the end of day. Marjorie found this out the hard way while hiking in a state park. After walking for an hour, she noticed that daylight was fading.

Marjorie started back down the trail only to find herself at a crossroad, not knowing which trail to take. Painfully aware that she had not passed anyone, she almost panicked knowing that no one knew where she was hiking. That was her first and only hike in the winter at dusk.

Some women dread eating alone in restaurants. If you're traveling alone, you have to get over it.

Michele always carries a book or magazine so she can immerse herself in it, confident she won't be disturbed. Reading is a barrier to conversation. Also, if other diners stare, you won't even know.

Women alone find that waitresses treat them one of two ways. The first is their service is careless. Perhaps, they have bought into the stereotype that women don't tip well. The second way is they are friendly, smile pleasantly and even chat; these waitresses deserve a 20 percent tip.

Today, the travel industry offers tours directed at women. An acquaintance organizes women-only trips to explore women's role in religion. She took a group to Greece to visit Delphi where the ancient Sybil prophesied how kings would fare in battle. The trip appealed to feminist souls.

Morton Grove

continued from page 14

actions in the name of the American Dream. The "Assassins" brilliant musical score, features American music from folk to ragtime to 1970's soft rock. Travelers from the Morton Grove Senior Center will attend this show on Sunday, Feb. 18. The bus departs from the Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. and return at 5 p.m. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Jan. 11

and pay a reduced cost of \$57 for Senior Center Members and \$66 for non-members. After Jan. 11 the costs are \$66 for Members and \$76 for non-members.

See Springfield with Educational Tours, Inc.

On April 26, 2007 travelers from the Morton Grove Senior Center will set out for Springfield to tour the State Capitol, the Supreme Court, Lincoln's Tomb, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum,

and the Korean, Vietnam and World War II Veterans Memorials. The bus departs from the Senior Center at 6:30 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m. Register in-person at the Senior Center before Dec. 29 and pay a reduced cost of \$119 for Senior Center Members and \$137 for non-members. After Dec. 29 the costs are \$137 for Members and \$158 for non-members. For details call Senior Activities Coordinator, Alysia Miller-Goldstein at 847/663-6127.

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- Our staff prepares a customized post-rehab program for each client to follow when discharged.
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Obituaries

Charlotte E. A. McQuillan

Charlotte E. A. McQuillan, 75, of Niles, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 16.

McQuillan was born in Chicago on July 26, 1931. She was a homemaker with two sons and a daughter.

McQuillan was preceded in death by husband, William McQuillan; mother, Jeanette (Nee Busch) Raschke; father, Hans Raschke; brother, Gordon and sister, Jeanette (late Ken) Pieske.

She is survived by son,

Charles (Marian) McQuillan of Des Plaines; son, William McQuillan Jr.; daughter, Joy (Michael) Radloff; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation took place on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, 7812 N. Milwaukee Ave. Funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. Interment will take place at Maryhill Cemetery, 8600 N. Milwaukee Ave.

In lieu of flowers memorials to Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation appreciated.

James J. Jankowski Army Veteran from Niles

James J. Jankowski, 63, of Niles, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Jankowski was born in Chicago on November 3, 1943.

He was an Army Veteran and Civil Engineer for the City of Chicago.

Jankowski was preceded in death by father, Steven.

He is survived by wife, Gail (nee Wieckowski); son, Bryan (Thea); mother, Eleanore (nee Musialowski); brothers, Paul (Ingrid), Larry (Carol), Kevin, and Ted; many nieces and nephews; and grandchild to be.

Visitation took place on Sunday, Dec. 17 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, 7812 N. Milwaukee Ave. Funeral service was held on Monday, Dec. 18 at St. Isaac Jogues Church. Interment was at Maryhill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations were asked to be made in the name of the charity of your choice.



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HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

Holiday Gift & Dining Guide

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

Family Features

While many Americans are drawn to inflatable snowmen and icicle lights for their holiday decorating, consider a fresh alternative by personalizing your decorations using natural items such as dried flowers, evergreens, berries and fruit. Today, storybook boughs of holly and simple fresh greenery have evolved into elaborate decorations adorning doors, windows, fences and lampposts. It may seem daunting to recreate these masterpieces, but it's possible to make nature's beauty part of the holidays without going any farther than your backyard.

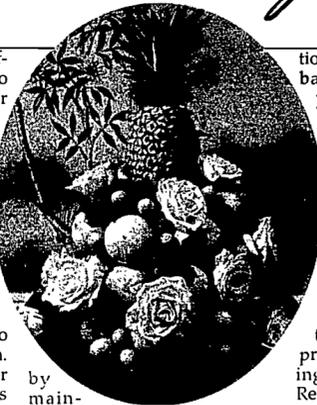
The art of natural decorating is mastered by Colonial Williamsburg experts who have been making Christmas memorable and unique for 70 years. Decorators in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area use more than 79 cases of fruit, three miles of white pine roping and 2,550 natural white pine and Fraser fir wreaths to adorn the Historic Area for the holidays.

"Incorporating a sense of tradition into your holiday decorating is as simple as gathering fresh greenery from your backyard," said Laura Viancour, Colonial Williamsburg's coordinator of garden programs. "Natural materials require constant maintenance, but their beauty and wonderful aromas are worth the effort."

natural adornments with different textures and colors to create interest and fill your home with a fresh, holiday aroma. Colonial Williamsburg's decorations provide many ideas that guests can try at home by incorporating natural materials found in their own backyards.

- Give your plants moisture. Keep greens fresh longer by inserting stems into water-absorbent florist foam. The moist green foam used for pre-made floral arrangements can help promote the longevity of your natural adornments and is available at various outlets, including online at ColonialWilliamsburg.com. Periodically spritzing your arrangements with water can also help.

- Keep your cool. Increase the longevity of your decorations



by maintaining a cool temperature, similar to the inside of a refrigerator. Outdoor decorations last longer in the shade than in full sun. Check natural items like berries frequently and replace as needed.

