

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

MARCH 31, 2011 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.NILESHERALDSPECTATOR.COM ★ \$2.00 An edition of the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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FOOD



OLD IS NEW

Clay pot cooking making comeback

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 Home garden
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THAT'S 'MR.' DEMON TO YOU

Delvecchio Orozco is crowned the Maine East High School's Mr. Demon on Friday. PAGE 4
 | Michelle LaVigne~Sun-Times Media

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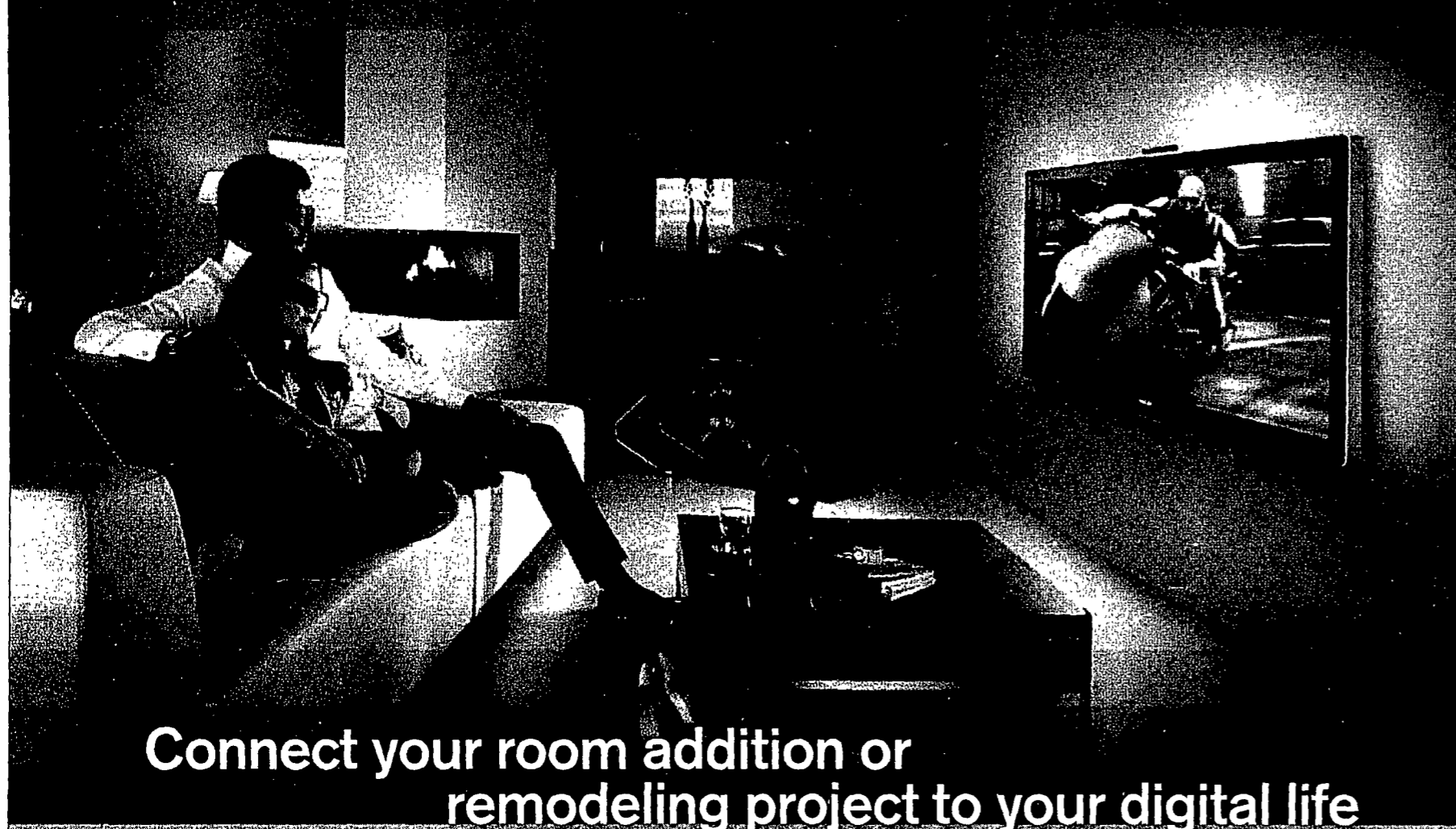


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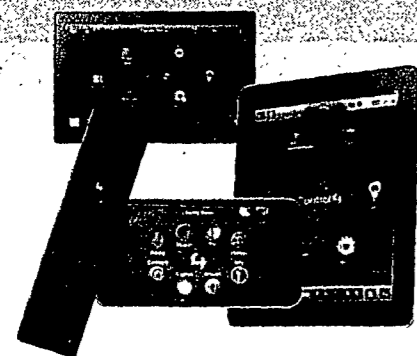
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Local News

Managing Editor: Matt Schmitz
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THIS WEEK: MEET YOUR PARK, LIBRARY AND DISTRICT 71 CANDIDATES | SCHOOLS: MAINE S. PARTY ON | POLITICS: VILLAGE BOARD HOPEFULS ATTEND FORUM | NEIGHBORS: AREA MAN REPORTS FROM JAPAN

DISTRICT 219

Agreement saves 10 teachers' jobs

By NATALIE HAYES
CONTRIBUTOR

After nearly two months of negotiations between Niles Township District 219's Board of Education and the Niles Township Federation of Teachers regarding a proposal that aimed to eliminate 10 tenured teaching positions, both parties signed an agreement March 21 that will save those teachers.

Earlier this month the two parties were delayed in coming to terms on the agreement over discrepancies in the language used in the document, but after an undisclosed update to the agreement was made last week, the board unanimously approved it without discussing it openly at the meeting.

Pankaj Sharman, union president and Niles North teacher, signed the letter March 21, but was not present for the board meeting.

The board had previously approved the cuts to the physical welfare and applied science and technology departments as part of a five-year strategic plan to focus the district's resources on college prep and core courses like English, reading, math and science.

But after teachers, parents and students voiced strong opinions against the cuts, the board reconsidered its position, and eventually signed the agreement preventing the

cuts.

"The contract says that you don't move out tenured teachers if there are untenured positions that could potentially be moved," said Jim Szczezepaniak, community relations coordinator for District 219. "Rather than eliminate those teaching positions, those tenured teachers will be moved to another area they're qualified to teach, if they are qualified to teach one of the core subjects."

The approval will likely mean that several non-tenured positions could be bumped out in the future.

Under the agreement, the 22 most senior teachers in the physical welfare department are protected from cuts, while the "least senior members of the department" will be given until the 2016-17 school year to recertify in other areas.

If at that time the district decides there's a need to reduce teachers in the physical welfare department, those teachers would be transferred to departments where non-tenured teachers exist, according to the agreement.

A \$80,000 tuition reimbursement plan was also included as part of the agreement, and will be available each school year through 2017 for teachers who take pre-approved course work towards additional certification.



Super-sized 'Sorry'

Children play a jumbo sized game of "Sorry" during the Gemini Family Fun Fest earlier this month. | Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media

POLITICS

New ethical era defines trustee races

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

"Transparency" and "open government" are relatively new terms being used in connection with Niles village politics.

Four incumbent trustees looking to remain on the Niles Village Board of Trustees say that since the 2008 conviction of longtime former Mayor Nicholas Blase on corruption charges the goal of establishing an open government with more community involvement is being met. At the same time, two independent candidates challenging the incumbents on April 5 feel that while in-roads have been made, holes in the process remain.

"It's one step forward, two steps back," said both Mary Marusek and Rosemary Palicki, the race's two independents.

Incumbents Joe LoVerde, Al Weel, Chris Hanusiak and James Hynes say they hope to remain on the Village Board in order to continue work that has been done to restore integrity to village government and improve its openness.

"It's been a short period of time and we've done a lot in that short time," Hanusiak said.

All four candidates supported the village's very first ethics code which was adopted in January. The code, passed after a two-year process, sets guidelines for elected officials and village employees when it comes to matters of disclosure, conflicts of in-

terest and accepting gifts, to name just a few.

Hanusiak said the code is a way to "bring back integrity" to the village. An ethics board was also created to review complaints of ethics violations and make recommendations to the Village Board and mayor. LoVerde serves as chairman of the ethics committee and said a reason he is seeking re-election is "to continue to protect, support and enforce the newly adopted ethics code."

Palicki said the code needs improvements.

"The ethics ordinance does not address the integral problems Niles had," Palicki said.

Neither Palicki nor Marusek believes elected officials should serve on the ethics board since they will ultimately be the ones hearing the board's recommendations and acting upon them. Palicki also feels the village is lacking an established process for selecting candidates to serve on boards and commissions when a vacancy results.

"There needs to be a policy in place that avoids the appearance of favoritism," she said.

Weel, Hanusiak and Hynes were all appointed to the Village Board based on recommendations by Mayor Robert Callero.

In addition to the ethics code, the incumbents point to a policy allowing public comment at village board meetings before the board votes on issues as a step in improving open-

ness. The trustees also praise the opening of budget meetings to the public, something that did not occur under Blase's administration.

"The people who were not interested in government are starting to come out," LoVerde noted.

Marusek and Palicki point out that while budget meetings are now public, the audience was not given an opportunity to comment or ask questions this year. And though village board meetings also include time for public comment on agendas, there have been instances when the mayor has stated comment will not be taken, Palicki said.

"People should have a right to make their final statement before (the village board) takes a vote," she said.

Marusek also calls for village meetings to be broadcast on cable access channels and for residents who have raised concerns about an issue during a public meeting to be notified when the village board will be voting on that particular matter.

Weel said he and the other incumbents want to change the perception of some residents who feel nothing has really changed in how village government operates in Niles.

"Change will take time," Weel said. "We've started that movement to show it's not the same old village."

Hynes and Marusek are running for a two-year term on the village board while the remaining candidates are vying for three four-year seats.



Contestants for the Maine East High School's Mr. Demon competition get ready backstage prior to their opening dance 'All Things Sexy.' | Michelle LaVigne-Sun-Times Media

MAINE EAST
Choosing 'Mr. Demon' takes more than runway

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
With gymnastic flips and a saxophone solo, Maine East High School junior Delvecchio Orozco secured the much sought-after title of Mr. Demon 2011 on Friday. Orozco was one of 11 Maine East students to participate in the tongue-in-cheek male beauty and talent competition which raised nearly \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society, according to organizer Judy Tyler. The contestants, who were chosen following an audition in January, were judged by Maine East staff members Bryan Kett, Mike Mastrolonardo and Karen Hall on their talent and how well they answered questions from student emcees. The contest also included a satirical swimsuit competition and an opportunity for the contestants to rile up the crowd and cheer them on to a win. The contest drew an audience of more than 300 students and guests. Tyler said the participants responded enthusiastically to the experience. 'I think they were proud they were part of something that was raising funds for cancer,' she said. Mr. Demon, named for Maine East's mascot, is an event sponsored by the school's Gifted Lyceum academic program as a service learning project to raise money for a charitable cause. Other contestants and their talents included senior Aaron Cristino, magic tricks; senior Ben Vazquez, dancing; senior Brian Vistan, piano; senior Gathoon Garmos, dancing; junior George Zakharra, dunking; senior Jason Thomas, bass guitar; senior John Michael Agsao, dance; junior Justin Stancy, comedy; senior Karol Grzebiec, dancing; senior Raja Umair Amjad, dancing; and senior Rendell Pineda, keyboards. Emcees were students Johanna Orr and Pawel Geneja.

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE
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LAST WEEK
TOP WEB STORIES
1. Salary freeze could follow staff, program cuts in District 63
With more than two dozen jobs in jeopardy hundreds of teachers and other staff packed Nelson School's auditorium March 9 as the East Maine School District 63 Board of Education voted to eliminate programs and staff positions to alleviate some of its budget problems.
2. Tentative Niles budget projects \$1.6M deficit
The first of two public budget workshops for the tentative fiscal year 2012 budget that includes a proposed 7.5-percent increase in the water rate was held.
3. Children hold fundraiser for earthquake, tsunami victims
Students of St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Japanese Preschool in Niles gave a meaningful and heartwarming performance at Mitsuwa Market in Arlington Heights.
4. Mather transfer, solid junior class strengthen Niles West
BASEBALL - After a senior-laden team won a school-record 28 games in 2009, Niles West underwent a rebuilding year last spring.
5. School Board Endorsements: Stick with vets in 207
In the April 5 race for three four-year terms on the Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education, we endorse Donna Pellar-Ryden, Joann Braam and Sean Sullivan.
Read these and other articles at pioneerlocal.com/niles

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION
Niles Herald-Spectator (USPS 390-680) Vol. 62, No. 14. Published weekly by Sun-Times Media, LLC, 3701 West Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026. Single copy \$2.00. Periodicals postage paid at Glenview, IL 60026 and additional offices. One-year subscription - \$32.00. In county only, Call (847) 486-9300 to subscribe. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Niles Herald-Spectator, c/o Pioneer Newspapers Inc., 3701 West Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.

