

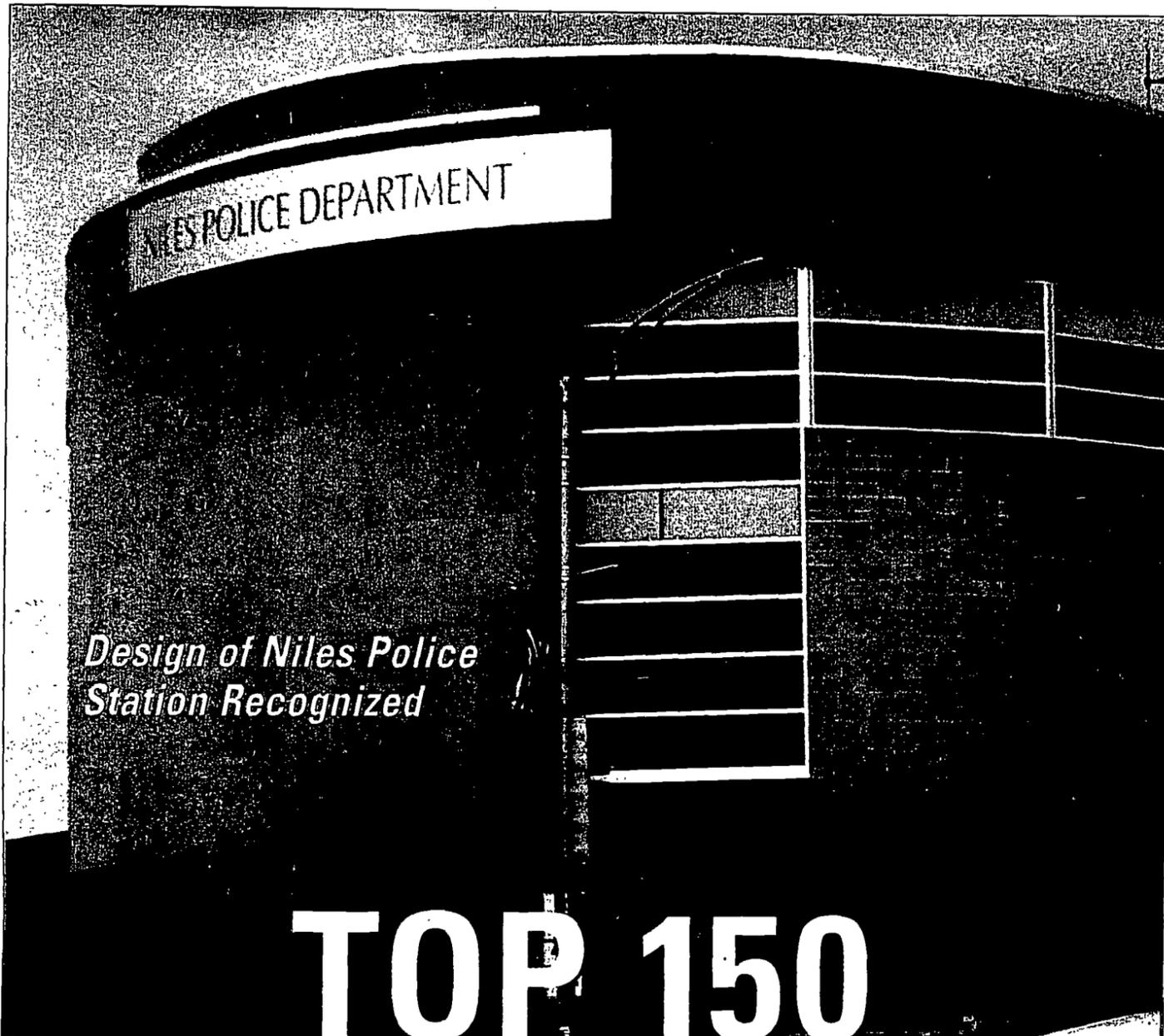
# THE BUGLE

50  
years

DECEMBER 27, 2007

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VOL. 51 NO. 32



*Design of Niles Police Station Recognized*

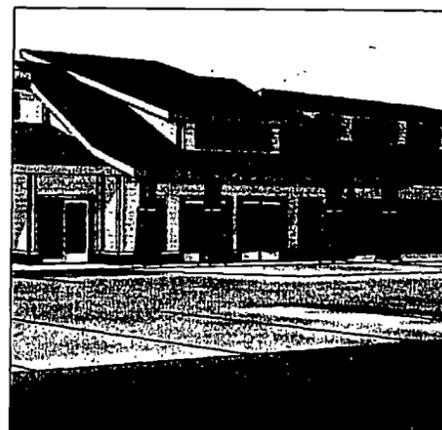
## TOP 150

### Niles Earns One of '150 Illinois Great Places'

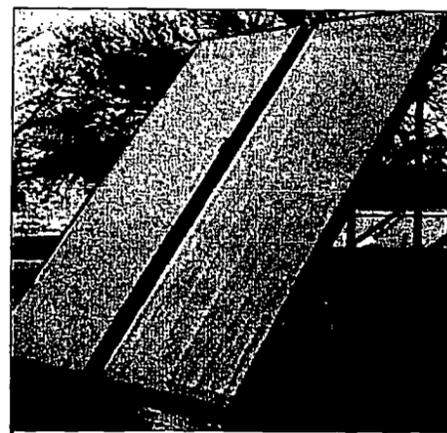
The Niles Police Station has been named one of the "150 Great Illinois Places." To celebrate their 150th anniversary, the American Institute of Architecture has selected 150 great places in the state. "It's because of the architecture," said Mike Jackson, state coordinator, about the Niles Police Station. "We're very proud of this building," said Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki. "We feel like the corner [of Milwaukee and Touhy] is like a gateway to Niles." *Published March 29*



**NDHS New President** Page 5



**Oasis Pool Facility** Page 8



**Notre Dame Solar Power** Page 9

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### JANUARY

#### Bugle Newspapers Turns 50 This Year

The Bugle Newspapers officially turn 50 this year. The company began in 1957 in the basement of the Besser Family and grew with Niles into the suburban newspaper group that it is today.

In 2003 the Bessers sold the newspaper company to Richard Masterson and Robert Leach who now operate The Bugle Newspapers as a part of Voyager Media Group.

"We are happy to be celebrating The Bugle's 50th birthday

this year," Publisher Richard Masterson said. "We're happy to continue to provide the quality news reporting that our readers have come to expect."

*Published January 11*

#### He left Iraq For Morton Grove

Edward Odisho left Iraq in 1980, after 26 years he looks back at his home country

Edward Odisho, a resident of Morton Grove,

escaped from Iraq in 1980 to



**Edward Odisho**

come to the United States.

"It was a brutal dictatorship," said Odisho, describing the situation in Iraq at the time he escaped. "I had no choice but to escape."

Odisho was born in Iraq and lived there for almost 40 years. He lived in Iraq under Saddam's dictatorship for a year and decided that he could not live in those conditions any longer.

*Published January 11*

#### Kogstad to Resign From MG Board

Roy Kogstad has stepped away from his position as village trustee of Morton Grove.

Kogstad said he is a caregiver for a few ill family members and has found that over the past three months it's become very difficult to look after his family members, perform his work as a tax accountant and serve the village as a trustee at the same time.

"It's just becoming too much," said Kogstad, who is resigning immediately. "It's been a good experience."

*Published January 11*

#### Bidding Final Farewell To Larry Ptasiniski

Lawrence J. Ptasiniski, the former president of the Niles  
**Continued on next page**

Chamber of Commerce who worked in Niles as an attorney and lived in Park Ridge, was recently struck and killed by a drunk driver near his vacation home in Wisconsin.

Ptasinski, 57, was standing by his 2005 Volvo near the intersection of U.S. Highway 14 and Wisconsin Highway 67 in Walworth when he was suddenly struck by a Dodge pickup on Saturday, Dec. 30. After several hours of surgery to try to save his life he passed away on Dec. 31.

Published January 11

Transfer of ND Ownership at 'Warp Speed'

A large crowd came streaming into Notre Dame High School on Tuesday evening to meet the new leadership team that has taken over ownership of the high school.

The leadership team is comprised of Notre Dame High School parents, alumni and alumni parents. These lay persons were designated by Francis Cardinal George as an Association of Christian Faithful and officers and will include a Catholic Priest who will serve as a chaplain. The next step is the search for a new president.

Father Mike DeLaney, current president of the high school, started the evening out with a prayer. A member of the team, Paula Waters, said it might have seemed like it took a long time to transfer the leadership after the Holy Cross priests withdrew its sponsorship, but it really happened at a "warped speed" considering that it has not been done in the United States before this.

Published January 18

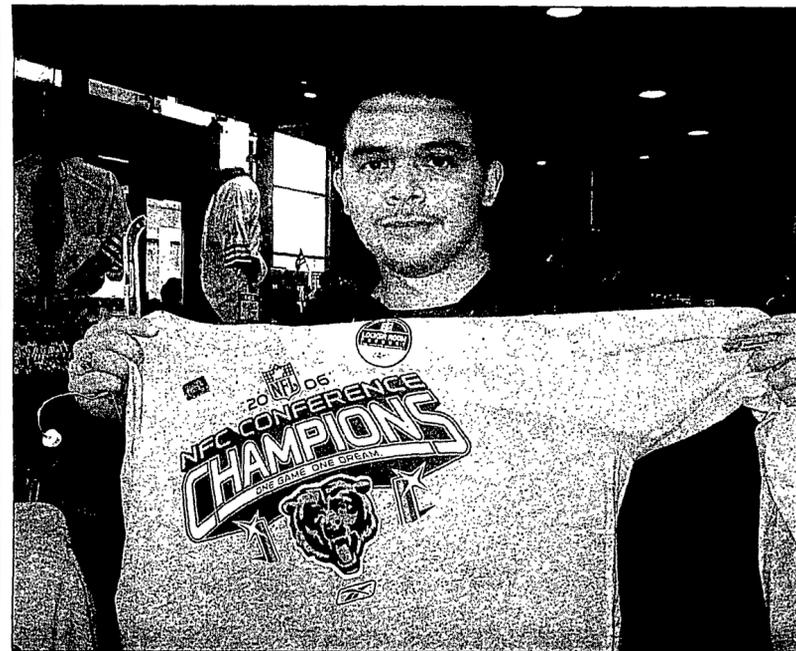
\$15K Stolen From Niles TCF Bank Branch

A masked man robbed a TCF Bank in Niles on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at about 5:58 p.m.