- Personalize your decorations. Incorporate items with special meanings or decorations related to your family background to personalize your arrangements. Try using twigs and twine to create family names to accent your arrangement, or adorn pictures or heirlooms with natural items, such as leaves or flowers.

Colonial Williamsburg offers more than 300 programs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve. Seasonal programs and events, including the interactive Revolutionary City program, make Colonial Williamsburg a year-round destination. For more information, call 1-800-HISTORY or visit www.ColonialWilliamsburg.com. All materials courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg & Courtesy of Family Features.

Photographs
James Anderson House — Colonial Williamsburg's world-renowned holiday decorations are rooted in the traditions of Christmas and have emerged as a universal standard for the creative use of natural materials. Beauty berry, lady apples, pineapple, poet's laurel, pine and magnolia adorn the James Anderson House, which is located in the Historic Area.

Colonial Garden — From a Colonial Garden: Ideas, Decorations and Recipes allows guests to bring a Colonial Williamsburg Christmas home. The book features numerous decorating ideas, including a twist on the traditional apple cone. By substituting holly, oranges, yellow roses and kumquats for apples, this centerpiece can become the focal point of any table. Available in Colonial Williamsburg's retail stores and online at www.WilliamsburgMarketplace.com, this book makes a good gift for a loved one — or yourself!

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Guests visiting Colonial Williamsburg this holiday season can witness firsthand the Historic Area's stunning seasonal transformation with the Grand Illumination celebration on Dec. 3, a time-honored celebration complete with fireworks and entertainment.

To transform your home and capture the timeless grace of natural décor, decorators at Colonial Williamsburg offer the following tips:

- Eye for inspiration. Nature should be your muse when creating a traditional, natural arrangement. Select berries, greenery, woods and other

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

Holiday Gift & Dining Guide

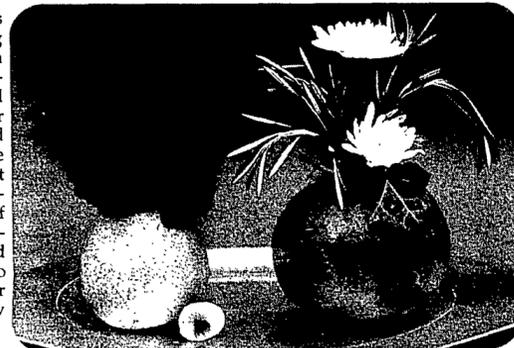
Christmas can be

Jennifer Mastroianni and Saima Rote Bergmann
Copley News Service

With this being party, decoration and gift-giving season, our ever-helpful elves Jennifer Mastroianni and Saima Rote Bergmann have put together the following Christmas list of gift suggestions, decorating pointers and entertaining tips to add spirit to all your yuletide and New Year's gatherings.

SERVE IT UP

If you need a hostess' present or foodie gift, antique serving pieces are always in good taste. Sold at flea markets and antiques stores, they fit into most budgets, depending on whether you desire silver or silver-plated pieces. Fancify the utensil with fresh greens and a bow. Or get creative with items



HERB TUBES

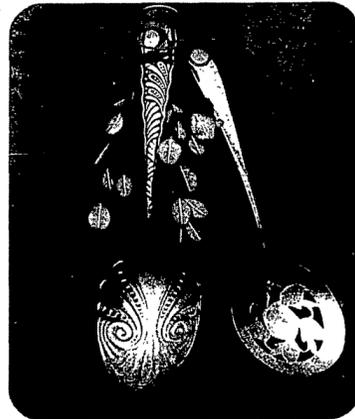
Fresh herbs are wonderful in

PERSONAL TOUCH

For holiday meals, name cards are a festive touch. Use miniature picture frames with a photo of the person. Or buy place cardholders, which come in all shapes and styles. We found pewter wineglasses at a gift shop. Inexpensive gift tags make lovely place cards.

KID STUFF

Pick a rainy afternoon to make napkin rings. Even children can do it. Just string red, green and white wooden beads on stretchy cord and knot. (When paired with red or green napkins, these make a lovely gift.) Another option - tie holiday ribbon around your napkins and tuck a sprig of pine or holly in the bow.



JENNIFER'S TOP 10 TIPS

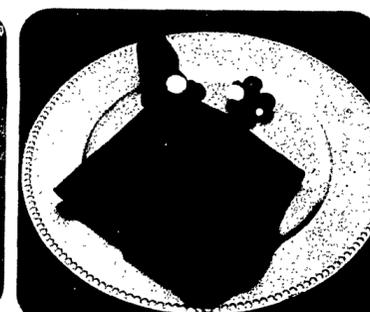
1. Next time you finish a stick of butter, don't throw the paper away. Instead, fold it in half and store it in a resealable plastic bag in the refrigerator. Next time you need to prepare a buttered dish or pan, use the buttered paper.

recipes, but often cooks have to buy more than they need, letting the rest go to waste. Not with Gourmet Garden herb blends. These tubes have real herbs mixed with canola oil to keep them fresh and flavorful. They last weeks in the refrigerator and can be frozen. Flavors include chili, lemon grass, basil, coriander, garlic, ginger and parsley. From \$5 to \$6 a tube. -J.M.

Holiday Gift & Dining Guide

fun and affordable

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE



- When a recipe calls for using nonstick kitchen spray on a pan or cookie sheet, place it inside the dishwasher to spray. The excess will run into the dishwasher and not all over your counters.
- Make cleanup a snap when measuring shortening or butter by first lining the measuring cup with plastic wrap. The food will slip right out and there is no need to wash the cup.
- If fruit pies boil over in the oven, shake some salt onto the spill. This will cause the spill to cook to a crisp, which easily can be removed with a spatula.
- The easiest way to fill a pastry bag is to stand it upright in a tall glass (a pint-sized beer glass works great), then fold the bag's top edges over the glass and fill. This way both hands are free to fill it.
- To remove baked-on crusty gunk from a casserole dish, fill the dish with boiling water and mix in 3 tablespoons of baking soda or salt. Let it sit until the water cools and wash as usual.
- Instead of using an ice pick to devein shrimp, use a small, clean Phillips-head screwdriver with a short handle.
- To remove the odor of garlic or onions from your fingers, rub your hands over a stainless steel spoon, a stainless steel faucet or your stain-

less sink. Works like a charm.