NILES PARK BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROFILES

Niles voters on April 5 will elect three commissioners to the Niles park board, two for a four-year term and one for a two-year term. The four-year candidates include incumbent Ray Czarnik and Elaine Heinen, and challenger Jeffrey Sok. (Sok did not respond to the Niles Herald-Spectator's questionnaire.) Candidates vying for the two-year seat include incumbent Joseph Romano and challenger Dennis O'Donovan.

ELAINE HEINEN
Skills she brings
I have financial, budgeting and administrative experience also as a paralegal.
Biggest issues facing the park district?
Money is a big issue - making sure it is invested well.
What is working well?
The park district is working well. You can tell by how many people are using the parks and the pool.
What can be done better?
I think the park board should work together.
Years as resident
40.
Profession
Paralegal for law firm.
RAY CZARNIK
Experience
Ray Czarnik was elected to the Niles park board in 2008.
Why he's running
I am thrilled to be a part of the park district. I am

running for re-election to be able to finish the capital-improvement projects at Grennan Heights and the renovation of Iceland, which includes an additional ice surface outdoors and also interior renovation to bring it up to date with all of our other facilities. This will then complete all of our upgrades and we'll have state-of-the-art facilities throughout the entire park district.
Skills he brings
We have tremendous diversification on our park board. My background is business. I am president and general manager of Napleton Automotive's Chrysler Jeep and Dodge dealership. I live this economy day to day and see firsthand the impact it makes on the average consumer. Today the business world is ever-changing and my job is to ensure we have a business plan that works. We empower our staff to be able to make decisions whenever necessary so that they feel the importance of decision-making. We have monthly meetings where we have open discussions with our entire Staff. The ideas that have come from these meetings have changed the way we do business today. The success of any business is because of the employees. This is what I can contribute as a member of the park board.
Biggest issues facing the park board?
The biggest issue today is the state of our economy.
Czarnik, PAGE 16

JOE ROMANO
Experience
Joe Romano was appointed to the park board in February 2010. He is running for a two-year term.
Why he is running
The Niles Park District has played an important part in the growth and development of my kids. Because of these experiences, my interest in becoming more involved in keeping the Niles Park District moving in the right direction was started. After serving on the board for a year now, I learned early on how many positive changes have occurred over the last 13 years, from the executive director on down, including the current Board of Commissioners. The hard work the employees do and the pride and dedication they have is obvious. I am proud to be on the board.
Skills he brings
In my short time on the Board of Commissioners I learned what goes into keeping the quality services that are provided. I have a passion to serve my community as a police officer and a park-board commissioner, and have enjoyed being a part of a service that touches the lives of so many people of all ages. I have an open mind and will listen to any ideas. I understand the importance of quality recreation and the role it plays in a well-balanced community.
Biggest issues facing the board?
The Park District has adequate balances to operate and has received an A+ financial rating. There is a constant monitoring of expenses and cuts are always talked about with staff. Capital-improvement projects need to continue to move forward. The upgrade of Grennan Heights and Iceland will complete the renovations and upgrades of all facilities. I will also seek out any opportunity to secure additional open space for future expansion for soccer,

DENNIS O'DONOVAN
Experience
Dennis O'Donovan is running for a two-year term on the Niles park board.
Why he is running
I have been a resident of Niles for 51 years. I grew up with the park being involved with Niles baseball, men's softball and other intramural sport programs. I volunteered as a coach for a couple years and now my children, ages 12, 10 and 7, are utilizing the Park District. I want to be a part of the great programs and services the park offers and also be a part of the strategic-planning process.
What skills he brings
I can offer the residents of the Niles Park District a wide range of experiences. I work for the village as a building inspector so I have extensive knowledge of construction and codes. I have served on the Niles Public Library District Board of Trustees for 13 years and was president of the board during three of those years, and have been involved in the budgeting process and am currently involved in the 10-year strategic-planning stage. I am the president of the St. John Brebeuf Holy Name Society and have coordinated many fundraising events. I'll work hard for this community because it is my family's home.
Biggest issues facing the Park District?
Twenty-five percent of the Niles population is age 65 or older, so we need to make sure we are providing for that large demographic. I'd like to find a place to put nice walking paths in the parks and offer more wellness programs. We also need to consider our growing Asian and Hispanic population to make sure we are providing programs and activities that appeal to this group. I would also like to explore the idea of putting in a dog park and skate park.
What is working well?
All programs seem to be doing very well.
What could be done better?
We can look for additional grant opportunities and possible marketing sponsorships with local businesses to generate additional revenue. I'd like to explore group discounts on expenses with other local government agencies and examine the idea of reciprocal agreements with other communities.
Years as resident
51.
Profession
Community Development Department for the village of Niles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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baseball and a possible skate park.
What is working well?
The staff delivers quality programs; the finances of the Park District are strong and thus no property-tax increases are needed. The facilities have been and are being renovated to continue to offer quality programs.
What could be done better?
We will look at the latest census and address the growth in our population. Also, the Park District should be as vigilant as possible to look at every opportunity for open space. The Park District receives excellent feedback from constituents. Every program participant is given an evaluation form to return to our marketing department. There is an evaluation form online as well and staff is constantly receiving e-mails, calls and letters indicating likes or improvements needed. If something needs to be done differently, staff will evaluate what changes are needed.
Years as resident
24.
Profession
I am a Niles police officer.

MAINE SOUTH

Volunteer outpouring a cause for 'Celebration'

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The Celebration is back on.

A group of parent volunteers have stepped up in an effort to save Maine South High School's popular post-prom party, Celebration, from cancellation this year. Plans call for the June 3-4 event to feature three hours of bowling, dancing and games at Brunswick Zone in Niles followed by a sunrise boat cruise on Lake Michigan, according to parent volunteer Sally Madden.

In the school's March Newsletter, parents were notified that a lack of volunteer support could potentially spell the end for the Celebration tradition — at least for the class of 2011. A small number of parents had gathered in the fall to begin planning the supervised, night-long event, but the committee disbanded after members apparently stopped coming to meetings, said Maine South Assistant Principal Rose Garlasco.

"In order to pull this off, you have to get a lot of people to volunteer," Garlasco said.

Madden saw the notice in the school newsletter and, after seeking her daughter's input, jumped in as an organizer.

"I was very sad because I know my daughter has been looking forward to it for the last three years," Madden said. "I was really surprised no one stepped up to do it."

Other parents who read the newsletter also expressed interest in saving Celebration and approximately 16 individuals turned out to a March 21 meeting to discuss the planning process, Madden said. She and parent Carol Bartkowitz have been named co-chairs of the Celebration committee.

"Everyone was just very positive about it," Madden said. "People really do want to see this happen."

For more than 20 years, Celebration has been promoted as a safe, supervised and alcohol-free post-prom for Maine South seniors, even those who do not attend the actual prom. In past years Celebration has featured entertainment at locations like ESPN Zone, Second City, Dave and Buster's or Houlihan's, followed by a cruise on Lake Michigan.

Attendance at Celebration has fluctuated over the years, according to Garlasco. Last year, about 200 students participated, but 10 years ago the number was closer to 400, she said. Generally, average attendance is around 300, with any-

where between 600 and 800 students attending the actual senior prom.

The Celebration committee normally hosts 10 to 12 fund-raisers in order to offset the cost to students and fund-raising efforts start early in the school year; Garlasco said. The largest fundraiser is a phone-a-thon where Maine South students participate and seek donations from members of the community.

It's late in the game and only three fund-raisers are in the works so far — including the phone-a-thon on April 12 and 13 — but Madden is optimistic she and her fellow volunteers can raise the \$15,000 needed to pull off Celebration 2011.

"We are pretty confident," she said. "Fortunately there was some money left in the fund from last year so we were able to put a deposit on the boat right away."

The next meeting of the Celebration 2011 planning committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at Maine South High School, 1111 S. Dee Rd., room C101. Anyone interested in taking part in planning Celebration is invited to attend. For more information contact Madden and Bartkowitz at mscelebration2011@gmail.com.

Celebration donations sought

The Maine South High School Celebration 2011 committee is seeking donations to help pay for the post-prom party. Donations can be mailed to Maine South Celebration 2011, P.O. Box 145, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Checks should be made out to Maine South High School, said Celebration Committee Co-Chair Sally Madden.

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VILLAGE BOARD RACES

Trustee hopefuls discuss goals at candidates forum

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Candidates for the Niles Village Board of Trustees answered various questions during a candidates forum March 24 at Culver School in Niles. State Rep. Elaine Nekritz, D-57th, moderated.

During the opening-statement portion of the village candidate section, candidate Rosemary Palicki said she was dissatisfied with Mayor Robert Callero's sometimes not allowing public comment on certain topics, such as removing the Nicholas Blase sign and video gaming in the village. Palicki, who is running for a four-year spot on the board, said she believes in openness, honesty and integrity.

Chris Hanusiak, who is running for re-election, talked about the village's tight ethics policies and economical budgets during his opening statement. He said he wanted to run on his record; a record of accomplishment.

Mary Marusek, running for a two-year term on the board, said there have been positive changes made to the board, such as open budget meetings, but she feels the change has been "slow and incomplete."

The opening statement of Jim Hynes, who is running for re-election against Marusek, he talked about Niles' recently being voted as "Best Place to Raise a Family," and the fact that the current trustees work well together as the village board on initiatives such as the village-wide comprehensive plan.

Candidates were asked what they believe the village is doing well and what they think could be done better.

Palicki said she believes the current board and mayor have tried hard to keep the taxes low. But she would like to look more closely at where tax money is going to and how efficient-

ly the money is being used. She would like to see village meetings broadcast so more people can learn about what's going on in the village.

Hanusiak said overall the village is doing everything well. He feels the village is progressing with the current comprehensive-planning process. He said the village has to keep planning and focusing on the long-term future of the village.

Marusek said Niles has been recognized as an affordable place to raise a family and she wants to see that continue. She said it's often difficult for residents to attend the meetings and she wants residents to be able to access information from other sources. She feels there should be more diversity on the board.

Hynes said although the village runs pretty well, there's always room for improvement. He supports looking into new sources of revenue that won't have a negative impact on residents. He'd also like to see village departments run more efficiently.

Candidates were asked how they would communicate with their constituents to understand their needs and interests.

Palicki said the village should broadcast meetings so that more members of the public can view them. If elected, she said she would like to hold open office hours to meet with residents and hear their ideas and concerns.

Hanusiak believes that the residents are becoming a lot more involved in village affairs. He mentioned the workshops at the senior center regarding the current comprehensive-planning process.

Marusek said the government in Niles has been very closed in the past. She wants to see people utilize the library as a resource for public information, such as the village budget. Hynes said it is important

to explore new ways to get information out to the public. He would like to see communication through the Internet and on Channel 6 on Comcast.

Candidates were asked what areas of the budget should receive closer scrutiny.

Palicki said a big concern in the budget is funding the police and fire pensions. Other areas she feels need closer scrutiny are the development of shopping centers and the Niles Free Bus.

Hanusiak said officials are scrutinizing the whole budget in a public forum, as opposed to the past where the process was closed. He wants to look into new ways to receive revenue that won't negatively impact residents.

Marusek feels Niles Family Services and the Niles Free Bus should be looked at closely. She also does not feel nonresidents should be paying the same amount as residents for certain services and she wants to look for new sources of revenue that won't hurt the residents.

Hynes feels the village board should be involved in the entire budget process at an earlier point in time. He wants to see a balanced budget. He also feels Family Services should be looked at closely.

Candidates were asked what they would do about the tentative move of W.W. Grainger from the large industrial area it occupies in Niles.

Palicki said that Niles doesn't have a downtown area and she suggested conducting studies to determine if it is feasible to develop the Grainger location as a retail area with a Metra train stop.