The man walked into the TCF branch at 7759 Milwaukee Ave. brandishing a silver or chromed semi-automatic handgun and approached the bank tellers saying, "You know what's up!"

Niles police said he handed a teller a bag, which was filled with \$10,000 to \$15,000 in U.S. Currency. Before leaving the bank, the robber reached over the counter and grabbed more cash that included a dye pack. He then exited and headed toward the alley where he disappeared.

Published January 18



"Twenty years of loyal dedication has finally paid off."

Fernando Perez | NILES RESIDENT & BEARS FAN

Bears Mania Hits Area

The Bears are going to the Super Bowl. And all around town, you can feel the excitement.

Dick's Sporting Good store located at Village Crossing in Niles stayed open later than normal on Sunday evening following the big win against New Orleans and the fans sure enough came rushing in.

The store once again opened its doors at 5 a.m. on Monday morning and a crowd of fans shopped for hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts and more.

Published January 25

McCreery Settling In

Denise McCreery, Niles' newest "Business Development Co-ordinator" is settling into her position in the new year, visiting businesses throughout Niles in the last few weeks.

McCreery was hired last year to fill the vacant post and work under Dave Esposito.

Published January 25



Denise McCreery

FEBRUARY

Niles Parks Congratulate Bugle on 50th Anniversary

Dear Editor, On behalf of the Niles Park District's Board of Commissioners and the entire staff we wish you a Happy 50th Anniversary. The Bugle played an important part in capturing and preserving the history, growth and development of Niles. I was also fortunate to know the Besser family and their contribution to the Niles community. I remember residents standing on their front porch waiting for the paper, so they can read "The Left Hand"

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

column. Times have changed and change is inevitable, good and needed to move forward. We appreciate what you have done and what you will continue to do for Niles. We look forward to reading your publication for many years and again appreciate your being a part of the Niles Community.

I wish you and your staff a very Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

Joe LoVerde, Executive Director, Niles Park District Published February 1

Arrow Financial Charged with Deceptive Money Collection

The Illinois Attorney General's Office is suing Arrow Financial Services, headquartered in Niles, on charges of deceptive and unfair ways of collecting money from consumers.

Since 1999, the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Bureau has received more than 600 complaints from consumers about the company.

The lawsuit claims that Arrow has participated in activities such as withdrawing money without authorization

from bank accounts, trying to collect debts that have been discharged and using profanity.

Published February 1

Cold Snap Grips Area

Cold weather gripped the Chicago area over the weekend and through the early part of this week, leaving residents to grapple with the cold however they could and local governments to open buildings as warming centers.

Schools closed doors due to frigid weather. Temperatures dropped to highs in the negative numbers with the wind chill making the temperature feel as low as -25 degrees.

Published February 8

Niles Trustees Campaign Alone

Three parties square off for MG Board

Monday, Feb. 5, was the deadline for local election candidacy filings.

For the Village of Niles board of trustee election, "The Keep Good Government Party" filed a petition. Members of this party are Incumbents Bart Murphy and Kim Biederman, and Joseph LoVerde, the executive director of the Niles Park

District. They are running for three four-year vacancies.

The terms of Tom Bondi, Murphy and Biederman are up. Bondi is not running for reelection.

Three parties are each running three candidates for three four-year vacancies on the Morton Grove Village Board of Trustees. The Caucus Party is composed of Incumbent Dale Senesky and Newcomers Carol Gail and Dayal Patel. Action Party candidates include Incumbent Dan Staackmann and newcomers Shel Marcus and John Thill. The new party in town, The Reform Party, is composed of Sherwin Dubren, William Luksha and Bruce Tarpey.

In Park Ridge, last November, a referendum was passed that changed the number of aldermen on the city council from 14 to seven.

The following people are running for election; David Schmidt in the first ward, Rich Di Pietro in the second, Donald Bach in the third ward; James Allegritti and Patrick McConville in the fourth; Robert Ryan, Judy Barclay and Charles Baldachino in the fifth, Thomas Carey and Rex Parker

Continued on next page



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Continued from previous page  
in the sixth and Frank Wsol, Robert Kristie and Jorge Zavala in the seventh ward.  
Published February 8

**State Rep. D'Amico 'Legislator of the Year'**

State Rep. John D'Amico, D-Chicago, was named the Illinois Association of Park Districts' 2006 Outstanding Legislator of the Year at a recent awards luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.  
"I am a strong believer that

good parks improve the quality of life in our local neighborhoods," stated D'Amico, in a press release.  
Published February 8

**Bethany Terrace Unveils New Suites**

Each suite features plasma TV, DVD player, private bath. The unveiling of 21 new private rehabilitation suites at Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre in Morton Grove took place last week.

Bethany Terrace Nursing Centre has been located in Morton Grove for about 40 years.

The latest addition to the facility is the Terrace Suites area. The 21 private rehabilitation suites are for short-term rehabilitation, such as knee and hip replacements.

The suites include a Plasma television with a DVD player, their own phone, clock radio with CD player, and a private bathroom.

The private suite area will have a spa area with a whirlpool tub, a media center and restaurant style dining.

Six double bed occupancy rooms have also been added to the new area.  
Published February 8

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Sal Cardenas, of Niles, clears his walk of snow during February. (Photo by Andrew Schneider) Published February 15

**D64 Seeking 44-cent Increase**

Increase would amount to \$335 per year on \$400K home  
Park Ridge-Niles School Dist 64 is seeking a tax increase on the April 17 ballot.

The district is asking for a 44-cent increase to its tax limiting rate for two years. This would amount to \$335 for a \$400,000 market value home for the first year.

Early intervention for reading/literacy development for kindergartners, academic achievement in math and reading support (grades two to three) and English Language Learners support for all grades would be restored.  
Published February 8

**Defendant in Blase Case Pleads Guilty**

Paul Zdon, a former employee of the Ralph Weiner insurance

agency pled guilty last week and agreed to cooperate with federal prosecutors in their case against Niles Mayor Nicholas Blase.

Prosecutors allege that Blase and Ralph Weiner and Associates (RWA) were involved in a scheme of bribery and kickbacks that pressured Niles businesses to buy insurance from RWA who then paid a portion of those premiums to a "shell company" called SMP that they say Blase controls.

Zdon, a 62 year Lisle man pled guilty to mail fraud. Zdon worked for RWA. Blase allegedly received \$400,000 in kickbacks for convincing people to use Weiner's services and, prosecutors say, using his authority as liquor commissioner and mayor to pressure some.  
Published February 15

**Morton Grove Approves Anti-Smoking Measure**

After much debate and discussion, the Morton Grove Village Board approved a smoking control ordinance at the village board meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.

Smoking will not be allowed in public places in the village except for in bars, retail tobacco establishments, private clubs, hotel and motel sleeping rooms designated as smoking rooms and private residences (except when used as child, adult or healthcare).

Smoking will not be permitted in restaurants unless the proprietor of a restaurant establishes an area on the premise (unless prohibited by law or ordinance.) The smoking section should be separated by a floor to ceiling solid wall or other barrier that does not permit smoke or other airborne particles to pass through to the other sections.

In bowling alleys, smoking will not be permitted before 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday and before noon on Saturdays.  
Published February 15

**Snow Hammers Area**

Snow hammered the Chicago area on Tuesday with over an inch dropped by the morning rush hour and more than four inches expected to fall by the evening rush. Niles Police said that there were only a few minor accidents in the morning.  
Published February 15

**Youths Rob GameStop, Steal Latest Game Systems**

Two customers with a child were held at gunpoint by armed robbers at the GameStop in the Village Crossing mall in Niles on Feb. 8.  
Continued on next page

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Two masked men in their late teens or early twenties entered the GameStop at 5695 Touhy Ave. and after one of the men asked the employee about Playstation 3 game systems, he displayed a handgun and forced the employee to the back room of the store, said police. The 21-year-old employee was the only employee in the store at the time.  
Published February 15

**Hillary Clinton Sign Stolen**

Park Ridge and Hillary Rodham Clinton have always had a strong connection, but even more so now that she is a Presidential candidate.

Clinton was raised in Park Ridge and in 1997 a street marker on the corner of her home in Park Ridge was named "Rodham Corner." Markers have been stolen numerous times by people who wanted a souvenir of the first lady. She went to Maine East High School for three years where she served as class president and Maine South High School for her senior year. At Maine South High School, they have created a shrine with old year book photos in her honor. She graduated from Maine South in 1965.  
Published February 15

**Father Smyth Named Notre Dame President**

Father John P. Smyth, the past president of Maryville Academy, has been named the president of Notre Dame High School by the executive board.  
Rev. John Smyth



"I thought it was an honor that they picked me," said Smyth. "I think it'll be a challenge but I think I'll enjoy it. I hope I can do a good job."

Smyth, 72, was ordained in 1962 and was president of Maryville Academy in Des Plaines for 36 years. He has been at Maryville for a total of 44 years.

"Smyth walked in one day for a tour and walked into a classroom of young men and started talking to them," said Joe Gurdak, chairman of the executive board. "He's worked with kids all of his life. He understands youth. Parents and board members have encouraged us to hire Father Smyth."  
Published February 22

**Funeral Service For Father Hall held at Our Lady of Ransom**

Our Lady of Ransom Church in Niles was full and 200 priests were in attendance at the funeral mass of Father John Robert Hall on Friday, Feb. 16.

At age 52, Hall died of a heart attack while in the parish rectory.

"He was a very capable, generous and kind priest," said Bishop Timothy Lyne, of the Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, who preached at the funeral mass and worked along side Hall when he was a pastor there.  
Published February 22

**Snowfall, Wind Keep Local Public Works Crews Busy**

The recent continuous snowfall combined with the wind resulted in 36 consecutive hours of work by Niles Public Works crews.