9. Honey, syrup, liqueur and jam containers can get sticky on the lips of the bottles and become hard to open. Clean the lip and cap of the bottle and spritz with kitchen spray; next time you use it, the bottle will open easily.

10. If problems arise during holiday meal making, help is just a phone call away. For turkey advice, call the Turkey Talk line at 800-BUTTERBALL, where 50 culinary experts staff phones even on Christmas Day. If it's pie advice you "knead," call the live pie pros at the Crisco Pie hotline at 877-367-7438.

SAIMI'S TOP 10 LIST

- Sweet potatoes don't keep as well as regular potatoes. Use them within a week of buying. Don't refrigerate - that makes them spoil more quickly.
- Roll dates (and other dried fruit) in a bit of flour before chopping to prevent them from sticking to the knife. Rub flour on the cut pieces to prevent clumping so they distribute evenly in cookie or bread batter.
- For lump-free deviled eggs, mash the yolks in a resealable plastic bag, then add mayo and seasonings and mash again. Works like a dream. Cut off the corner of the bag and use a pastry bag to squeeze filling into the egg whites.
- Whip ready-made canned frosting with your mixer for a minute or two to fluff it and increase the volume. You can frost more cupcakes with the same amount, and it goes on easier.
- For a glitz-free Christmas decoration, gather up photos of Christmases past, from great-grandma's to last year. Frame them and place across the mantle with a simple pine garland. Or slip photos under the glass in a serving tray.
- Create a Christmas lamp by wrapping the base with holiday ribbon until it is totally covered. Also works on vases and candleholders for your holiday table.
- If you have to chop onions ahead of time, dunk them in a bowl of cold water with a couple of tablespoons of vinegar, then

drain. They will stay sweet and fresh instead of going stinky.

8. Collect pretty plates at garage sales, flea markets and auctions so you can give cookies on real plates instead of paper. The plate becomes part of the gift. They come as cheap as 10 cents.

9. Having a party? Call the music department at an area college and ask if they know of students who can be hired to play the piano, violin or other instruments for your gathering. Consider hiring a teenager to serve as a waiter for your open house to leave you free to mingle with guests.

10. Why do cutout cookies sometimes melt into unrecognizable blobs? The batter may be too rich in butter, or the dough might be too warm. To prevent this, pop your cookie sheet with the cutouts on it into the refrigerator or freezer for 10 or 15 minutes before baking.

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HOLIDAY
S-I-O-O-L-I-N-G
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GUIDE

Holiday Gift & Dining Guide

HOLIDAY
S-I-O-O-L-I-N-G
G-Z-I-N-G
GUIDE

Toast the Holidays with a Cup of Good Cheer



Family Features

When you celebrate the holidays with a special toast this year, do it with a signature cocktail that can become your new tradition. But leave the squeezing of citrus fruits, the boiling of simple syrup, and the shopping for multiple ingredients behind with the old year. Instead, serve those signature cocktails in a wonderful ambiance that is easy and convenient for you too.

That's the philosophy of TV Food Network personality and cookbook author Sandra Lee. Known for her "Semi-Homemade" approach to cooking and entertaining — using prepared food and drink in creative ways — Lee likes to make holiday entertaining easier as well.

"The best gift of all is the gift of time — time to enjoy your

family and friends," says Lee. When you want to invite family and friends over for a cup of good cheer, here are ways to make sure both you and your guests keep that holiday spir-

it. Create an intimate Ambiance

- Arrange chairs cozily close and up the tempo with your favorite holiday music.
- Showcase the drinks table with a single-color tablecloth and clear glassware. Place a large clear glass bowl in the center of your table and let it overflow with fresh fruit.
- Arrange a variety of store-bought nibbles on decorative plastic silver trays.
- Set a stack of small plates and color-coordinated paper napkins next to the tray of

food.

- Surround with unscented votive candles in clear glass holders or small water glasses. For easy cleanup, pour half an inch of water into each candle holder.

Mix Up a Signature Drink

- Use "ready-to-pour" cocktails that require only a few accoutrements or garnishes.
- Heat apple cider and pour into each glass cup or mug. Add a jigger of ready-to-pour spiced rum and garnish each cocktail with a cinnamon stick stirrer.
- Pull out the blender ahead of time to make a batch or two of Jingle Bell Margaritas with cranberry, pomegranate or blood orange juice and a squeeze of fresh lime juice. Start with restaurant-quality, ready-to-serve Jose Cuervo Golden Margarita, which is already blended with the rich orange flavor of Grand Marnier. Then mix in the

juices to taste. Golden Margarita is also great served frozen or on the rocks.

- Serve a holiday chocolate martini from ready-to-pour mixes. Drop a chocolate "kiss" or a few chocolate chips in each martini glass.
- Offer warm apple cider or chilled sparkling water and pomegranate juice for non-alcoholic "mocktails." Then get creative with the garnishes — a dusting of freshly grated nutmeg and a slice of oven-dried apple for the cider, small wedges of citrus fruit threaded onto a fresh lemongrass stalk for the sparkling water, fresh cranberries threaded onto branches of sugared rosemary for the pomegranate juice.

For more information on mixing up a signature holiday cocktail, visit www.cuervo.com.