Hanusiak said the village's community development team has been working with developers and businesses in an effort to redevelop the area. He noted that the village occupancy for its retail areas is at 96 percent. He

said when businesses consider locating in the village they don't just look at the land, but also at the community as a whole.

Marusek said she is concerned because Grainger is a major employer in the village and a significant business. She said they need to make sure they keep those

types of businesses in the village and the industrial area should be strong.

Hynes said Grainger's move leaves a "huge footprint." He said the village's economic-development team is trying to get more businesses to fill this huge footprint.

The candidates were also

asked if they have received political contributions from village employees or unions representing them and each one replied that they have not. The candidates all said that fire and police pensions have been underfunded in the past and that funding the pensions should be a priority.

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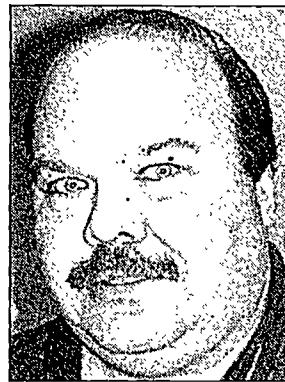
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DISTRICT 71 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILES

Four candidates, including two incumbents and two challengers, are vying for school-board seats in Niles Elementary School District 71. The incumbents include James Mahoney and Paul Heck, and the challengers are Tina Nielsen and Jim Grammas. The four candidates will compete for three four-year terms.

JAMES MAHONEY



is convincing the tax-paying residents that District 71 is not the reason their taxes go up each year.

What is working well

I think that the school board has adopted a sound fiscal plan and we are implementing this during difficult economic times. I feel that the board's goal is to make sure our students are getting the best education and that we employ the best teachers to teach our children while providing them with a safe building and all available learning tools while still keeping within our financial plan.

Experience

Elected to the District 71 school board in 2007.

Why he is running

I am currently finishing my first term and I believe that I have been a positive member of the board and I want to continue to make District 71 a great school district.

Skills he brings

I have a technical background and a buildings-and-grounds background and I am currently on both of those district committees.

Biggest issues facing school district

The first issue is the lack of state funding that is affecting all school districts in Illinois. The second issue

What can be done better?

I think we as the board and our administrators will continue to work within our financial plan and continue to search for new ways to educate our children. I also think that we need to reach out to the parents of our students and open better communication so that they are aware of all the programs available to their children.

Years as a resident

49.

Profession

Technical support supervisor at the Niles Police Department.

TINA NIELSEN



portant transparency and accountability is for the community. As a school board member I can listen and bring my ideas to the table.

What skills do you bring to the table?

Being an active parent for 12 years at Culver has given me the opportunity to volunteer with the PTA in many different areas such as room parent to coordinating Family Fun Night to helping on different committees when needed. I also was a member of the Strategic Plan Committee for Culver. We all want what is best for our children; when you are actively involved in your school you realize that you want what is best for all children. Again, because of my profession, I can bring many skills to the board table. I understand the procedures, policies, law and the finance for example working with the school-improvement process and strategic planning, establishment of the district's mission, creation of goals and activities plans to meet their goals. In the district that I am employed for I am currently participating in a referendum wherein I have gathered facts such as the history, as well as the current financial needs and organized them to explain to

Why are you running?

I have two reasons why I am running for the board. My first is because I am a parent that is very interested in my child and all students' education. Culver has been such a positive influence on my children through the years and I have been an active parent, as well. I would like to be a part of the continuation of all students' achievements at Culver. My second reason is because of the profession that I am in. I am currently in my fourth year as an assistant to the superintendent and recording secretary for the school board in a different district. This position has allowed me to learn about the law, procedures and the policies of the Board of Education. Because of my profession I have learned more about school issues and how im-

Nielsen, PAGE 9

JIM GRAMMAS



ment units (including school districts) with some of their day-to-day financial needs. I interact daily with the district's superintendents and finance directors of schools and understand the issues and the challenges they face. I have firsthand knowledge of state government and the impact it may have on the district; for example, how health-care changes can impact the budget and what opportunities the district has to save money with available financial grants.

Why he is running

I believe my qualifications and experience are well suited for the school board, but I am running for a greater reason than that. My family knows no other home than Niles — I grew up here, went to Culver School, to Niles West, my parents still live here, I go to church here. Most importantly, I am raising my two daughters here. As someone with deep roots in Niles, a love for Niles, and who is betting his family's future on Niles, I believe I can be a voice on the school board for the citizens of Niles.

Skills he brings

My 17 years of experience in the banking industry give me insight in how to guide the district through tumultuous financial times. Currently, as vice president for Harris Bank, I assist local governments and govern-

Biggest issues facing school district

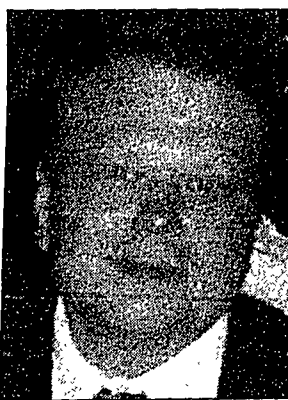
The biggest issues any board in this environment face is the financial troubles that could occur without proper leadership. I will emphasize fiscal responsibility and accountability. My goals include maintaining a balanced budget and a sound financial position. A strong school district is not only crucial to the future of our children, but to all of our property values and to the continued prosperity of the place we all call home — Niles.

What is working well?

The board continuously has had strong leadership and in a challenging financial environment they were able to maintain staff, activities and were able to lower fees.

Grammas, PAGE 9

PAUL HECK



Experience

Paul Heck was elected to the Culver District 71 school board in 2007.

Why he is running

Well, I had not intended to run again. I ran the first time concerned for how our tax dollars were being spent. I discovered that the board members were very responsible in that regard. In the years that I served I was able to bring my life skills to the table and help to save the district hundreds of

thousands of dollars. I was asked to run again by the board members and decided I could give it another four years and hopefully continue to work with the board and the staff to expand on the strides we have made in making Culver the great school that it is.

Skills he brings

My skills abound in cost reduction, yet maintaining quality level. I come from a business background with very strong skills in con-

struction, project operations, as well as a degree in culinary arts. I owned Heck's Catering in Chicago, which because of the size of the operation gave me the skills in many different areas from operations to human resources.

Biggest issues facing the school district

In my opinion, the biggest issues are going to be to control costs and be able to deliver the services to the community that they have

come to expect. As you know our economy is facing difficult times to say the least. It is my hope that we can continue to move ahead without putting any more tax burden on the residents and that is my personal goal.

What is working well

I feel we have a great staff; everyone seems to have Culver and the community first and foremost. Achieving that alone is a major step toward success.

What can be done better?

Everything can always be better. We should reach for the stars and encourage our children to do the same and never become complacent.

Years as resident

9.

Profession

I am the owner of several businesses. I am a caterer; own a commercial-restaurant-equipment company, and a heavy underground construction company.

CANDIDATES FORUM

District 71 school board hopefuls greet voters at event

By NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

Four candidates vying for three open seats on the board of Niles Elementary School District 71 attended a "meet the candidates" event hosted by Culver School's PTA on March 14. A crowd of more than 60 school staff members and parents gathered to hear incumbents Jim Mahoney and Paul Heck, and newcomers Tina Nielsen and Jim Grammas, answer questions about their qualifications, service and priorities.



Candidates for District 71 school board participated in a meet-and-greet event at Culver School on March 14. | Natasha Wasinski-For Sun-Times Media

James Mahoney

Mahoney sits on more committees than any other board member. His background is in technology and he is experienced in buildings and grounds work. "I think our strength here is in our teachers, our board and everyone working together toward the common goal of our children," said Mahoney, whose three children are Culver students.

He said the fiscally smart school board has allowed Culver to "make strides" and continue its programs while neighboring districts like 63 are laying off teachers and eliminating services. Mahoney credits the

board with bringing some of the district's dated policies into modern times to adequately address issues of nepotism and ethics.

He is opposed to Illinois lawmakers' recent push to cut the state's 295 districts in half by consolidation of districts.

"I really believe this is the point where school districts and teachers unions and others need to go down to Springfield to stop the madness," he said.

Paul Heck

Heck, whose two children graduated from Culver, said he joined the board four

years ago to see how tax dollars were being spent. To his surprise, he said, he didn't find much waste.

Heck brings extensive experience in building and grounds work, which he said allowed him to help Culver save money and keep its structure secure. Certified in heating and air conditioning, Heck identified cost-savings in the school's HVAC contracts because "the contractor was no longer able to lie to us," Heck said.

Family-owned Heck's Catering, 5131 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, provided him with ample business experience in fiscal responsibility.

items run hand-in-hand wherein transparency, which is having the ability to communicate clearly and in a timely manner, and accountability, which is holding the district accountable for its action plans within the strategic studies.

What do you feel is working well right now in the school district?

Culver has maintained a healthy budget during these difficult economic times. Niles also has been voted the "Best Place to Raise a Family." A big percentage of that vote is because of the excellent education Niles schools have provided for many years. In reviewing the cash reserve from the

fiscal year 2010, the most current cash reserve to five years out, Culver is planning to maintain a healthy budget. In my opinion, Niles has continued to have low tax rates while offering an excellent education.

What could be done better?

I believe that the transparency and accountability can be improved. Communications with parents in a timely manner on issues that directly impact the students on a daily basis need to be improved. For example implementing a parent suggestion e-mail wherein parents can provide input on issues that directly impact their children and implementing transparency

procedures, which are specific procedures for communication with parents and the community. Said procedures can be used as guidelines for parents in communicating with the district.

No one squeezes the budget as hard as Culver, Heck said, adding: "We won't step over a dollar to pick up a dime."

Tina Nielsen

Nielsen said her experience as a recording secretary and assistant to the superintendent of another district has made her con-

cerned about transparency, accountability and communication at Culver School.

A resident of Niles for the past 20 years, Nielsen's two oldest children are District 71 graduates and her youngest is a Culver fourth-grader. She has been active in the PTA for the past 12 years and served on committees to place parents in homerooms and plan family nights. Despite her parental involvement at the school, Nielsen said she isn't always privy to important school news or events due to poor communication on behalf of the district. She specifically addressed how principal Roxanne Ferrici's dismissal in late-2010 went unannounced, and that she and other parents found out informally months after the Ferrici's departure.

Nielsen said this administrative change, and the fact

that Ferrici's salary is listed on the budget, has made increased transparency one of her biggest priorities if elected to the board.

"I run as a parent first," she said, "and will give my ideas where welcomed."

Jim Grammas

Before the event began, some of Grammas' former teachers sitting in the audience called "Jimmy" over to chat and catch up. Grammas is a lifelong Niles resident who graduated with his twin sister from Culver in 1986. His twin daughters now attend the school.

"I've invested my future in Niles," Grammas said.

For the past 17 years he's worked in banking and now serves as a vice president for Harris Bank. In his work Grammas assists local municipalities and school and park districts with their financial needs, including saving money and increasing their efficiencies. Grammas' said his unique experiences in financial services make him accustomed to leading, delivering results in high-pressure situations, and finding ways to succeed during difficult financial times, all of which he would bring to the board of education.

"I can help achieve what you want the board to do," he said.

Grammas said the district's strategic plan, working closer with municipalities, teacher contracts and hiring a new principal, are his biggest priorities.

Grammas

Continued from PAGE 8

What could be done better?

I think as a board they should always be trying to educate themselves about the issues and all members have a responsibility to their neighbor to be better everyday with the responsibility they have chosen to undertake.

Years as a resident

33.

Profession

I currently am employed as a vice president for Harris Bank; I assist local governments and government units (including school districts) with some of their day-to-day financial needs. I interact daily with the district's superintendents and finance directors of schools, and understand the issues and the challenges they face.

NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Meet your library trustee candidates

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

On April 5 voters will choose from three candidates to fill two six-year trustee terms in the Niles Public Library District.

Candidates include incumbent Barbara Nakanishi and challengers Danette Matyas and Douglas Bressler.

Barbara Nakanishi

In 2004, Nakanishi was appointed to the Niles Library District Board of Trustees to fill a position vacated by a trustee who moved out of the district. In the following election she was elected for a six-year term.

She's lived in Niles for 23 years. Nakanishi likes serving on the board because it's a good way to give back to the community. She's also a commissioner on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission and on the

subcommittee for Niles 2030, the long-range plan for the village.

She said she loves living in Niles and is happy to donate her time and talents. Each board member brings different talents and experience to the table.