"In some ways it was worse than the storm in December," said Scott Jochim, Village of Niles public works director. Crews hit the streets at 3 a.m. the morning of the snowfall and kept plowing away. "Once it started it just kept coming."  
Published February 22

Jochim said that Niles received about 10 to 11 inches of snow. In Morton Grove, they received about eight to 10 inches, according to public works director, Andy Demonte.

DeMonte reported that they used 1,357 tons of salt, 564 gallons of calcium chloride, 1,192 of Diesel fuel and 560 gallons of gasoline. Their crews traveled about 5,710 miles during the snowfall.  
Published February 22

**Harts, Milwaukee Ave. Retail Project to Begin**

Construction of a retail project at the southern part of the parcel at Harts and Milwaukee will soon begin.

The Village of Niles will issue a permit in a couple of weeks and as soon as the weather gets warmer construction will begin, explained Community Development Director Chuck Ostman.

Ostman said that the project was delayed a little due to glitches regarding storm water detention, but everything has been worked out. He said the village's engineering department makes certain pipe requirements to make sure that storm water is properly detained.  
Published February 22

**Morton Grove Board Approves MCC Extension**

In addition to the passage of a new smoking control ordinance, the Muslim Community Center's request for a construction extension was another heated topic at the Morton Grove village board meeting on Monday, Feb. 12.

The original special use permit issued in November of 2004 required all exterior work to be completed in a year from the permit issuance date. The building permit was issued on November 7, 2005 and the one year time limit expired.  
Published February 22

**Niles Police Dept. Hosts Citizens Police Academy**

Every wonder what it would be like to be a Niles police officer?

The Niles Police Department will once again host a Citizens Police Academy starting March 6 through May 8. Classes will continue for ten weeks on Tuesday nights and each class is three hours long from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Participants will get to ride along with a police officer, learn about firearms instruc-

tion, crime scene investigation and other law enforcement topics. The goal is for citizens to gain a working knowledge of the department and its functions.  
Published February 22

**Grand Opening - Kumon Math and Reading Center**

The Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry welcomed new member Kumon, a math and reading center, and helped celebrate their grand opening on Wednesday, February 7. Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano joined store owner Michelle Bettuzzi to officially cut the grand opening ribbon. For more information on Kumon visit www.kumon.com or call Michelle at (847)-324-5120.  
Published February 22

**MARCH**

**One Man Killed in Home Invasion on Susan Court**  
Robbery was the apparent motive in the home invasion of a Niles man who lived in the 8100 block of Susan Ct., near Emerson Middle School.  
Continued on page 8

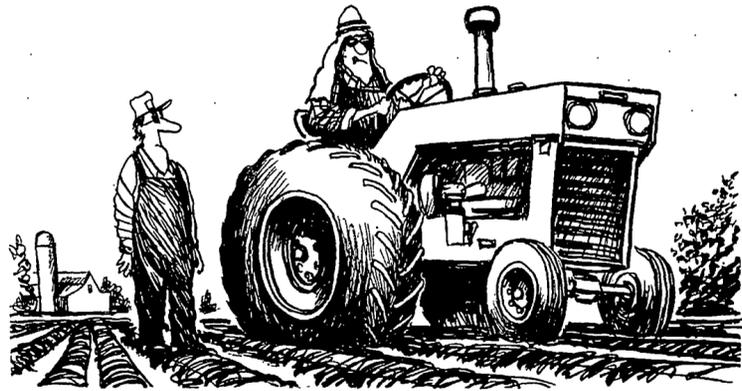
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"I started wearin' this when I realized how much money there is in ethanol."

**Ugly Board Meeting**

I've lived in this village for 53 years. I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly. The December 10th village board meeting was very ugly. The malcontents came out of the woodwork and got together to undo what had already been agreed upon.

First Trustee Kogstad complained that the accounting method should be accrual type instead of cash type. Actually both types are available in the village budget and it's completely transparent. Evidently it's good enough for Moody's.

Also, Trustee Kogstad, who had not attended any workshop sessions, decided that the village portion of the budget could be reduced 1%. Then, Trustee Thill, who HAD attended the workshop sessions and gone through all of the process, thought it would be a good idea. Strange!

Trustee Thill again brought up the MB Bank deal. It was a done deal then and it's still a done deal. Staff recommended a bank that was also the low bidder but the Action Party gave the contract to MB even though they were the 3rd lowest bidder. Trustee Thill said that was done out of loyalty. Loyalty to whom? Certainly not the village tax payers.

Our financial director advised that a 1% reduction in the village portion of the budget would come out to about four dollars a household per year. Wow! What a fantastic break for the seniors they're always so concerned about. If this passes I think I'll go to McDonalds and blow the whole thing on a Big Mac.

It's especially interesting that at this season of the year the Action Party is willing to sell Morton Grove's good name and future not for 30 pieces of silver but for a hamburger. Is this going to be the legacy of the Action Party?

Jackie Yuh

**With Gratitude**

I recently completed treatment for a broken foot. I broke it at the beginning of September, and after 10 weeks in 2 different casts and 4 weeks (off and on) in an isolating boot, the Doctor "released me" the other day. Today something made me think about what a pain in the \$%#@ it had been, and how genuinely decent and caring people had been during those 3? months. From holding the door for me so it didn't smack my foot or crimp my crutches, to refraining from running me over as I slowly crossed a parking lot, to inquiring about how things were going, people really cared. Old friends and strangers. That warm feeling spread as I started to think about all the other good things that are going on or have gone on recently in my life; our 20-year anniversary of living in this great village called Morton Grove, the amazing good fortune of celebrating 20 years of marriage to my wonderful wife Jeannie, having children who are inquisitive, thoughtful and respectful, living among wonderful neighbors, enjoying relatively good health, having the opportunity to live and work in a diverse, interesting and accepting community, making the most of the great educational opportunities available to our children, appreciating our many long-time and new friends, and admiring the many volunteer works that are performed in our community each year. I share this with you all as a way to thank you for playing your part, and to tell you that I am grateful for it all. I wish you and your families a season full of happiness, satisfaction and peace.

Tony Hofeld

H.C.

**Letters to the Editor**

**We Live in a Glass House**

The whole world lives in a glass house. We bruise easily - all of us. Our teens think life is all rosy. They do not know of the hardship, the hurts, disappointments, the hope and despair and what the inevitable death of a loved one does to a family.

Our teens (sons and daughters) don't understand that you always don't find that the "grass is greener," and that life is not "made of rainbows." Most parents try to understand our children, but it is not always easy to cope with this new generation, that our teens are living in now. We do our best, but sometimes, our best is not enough.

We love, and hurt for them,

and many a time, we punish, but it does not always work, so we try some other method.

We want so much for our children, that we have a tendency to give too much of everything - because we love them. To be realistic, we all are a little afraid. We are afraid of what they may do if we punish too hard. Teens rebel and tell us, that they will run away, try pot or do something else. We are afraid because we don't understand our children, so they tell us. It is not so, we parents are trying very hard to cope with this new generation, even though it is very hard sometimes almost impossible.

We understand what it means to be living in this dis-

torted world, where teens do smoke pot, experience sex, and many other things the teens of this era are doing. We don't always agree with them, but we are trying to help and give them the understanding that they seek; but many times we fail, and wonder where did we go wrong?

But we, the parents, all we can do is hope, love, and watch over them, the way we are trying to do. We love you all, our sons and daughters. I know most parents think as I do so; I will sign this letter from "All the Parents that live in a Glass House, that bruise so easily."

Jackie Yuh

H.C.

Tony Hofeld

Sharing Your Good Fortune

By Carrie Schwab Pomerantz  
COPLY NEWS SERVICE

There's something about the holidays that makes us reflect on our lives, our families and our good fortune. At the same time, we can't help but be aware of the many people who could use a little extra help.

In the spirit of the season, many deserving groups find the holidays a perfect time to reach-out for donations. So, while the last two articles have focused on traditional gift giving and spreading the gift of knowledge, this time I'd like to share some thoughts on another important aspect of giving - charities.

All through the year, but especially during the holidays, you may be approached by a variety of organizations that you'd like to support. And while you want to be generous, the sheer number of requests for donations can often be a little overwhelming.

If you can't afford to give to every worthy cause, you don't have to feel like Uncle Scrooge. With just a little strategic planning, you can find the best place and the best way to share your good fortune. Whether your donations are large or small, here are some ideas to help you give meaningfully to the charities of your choice while staying within your means.

Support a cause that reflects your interests. Are you passionate about the arts? Medicine? Have you or a friend or family member been helped in the past by a specific organization?

Consider turning these interests or experiences into a focus for giving. Whether it's the American Heart Association, a scholarship fund for budding young musicians or a foundation that supports financial literacy, giving to a group that has meaning for you in some way can have many personal rewards as well.

**MONEY & YOU**

friend or family member been helped in the past by a specific organization?

Consider turning these interests or experiences into a focus for giving. Whether it's the American Heart Association, a scholarship fund for budding young musicians or a foundation that supports financial literacy, giving to a group that has meaning for you in some way can have many personal rewards as well.

Look to your own community. From senior groups to after-school day care to homeless shelters, every community has programs and projects that need additional support. Think about where your dollars could make the greatest difference. You might decide to give a one-time gift or even set up an ongoing contribution that will continue to connect you to your own neighborhood or city.

Don't forget the gift of time. Nonprofits depend on local generosity to fund their yearly budgets, but most nonprofits also need volunteers to accomplish their goals. If you have a few hours a week to give, your contribution of time could be even more valuable than money, especially if you have a particular area of expertise that can serve the organization. And in my experience, you will find that your gift of time will provide you with an event at least as rewarding in return.

Increase your gift by

including your family. Whether you're giving money or time, including your children can make your dollars and your energy go even further. Consider picking a family charity and having your children contribute some of their allowance each week. This could be a yearlong family project with the goal of making a contribution next holiday season.

You can also get your kids involved in a project with a local nonprofit organization. For instance, every year a friend of mine, along with his six children, from the smallest at age 7 to the oldest in his 20s, helps his church serve holiday meals to the homeless. It's a great way for this family to reach out, as well as an opportunity for them to appreciate their own good fortune. And each year the kids look forward to this almost as much as their own holiday gathering.