-Jose Cuervo reminds its consumer to drink responsibly-

Courtesy of Family Features

Dons wrestlers drop tough match to fifth ranked Marist

This past Friday night we traveled to 5th Ranked Marist H.S. and wrestled well. Led by Captains 171 Joe Graves, 189 Brendan McAleer and 152 Peter Fudalej the Dons dropped a tough 40-30 match. Marist is always one of the top teams in the State year in and year out, it's tough to stay with them with all the experience they have in there room every year. Coach Gervais was saying that they get 20 to 30 grade school wrestlers that come to Marist every year. That's Huge. It's amazing that we do as well as we do with a lot less experience. We usually do a lot of catching up in the spring and summer, it has helped in the past and will continue to help

us in the future. The wrestler who wants to get better will commit himself to spring and summer wrestling, the guy who just wants to wrestle in season usually falls behind and levels out. This is an area that always needs to be watched, the sport gets more demanding every year and at every level. We also competed against St. Joe's and defeated them 68-4. Winning twice for N.D. were 103 Alex Tsakanikas, 135 Bob Provax, 152 Peter Fudalej, 171 Joe Graves, 189 Brendan McAleer and Heavyweight Steve Catalano. The Freshmen did another great job beating Marist 41-18 and St. Joe's 66-10. On Saturday the Sophmores

competed at the Maine East Tournament and place 3rd out of 16 teams.

Leading the way were 135 Champion Bill Gavin, 145 Champion Denis Walsh runners-up 215 Marc Nunes 285 Jack Thompson also earning places were Matt Bascom, Tim Gavin, Anthony Czahor, and Eric Damlos. Earning valuable points also were 119 Tim Redmond and 125 Vince Metzger and 130 Tim Bolger.

The Don's next compete Saturday at Home in Duals against Willowbrook, Highland Park, Zion-Benton, Elgin, Bowen and Mather. This is also Final Exam Week so we will have to shorten our practices a bit this week.

QuickPic



Before he abandoned the ring for an acting career, Tony Danza's record as a middleweight boxer was 12 wins, 3 losses.

OAKTON RAIDERS ROUND UP

Women's Basketball (7-1)

Update: In the team's only game this week, Oakton lost to College of DuPage 65-57 on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Freshman Kristi Siemers (Fenton) led the Raiders with a career-high 17 points. Sophomore Agata Wojciechowska (Maine East) contributed with 11 points. Wojciechowska is one of the leading scorers in the region averaging 15.9 points per game.

Men's Basketball (7-3)

Handling Business: The Raiders defeated College of DuPage 78-71 on Tuesday, Dec. 12 behind freshman guard's Mark Lake 20 points. Lake leads the Raiders in points scored, steals, and assists.

Men's Soccer

All-Region Players: The Oakton men's soccer team recently placed five players on the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region IV Division I Soccer All-Region Team. Defender Jerry Kociolek and forward Sean Palacios were named to the first team. Goalkeeper Esmir Kander, defender Christos Panayi, and Bart Dyczkowski were all second-team selections. The Raiders finished the 2006 season with a 9-6-1 record.

Niles Parks plan dodgeball league

The Niles Park District will have a new Holiday Dodgeball Challenge this year.

During the holiday break, boys and girls, grades three to eight, can participate in a dodgeball tournament.

There is also an adult co-ed dodgeball tournament and there are six adult teams registered so far.

"It's good, they're out there having fun," said Ken Krueger, athletic supervisor. He said

some adult teams may be composed of co-workers or friends.

The youth dodgeball tournaments started this September and Krueger said they have been successful so far.

Those interested can sign up as an individual or team of six to 10 people. It's a four-day round-robin tournament on Dec. 26, 27, 28 and Jan. 2.

Those interested can call (847) 967-6975 for more details.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S BOWLING

Bowled Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Points	Won	Lost
Candlelight Jewelers	73	25
Bielinski and Bono Dental	51	47
Classic Bowl	50	48
Skaja Terrace Funeral Home	47	51
NorthSide Community Bank	40	58
Niles Dairy Queen	33	65

High Series/Game: Olivia Tanada 483/172, Janet Trozzo 480/189, Helma Drag 473/194, Jan Repel 473/180, Bing Calso 468/178, Dahlia Sarosario 460/168, Kay Pecoraro 457/195, Helen Reyes 457/164, Lois MacAdam 175, Mary Ann Slack 163, MaryJohnson 159, Millie Kroll/Cora Reyes 157

Christmas Bowl Winners: Team 1 - Mary Ann Slack +71 pins, Team 4 - Mary Johnson +14 pins 2nd Place - Linda Fahey, Team 5 - Lois MacAdam +35 pins, Team 3 - Jan Repel +26 pins, 2nd Place - Kim O'Keefe, Team 6 - Janet Trozzo +15 pins, Team 2 - Bing Calso +33 pins, 2nd Place - Dahlia Sarosario

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Packages must be purchased in advance

Baked Fontina with Garlic, Olive Oil and Thyme

1 1/2 pounds Italian fontina, soft, brown rind trimmed and discarded, cut into 1-inch cubes

1/4 cup olive oil
6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon thyme
1 teaspoon chopped rosemary
Salt, to taste

Freshly ground pepper, to taste

Sliced country bread or rolls

Yields 4 servings

Preheat broiler

For individual servings, divide fontina among 4 (6-inch) cast-iron pans. Drizzle with olive oil and scatter garlic, thyme and rosemary over cheese. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Or, use a 12-inch cast-iron skillet and follow the same directions.

Broil until cheese is melted and bubbly, 6 to 7 minutes.



Serve each person an individual pan, setting it on a trivet or napkin, or serve the 12-inch pan from the center of the table. Pass bread alongside for dunking.

From "The Red Cat Cookbook: 125 recipes from New York City's Favorite Neighborhood Restaurant" (Clarkson Potter, \$35).

Wine and baked fontina put a new twist on old tradition

By Ron James
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The Chef

At Harrison and Greenwich streets in Tribeca, a few brave souls hurried down streets heavy with the glow of klieg lights and the smell of burning

PERFECT PAIRINGS

electrical wires. At checkpoints, military police demanded identification from those who wanted to enter this no man's land a few blocks from where the World Trade Center had stood days before.

With disaster in the air, chef Jimmy Bradley and his business partner, Danny Abrams, had a problem of their own.

"We were planning on opening our second neighborhood restaurant on Sept. 17 just eight blocks from ground zero," explains the 39-year-old Bradley. "The streets were closed; everyone was evacuated or locked in their homes watching events unfolding on television. There was no way we could open. Maybe the space should be something else, but not a neighborhood restaurant."