She is an architect licensed in Illinois and Hawaii. She said she brings her expert knowledge and experience — especially now when renovations are being planned. The Niles library staff is certainly its biggest asset.

Danette Matyas

Matyas is running for library trustee to ensure that the Niles Library remains a vibrant and engaging resource for the entire Niles community in keeping the great programs and services now in place.

She feels it is time to give back to the community, as the library was a big part of her education. With technol-

ogy today a tremendous amount of information can be found on the Internet, but books are still a necessity. Education is the No. 1 priority so she wants to keep children off the streets and in the library.

Matyas works at Alberto Culver Company in the finance department as a credit analyst. She has been employed in her department for 30 years, which she believes shows loyalty and dedication.

She feels one of the biggest issues the library is facing is its parking situation. She hears patrons say they would like more study rooms and computer labs, and they ask why the library is not open seven days a week, all year long.

Matyas was raised in Niles, moved in 1973 and returned in 1991.

Doug Bressler

Bressler, who has lived in

Niles for four years, is running for the position of Library Board trustee because he wants to help make the library a place where all residents feel welcome and to make sure there will be programs that can be offered for all generations to enjoy.

He said the library is a pillar in society and he would like to be part of the process.

Bressler is employed as a technology specialist for Lake Zurich High School and said he can help keep the library up-to-date with all of the new technology that is out there. The main issue he feels the library is currently facing is maintaining a balanced budget.

He said the library has been doing a great job and feels a lot of its programs for children, teenagers and seniors are doing well. Bressler said he would like to see more adult programs implemented.

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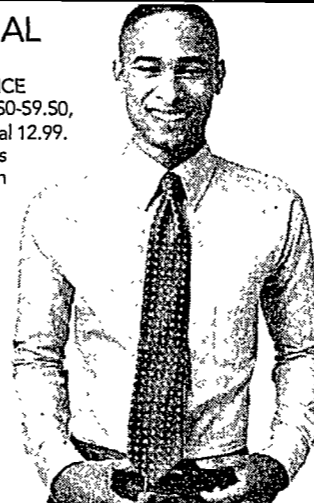
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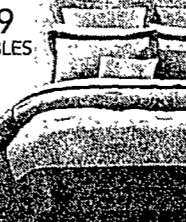
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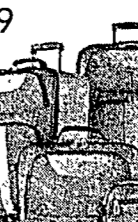
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DES PLAINES

1247 E Washington St. Apt 204, Nicole Welch to Andrew P Moczuzma, \$80,000, Feb. 25
1355 E Lincoln Ave., New Perspective Group Llc to Derrick B Achacoso Elizabeth I Merrell, \$330,000, March 1
1551 Ashland Ave. Apt 208, Seng Sen Tsai to Mateusz Jarog, \$106,000, Feb. 25
1670 Mill St. Apt 301, United World Development Llc to Maria Domanski, \$160,000, March 1
1757 Linden St., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Patricia R De Russey, \$76,000, Feb. 25
2148 Eastview Drive, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Melissa Denise Satterwhite, \$280,000, Feb. 24
244 Wilkins Drive, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Walter M Wodzian, \$190,000, Feb. 25
2541 E Church St., Weser Sr Trust to Rashida Intizer, \$160,000, Feb. 25
330 Dover Drive, Us Bank Na Trustee to Viktor Lebyedyev, \$203,000, Feb. 24
647 Metropolitan Way Unit 211

Unit L, Fannie Mae to Jennifer A Victuelles, \$155,000, Feb. 25
815 Nebel Lane, Kakos Trust to Hassan M Harb, \$260,000, Feb. 25
900 Center St. Apt 1b, Rapp Trust to Rasim Reik Halidza Reik, \$100,000, March 2
9423 Ironwood Lane, Hsbc Bank Usa Trustee to Vasant Patel Vipul Patel, \$101,500, Feb. 28
960 Beau Drive Unit G15, Wheeler Dealer Ltd to Marta Kaminska, \$6,000, Feb. 24

EDISON PARK

6629 N Oshkosh Ave., Vincent E Lazar to Vincent P Dinella Allison Dinella, \$330,000, March 2

GLENVIEW

10365 Dearlove Road Apt 1f, Dariusz Jan Karczewski to Suja King Robert King, \$92,000, March 2
1439 Pleasant Lane, Steven J Pregulman to Michael B Kilgallon Toni Kilgallon, \$865,000, March 1
1810 Longvalley Road, Deutscher Trust to Joanna Czmielek Evelyn Czmielek, \$255,000, March 1
2603 Commons Drive, Toll II Iv Lp to Marina M Lobas, \$490,500, March 1
3506 Meadow Lane, Fifth Third Bank to Guangwei Li Shuangping Zhao, \$320,000, Feb. 25
645 Windsor Road, 645 Windsor Llc to Mitchell J Edlund Helen A

Contos, \$1,200,000, Feb. 25
701 Forum Square Unit 504, Stolowich to Mirosław M Woda, \$92,000, Feb. 24
914 Harlem Ave., Vincent R Cuiule to Marvin S Holloway, \$435,000, Feb. 24

HARWOOD HEIGHTS

4212 N Newcastle Ave., Sophie M Williams Estate to Paul A Raimondi Teresa N Raimondi, \$135,000, March 1

LINCOLNWOOD

3959 W Arthur Ave., Hossein M Esfahani to Fouzia Farooqi Humayun Farooqi, \$450,000, Feb. 25
4601 W Touhy Ave. Apt 514, Herman Novelsky to Samir Pekovic Nadira Pekovic, \$103,000, March 1
6626 N Keating Ave., Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Thuy Nguyen Thai Nguyen, \$292,000, Feb. 24
7000 Ne Prairie Road, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Rosaly N Elarde, \$192,500, March 2

MORTON GROVE

8630 Waukegan Road Unit 416, Us Bank Na to Yevgeniy Shevchuk Svetlana Bayer, \$92,000, Feb. 25
8909 Belleforte Ave., Percival V Paclibar to George Edquiban Luisa Edquiban, \$210,000, Feb. 24
9234 Marion Ave., Federal Home

Loan Mtg Corp to Lorraine C Corpuz Undradaluz Corpuz Province, \$113,000, Feb. 24

MOUNT PROSPECT

1785 W Algonquin Road, Fannie Mae to Zewen Wang Xiaohong Wang, \$55,000, March 1

203 N Louis St. Unit C, Richard Vukmanovich to Laura A Phillips, \$217,000, Feb. 24
610 S Owen St., Chicago Trust Co Na Trustee to Arzen Ukmata Linda Ukmata, \$240,000, Feb. 25
707 W Central Road Unit 2b5, Markson Trust to Leslie A Goldberg Mark Goldberg, \$69,000, March 1

NILES

7621 N Oleander Ave., Rapacz Trust to Anthony Bottalla, \$130,000, Feb. 25
1740 N Harlem Ave., Marquette Bank Trustee to Parvez Ibn Mazed Nahida Nasrin, \$121,000, Feb. 28
8060 N Ottawa Ave., Fannie Mae to Jozef Wodziak Marianna K Wodziak, \$194,000, Feb. 24
8120 W Park Ave. Unit 405, Fingerhut Trust to Vito Gramegna Anna A Gramegna, \$230,000, March 2
9078 W Heathwood Drive Apt 3m, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Wallace P Hong, \$64,000, Feb. 25

NORRIDGE

4845 N Delphia Ave., Joseph Signa to Mark Lenart, \$220,000, Feb. 25
5117 N Canfield Ave., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Marzena L Bugaj, \$208,000, Feb. 25
8548 W Lawrence Ave. Apt 2c, Kenneth Canning to Kevin Naughton, \$18,000, Feb. 25

NORTHBROOK

32 Wellesley Circle, Tyrus W Thomas to Inna Nisman Halperin Daniel Ross Halperin, \$425,000, Feb. 25
3833 Rutgers Lane, Kayla G Epstein to Eun J Oh Jeho Yoon, \$470,000, Feb. 25
3849 N Parkway Drive Apt 3b, Nikolai Soltis to Inna Shkarovsky Larisa Zalessky, \$117,000, March 1
3900 Maple Ave., Jps Property Group Llc to Allen Zaydlin Elena Zaydlin, \$865,000, Feb. 25

NORWOOD PARK

4844 N Oak Park Ave., Marzena Kubik to Dariusz Zyskowski Paulina Zyskowski, \$210,000, Feb. 24
4861 N Oak Park Ave., Fannie Mae to Tinh V Le, \$203,000, March 2
5501 N Newland Ave., Wachovia Bank Na to Ryan Reid Leslie S Reid, \$165,000, March 1
5719 N Osage Ave., Ann Ranch Estate to Maciej Kiertowicz, \$160,000, Feb. 28

PARK RIDGE

1035 N Northwest Highway Apt B4, Us Bank Na to Artan Nati, \$51,000, Feb. 24
1105 Harrison St., Christopher T Schmeltz to James Janak Stacie Allen, \$462,500, Feb. 25

5751 N Oriole Ave., Tcf National Bank to Kent M Elmer, \$193,000, Feb. 24

O'HARE

5555 N Cumberland Ave. Unit 709, Anna Fioravanti to John G Lucey, \$180,000, Feb. 28

OAK PARK

1139 Woodbine Ave., Laurence E Armstrong to Thomas Finn Jennifer Harden Finn, \$670,000, Feb. 25
1426 N Austin Boulevard, Fannie Mae to Max W Reed, \$220,000, Feb. 25
226 N Oak Park Ave. Apt 2n, Lisa Ann Johnson to Karen L Osborne, \$125,000, March 2
242 1/2 S Maple Ave. Apt 1s, Us Bank Na to Dariusz Buskus Gabija Gasiunaite, \$45,000, Feb. 28

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

1011 W Wildwood Drive, Fannie Mae to Kamyar Ghazvini, \$178,500, March 1
508 Loch Lomond Lane Apt C, Sowatzke Trust to Mary C Stiller, \$180,000, Feb. 24
838 McIntosh Court Apt 208, Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee to Yevgenia Kantorovich, \$40,000, Feb. 25

SKOKIE

4045 Greenwood St., Karen E Wilberg to Rory D Foley Kathleen M Foley, \$180,000, March 1
4141 Oakton St., Wells Fargo Bank to Blandina Hermez Daved Hormiz, \$107,000, Feb. 28
4255 Madison St., Maylahn Trust to Robert Ruschman Martha Ruschman, \$259,000, March 1
8400 Springfield Ave., Silverman Trust to Mudassar U Khan Shahjahan Khan, \$230,000, Feb. 28
8842 Crawford Ave., Antonio Robledo to Tewelde B Gerekidan, \$170,000, March 1
9240 Gross Point Road Apt 409, Helen Rosenberg to John Sitt, \$130,500, March 2
9445 Kenton Ave. Apt 401, Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Semion Kristhal Irina A Kristhal, \$53,000, Feb. 28

WILMETTE

1041 Ridge Road, Mallinckrodt Renaissance Llc to Barry Brooks Diane Brooks, \$408,000, March 1
105 Hollywood Court, Jiang Yu to Paul Lucchesi Sophie Amphlett, \$535,000, March 1
2214 Elmwood Ave., Greenview Group Of Illinois to Frederick B Rolison, \$435,000, March 2
3110 Lake Ave., Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee to Joryi Lim Kenneth Wong, \$249,000, Feb. 25

WINNETKA

1210 Asbury Ave., Prudential Relocation Inc to Xavier Cortadelas Miriam Cloquell, \$950,000, Feb. 25
1507 Tower Road, Thomas D Evans to Robert Berkus Kelly Berkus, \$575,000, Feb. 24

1333 W Touhy Ave. Apt 205, Mark A Szerszen to Michael F Valone, \$75,000, Feb. 28
1827 W Crescent, Robert S Juckett to Clifford P Mccue Jillian M Mccue, \$457,000, March 1
2400 Woodland Ave., North Star Trust Co Trustee to Elzbieta Mazurkiewicz Krzysztof Mazurkiewicz, \$360,000, March 2
300 N Redfield Court, Shavel Aivaz to Brian C Schmitz Ashley M Schmitz, \$365,000, Feb. 25
643 Parkwood Ave., Salvatore Priolo to Salvatore Priolo Noelle Priolo, \$485,000, March 2
837 Florence Drive, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Zbigniew C Jablonski, \$216,000, Feb. 25



HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

Refurbished abode

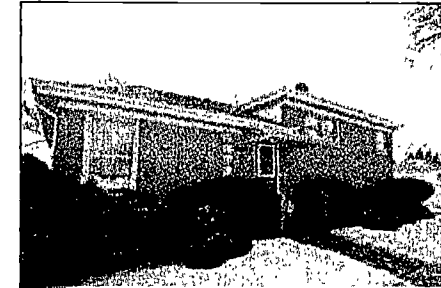
Property features refinished hardwood floors

8662 N. Ozark Ave., Niles — \$319,000

Built in 1960, this split-level home features refinished hardwood floors, updated baths and a living room equipped with custom lighting and decorative trim.