Consider a charitable gift account. If you have the means to give even more, a charitable gift account is a simple and cost-effective way to maximize your giving while enjoying certain tax benefits. One benefit of particular note: If you transfer

appreciated stock that you have held for more than one year to what is known as a "donor advised fund," you will get a deduction for the current market value of the security and you won't pay capital gains tax on the appreciation. Talk to your tax adviser about whether this is an option you might want to consider.

"Don't forget the gift of time. Nonprofits depend on local generosity to fund their yearly budgets, but most nonprofits also need volunteers to accomplish their goals. If you have a few hours a week to give, your contribution of time could be even more valuable than money, especially if you have a particular area of expertise that can serve the organization."

Once you've decided which charities you want to support and why, you'll be able to give with a real sense of purpose and feel more pleasure in contributing.

Often during the holidays we hear about the stresses of giving. People worry about overextending their budgets or feel bad that they can't afford certain types of gifts. The thought of donating to chari-

ties on top of all the other obligations can feel like a tremendous burden or an impossible dream.

But to me, the season of giving is really about sharing. By giving thoughtful gifts, you're sharing your understanding of someone and your personal feelings. By spreading your knowledge, you're sharing experience and opportunity.

And by donating to charities, whether money or time, you're sharing your belief in a better tomorrow. It doesn't have to cost a lot; however, it can make us all feel incredibly richer.

Once again, happy holidays.

Carrie Schwab Pomerantz is chief strategist, Consumer Education, Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. You can e-mail Carrie at askcarrie@schwab.com.

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**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.  
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Nick Katsoulas 7627 N. Milwaukee Niles, IL 60714 847-663-1650  
**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Continued from page 6

Leonard Bird, a dealer in rare coins and estate jewelry lived in the home with his son, Michael Childers, when two men forced their way into the house last Wednesday, Feb. 21, shooting Childers to death in the process.

According to family members on the scene, Bird was asleep upstairs when Childers answered the door. Suddenly, the sound of gunshots echoed through the quiet Niles neighborhood. Bird grabbed his own gun, and exchanged fire with at least one of the men. They subsequently fled the scene in a van, according to witnesses.

Published March 1

**Staff Report: 22% of Dist. Used Niles Library in '06**

Board argues more innovative services needed

Niles Library Staff released a report at last Wednesday's board meeting, only 22 percent of the District's approximately 58,000 people used the library in 2006, a number that seemed too low to some board members.

According to the survey compiled by Library Staff Members Joel Hahn and Linda Weiss, out the total eligible, 33,050 possessed library cards but only 12,879 used the library in 2006.

Published March 1

**Oasis Facility Plans Released**

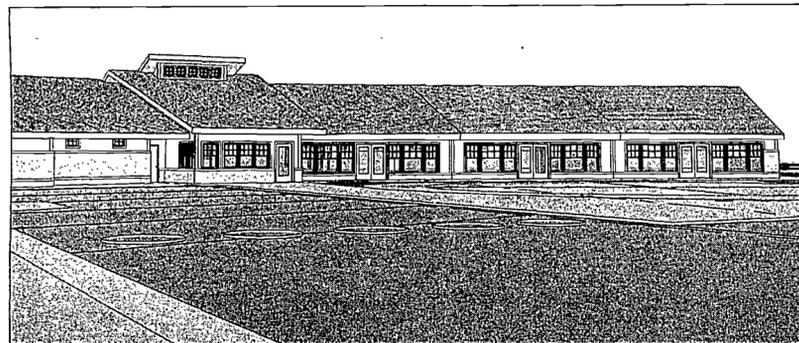
The Niles Park District recently released the design plans for Oasis Water Park.

When it is completed, the facility will be a 10,000 sq. ft one level center that contains a new bathhouse and a 4,000 sq. ft. multi purpose room that can be divided into three different rooms.

Demolition of the building is set to take place on either April



Above: An artist rendering for the front of the Oasis Facility. Below: Poolside rendering. Published March 8



19 or April 20.

The new pool area may include a dropslide and water pads.

The park district has been working with the architect to finalize the details and discuss parking issues. One change from the original plan is that instead of 116 parking spaces there will be a total of 110 for safety purposes.

The sale of \$5 million in bonds recently took place. Demolition could take place earlier, but since the location is a polling place for the upcoming elections it will take place after April 17.

While under construction, special rates will be provided at the Morton Grove pool.

Published March 8

**Smoking Control Ordinance Approved**

Niles will soon become less smoky.

After much discussion, the Village of Niles approved a final smoking ordinance at the board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Smoking in public places will be banned in Niles, except for in bars, private residences, retail tobacco stores, hotel and motel rooms designated as smoking rooms, when smoking is part of a theatrical production, in restaurant, hotel or conference rooms when they are being used for private functions as long as the smoke does not infiltrate into non-smoking areas, outdoor areas

of places of employment, private and semi private nursing homes and in a bar area of a restaurant subject to several conditions, such as the bar and the area adjacent have to be separated from the non-smoking areas by at least eight feet.

Published March 8

**'Endangered' Historic Home Now Destroyed**

A bulldozer took down a historically significant home in Park Ridge recently welcomed their son home from Iraq with open arms and happy hearts.

"It's nice to be back," said Tony Friel, Lt. U.S. M.C. Friel describes his seven months in Iraq as being a "unique" one. Marion said she was very delighted to have her son come home and she felt like a huge burden was lifted when he returned.

**Principal Dr. Alexandra Nicholson Resigned from District 71**

Niles Elementary School Dist. 71 officially approved the resignation of Dr. Alexandra Nicholson, principal and assistant superintendent at Culver School.



Dr. Alexandra Nicholson

The resignation was approved at the school board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and she will officially become the superintendent at West Northfield School Dist. 71 on July 1.

"She's one of the best principals I've ever seen," said Supt. Dr. Raymond Costa. "It's time for her to be a superintendent. She loves this school and the children."

Published March 8

**State's Attorney Makes Parents, Aware of Gangs**

Gangs in Park Ridge? Niles? Yes, it's true.

"Today's graffiti is tomorrow's driveway," said prosecutor Laura Morask to a room full of concerned parents and residents at a Gang Awareness and Prevention event that took place at Maine Township town hall on Thursday, March 8.

Published March 15



A home in the 500 block of Cedar Ct. in Park Ridge designed by an architect who was a disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright was demolished Monday, less than a week after it was designated one of Illinois' most endangered landmarks. Published March 8

Continued from previous page  
condominiums and 7,800 Square feet of commercial space. This development will create a pedestrian friendly area with a fountain on Dempster St. where the Maxwells restaurant once operated.

Published March 15

**County Smoking Ban in Effect**

Starting on Thursday, March 15, businesses and establishments in Cook County must be smoke-free.

The Clean Indoor Air Ordinance prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and places of employment within Cook County, except for private residences, private

clubs and lodges and designated rooms in hotels and long term care facilities.

Niles, Morton Grove and Park Ridge do not have to abide by this county-wide ordinance because they adopted their own smoking control ordinances prior to this date. All unincorporated areas and municipalities that have not adopted their own smoking control ordinance will have to abide by the Cook County ordinance.

Members of the Morton Grove health commission had encouraged a total ban like Cook County's because of the serious health risks with second hand smoke.

According to the Cook County ordinance, smokers

may not light up within 15 feet of any entrance to an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.

A Village of Niles trustee said that protecting employees at work was one aspect the Niles smoking ordinance unfortunately did not address.

The Cook County Ordinance calls for signage to be placed at all public places that clearly states the facility is smoke-free and also for all ash trays to be removed from the facility.

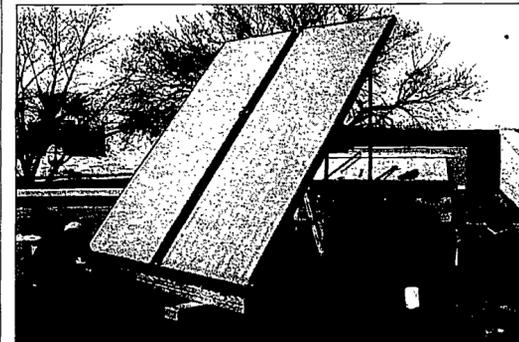
Published March 15

**A Bright Idea**

Notre Dame High School recently made solar history.

It is the first high school in Illinois to have a solar thermal system installed. The previous electric hot water system was not able to keep up with the demand and the new system will be used to provide hot water for the science wing.

Solar Service of Niles installed a three-panel solar hot water system that can heat 200 gallons of water per day. As a result of about 14,000 kilowatt hours of electricity being displaced annually, tens of thousands of dollars of utility sav-



Notre Dame High School became Illinois' first high school to install a solar thermal system. Installed by Solar Service Inc. of Niles, the system can heat up to 200 gallons of water per day in the George Holley Science & Technology Center. Published March 22

ings will take place over the system's life span. The solar system can also prevent 13 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

Published March 22

**Niles Chamber Names 'Rose' Award Winners**

The Niles Chamber of Commerce announced the honorees for its fourth annual "Niles Night of Roses" last week. Representatives of the Chamber said that this year's recipients exemplify the values that have made Niles a great place to live.

All recipients will be honored on April 21, 2007 at the White Eagle Banquets in Niles. An invitation can be found inside this edition of the Bugle Newspaper. This event is sponsored by Wal-Mart, with support from Resurrection Health Care, Dunkin Donuts (Harlem & Milwaukee), Shure Incorporated and Lucky Magees Racino Grill & Sports Lounge.

This year the Bob Wordel Living Legend Award honors Gordon Fallor a lifelong Chamber participant and businessman of Niles for his end-

less dedication to the chamber of commerce and unwavering determination to help Niles grow and prosper. Join us to honor Gordon Fallor and these find individuals:

**Business of the Year Shure Incorporated**

Throughout their history, the success and reputation of the Shure brand has been defined by their continuous commitment to total quality, and it shows with every product they make.

Their commitment to the community far exceeds the expectations of being a good corporate citizen and we are proud they have made a home in Niles.