Bradley and Abrams, co-owners of The Red Cat, an American restaurant in the Chelsea district, were about to pull the plug on their new restaurant, The Harrison. But fate - and Rudy Giuliani - stepped in.

"The mayor held a press conference and basically told New Yorkers to get out of their homes, and go out and spend some money," Bradley says.



Chef Jimmy Bradley is co-owner of The Red Cat, an American restaurant in Manhattan's Chelsea district. (CNS Photo)

"We said to ourselves - either we can just give up or we can at least give it a try. And if we fail, so be it."

But they didn't. The Harrison opened Oct. 26, 2001, just 5 1/2 weeks after the terrorist attacks.

"They came out in droves," Bradley says with a note of pride. "It was a ray of hope for them - that out of the ruins life would go on."

Bradley had fallen in love with New York at 29, after working in practically every kind of restaurant all over the country. In 1994, he borrowed \$7,000 each from a few friends to open The Red Cat. An instant success, locals and tourists alike loved the unpretentious setting and his "new American cuisine."

Accolades followed with rave reviews from food writers and praise from his peers. Jonathan Waxman, chef-owner of Barbuto in New York, calls Bradley, "... the chef other cooks aspire to be: cool, calm, poised, intelligent, and confident."

The Dish

"I love the baked fontina dish," Bradley exclaimed. "It's easy and just a great dish for entertaining. In fact, my writing partner, Andrew Friedman, and his wife, Caitlin, have just that for dinner at least once a week at The Red Cat's bar."

"This is a streamlined, simplified version of fondue without the fondue pot," writes Bradley in his new cookbook "The Red Cat Cookbook: 125 recipes

From New York City's Favorite Neighborhood Restaurant" (Clarkson Potter, \$35). "And you make it without the wine, cornstarch or other supporting ingredients. You just take some cubed fontina cheese, top it with slivered garlic, thyme leaves and olive oil, and broil until it's melted and bubbly enough to scoop up with hunks of bread.

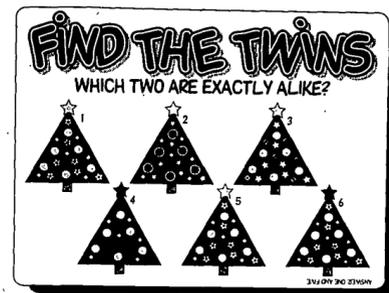
"It's a great appetizer and paired with green salad and a glass of wine, a pretty nifty lunch or dinner as well," Bradley continues. "Be sure to use an Italian fontina; the Danish varieties don't melt right for this recipe."

The Wine

This is an equal opportunity dish when it comes to wine. Take your pick - red, white, sweet or dry, still or bubbly - they all will work. An excellent choice is the Sauvignon Republic Sauvignon Blanc Russian River Valley 2005 (\$18). The fruit flavors and acidity are a wonderful contrast to the rich, buttery flavors of the cheese dish.

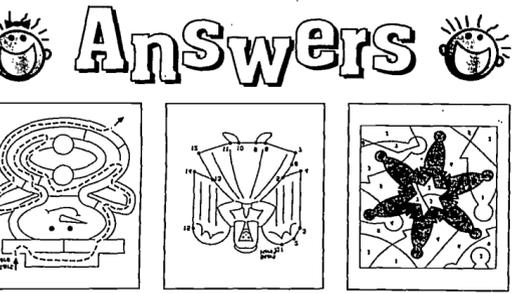
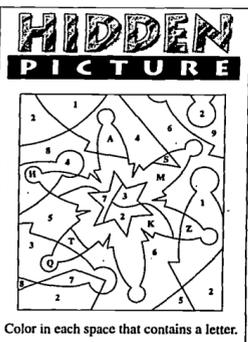
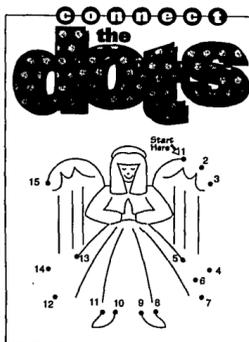
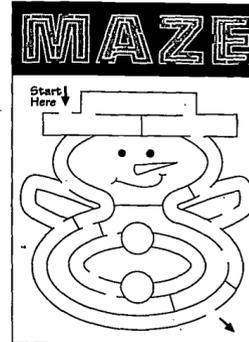
The folks at Sauvignon Republic scour the planet for the very best sauvignon blanc vineyards. Each version, whether it is from South America, New Zealand or Sonoma, shows the characteristics of its particular vineyard. The Russian River version shows intense passion fruit and pear flavors balanced with lively, crisp acidity. It received 89 points from Wine Spectator.

BUGLE KIDS



Twinkle, Twinkle!
The holiday season has begun and many people will soon be putting up Christmas trees. Some will use artificial trees, others, real trees. Whatever type of tree people choose to put up, they're sure to add a string or two of lights. Of course, it wasn't always that way.
Back in the 17th century when there was no electricity, people decorated their Christmas trees with candles. The trees were real and the slightest breeze could make the flames flicker and catch a branch on fire. People had to watch their Christmas trees carefully when the candles were lit.
That all changed in 1882, however, when Edward Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison, made the first string of electric Christmas tree lights. He hand-wired 80 red, white, and blue bulbs and wound them around a Christmas tree. Few people noticed, though, until 13 years later when President Grover Cleveland had the White House tree decorated with electric lights.
Once the Christmas tree lights have come a long way since the 17th century.

O Christmas Tree
Scotch pine, Douglas fir, Virginia pine and Balsam fir. These are just some of the types of evergreens that make great Christmas trees. Every year, more than 30 million Christmas trees are produced. Here are some more interesting Christmas tree facts:
• Christmas trees were first sold commercially in the United States in 1850.
• Over 100,000 people work in the Christmas tree business.
• Every state grows Christmas trees.
• Oregon produces the most Christmas trees.
• Christmas trees take seven to 10 years to reach full height.
• While they are growing, Christmas trees provide a place for wild animals to live and remove dust and pollen from the air.
• Once the holiday season is over, Christmas trees can be recycled.