Highlights of the kitchen include modern appliances, ceramic tile floors and hardwood cabinets and cupboards. Accented by a chandelier, the dining room also has French windows, wood paneling and carpeted floors. The family room, situated on the lower level, comes with a number of windows, carpeted floors and storage space. A large garden with perennials is featured in the fenced-in back yard.

The property includes a two-car garage. Listing agent: Phoebe Co, Koenig & Strey Real Living, (847) 381-2710, pco@koenigstrey.com



The home includes a fenced-in back yard with a large garden.

Beds: 3 Baths: 2

Selling a home that stands out from the rest? Email us: hotproperties@blockshopper.com.

ON THE MARKET

A ROUNDUP OF NEW LISTINGS

A three-bedroom, 1.5-bath home at 5903 Capri Lane in Morton Grove is on the market for \$289,900. The updated home features newer windows in the bedrooms and newer central air. There is new carpet in the finished basement and the home has a remodeled kitchen. Linda Goland of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is the listing agent.

ing agent.

A five-bedroom, 2.5-bath home at 8022 N. Elmore St. in Niles is on the market for \$295,000. The brick ranch has many updates, including a second kitchen in the basement and a two-person spa. It has an open kitchen, dining room and a deck in the large back yard. Goran Utvic of Hometown Real Estate is the listing agent.

A two-bedroom, two-bath condo at 6211 Lincoln Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$199,000. Unit 205 is a corner unit and has been freshly painted. It features an eat-in kitchen with maple cabinets, a large living room with a sliding glass door to the balcony and a master suite with a walk-in closet. Christina Marino of Century 21 Marino Inc. is the listing agent.

— Matt Pelc

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

Table with columns: City, For sale, Median price, Foreclosure rate, # of sales, # of foreclosures. Rows include Des Plaines, Edison Park, Evanston, Forest Glen, Glenview, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Norwood Park, Park Ridge, Skokie, Wilmette.

Source: ChicagoBlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.



The living room in this Niles home has hardwood floors and a decorative light fixture.

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TOCHIGI CITY, TOCHIGI PREFECTURE

Morton Grove man faces aftermath of Japan disaster

By CATHRYN GRAN
cgran@pioneerlocal.com

Empty shelves and lines for gasoline are common in parts of Japan following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, and subsequent loss of electrical output.

Torn-up roads inhibit the ability to transport food and fuel supplies, according to former Morton Grove resident Cory Nelson, who has been teaching in Japan for about 3 1/2 years.

On the day of the 8.9-magnitude quake just off the eastern coast of Japan, the 27-year-old said he was in his classroom in Tochigi Shonan High School in Tochigi City, Tochigi Prefecture.

The city is about 150 miles away from the epicenter, about halfway between there and Tokyo.

"We still felt a six-point-something quake," he said. "They evacuated the school after the main quake. And after the first aftershock, they made all the students line up by homeroom outside the school."

"Then we checked to make sure all the students were accounted for. They were, and there were no injuries."

Buildings in Tochigi City still are still standing, though falling tiles caused some roof damage and some buildings suffered cosmetic damage, he said.

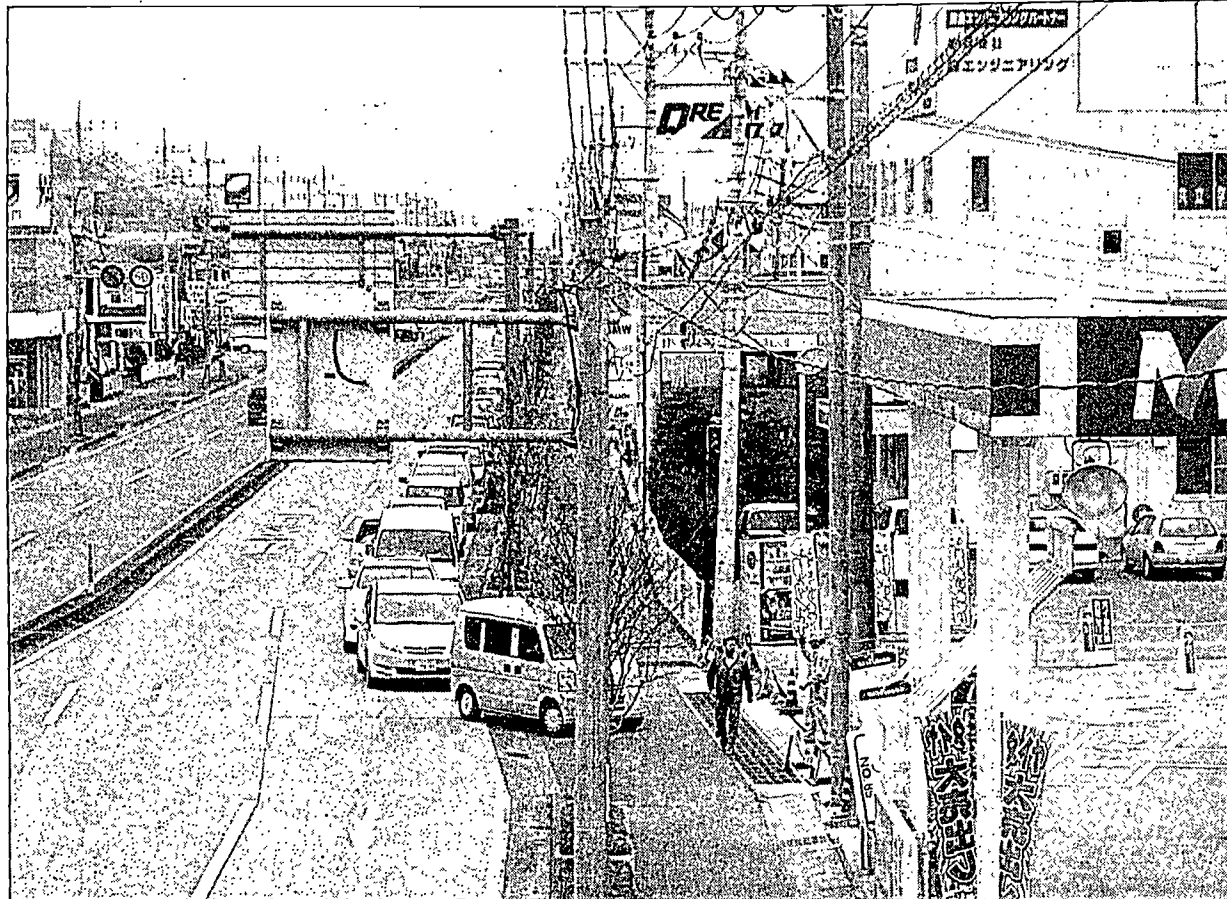
"There's a lot of cracks on walls," Nelson said. "And buying certain things in stores is nearly impossible."

"In the supermarkets, the bread aisles are empty and the aisles with noodles in cups are empty."

Toilet paper is scarce, as is bottled water, he said.

"I went shopping this morning (March 16), and I got some things," he said. "The stores have signs like people are allowed one bottle of water or two cups of noodles. But (there) was still someone trying to take 20 bottles of water."

Nelson noted with a laugh:



Cars line up for more than a mile for a chance to purchase gasoline at a station in Tochigi City in Japan. | Contributed photo

"One of the store clerks asked if (the customer) could read."

Batteries are impossible to find, and lines at gasoline stations are blocks-long, he added.

Power shortage

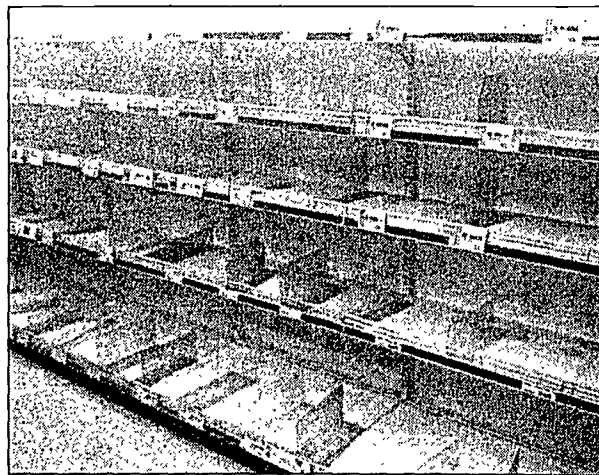
On top of shortages at the grocery store Nelson said he is dealing with shortages of electricity as the Japanese power company has been instituting rolling blackouts.

"The power grid is heavily taxed" due to the drop in power generated by Japan's nuclear-energy plants, he said.

"Today the power was out from 6:20 to 10 a.m.," he said. "Tomorrow it'll be out from 9:20 p.m. to 1 a.m."

Classes have yet to resume as the train system still isn't running normally, Nelson reported.

"Classes have been canceled at my school until (March) 24th, although they



Store shelves in Tochigi City are empty of one of shoppers' favorite treats - cups of noodles. | Contributed photo

haven't fully decided," he said, noting that no classes convened March 14-16. "Many of my students rely on trains."

In Tochigi City the weather has been about 50 degrees.

"Fortunately I'm far enough south where I don't have to worry about freezing temperatures," he said.

"Still, the Japanese government is asking people to use less electricity, so I have shut off heating entirely in my apartment and have been throwing on extra layers of clothing plus extra blankets on my bed."

"It seems that most people are complying with these requests. Supermarkets and convenience stores are only

using half of their lighting, as well as schools. "Rolling blackouts are continuing."

People living farther north are experiencing difficulty staying warm, Nelson said.

"Many Japanese people heat homes and schools, mine included, with kerosene heaters," he said. "Japan has virtually no natural deposits of fossil fuels, so the country relies entirely on import."

"Because many roads are closed and many train lines have stopped, it's been difficult getting gasoline and kerosene across the country. In Tochigi City mile-long lines form outside of gas stations which actually have gasoline in stock."

"The stations limit the purchase to only 2,000 yen (about \$24.50)," he continued. "People are having trouble getting fuel to heat their homes. Especially in the prefectures most affected by the earthquake and tsunami."

Restlessness grows

And while many of his friends are from countries other than Japan, some are staying.

"Some of them have left; some of them remain," Nelson said. "I can think of at least three people living in Tochigi Prefecture who have already returned to their home countries."

"Quite a few others have traveled to Osaka, figuring that's far enough away. People are getting more and more restless as this situation continues."

"A close friend of mine in Tokyo, who's lived in Japan for over eight years, admitted that he's tempted to take the U.S. up on its offer to fly nationals out of Japan. Personally, I'm staying here. It's my opinion that the situation will be resolved soon and without further incident."

According to a local newspaper the amount of radiation received in Tochigi City is comparable to a one-way flight from Japan to New York, he said.