**Coach of the Year**

Ricardo Cuevas  
Youth sports programs give children a healthy, structured activity that builds self-confidence, leadership and team-building skills. Coaches like Ricardo Cuevas are crucial in developing and inspiring the children who take part.

**Dynamic Parent Volunteer**

Vicki Peake  
Every school depends on their parents to help build a community that will foster the best for their children. Vicki Peake is a parent who takes charge, giving her energy, her time and stays dedicated to the needs of the school, its after-school programs and parent organizations.

**Fire Fighter "Hot Spot"**

Roman Kopinski  
During the Holidays we are reminded that it is the season of giving. Roman Kopinski originally organized and continues to run the Fire Departments Toys for Tots Drive, believing that you can make a difference to a child or disadvantaged families, he also organizes a Turkey Drive for local residents, personally brings gifts to

Continued on page 14

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**Dominick's on Greenwood Ave., Niles Closing in April**

The Dominick's located on Greenwood in Niles is one of 14 Dominick's stores closing its doors in the Chicago area in April.

"The store is under performing," said Wynona Redmond, spokesperson for Dominick's. She said all 14 of the Chicago area stores were chosen because they were "under performing."

Published March 8

**'Preserves' Partners Request TIF Funds**

After a presentation by representatives of the Preserves of Morton Grove, the village of Morton Grove board of trustees voted to ask S.B. Friedman to determine the validity of a TIF loan request that could amount to the village contributing \$4.9 million once the project is completed at the board meeting on Monday, March 12.

The Preserves of Morton Grove consists of townhomes,

Continued on next page

Bankruptcy Scare at Countrywide  
More Companies Exiting Loan Origination Business  
Mortgage Crisis of 2007

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## Niles Baseball League 2008 Season Registration

Registration for the Niles Baseball League is here. Registration is for kids born on or after 8/1/1990 to on or before 8/31/2001. While it may seem early to start thinking about baseball, early preparations are key to getting our program off to a good start. This year

we have scheduled four registrations all at Golf View Recreation Center - 7800 North Caldwell Avenue, Note: Birth Certificates are required for any registrant not on file!

Saturday January 12, 2008 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Saturday January 26, 2008 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Saturday February 16, 2008 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. You can also register online at [www.eteamz.com/NBL](http://www.eteamz.com/NBL).

This year the Niles Baseball League will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The NBL will also be sponsoring Travel/Tournament Teams. Tryouts for the NBL Travel/Tournament Teams are scheduled for the middle of January. Information on the 50th Celebration & Travel Teams will be available at the Registrations. If you have, any questions please contact Vic Nagode (847-470-0622) or John Zuckerman (847-966-9448).

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### FEBRUARY

#### Notre Dame Retires His Jersey

Iceland Rink in Niles was filled with the sounds of clapping, cheering and the stomping of feet on the stands and they didn't come from fans of a local hockey team.

The excitement and jubilation came from the hearts of fans of a hero and an inspiration to many, Mike Schwass, who played hockey for Notre Dame High School in the 1970s and who became paralyzed following an injury on the ice during a game.

Published February 1

#### 'Elite Eight' Honored

Members of the 1997 Notre Dame High School Elite Eight basketball team were honored prior to the school's varsity victorious basketball game against St. Viator on January 12.

Published February 1

#### Don Wrestlers Finish Second

Can we come any closer to winning the Regional Tournament? For the third time in the last 5 years, we finished second. In 2003 we lost by 6 points, in 2004 we won by 155 points, in 2005 we lost by 1 point and in 2007 we lost by 14 points. It really takes 14 guys, which is a total team effort to win in wrestling. However, we are very proud of the effort put forth on Saturday. We scored points in all but 3 weight classes.

Published February 8

#### Dennis Zelasko to Retire Notre Dame Post

Dennis Zelasko announced on Wednesday, Feb. 7, that he will be stepping away from the head varsity basketball coach position, one that he has held for 19 years.

Zelasko said that he wanted to spend more time with his family and devote himself to his job as Notre Dame's Enrollment Director so he decided to step down. "I still love going to practice," said Zelasko, in a press release. "I just don't love going everyday. I think the kids deserve someone, who's going to love going there everyday. I'm just a little worn down."

Published February 15

#### Notre Dame Hockey Unstoppable

The Notre Dame Varsity Hockey team continues its "Road to the Dance" as they



Former Notre Dame hockey player Mike Schwass receives his retired jersey during a ceremony. Published February 1

beat Barrington in a real squeaker 4-2 Saturday afternoon. Then they beat Jacobs 7-2 on Sunday night to complete their weekend games to remain unbeaten in the playoffs. Going into the Barrington game the players were a little upset after they opened the playoffs with a disappointing 0-0 tie against Lake Zurich. Coach Shawn Brown was very satisfied with his team's performance.

Beating Barrington (Ranked 10th in State) was very uplifting for our kids." This shows that they can overcome adversity which is a great sign going into the playoffs and state competition, Brown continued. The kids were really down after that 0-0 tie against Lake Zurich in which we out shot them 36-10.

Published February 15

### MARCH

#### Five Alumni Inducted Into Notre Dame 'Wall of Fame'

Five Alumni Inducted onto Notre Dame's Athletic Wall of Fame

As part of Notre Dame High School's 2007 Winter Sports Week and Alumni Celebration, NDHS inducted five graduates onto its Athletic Wall of Fame on February 11.

The five honored athletes were Ed Jung '83, Dan Divis '90, Nate Bronski '97, Kevin Clancy '98 and Bill Besenhofer '98.

The new members were honored publicly in the NDHS gymnasium between the sophomore and varsity basketball games against Carmel on Feb. 9. After the basketball game, there was a reception in the library for the Wall of Famers and their families.

Published March 1

#### Poulos Advances to NCAA Championships

Millikin University recently announced that sophomore high jumper Kapricia Poulos (Glenview, Maine East) will travel to Terre Haute, Indiana and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to compete in the NCAA indoor Track and Field Championships.

A two-time All American in the

high jump, Poulos will enter the field with the second best jump in Division III, and has a school record jump of 5-8.5.

Poulos was one of just three Division III athletes to qualify for the championships automatically. She is the CCIW high jump champion and the conference's Most Outstanding Field Event Athlete.

Published March 8



## Wi-Fi? Why Bother?

This is a week when typically many of us look back on the year and wonder where it went. It seems the older I get the faster time seems to creep along although the memory bank is nowhere near full for me yet. There are many more memories to come but before I look to the future, it is always an adventure to look back on the year in sports and reflect on those images that I hope will not perish with time. 2007 started with the Bears winning the their league championship and when they got to the big show on the first play of the game Devin Hester runs the opening kick off back. It almost felt like the entire city was running with him as cheering fans could be heard all over the neighborhood as the Bears jumped out to a 6-0 lead over the Colts. Unfortunately the Bears did not win but that will not change the memory of that moment for me. Then once



Chalk Talk  
ROBERT LEACH | SPORTS EDITOR

again the Chicago Cubs win their division only to get unceremoniously booted from the opening round of the playoffs ensuring that their 99 year winless streak remains intact. As a Cub fan, I wear my badge of honor proudly as we will see 100 years of winless championship baseball. If the Cubs win the world championship in 2008, and yes I am holding my breath for it, then all the world will be right if even for a moment. There was my trip to

Cooperstown and the National Baseball Hall of Fame which marked my first visit to the Hall. I had my wife and two kids with me, one was playing in a youth baseball tournament, and remember finally arriving after a very long drive from Chicago tired but in awe of our surroundings. I remember asking a local gas station attendant "Do you know if there is Wi-Fi available for my computer in this area?" His reply "You know your in baseball country now and that's all that matters. You're asking for Wi-Fi? Why Bother?! Enjoy your stay!" And with that, I took his advice and soaked in all there was without the interruption of a late breaking news story ringing my cell. All in all it has been a great year in sports and I am looking forward to a great year ahead. May each of you be blessed this Christmas season! As always, I'll see you in the stands!

## Niles Park District Fitness New Year Special

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By J.R. Rose - Copley News Service

**DRAW IT!**

**DRAW A WHITE BEARD ON SANTA...**



**GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR NICK...**



**SOLVE THE RIDDLE... WHAT GOES "OH, OH, OH" ?**



ANSWER: SANTA CLAUS WALKING BACKWARDS!

**WHY'S THIS THE CHRISTMAS ALPHABET? HAVE YOU FIGURED THIS OUT YET? SANTA KNOWS THE ANSWER WELL, UNSCRAMBLE HIM AND HE WILL TELL!**

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**WHAT'S WHITE AND GOES UP ?**



**ANIMAL ON THE SEEN**

**Reindeer**  
at Brookfield Zoo

Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo is sure to be one of the brightest, most decorative events in the Chicagoland area. With nearly one million twinkling lights lining the walkways and endless entertainment, the festival is sure to be fun for the entire family. And while you're visiting, you can complete the holiday experience by checking out some real reindeer! Found in Children's Zoo, these animals remain a popular attraction with their graceful bodies, fascinating lifestyles, and association with Santa.



Rudolph is famous for his red nose that shines brightly in order to lead Santa's sleigh. But did you know that real reindeer have noses completely covered in fur? This special heat-saving feature helps keep the deer warm in their natural habitats—the cold, harsh tundra of arctic Asia and Europe. Like polar bears' hair, the hair of a reindeer is hollow, acting like a "winter coat" to keep body heat in and provide warmth. A third way reindeers are able to deal with their extremely cold environment has to do with their feet. With broad, two-toed hooves that have sharp edges, reindeer feet can easily grip icy surfaces and are filled with fatty tissues to endure extremely cold temperatures. Reindeer are one of about 36 species of deer in the world. All deer have long, slender legs with hooves and a graceful body, are herbivores, and are the only animals with antlers (though many other animals have horns). While in most deer, only the males have antlers, in reindeer, both sexes have antlers! And amazingly, reindeer antlers are shed and regrown every year! Growing out of small bony platforms in the skull, antlers are first covered in a soft, nutrient-rich tissue called velvet. Later, the velvet is shed, leaving the reindeer with a new, hardened set of antlers. Come check out these remarkable animals and their antlers at Children's Zoo. Holiday Magic is currently underway, and there could be no better way to celebrate the holidays than this brightly lit family festival and a few reindeer.