Tim Herd's Watchable Wildlife Guide
wildlife observation in the right place at the right time

Week of Dec. 24-30, 2006

The mammal, the myth, the legend ...



Specially adapted for thriving near the North Pole, reindeer have deeply cleft, all-terrain hooves that bite the ice for traction on winter's frozen expanse - or for coming to a flying stop on an ice-encrusted rooftop, as the case may be. Thick, hollow fur provides excellent thermal insulation during the long winter's night, and keeps them buoyant while crossing lakes and rivers - or nighttime skies!

Reindeer of northern Europe and Asia and caribou of North America are the same species, although the domesticated reindeer is smaller and has shorter legs than its American cousin. Unlike any other animal, both sexes grow

broad antlers, but despite the names of St. Nick's famous associates, all reindeer so adorned on Christmas Eve are females, since the bulls shed their antlers after the rut in fall.

To native cultures all across northern Eurasia, the hardy beast furnishes clothing, leather, meat, milk, butter, cheese - and, of course, legendary sleigh transportation in a cold and snowy land. And to good children everywhere, the remarkable reindeer delivers a unique thrill at Christmastime.

WHERE TO OBSERVE

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Jasper National Park, Alberta
Banff National Park, Alberta
Bowron Lake PP, British Columbia
Bay du Nord Reserve, Newfoundland
Tuktut Nogait NP, Northwest Territories
Gaspesian Provincial Park, Quebec
Grand Jardins National Park, Quebec
Iwawik National Park, Yukon
Kluane National Park and Reserve, Yukon

LOOK FOR

gregarious bands of 10-50 individuals or herds of thousands
shaggy dark brown to tan fur; paler rump and underside
white neck and mane
long back-sweeping antlers with forward tines
flattened brow tine projects vertically over snout
large, nearly circular hoofprints

Reindeer / Caribou Rangifer tarandus
Head and body: 4-7 1/2 feet; antlers: up to 4 1/2 feet

Habitat: tundra, northern forests

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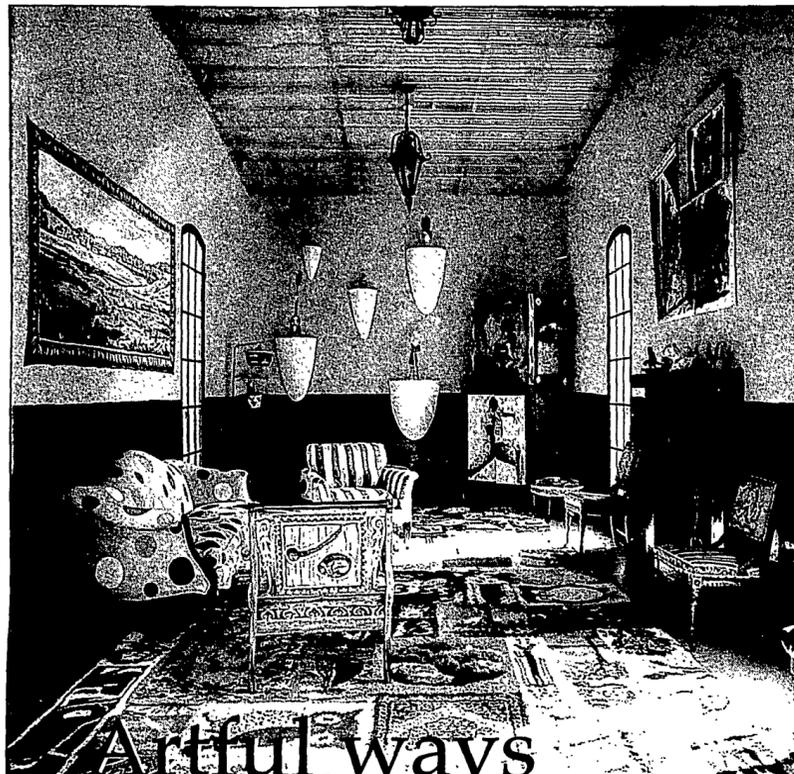
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Artful ways to decorate your home

By Rose Bennett Gilbert
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We got interested in 19th century design and decorating ideas when we bought an Arts

DECOR SCORE

and Crafts bungalow three years ago. I was particularly taken with the philosophy behind the so-called Aesthetic Movement - "art for art's sake," design as nourishment for the soul, like that. Is anyone pushing that lovely notion today?

A: Forgive the cliché, but what

goes around is sure to come around these days, and, happily, that includes the ideas behind the Aesthetic Movement that swept in from England in the 1870s or so. You're right on - "Art for art's sake" was the rallying cry and guiding principle. Art was to be cultivated for itself because "artful homes made people better, families happier, and society stronger."

Not a bad credo to revive in this era of soulless McMansions and emotions-by-e-mail, hum? The quote's borrowed from historian Karen Zukowski, who has made a career of studying

the tenets of the Aesthetic Movement, which, don't forget, sprang from some of the most interesting minds of the time. Among them were Oscar Wilde, Charles Locke Eastlake and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

In her intriguing new book, "Creating the Artful Home: The Aesthetic Movement" (Gibbs Smith), Zukowski tells and shows how the movement influenced home lifestyle as much as decorating until the turn of the 20th century. She then goes on to explore why and how it's coming back into favor more than

See Decor, page 29

Millions warm to condo ownership

By Jim Woodard
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The 6 million condominiums in the United States constitute a major share of our total housing

OPEN HOUSE

stock. They are becoming more popular, and more varied in style and use, with every passing year.

When I first started writing this real estate column 35 years ago, "condominium" was a strange and unfamiliar word. I had to explain what it was in every column in which I addressed the subject.

Today, it's as common as the word "house." But the concept continues to evolve in the current real estate marketplace. Today, I live in a condo town-home and work in an office condo.

The recent American Housing Survey produced by the Mortgage Bankers Association defines a condominium as "a type of ownership that enables a person to own an apartment or home directly in a project of similarly owned units. The owner's name is on the deed, and the owner may have a mortgage on the unit occupied. The owner also may hold common or joint ownership in some or all common areas, such as grounds, hallways, entrances and elevators."