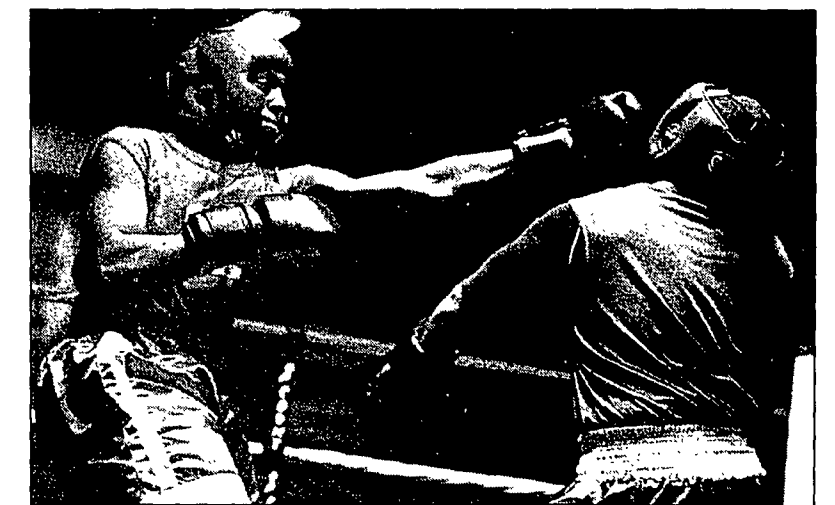
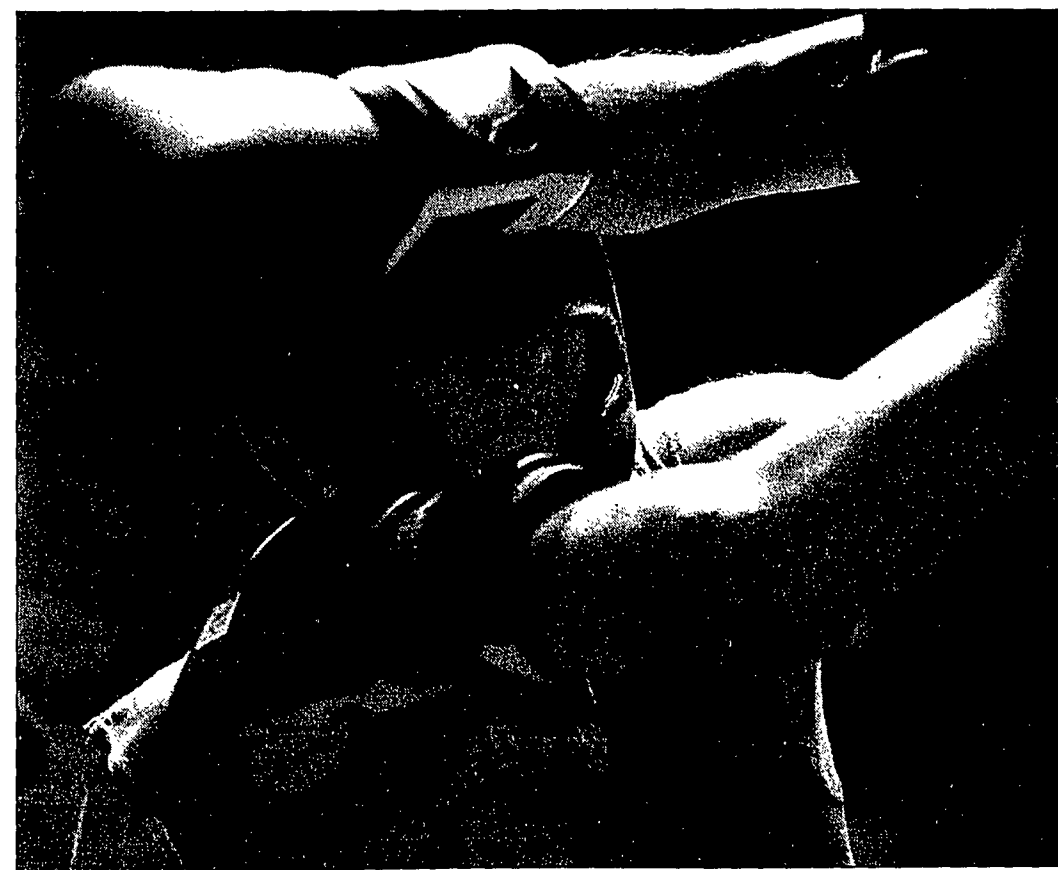
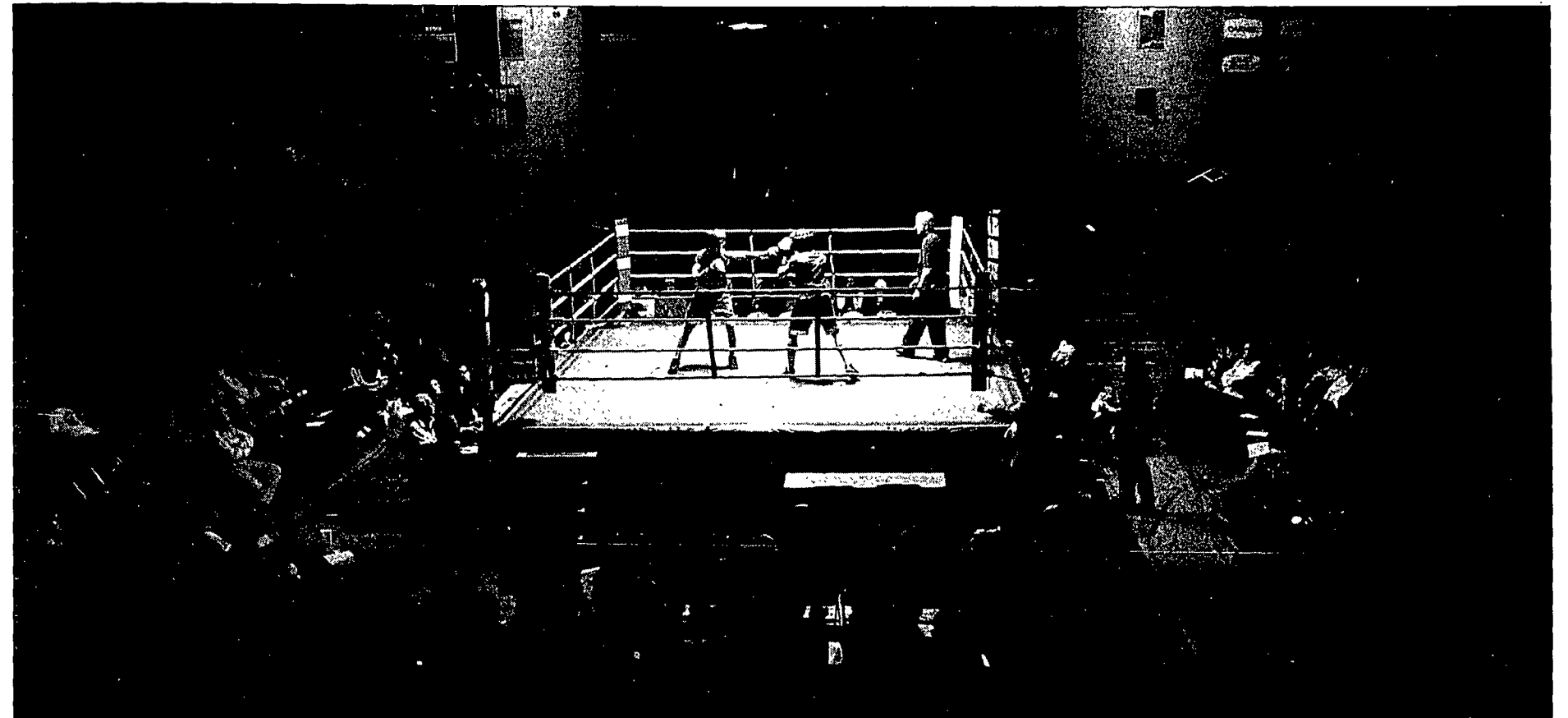
"Tochigi Prefecture's website is posting daily radiation results on their home page," he said. "In Nasu, a city in the north, the radiation (1.05 microSv/h) on March 17th was equivalent to 1/57th of a chest X-ray. In Oyama, a city in the south of the prefecture, it was 0.10 microSv/h, or 1/600th of a chest X-ray. These are hardly lethal levels."

"In a nutshell, 'Let's-get-the-hell-outta-here!' conversations between foreigners in Japan are happening a lot," he added. "We are all getting pressure from family members, who have been watching sensationalized reports on TV, to leave. Fortunately, my family seems to respect my decision to stay and trust my judgment."

But he's prepared to leave, just in case.

"I've been carefully monitoring the news," he said. "And I have my emergency kit ready if I have to evacuate."

BOXING NIGHT



TOP PHOTO- Notre Dame Boxing Fight Night: Junior Michael McDonough (left) fires a jab at opponent, Junior Paul Shwka, in a 130-pound bout.

ABOVE- Devon Casey fires a jab at Devon Kloster in a 165-pound bout.

LEFT- Senior Peter Shwka's face gets squeezed by opponent Kyle Cooper's gloves.

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Joel Lerner
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CRIME BRIEF
Pedestrian injured in DUI incident

A Chicago man was allegedly intoxicated when his vehicle struck and injured a pedestrian in unincorporated Maine Township, Cook County Sheriff's Police reported.

According to police, Percival Presto, 51, of the 1300 block of West Irving Park Road, about 6 p.m. March 7 was driving west on Church Street when his vehicle struck a 20-year-old Maine Township man at Lincoln Avenue. The pedestrian suffered multiple leg fractures,

requiring surgery, police said. Presto was charged with aggravated driving under the influence, police said. He initially was in custody at Cook County Jail with bond set at \$20,000. His subsequent court date was March 21.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the official reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

GRAFFITI

Someone spray-painted gang graffiti with black spray paint between March 16 and March 17 on the fence of the victim's townhouse on the 8000 block of West Lyons Avenue.

Someone used red and green spray paint to put gang-related graffiti on the west side of a building between March 23 and March 24 on the 7300 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

MONEY MISSING

A store owner said three deposits totaling \$12,099, made between Feb. 1 and March 19, were missing from Harris Bank on the 7000 block of Dempster.

VEHICLE THEFT

The victim on March 22 went into Marshall's department store on the 8200 block of Golf Road and after two hours when she came out to the parking lot her vehicle was missing, police said.

THEFT

A 14-year-old boy said another boy put two games in his backpack on March 17 before he exited Niles Public Library on the 6900 block of Oakton. The boy, who is suspected of stealing the games, is not allowed back in the library for an unspecified period of time, police said.

riod of time, police said.

Someone stole two figurines between March 20 and March 21 from the European Imports and Gifts store on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The value of each figurine is \$1,700.

WARRANT ARREST

Pedro Cazares, 24, of 2011 Pine St., Des Plaines, was arrested March 24 for a retail-theft warrant. The Des Plaines Police Department notified the Niles Police Department that a suspect was in their custody on a Niles warrant. His warrant next court date is April 26.

Patrick Moran, 61, of 1912 Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, was arrested March 19 on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. His bond was set at \$1,000. He has a April 28 court date.

Czarnik

Continued from PAGE 5

worked 12 to 9 instead of 9 to 5. They either opened up facilities or closed them at night. We asked for extra bids when we needed to outsource any work. We looked at different ways to save money through grants for lighting and equipment. We put our heads together to come up with the best possible ways to reduce expenses without hurting our programs.

What is working well?

Our new business module is working very well. We have been able to keep our fees down. We have not increased any of them for the past two years now. We are doing the same this year. We have new facilities and continue to upgrade equipment and outside play areas, which are a big value to our residents. We strive to be able to

offer quality programs for all ages. We have something for everyone and have an instructor/counselor at every one of our programs offered. Our tax rate remains the lowest out of the surrounding suburbs. What is best about the parks is that we are now part of a village that was voted as best place to raise a family in 2010. That has to tell you that we are doing something right, doesn't it? Also, we have formed and increased our own Park Patrol, which I am very proud of. All Park Patrol employees are also Niles Police Auxiliary (personnel) that have gone through hours upon hours of training. This has brought us more police presence, which means our parks continue to be safe for all of the residents.

What can be done better

Well, we always are looking for ways to improve the district. New programs, new ideas are always at the forefront. We stay on top of programs offered elsewhere. We have many new ideas and

programs that will be coming down the pipeline. I can rest assured there will be no program that will be offered until it is thoroughly researched and discussed. Safety and security has always been a priority of ours and will remain that way.

Years as a resident

20.

Profession

I mentioned earlier that I am the president and general manager of Napleton Automotive Dodge Chrysler Jeep dealership and will be opening a new store in Des Plaines on Central and Rand Road in April. I have been in the automotive industry for 28 years, starting as a porter washing cars here in Niles and have worked my way up through the ranks. I am a die-hard blue-collar guy that believes in loyalty and hard work. Together you can't fail. I am also on the Niles Police department as an Auxiliary Officer and have been doing that since 1992.

YOU SAY
Foundation dinner benefits programs at District 207

The Maine Township High School District 207 Educational Foundation began the school year funding a grant that brought a Holocaust survivor to Maine South to recount her heartrending yet uplifting story of courage at a young age.

It will be ending the school year supporting programs as diverse as a glass mosaic created by Maine West students under the guidance of a professional mosaic artist; a work trip by Maine East Gifted Lyceum students to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to continue their work helping reconstruct homes for flood victims; and the return of the Maine South Constitution Team to compete in Washington, D.C., at nationals.