Contents are courtesy of the Chicago Zoological Society, which operates Brookfield Zoo. Interested in getting fun info delivered directly to your inbox? Check [www.BrookfieldZoo.org/Ani-Mails](http://www.BrookfieldZoo.org/Ani-Mails) for info on FREE emails.

**Grammar Matters**  
by Patty Gibbons Saunier  
**Finding Fragments**

- A fragment is a sentence look-alike. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a punctuation mark, but it does not express a complete thought. Can you spot the impostures? Which of the following are not sentences?
1. Don't tell.
  2. If you can't stand the heat.
  3. My cousin Kathy.
  4. Because of the bad storm.
  5. The people relaxing by the small, peaceful lake.



Answers: The only full sentence is #1. The rest are fragments.  
Copley News Service

**Sweeney Todd Slashes His Way To Hit**

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

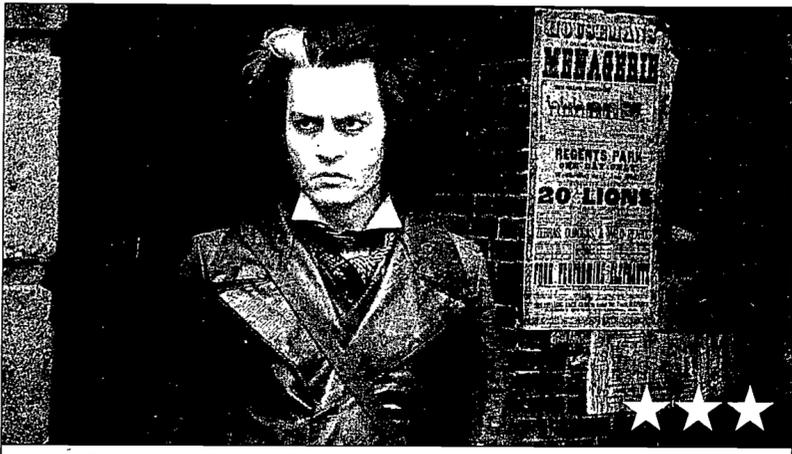
**New Releases**

**Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street ★★★** – Sweeney Todd is no sweetie pie. The meat pies made from his victims create a mental pungency you can almost smell in theaters showing "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." It's an ugly story

**FILMS IN FOCUS**

given a slick and sickly beautiful form of intensity by Tim Burton's version of the 1979 Stephen Sondheim musical. Burton preens his vision like a goth peacock, in a terminal London so dark and dirty even Dickens would have turned queasy. Top feather of the peacock is Johnny Depp as Todd, who returns from distant penal service, believing his lovely wife a suicide, his daughter now the kept morsel of vile Judge Turpin (Alan Rickman). What's a sad fella to do? Well, lacking therapy, set up a barber shop where he can vent some spleen by slashing the necks of customers. No other musical stars a man who croons warmly to his razors. As the defining alternative to a feel-good show, "Sweeney Todd" can make you swear off meat pies forever. Popcorn could suffer, too. A Paramount Pictures / DreamWorks SKG release. Director: Tim Burton. Writer: Josh Logan. Cast: Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Ed Sanders, Sacha Baron Cohen. Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes. Rated R.

**Charlie Wilson's War ★★★** – With "Charlie Wilson's War" Tom Hanks is a long, fine way from the famous bucket of caramel corn, "Forrest Gump." No Gump or Gumby is this. The movie's energizing strength is intelligence. It is so entertainingly adult. Of the many smart people in it, the main brain is Congressman Charlie Wilson. Up from rural Texas with more than a hint of Lyndon B. Johnson in speech and connivance, Wilson gives Hanks a juice fest of political Americana. Wilson, by passion and skullduggery, roped together covert deals and some congressional black-op budgets to feed modern arms to the Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet invasion of the 1970s. Wilson is a crafty, impish, mostly liberal politician, able to satisfy his "mostly rural," Christian



Johnny Depp stars in the musical thriller 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.' (CNS Photo courtesy of Leah Gallo)

constituents without being a hypocrite or moralizer. He can fight a good fight, and for good reasons, while also slurping drinks, sharing a jacuzzi with strippers or ogling the sexy girls who secretary for him (one he calls "Jailbait"). But Charlie Wilson fought, won and had his own fun doing it. A Universal Pictures release. Director: Mike Nichols. Writer: Aaron Sorkin. Cast: Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Shaun Toub, Om Puri. Running time: 1 hour, 37 minutes. Rated R.

**Youth Without Youth ★★★** – It's rare for an old master to be young again. Orson Welles did with "F for Fake," and now, with a similar dance of invention, Francis Ford Coppola in "Youth Without Youth." Coppola is 68, and his last directed feature ("The Rainmaker") was a decade ago and tired. A leap like "Youth" is only possible for a veteran who found true rejuvenation, and Coppola goes for broke as he hasn't since the 1980s. Tim Roth stars as Dominic Matei, who in 1938 is completing his big book on the roots of language. Instead of lightning in a bottle, he is hit by lightning on the street. Though not cooked almost to death, he slowly awakens in a Bucharest hospital. Coppola has conviction even with the airiest elements. The churn and sweep of time, memory, karma, the whole enchilada of fate, give the story a weirdly compulsive charm. Some won't like the film, which is their sad loss. Coppola experiments with storytelling in a succulent, commanding way. He seems so youthfully mature, creative with

a ripe and laughing nod to art, dreams and even (the bonus) classy kitsch. A Sony Pictures Classics release. Director, writer: Francis Ford Coppola. Cast: Tim Roth, Alexandra Maria Lara, Bruno Ganz, Marcel Iures, Andre Hennicke. Running time: 2 hours. Rated R.

**The Kite Runner ★★★** – Afghanistan is a nation tortured by history, but the core feeling in "The Kite Runner" is heart-burning love of the place, its proud people and dusty, rugged beauty. The "star" kite belongs to Amir, son of a rich, very moral but Western-minded (that is, not very Islamic) man, Baba. Amir's "runner" for the kiting contests is the top servant's son, Hassan. The story, which often feels like a book breathing, centers on the bond between the upscale lad and the one from a poorly regarded minority. Devoted to each other, they are tested by bullies, and Amir does something that shames him, then resentfully compounds that with something just as shaming. In its atmospheric and rich acting (including the boys, so tossed by fate), "The Kite Runner" is a very traditional grabber with modern fidelity to all the right, living details. It takes us far away, yet inside lives, so that the distant seems utterly present and personal. A Paramount Classics release. Director: Marc Forster. Writer: David Benioff. Cast: Halid Abdalla, Homayon Ershadi, Shaun Toub, Abdu Qadir Farookh, Atossa Leoni. Running time: 2 hours. Rated PG-13.

**The Savages ★★** – Most of us get old. We all die. And some, before, the end, draw the extra

fading, he has a grim temper and was probably never very likable. Clues indicate that his wife left long ago because he took up with another woman, and there's a hint of past rages inflicted on the kids. Now, they're middle-aged and flogging their ambitions. Wendy (Laura Linney) is a temp worker and aspiring playwright, overweight brother Jon (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is a minor prof and Brecht specialist. They have lives more than lifestyles, and those lives wobble even more when they bring dad from Sun City in Arizona and park him in a Buffalo nursing home. People who have dealt with the seriously sick and aged will find many points of contact. But the movie virtually checks off those points, like a sophisticated version of a care brochure. Thank heaven for good actors. A Fox Searchlight release. Director, writer: Tamara Jenkins. Cast: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Laura Linney, Philip Bosco, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Peter Friedman. Running time: 1 hour, 53 minutes. Rated R.

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**Continued from page 9**

children at Lutheran General Hospital during the holidays.

**Ken Scheel Chamber Member of the Year**

*Norbert Johnson*

Norbert Johnson is a man with a heart of gold. His kindness is unmatched in the community. He has been active on the Niles Chamber, the Lions Club, the Historical Society and many other organizations that have been lucky to have him as a participant. He brings energy and genuine concern and commitment to each group.

**Niles Citizen of the Year**

*Judie Elsinger*

As the 2007 recipient, Judie Elsinger has made a tremendous impact on the lives of hundreds of girls in our area for her work over the past 40 years. She has lead, mentored, influenced and inspired Girl Scout troops for two generations.

**Niles Good Neighbor**

*Alicia Janis*

Alicia Janis is a unique winner to this award. She has taken her culinary talents and created a spirit of community with her cakes, and her dedication to the kitchen in the senior center. She offers rides to friends and neighbors to help with errands and cooks dinner twice a week for her church. She is a neighbor to all.

**Police Officer "Special Agent"**

*Joanne Birkenheier*

Joanne Birkenheier is truly one of the best and brightest in Niles. Her dedication as an officer and her work with NIPAS (Northern IL Police Alarm System) has been an asset to the police department and more importantly helps make our community safe.

**Teacher of the Year**

*Penny Guerrieri*

Educators work tirelessly to instill values so our children can lead the future responsibly and honestly. Penny Guerrieri is an eighth grade teacher who has been influencing and leading our youngsters and her efforts and accomplishments span over 20 years of teaching.

**Unsung Worker**

*Not Enough Hours in the Day*

*Jim Majewski*

Jim Majewski is the superintendent of Park Services and not only a dedicated employee of the Park District, but is also a volunteer who is always willing to go the extra mile. He performs his job with professionalism and dedication always giving unselfishly of his time and talents.