Condos vary widely. Some are occupied by their owners, some by tenants. Some are units in large buildings, while others are single-family detached homes. Most are located in suburban areas, but an increasing number are in central cities.

The survey shows that last year about two-thirds of condo units (63 percent) were occupied by owners and 23 percent by renters. About 16 percent of condo associations stipulate a maximum number of units within their complex that can be rented. This is to ensure that a substantial proportion of owners are residents and hold an equity stake in the condo development. Some mortgage lenders also insist on a limited number of investor-owned units before approving a mortgage application.

Condos tend to fill a spot between rental and outright

ownership properties, the association reported.

You may be surprised to learn that most condos are not in large multifamily buildings. About half (49 percent) are in buildings with four or fewer units, and 36 percent are single-family homes. Only 13 percent of occupied condos are in buildings with 50 or more units.

Single-family homes that are in condo developments are less likely than those in multifamily buildings to be renter-occupied. Only 14 percent of occupied single-family detached condos are renter-occupied, while 32 percent of occupied condos in buildings with 50 or more units are renter-occupied.

Some people are confused by differences between a condo and a town house. They are both generally considered condo-type units, but town houses are usually on ground level with no units above them - typically two stories with the living area downstairs and bedrooms on upper level.

Town houses now make up the largest single block of condominiums, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Many new developments are in central city areas, either from new construction or conversion of apartments or other structures. Apparently, an increasing number of workers are tiring of the commute from the suburbs to their place of employment, so they are purchasing a condo close to their work.

Today's home-buying market - obviously a buyer's market - is producing a variety of gimmicks or incentives to attract qualified buyers. A recent study focused on identifying those incentives that worked most effectively.

When consumers were asked what incentive appealed to them most when buying a home, three out of four chose "closing costs paid."

"Not surprising, this would represent a bottom-line savings of several thousand dollars in normal closing cost fees and services," said Mike Bearden, president of HouseHunt Inc., the real estate related Internet firm that conducted the survey. "In contrast, only 2 percent of respondents chose a paid trip or vacation as their top incentives."

Decor continued from page 28

100 years later. For example, she says that today's great room is a descendant of what the Aesthetic Movement called the "living hall," a large, open, multifaceted space that banished old divisions between the Victorians' stiff-necked parlor and everyday family life.

The living space we show here is a colorful update of the living hall idea. Designed by two California artists, Kim MacConnel and Jean Lowe, the space features a faux tapestry painted on the wall, a "highboy" made from shipping crates (with thrift-store artworks as doors), and a hooked rug cobbled together from separate thrift-store finds. MacConnel also recycled flossmat found on a beach into the sconces that illuminate this highly personal contemporary take on the artful home.

Q: We are expecting a baby - sooner than we'd planned because we just signed a two-lease on a one-bedroom apartment. How can we fit all the gear a baby requires (crib, changer, etc.) into our smallish bedroom?

A: Baby-oiling your shoehorn might help. No, seriously, the little darlin' could even sleep happily in a dresser drawer for the first few months. It's you two who'll suffer from the lack of space and privacy. One easy way to head that off: find a standing, four-or-more-panel screen to separate baby's square footage from yours. Upholster it on both sides over thick padding for max sound muffling.

Or, line up tall bookcases to form a wall, with the shelves facing into "baby space" for storage. Another thought: ceiling-mounted draperies or accordion blinds will effect the great divide and cost mere inches of floor space (look under "room divider" at www.hunterdouglas.com).

Of course, in this day of "competitive parenting," you can also outfit the little dear with great custom-designed gear. For example, the handcrafted Studio Crib by Nurseryworks (www.nurseryworks.com) incorporates a hidden cabinet with an integrated changing table that raises and lowers. Later on, when you do move on to separate bedrooms, the crib converts to a toddler daybed and the cabinet becomes a desk. Not cheap at \$1,780, but still less money than a two-bedroom apartment.

Pick a winner for your gardens

By Jeff Rugg
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Have your gardening catalogs begun to arrive in the mail? It's time to begin looking for new plants to put in next year's flower and vegetable

A GREENER VIEW

gardens. Just because a plant is listed as new in a catalog, doesn't make it new or good for your garden. Sometimes the plant is actually quite old, but it is just new to their catalog this year.

One way to determine if a new plant is going to work well in your garden is to see if it has been tested anywhere. It is especially nice if the test gardens are in a climate similar to your own landscape. The All-America Selections testing program has about 40 test gardens from Alaska and Canada to California and Florida. They also have about 200 display gardens all across the continent that are used not for judging, but to show you how the plants grow in your local area.

AAS Trials have tested about 50 varieties of plants every year since 1932, and they only accept previously unsold varieties. There is an AAS Gold Medal award reserved for a breeding breakthrough. Gold Medals have been rare, only given once or twice a decade. The other AAS Award recognizes a flower or vegetable for significant achievements, proven superior to all others on the market.

Each testing garden has at least one official AAS judge who supervises the trial. No one is paid for their efforts as an AAS judge. Typically, the judge is a horticultural professional and the site is part of a seed

GARDEN

AAS 2007 winners

All-America Selections winners have been rated superior at almost 200 independent trial gardens across the United States. 2007 AAS award winners have been tested for several years before selection, resulting in "tried and true" plants with a history of excellent performance under a multitude of growing conditions.



Opera Supreme Pink Morn Petunia
The iridescent pink blooms are the unique feature of this vigorous trailing petunia. The 2-inch flowers are pink, shading to creamy white in the center with a yellow throat. It is capable of spreading 3 feet in sunny locations and is recommended for landscape use.



Fresh Look Gold Celosia
This celosia is one of the best annuals for season-long performance and looks as fresh in September as it did in May. It grows about a foot tall and wide. The bright gold plumes don't fade to brown as they mature and tested to be heat, humidity and rain tolerant.