We want to thank Erin Osmus, Judy Tyler, Andrew Trenkle and the other talented, dedicated teachers who requested grants from the District 207 Foundation this year: With district budget cuts, it is more important than ever that the foundation be able to continue the tradition in Maine Township of enriched educational experiences for all our students. To do that, however, we need to reach out to Maine East, West and South parents, alumni and local businesses to contribute to this effort.

Please join us for the Dis-

trict 207 Educational Foundation's third Annual Benefit Dinner on April 7 at the Rosewood. To learn more about the event, purchase tickets, or make a tax-deductible donation, please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/maine207.org/foundation/home>.

Patricia Schreiber
 Park Ridge
 Chair, District 207
 Educational Foundation

Re-elect incumbents to District 207 board

Like most public bodies, the board of Maine Township High School District 207 faced some difficult decisions in recent years. But that board has made the tough choices and avoided going to referendum, while still maintaining high standards of achievement at Maine East, Maine South and Maine West.

For that, I ask the voters in Maine Township to re-elect incumbent board members Joanne Braam, Donna Pellar and Sean Sullivan in the upcoming school board election. They have demonstrated the leadership and commitment needed to guide the district in the years to come.

Joseph S. Harrington
 Morton Grove



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	BREAST CANCER RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS Dealing with a diagnosis of breast cancer can be devastating. Sam Speron, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, discusses breast reconstruction options and alternatives. Light refreshments. Free. TUESDAY • APRIL 26 • 6-7PM

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VILLAGE BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

Break up slate's dominance on board

If the Niles Village Board of Trustees were to continue with its current lineup, things probably would continue to progress steadily.

Village finance presents challenges but is as stable as can be expected in this economic climate; essential services continue to be reliable; and most important the village continues to move, slowly but surely, toward a state of openness and transparency not seen in decades. The incumbents have served honorably in achieving those things.

But the undeniably long shadow of ex-Mayor Nicholas Blase, fresh out of federal prison, still looms. And that necessitates considerations beyond competent service. There are broader symbolic measures still to be taken.

For that reason we are endorsing challenger **Rosemary Palicki** over Alan Weel for one of the three four-year seats open on the board. The other two four-year seats would then go to **Joe LoVerde** and **Chris Hanusiak**. For the two-year term we endorse incumbent **James Hynes** over newcomer Mary Marusek.

Retired veteran educator and administrator Palicki's interest in the village board was sparked a few years back when she opposed the proposal to put an off-track betting facility in Niles. The cause was lost, but Palicki's interest in village government was not. Since then she has regularly attended village board meetings, paid close attention to the issues and spoken out even when she was the lone dissenter, helping to bring Niles' ethics issues to the forefront.

As for her opponents, all

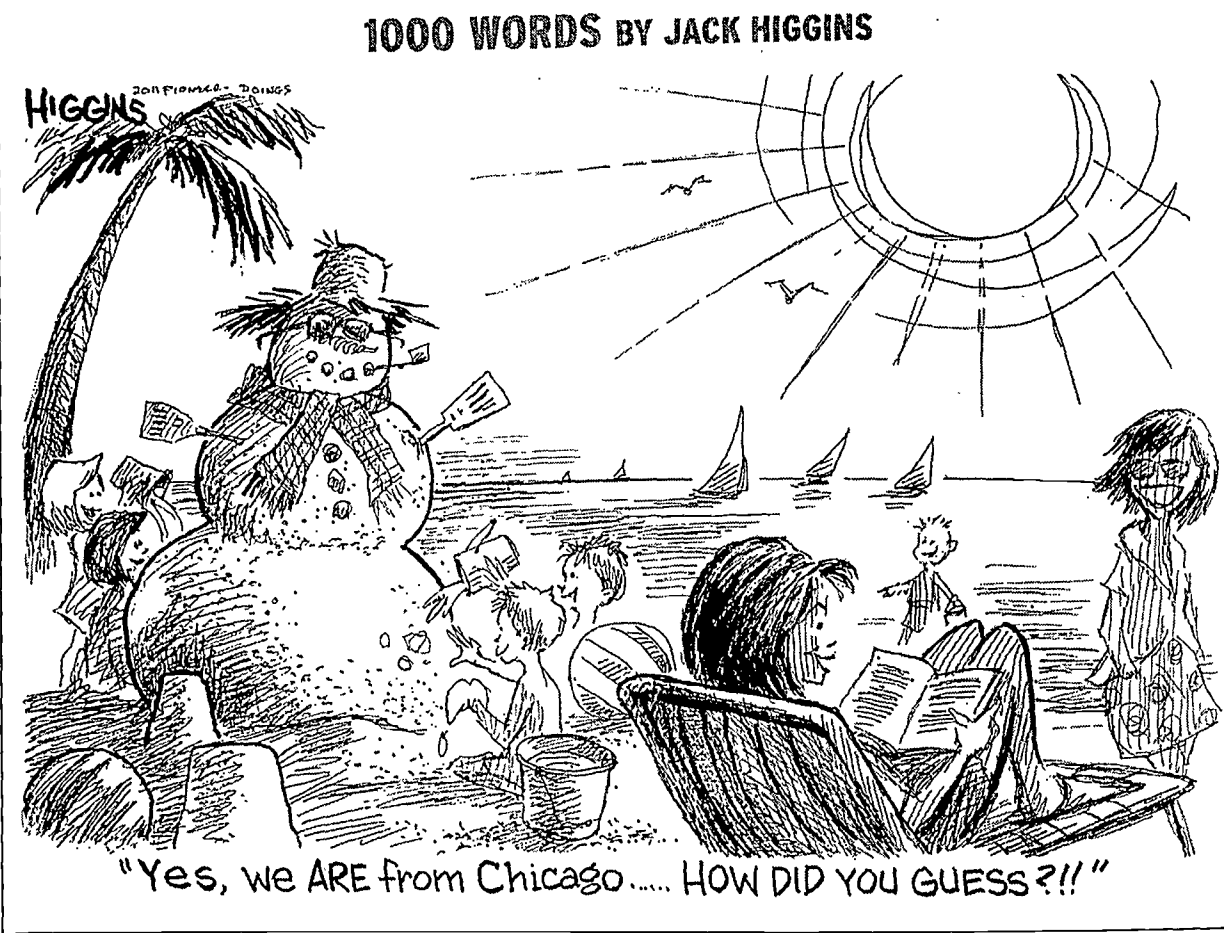
members of political slate the United for Better Government Party, choosing one to displace in favor of Palicki is an unenviable task; all have done their share to move Niles forward in the post-Blase era. LoVerde is the stalwart old lion of the crew; and Hanusiak, despite now running under the same political banner he challenged in his mayoral run two years ago, is still a strong independent voice.

We have every respect for Weel, and it's difficult not to endorse someone who has done the job right. After all, on current members' watch, the village has seen two open budget processes, invited citizen comment at meetings and instituted the landmark code of ethics. But a link in this incumbent chain should be broken to ensure Niles continues, and accelerates, ethical progress.

The current board is flush with successful local businessmen — like Weel — whose related savvy is a valuable asset when facing economic challenges. But Niles is in pretty good shape business-wise and we don't see that changing anytime soon.

Palicki, meanwhile, can bring in a skeptical eye and an informed, independent voice connected neither by appointment nor relationship to the old guard. Her presence alone at the board table would have an exciting impact.

We feel much the same way about Marusek, who impresses with her knowledge of village affairs and fiercely independent spirit. We hope she seeks appointment to another village panel.



1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS

HIGGINS

Evening at lanes reveals courtesy to spare



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Spring Break was a nonstop carnival of museum admission tickets, changing lanes on Chicago expressways and me wishing for the zillionth time that I had remembered paper towels. But I was too late. I awarded my youngest with the coveted "Best Performance by a Supporting

Spiller" because the liter of Pepsi he attempted to pass to his brother had not been properly capped.

Mid-week during spring break, we met friends for a rousing game of bowling. We ordered pizza and pop, (they could pour tomato sauce and sprinkle imitation cheese on cardboard; kids would still eat it). Our teenagers and junior high schoolers bowled, high-fived and groaned when the inevitable gutter ball hurtled down the lane.

My oldest had the most interesting approach. He spun, tripped and then hurled the ball. Sporting enthusiasts described it as combination of a triple axel and an Olympic shot-put

made by a hulking Romanian.

The ball dropped with a deafening force, cracking against the wood panels of the bowling lane like an Acme boulder on Wile E. Coyote's foot. Thundering along like a seismic steam engine, that bowling ball decimated those poor pins.

Turns out, "hook" bowling is the key to strikes. My son's version was more Captain Hook bowling, because he made the pins walk the plank. Terrified neighboring bowlers waited for him to finish by shuddering behind SWAT riot shields.

To our left, a man bowled solo. The older man wore shabby clothes and his pants drooped. Pushing up

his smudged glasses, he blinked at our jovial crowd and seemed lonely.

I worried the teenagers might ridicule him. After all, we live in a "Celebrity Apprentice" world and categorize people as winners or losers.

I held my breath and watched. My oldest son and his friends were polite and friendly.

Even better ... respectful.

Just a bowling game, I know, but I think my son won something bigger: Abigail Van Buren once said: "The best index to a person's character is (a) how he treats people who can't do him any good, and (b) how he treats people who can't fight back."

I got a bleeping shot at this job



PAUL SASSONE

It may seem to some a cruel taunt in this time of high unemployment, but WBBM, the CBS-owned TV station in this area, is holding a contest to select its next traffic reporter.

Anyone interested can submit a 30-second video to the station. The prize is a three-month contract for \$25,000. If station management likes the winner's work, he or she will be offered a full-time job at a six-figure salary.

In its publicity, the station says this new approach to hiring — a public contest — may discover stars.

But I have a hunch the ultimate winner will pretty

closely resemble all the other on-air talent TV stations hire.

The winner will most likely have the following characteristics:

1. Be good looking.
2. Be young.
3. Be slim.
4. Have that regionless, accentless accent distinguished only by the inability to pronounce some long vowels, so that Wrigley Field becomes Wrigley Fild, and banana peel becomes banana pill.

That will eliminate most potential applicants.

Nevertheless, so many need jobs, and a six-figure job would literally save so many that I am sure hordes will apply. WBBM must think so, too. Because 75 semi-finalists will be invited to an on-screen audition and to take a written test. From that group, 10 candidates then will be voted on by viewers.

It's just possible that with voters making the final

selection (though I am very skeptical about the finality of that selection process), maybe, just maybe, some regular person might be hired. And six figures ...

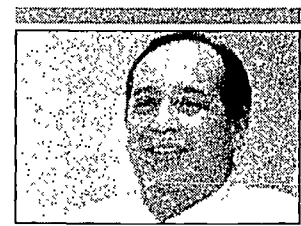
So, here's my audition: "This is Paul Sassone with the latest traffic report. All the major expressways are all %\$#&% as usual. The Eisenhower is particularly crappy. There is an accident eastbound near Kedzie that's %*%\$@! the whole lousy highway. Naturally it's an SUV. Why does every accident involve a SUV?"

"But as god-awful as the Ike is, you should see the Dan Ryan. Holy Toledo! What a %\$?!@%# mess! "How can you drivers stand being out in this %!!--?&%\$#? You must be nuts.

"This is Paul Sassone with the latest traffic report."

You know, I think I just might have a chance.

Biology classroom focus should be on science



RANDY BLASER

When we first considered moving to Lake County from the western suburbs, one of the towns we liked was Libertyville.

We tried to buy a house there, twice. But it just didn't work out, so we moved a bit further north. At the time, we figured it was just God's will.

Now I see this guy named Beau Schaefer, who teaches biology at Libertyville High School, used class time to teach creationism, or maybe he called it intelligent design.

So if it is God's will that we didn't move to Libertyville,

what's God doing in the biology classroom of Libertyville High School? Shouldn't we have moved there so my high school age children could benefit from the teachings of Mr. Schaefer?

OK, one has nothing to do with the other. God probably doesn't micro-manage where we live, as long as we live in a way pleasing to him.

But had we moved to Libertyville, I think I would be a bit teed off if my children were subjected to the teachings of Mr. Schaefer on creationism, when I expect him to teach about cell life, DNA, RNA, genetics, mitochondria and the chi-square — all the stuff I remember from biology class.

Creationism, and all the other alternative ideas of how life got started on this planet, does not belong in a science biology class at a public high school.