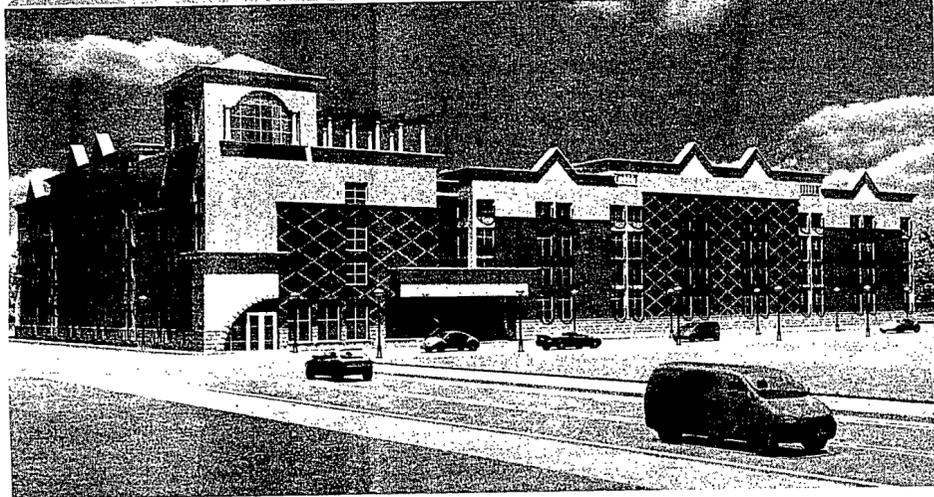
**Youth of the Year**

*Jerome John "J.J." Palliser*

J.J. Palliser is a fine young

**The Present – The Future**

The existing Summit Square facility at 10 N. Summit in Park Ridge (right) will be upgraded with a new façade, as seen in the artist's rendering (below). The \$10-million renovation of the facility will also include new one and two-bedroom units and upgrades to common areas. *Published March 22*



man, an accomplished leader and spokesman, his outstanding work volunteering includes: the Boy Scouts, student council, the public library, Cross & Anchor service club, theatre and the debate team.

**Commitment to Education**

*Holy Cross Community at Notre Dame High School*

After 51 years of educating the minds and hearts of more than 11,000 dons at Notre Dame High School, the priests of Holy Cross will complete their ministry of education this year. We are proud of what Notre Dame is today, and anticipate continued success in the future. *Published March 22*

**From 'Summit Square' to 'The Summit'**

Representatives of Summit Square Retirement Community announced a \$10-million renovation of the facility and a change in the name to "The Summit of Uptown."

Representatives for The Summit, located at 10 N. Summit in Uptown Park Ridge, intend to convert many of its existing studios into one and two-bedroom apartments and re-build the façade of the vintage 1960s landmark building to complement

the new upscale development in Uptown Park Ridge.

"The renovation will give us a fresh, contemporary look and position Summit to provide the amenities that today's active adults are looking for," said Marc Dennison, executive director of the Summit of Uptown. "Our ownership and management will stay the same and, of course, our staff's commitment to providing quality services for residents will remain unwavering." *Published March 22*

**One of 150 Great Illinois Places Right Here in Niles**

The Niles Police Station has been named one of the "150 Great Illinois Places."

To celebrate their 150th anniversary, the American Institute of Architecture has selected 150 great places in the state.

"It's because of the architecture," said Mike Jackson, state coordinator, about the Niles Police Station.

"We're very proud of this building," said Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki. "We feel like the corner [of Milwaukee and Touhy] is like a gateway to Niles." *Published March 29*

**MG rejects \$5M TIF Assistance Request for 'Preserves'**

The Morton Grove Village Board unanimously voted against granting a TIF assistance request of \$5 million from the developer of the Preserves of Morton Grove project at the village board meeting on Monday, March 26.

Two weeks ago, the developer presented the request of \$2.7 million, which would be up to a total of \$5 million with interest. The board decided to consult with S.B. Friedman and village staff and give the developer their answer at Monday's board meeting.

"It's a lot of money to put toward a project that is mostly condos," said Mayor Richard Krier. "If the village is going to be putting money into it then it should be for something much more needed in the village." *Published March 29*

**Edward Jones Ranked No.6**

The global financial services firm Edward Jones is the highest-ranking brokerage firm on BusinessWeek magazine's first-ever ranking of

"Customer Service Champs," according to the two Niles Edward Jones financial advisors. The St. Louis-based firm ranked No. 6 among 25 national and international companies that – according to the magazine's March 5 edition – are the "best providers of customer service."

The BusinessWeek list ranks the best providers of customer service and digs into the techniques, strategies and tools they use to deliver great service, according to the magazine.

"Edward Jones ranked 50 points higher than average full-service brokers overall," the magazine reported. "Their financial advisors, which received high marks for knowledge levels, scored 11.9 points higher than the industry average."

"We are delighted to be recognized by BusinessWeek, one of the most respected business publications in the country," said James D. Weddle, managing partner of Edward Jones. "It's another reflection of our commitment to providing outstanding service to our clients, the true judges of service quality." *Published March 29*

**Continued on next page**

Continued from previous page

**APRIL**

**Morton Grove Takes 'Action'**

The Action Party is back. Dan Staackmann, John Thill and Shel Marcus swept the polls on Tuesday, receiving more than double to votes of their closest rivals and defeating both the Caucus and Reform Parties.

"It's an emotional high," said Thill, as he experienced the taste of victory. "I didn't expect it."

"I'm extremely happy for Jack O'Brien," shared Staackmann, about the man who started the Action Party. "He's not with us, but he has left a legacy. We're very thankful to the people."

Many people were congratulating the trio, having drinks and happily celebrating at the Action Party's victory party at Rusty's Tavern in Morton Grove.

"I'm very humbled by it," said Shel Marcus, about the win.

When the Bugle called Mayor Richard Krier to hear his response to the election, he replied, "I'm at the Action party victory party now. The Action Party and the Caucus Party will become the Morton Grove party again. We're all committed to working for Morton Grove. I think they are fine candidates and fine people." *Published April 15*

**Blase Pleads Not Guilty To Additional Charges**

Prosecutors add six counts of filing false tax returns

Niles' long-time mayor

Nicholas B.

Blase pleaded not guilty last Thursday to six counts of filing false federal income tax returns that were added to the five counts of mail fraud already pending against him.



Nicholas Blase

In October, Blase, 78, pleaded not guilty to five counts of mail fraud that alleged Blase used his office to steer Niles businesses to buy insurance from Ralph Weiner Insurance Services, Inc. (RWA) and give preferential treatment to those who had the insurance. In exchange, prosecutors allege that RWA paid kickbacks to Blase in the form of commission payments to SMP Insurance Services, Inc. SMP was a shell company controlled by Blase, prosecutors say.

The new charges say that over \$420,000 in alleged kickbacks paid to SMP in the form of commissions were taxable income that was not reported on Blase's federal income tax returns for the last six years. *Published April 26*

**Voter Approve D64 Tax Increase**

Voters approved the Park Ridge Niles Dist. 64 referendum to add 44 cents to the district's limiting rate with 98% of the precincts

**Famous Author Dines at Kappy's**

Famous author Harry Petrakis visited Niles to speak last week and wanted dinner beforehand so he was taken for Greek Chicken at Kappy's.

George Alpolgianis of Kappy's said that Mr. Petrakis, who most recently wrote a collection of short stories titled "Legends of Glory and Other Stories," has also penned other works including the film "A Dream of Kings." After dinner he spoke at the Niles Library.

"When I heard him speak I felt like I was part of the speech itself I was entangled in the story he was telling," said Alpolgianis. "He is a phenomenal storyteller. He made his stories seem like real life as you listened to him." *Published April 26*

**Coming Next Week: 2007 Year in Review Part 2**



From left, victorious trustee candidates Dan Staackmann, John Thill and Shel Marcus take a break from the festivities at the Action Party's victory party at Rusty's in Morton Grove after election results came in. *Published April 15.*

counted, according to the Cook County Clerk Office website on Tuesday evening, April 17.

According to a press release put

out by Dist. 64 the night of the election, the "yes" votes totaled 52.6% of the votes. *Published April 26*



From right, Sophia Alpolgianis, Stacy Falagkas with the Hellenic Museum and her husband Andronicus, Author Harry Petrakis Presbetera Georgia Botsis and Father Constantine Botsis. *Published April 26*

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\*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is subject to change at the discretion of the Bank. As of December 10, 2007 5.947% APR represents a balloon loan amortized over a 30-year period and due in 15 years. A downpayment of 20% or greater and property insurance are required. The terms of repayment for a loan of \$150,000 are 179 payments at \$897.31 per month and the balance due with the final payment.



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**From Your Friends At  
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## Maine Township Seniors Plan Winter Trips, Classes and More

### MaineStreamers

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

### Cook County's Cell Phones For Seniors Program

Friday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. No cost - registration required.

The Cook County Sheriff's Department will be offering their "Free Emergency Cell Phones for Cook County Senior Citizens" Program. Register to come and receive a free cell phone to use in cases of an emergency.

### Digital TV Transition Program

Monday, Jan. 14, 10 to 11 a.m. Presenter: Agent Chris Jelinek, FCC. No charge - Registration required.

This program is a short presentation by the Federal Communications Commission. The main focus will be

the changes to off-air television signals that will take effect on Feb. 17, 2009. After that date, federal law requires that all full-power TV stations stop broadcasting in analog format and broadcast only in digital format. FCC personnel will explain what this means to you and your television viewing. There will also be a general overview of the FCC and the Commission's Chicago District Office.

### 'Viva Las Vegas' Luncheon

Tuesday, Jan. 15, Crystal Palace, 2648 Dempster, Park Ridge. \$14 members/\$15 guests +\$1 fish.

Start Your New Year right by joining us for our last luncheon at Crystal Palace. Our lunch will be cream of mushroom soup, roast pork, mashed potatoes, garden mixed vegetables and strawberry cheesecake ice cream for dessert. Then, don't dare miss our funny entertainer, Vito Zatto. Vito is a Las Vegas style singer, comedian and impersonator. Bingo to follow. Reservations and cancellations due by Tuesday, Jan. 8.

### Used Cell Phones Collected

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.

### Niles Senior Center Will Be Closed Christmas Day

Cash Dash, January 9, 9:30-1:00 p.m. FREE

Unclaimed property? Insurance Claims? See what the state of Illinois maybe holding for you. A representative of the State Treasurer's Office will be on hand to research if you have any lost or forgotten cash coming your way. It doesn't take long to check...just a few minutes.

### Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Open Enrollment

Are you considering enrolling in or changing your Medicare part D plan? The Annual Coordinated Election Period (AEP) for Medicare Part will end December 31, 2007. Carefully review your plan during this time as you might

### New Year's Party

Ring in the New Year at the Morton Grove Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Frank K and Company will provide the musical entertainment and the dance floor will be wide open. Party favors and refreshments will enhance the celebration. Register in-person at the Senior Center at a cost of \$4 for non-members and \$5 for members. There must be a minimum of 40 people registered.