Pacifica Burgundy Halo Vinca
The vinca has always been a reliable, low-maintenance flower. The bicolor gives it a bit more punch in the garden and with full sun a mature plant can grow to a foot tall. It is heat and drought tolerant and suitable for landscape use and municipal mass plantings.



Holy Mole Pepper
This is the first hybrid pesillo-type pepper, which is used to make mole sauce. It is perfectly suitable for any garden or patio planter, but requires sun. The peppers are 7 to 9 inches long and can be harvested 85 days after transplanting. Fruit shape is long and smooth like the pesillo-type and the flavor is nutty and tart.

Source: www.all-america-selections.org

Copley News Service/Bob Kast

company trial grounds, university or other horticultural institution.

The judge evaluates entries, looking for desirable qualities such as novel flower forms, flower colors, flower show above foliage, fragrance, length of flowering season, and disease or pest tolerance or resistance. Vegetables are judged on such traits as earliness to harvest, total yield, fruit taste, fruit

quality, ease of harvest, plant habit, and disease and pest resistance.

The judges evaluate AAS trials all season long, not just an end-of-season harvest. Then, based on the superior qualities, the judge scores each entry. Only the entries with the highest nationwide average score are considered to be worthy of an AAS Award.

When you see the red, white

and blue logo of All-America Selections on vegetable and flower seed packets, bedding plant tags or in catalogs, it is a promise of gardening success. AAS has taken the guesswork out of finding reliable new flower and vegetable varieties that will show improvements over other varieties.

There were five winners in 2005, and 11 in 2006, but for 2007 there are only four winners - three annuals and a vegetable.

Fresh Look Gold celosia keeps its bright golden plumes all season. They don't turn brown and mushy as other yellow celosias do. This makes them lower maintenance, since you don't have to deadhead the older flowers to keep the plant looking good. This annual makes a good cut and dried flower. Its bright yellow color will go perfectly with next fall's wreaths and Halloween decorations. It grows to about a foot high with 4-inch flowers on top.

Unlike other petunias, Opera Supreme Pink Morn does not need to be deadheaded to force into continual blooming; it does that naturally. The flowers are pink with a white center, and they have a unique silvery shine. It has a trailing habit and can grow as long as 4 feet, making it a great addition to hanging baskets. Planted in the garden, this petunia will grow wide and only 6 inches tall. Give it full sun and a slow-release fertilizer to keep it going all summer.

Vincas are annual flowers that should not be confused with the vinca that is an evergreen vine. This year's winner is Pacifica Burgundy Halo and, as its name suggests, it has a burgundy ring of color around a white center.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Village of Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 8, 2007, at 7:30 P.M.** at the Niles Municipal Building, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, to hear the following matter(s).

07-ZP-01 - Young Ran Yoon Park, 1141 Windbrooke Dr. #101, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089, requesting special use to operate a restaurant and an increase in the parking variation to 23% at 8257 Golf Road.

07-ZP-02 - Sinisa Cmomarkovic, 8215 New England Ave., Niles, IL 60714, requesting a variation to section VII (C) (10) to reduce the required 40' rear yard to 22' 6" to construct a 2 story addition at 8315 New England.

07-ZP-03 - Jack Wojkowski, 1807 Summerton Pl, Northbrook, IL 60062, requesting a plat of consolidation of Ballard Point Consolidation at 8120 Park Ave.

07-ZP-04 - Pramod Kumar, 7451 N Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645, requesting a Special Use to operate a Community Service Center and to reduce the rear yard from 20' to 5' and 3' side yard to construct an addition.

The Village of Niles will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. If you or someone you know with a disability require accommodations for a Village service or have any questions about the Village's compliance, please contact George Van Geem, Village Manager, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, 847/588-8000.

ASSUMED NAME/LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, FILE NO. D06105177 on Nov. 29, 2006. Under the Assumed Name of Mrs. Clean Services, with the business located at 7458 N. Oconto Ave., Chicago, IL 60631. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Carolyn Ann Gruber, 7458 N. Oconto Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS COOK COUNTY CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN & ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2007 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR

North/Northwest Region Hearing
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2007
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Third District Courthouse
2121 Euclid Avenue
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Courtroom #110

West Region Hearing
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2007
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Fourth District Courthouse
1500 South Maybrook Drive
Maywood, IL 60153
Courtroom #102

South/Southwest Region Hearing
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2007
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: Sixth District Courthouse
16501 South Kedzie Parkway
Markham, IL 60426
Courtroom #101

Purpose: Cook County will hold these regional hearings to solicit needs and priorities and to provide information on the application process for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) for the 2007 Federal Fiscal Year which begins October 1, 2007.

Cook County receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for programs administered by the Cook County Department of Planning and Development.

The 2007 allocations for CDBG, HOME, and ESG have not been made by HUD. Approximate amounts are as follows: CDBG - \$11,970,000; ESG - \$464,000; HOME \$5,800,000; and American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) - \$225,000. If available, unobligated program income and deobligated funds from prior program years will be added to these 2007 funding amounts. CDBG Program categories that are eligible for funding are:

Residential Rehabilitation and Housing Related Activities
Economic Development Activities
Capital Improvement Activities
Commercial Rehabilitation
Real Property Acquisition
Demolition and Clearance
Public Service Activities
Fair Housing Activities

ESG Program categories that are eligible for funding are:
Rehabilitation or conversion of building for use as emergency shelter.
Maintenance or operation expenses directly related to emergency shelters.
New or expanded essential services provided by the shelters.
Development and implementation of homeless prevention activities.

HOME Program categories that are eligible for funding are:
Construction or rehabilitation projects involving single and/or multi-family low and very low income residential housing.
Special needs housing projects.

All interested persons, groups, not-for-profit agencies and municipalities are invited to attend.
Any comments may also be submitted in writing to:

Cook County Bureau of Administration
Department of Planning and Development
69 West Washington, Suite 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Attn: Mr. Timothy W. Kleist

The Cook County Annual Action Plan applies only to those suburban municipalities of less than 50,000 in population, plus the Town of Cicero and the City of Berwyn.

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