### Cholesterol Screening

The Morton Grove Senior Center's monthly Cholesterol Screening will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Swedish Covenant Hospital will adminis-

### Niles Senior News

want to switch drug plans if another plan better meets your needs.

### Feel the Heat!

(A Return to Summer), Wed., January 16, Noon - 2 p.m. \$10. Join us as we warm up with a delicious Hawaiian themed meal featuring Chicken Kabobs, Rice, Fruit Salad and Dessert. Following lunch, we'll be transported to the beautiful Hawaiian Islands by the beautiful Barefoot Hawaiian dancers.

### 'The Buck Stops Here!'

The Harry Truman Story, Thurs., Jan. 24 2:30 p.m. \$3. This slide show presentation includes a biography of Harry Truman, a tour of his home, and a visit to the Truman Presidential Library. Reservations required.

### Morton Grove Senior News

coffee will be provided. The cost for six months of Thursdays is just \$7 for Morton Grove Senior Center Members and \$9 for non-members. Register in-person at the Senior Center.

### New Scrabble Club

The new Morton Grove Senior Center Scrabble Club will be starting at 12noon on Thursday, January 3. Games will be played throughout the afternoon (until 4:45 p.m.) every Thursday and

### Five Wishes: An Advance Directive with "Heart & Soul,"

Wed., January 30 1:30 p.m. Learn About the Five Wishes document- A Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare all in one, easy to read, non-threatening, legal document that makes your choices clear - no attorney required. FREE. Please register in advance.

### The Good-Bye Girl,

Thursday, Jan. 10th 10:15-5:30 p.m. \$55. Enjoy this musical production of Neil Simon's well-known film at the Drury Lane Oakbrook. Prior to the show, we will lunch at Drury Lane on Tilapia or Roast Sirloin of Beef (your choice). Call for ticket availability (847 588-8420).

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.

### 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' Movie

Toula is 30 and unmarried, which means as a nice Greek girl, she's a failure. All her cousins did the right thing - married Greek boys and made Greek babies. So everyone worries, "What will become of Toula?" The movie, including popcorn, begins at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7 in the Morton Grove Senior Center. Register for this free program by calling the Senior Hot Line at 847/470-5223.

## Obituaries

### Marilyn Beck, 85

Marilyn Beck, 85, of Niles, passed away Friday, December 14, 2007 at Lutheran General Hospital. She was born December 16, 1921 in Illinois. Beloved wife of the late George Hansen and the late Henry "Bud" Beck. Cherished mother of Michael (Nancy Randa) Hansen and Sheryl Hansen. Grandmother of Bryn (Michael Schulman) Harris. Loving Stepmother of Harvey Beck, Jerry Beck, Kathy (Bill) Gruber and Christine (Steve) Goodman. Step grandmother of Derick, Danielle and Jessica Goodman, Mary and Katie Gruber, Jeffrey Beck and Christine Engels. Step great grandmother of 3. Sister of the late Eleanor (E.J.) Jost and Charlotte (Joseph) Salvatore.

Services will be held December 28, 2007 at Simkins Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Simkins Funeral Home. Interment at Irving Park Cemetery, Chicago. She was a former School Nurse at Park View Elementary, former Nurse at Lutheran General Hospital and Skokie Valley Hospital. Memorials to: Rainbow Hopice, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

### Theodore R. Ochonicki "Ted", 82

Theodore R. Ochonicki "Ted", 82, of Morton Grove, passed away Monday, December 17, 2007. He was born June 27, 1925 in Chicago. Beloved husband of the late Trudy. Loving father of Randall

(Patricia), Michael (Sandra), Diane Rogers and Robert. Grandfather of Michael, Thomas, Meghan, Adam and Marissa. Brother of the late Richard. Services were held December 24, 2007 at St. Martha Church. Arrangements handled by Simkins Funeral Home. Interment: Cremation. He was a Jeweler.

### Mildred E. Smith, 98

Mildred E. Smith, 98, of Niles, passed away Friday, December 14, 2007 at St. Benedict Nursing Home. She was born January 23, 1909 in Chicago. Beloved daughter of the late Andrew Berg and the late Sigrid (Nejen) Berg. Loving wife of the late Benjamin Smith. Cherished mother of Patricia (James) Reddington, Tom (Julie) Smith, Bill (Ann) Smith

and Terry Smith. Grandmother of the late Jimmy, the late Michael Reddington, Patti (Dave) Centella, the late Diane (Ed) Murray, Kathy (Bill) Murrin, Tom (Daria) Reddington, Janet (Mike) Hoffer, Sara (Steve) Jackson, Tom, Tim (Carin) Smith and Mara (Jeff) Jost. Services were held December 17, 2007 at St. Benedict Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at All Saints Cemetery. She was a Homemaker. Memorials to: In Lieu of flowers donations to St. Benedict Home.

### Clara Ellen Taylor, 79

Clara Ellen Taylor, 79, of DesPlaines, passed away Monday, December 17, 2007 at home. She was born December 2, 1928 in Chicago. Beloved

daughter of the late Corlett J. Henry, Jr. and the late Clara F. (nee Osterberg) Corlett. Loving wife of the late Ray C. Taylor. Cherished mother of Henry (Judy) Taylor of DesPlaines. Sister of Henrietta (the late Denis) Healy, the late Alvin (the late Irene) Foerster and the late Elizabeth (the late Edward) Zingraf. Aunt and great aunt of many. Services were held December 21, 2007 at Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Arrangements handled by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. Interment at Acacia Park Cemetery. She was an X-Ray Technician at Veterans Administration Hospital. Memorials to: Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

By Rose Bennett Gilbert  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We have seven children (under 18 and living at home). We moved into my house because it had the most bedrooms (four),

### DECOR SCORE

but we are still strapped for living space. My husband thinks we should renovate the basement, but that seems so '50s to me - having a "rec room" in the basement. Do you have any other suggestions?

A: Race to your nearest bookstore to buy a copy of "Easy Home Makeovers," a smart new book by Mervyn Kaufman (Filipacchi Publishing). With his broad experience in home design



**World Down There** - You can find gracious new living space at the bottom of the basement stairs. (CNS Photo by Lydia Cutter)

## This Basement is a Bargain

and renovating, Kaufman has pulled together 160 pages of bright ideas for the space-shy and decor-deprived. Of special interest to you, the entertainment center we show here is located - ta dum! - in a renovated basement. It's just part of a new living area that also includes a home office, bathroom, wet bar, exercise room and play area for the kids.

You could borrow the ideas and maybe use the space for a bedroom, too. You had better check your local codes first because some prohibit basement bedrooms for reasons of safety and health.

At least, you could turn the below-grade space into an above-

average recreation area for the entire family. That's what happened here when designer Peggy Fisher went to work. The built-in cabinets neatly organize the entertainment equipment; Arts and Crafts furnishings make the space cool and stylish; a soft palette of earthy colors lends sophistication you might not expect to find "below stairs," as the English say.

The bottom line: space is where you find it. A competent design team can help you handle the nitty-gritty of raw basement spaces, such as ductwork, support columns and necessities like furnaces and hot water heaters. Then a good interior designer can

turn that erstwhile "rec room" into worthwhile family living space.

### New Design Ideas

Ever wonder where do new design ideas come from?

The answer is: from all over the world, to judge from Design Lab '07, the fifth competition sponsored by Electrolux, the manufacturer of home and professional appliances (including equipment for the kitchen and laundry, as well as its famous vacuum cleaners).

Based on its Scandinavian design heritage and what company execs call "holistic, thoughtful design," Electrolux seeks innovative home appliance ideas from design students all over the world.

The latest Design Lab, held in November in Paris, was an eight-ring circus of eco-friendly ideas,

drawing finalists from Europe, Asia, South America and the U.S. The students' out-of-the-box inventions included a composter and garbage bin that uses microorganisms to decompose organic waste, and an ingenious "fog" shower that needs only 2 liters of water for five minutes of washing (today's most efficient showers take a whopping 26 liters).

Another finalist proposed a solar food cooker that utilizes spray-on solar cells and induction heating. Another offered a rotating dual kitchen sink and water-saving, detergent-free dishwasher. A student from South Korea came up with a solar-powered air cleaner for indoor use; another, from China, designed an energy-saving refrigerator with an interior honeycomb of individual compartments.

The student from the U.S. (Juan Ying-Hao of Cranbrook Academy of Art) suggested a decomposer that turns certain plastic bags into compost for plants.

Top winner, named by a panel of celebrity judges (including Celine Cousteau, granddaughter of Jacques Cousteau, and Henrik Otto, head of global design at Electrolux), was Levente Szabo, a student at Moholy-Nagy University of Art & Design in Budapest. For a prize worth 5,000 Euros and a six-month internship at an Electrolux Design Center, Szabo dreamed up a washing machine that uses "soap nuts" to clean clothes. His new-fangled "e-wash" is actually based on a centuries-old idea: using a natural plant (sapindus mukorossi) instead of eco-unfriendly detergent.

### LEGAL NOTICE

The Village of Niles Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Monday, January 7th, 2008**, at 7:30 P.M. at the Niles Municipal Building, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, Illinois, to hear the following matter(s).

**08-ZP-01** - Guiliana Younan, 4955 W. Coyle, Skokie, IL 60077, requesting Special Use to Niles Zoning Ordinance Section VIII (B)(3) Automobile laundries and a Variation of Section X (B)(10)(g) to reduce the required stacking of 20 spaces to 10 or (50%) for the purpose of an indoor hand car wash at 6747 W Touhy Ave.

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.

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### LEGAL

#### LEGAL NOTICE/ASSUMED NAME

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. D07109825 on November 28, 2007.

Under the Assumed Name of SMOR, with the business located at 9801 Canavan Ct., Niles, IL 60714. The true name(s) and resident address of the owner(s) is Stacy Alcalá, 9801 Canavan Ct., Niles, IL 60714 and Bridget Alcalá, 644 Marston. Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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