Science is about observ-

ing and investigating natural phenomena. It includes ways to test and measure evidence. High school students need to learn this foundation about science in a high school classroom. It is the only place they are going to get it, unless they go on to study it in college and beyond.

I want my children to get their basic understanding of the science of biology in high school. I don't want that part of their secondary education clouded by some guy's personal belief in the guise of science.

I don't care if the teacher believes that God created the earth in seven days, or if he believes that earth was created by some ancient clash of the Titans, or if he believes there once was something called Middle Earth, or if he thinks we are the offspring of some weird alien visitation.

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4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for
the coming week

1. "Hairspray! The Broadway Musical," April 1-10 at Wilbur Wright College's Events Theater, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. April 1-2 and April 9; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. April 7-8; and 2 p.m. April 10. \$10, with discounts for seniors and students. Call (773) 481-8037.

2. Chicago a cappella presents "Chicago, Chicago," a musical tour of the Windy City, at 8 p.m. April 2 in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. \$35 for preferred seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors; and \$12 for students. Call (773) 755-1628 or see www.chicago-cappella.org.

3. "The Freshman," starring Harold Lloyd, will be shown at 7 p.m. April 7 as part of the "Legends of Laughter" film series at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Free. Call (847) 825-3123 or visit www.parkridgelibrary.org.

4. The Lakeside Singers present "I'll Know It When I Hear It," songs by classical and popular composers, at 8 p.m. April 1 in Nichols Concert Hall at The Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. \$80; \$20 for senior citizens and students; \$10 for children. Call (847) 382-5085 or visit www.lakesidesingers.com.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT diversions

B1
THURSDAY,
MARCH 31, 2011

Unlocking the beauty of discards

'On the Edge'
Sculptures and installations by Nnenna Okore. Dittmar Gallery, Norris University Center, Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston. Opening reception, 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 1, exhibit runs through May 8. (847) 491-2348 or www.norris.northwestern.edu/dittmar.php.

By **MYRNA PETLICKI**
Contributor

In a little studio tucked away in the basement of a building on the campus of North Park University in Chicago, artist Nnenna Okore turns other people's discards into works of art. "On the Edge," an exhibit of her strong yet delicate looking sculptures, is on display at Northwestern University's Dittmar Gallery through May 8.

Nigerian-born Okore, who lives in Morton Grove, considers herself a Chicago artist. She came to this country in 2002 to attend graduate school. After earning an M.A. and M.F.A. in sculpture from the University of Iowa, she joined North Park six years ago, where she is an assistant professor and chair of the Art Department.

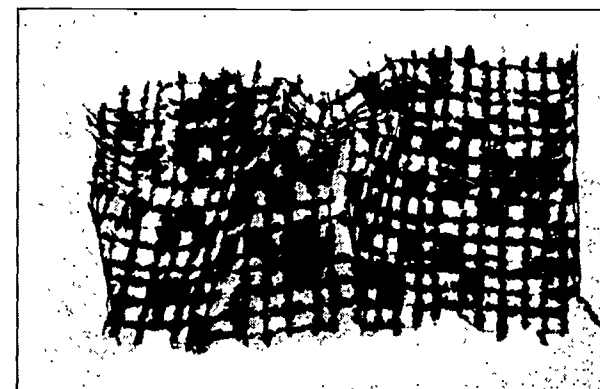
Despite her connection to Chicago, the roots of Okore's art are in Nsukka, the small university town in Nigeria where she grew up. In her artist's statement, Okore wrote, "Of all the aspects of rural life that inspired me, the use of discarded objects and found materials in coping with poor economic conditions, had the most profound impact on me. It is reflected in the visual content and imagery of my works."

Entranced by textures

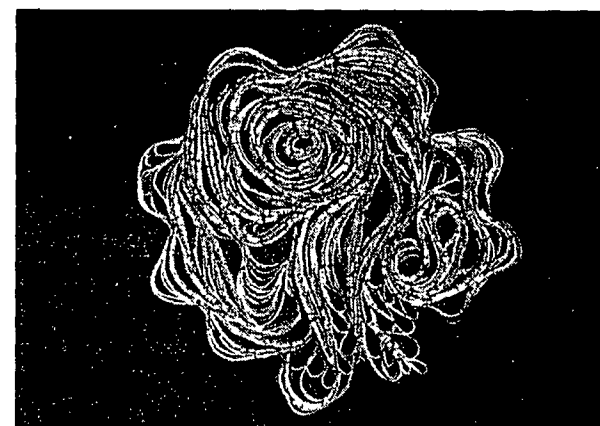
"As a child, I was very



Morton Grove artist Nnenna Okore



"Repossessed," created from found materials by Nnenna Okore



"Floral," a sculpture by Nnenna Okore

exposed to the natural environment in my community," Okore related, as she sat in her second floor office at North Park University. "The thing that I remember the most about being a child was roaming outside and exploring the soil and looking at vegetation and being enamored by the range of textures that were around me." Those memories stay with Okore. "Each time that I want to be creative, I can't help but bring forward those things," she said.

Okore hunts everywhere for materials for her sculptures — helping keep the city clean in the process. "I

walk around and pick them up as I go," she said, noting that locations include streets and parks. After she gathers these scraps of paper, sticks, newspapers, fibers, leaves and other materials, "I try to combine them to make them rather unidentifiable," she said.

Okore, who works in a number of mediums, has been exploring the reuse of discarded items throughout her career but it has become a strong focus the last five years. Before completing graduate school, the artist said, "I was largely working with recycled paper and recycled plastic. When I graduated

and got a studio, and had the time and room to think about the body of work I was doing for graduate school, I began to think about my past experiences — the textures that I was drawn to. I began to explore different materials and try different things."

Going natural

Okore's goal is to "try to convert the paper and the found objects that I discover back into their natural state."

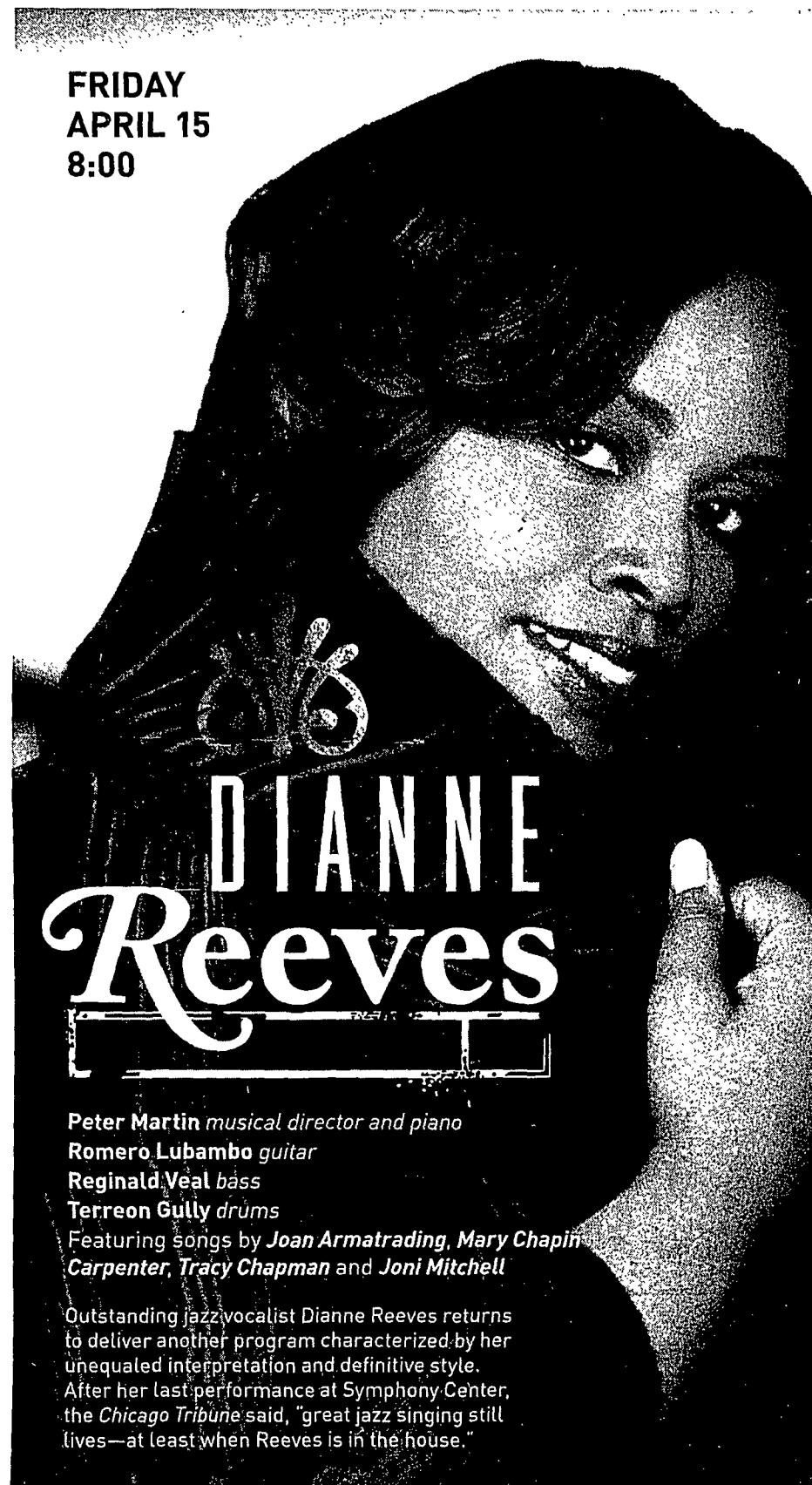
This is apparent in one piece made of discarded paper and twigs that have been transformed into what looks like a section of tree bark. Other pieces

appear as delicate as spider webs but are surprisingly sturdy constructions. Often the artist uses food starch to strengthen the materials she combines in her work.

Okore's sculptures have been exhibited widely in galleries and museums across the country and overseas.

Her intricate works reflect both her early memories of Nigeria and her concern with the future — particularly the way we are depicting the environment. More than anything, though, they are stunning creations that can attract the eyes and stir the imaginations of viewers.

FRIDAY
APRIL 15
8:00



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Reginald Veal bass
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Outstanding jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves returns to deliver another program characterized by her unequalled interpretation and definitive style. After her last performance at Symphony Center, the *Chicago Tribune* said, "great jazz singing still lives—at least when Reeves is in the house."

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FAMILY FRIENDLY

'Schoolhouse Rock' gang brings life to learning

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Grownups get as enthusiastic as the kids in the audience during performances of "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" said Chris Walsh, who has performed with TheatreBam Chicago's touring production for five years. That's because many of them remember the Emmy award-winning 1970s cartoon series on which the show is based. The cast will be stirring up memories of the joyful, educational show, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, April 3 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd.

"I play George, who is kind of the leader of the gang," Walsh said. "We try and boost Tom's morale because it's his first day of teaching." The "gang" teaches Tom to win over his students by combining learning and music through such songs as "Conjunction Junction," "A Victim of Gravity" and "I'm Just a Bill."

"Schoolhouse" veteran Walsh most enjoys the musical's audience interaction. "It's such a playful show," he said. "It's not just us telling them a story about a princess. We're educating them about 'Grammar Rock' and we're involving them on this journey."

Tickets are \$18. For details, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org.

Melting pot

Kids ages 3-7 will be exposed to Spanish, French, German, Mandarin and Hebrew during a Multilingual Reading Hour, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 2 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Children's books will be acted out and read in these



"Schoolhouse Rock Live!" is fun for parents and kids.

languages during a program sponsored by Niles North High School, as part of a project promoting bilingual student rights.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Sister act

Adventurous, mischievous Ramona Quimby has to help save her family's home in "Ramona and Beezus," a film about the two sisters, which is based on Beverly Cleary's best-selling books. The 103-minute, G-rated Monday Kid Flick will be screened at 3:30 p.m., April 4, at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

For details, call (847) 677-5277 or visit www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Fun with your little one

You can engage your toddler or preschooler in creative activities, while enjoying the company of

other parents and kids during Discovery Days, 10-11:30 a.m. Friday, April 8 at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. There will be craft projects, games and more at the April session of this monthly drop-in program. For details, call (847) 825-3123 or visit www.parkridgelibrary.org.

Talented teens make music

Pianist James Stinehart, a New Trier High School junior, and violinist Michaela Welles, a sophomore at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, are the featured performers at the 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, Young Steinway Concert at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Hearing these prize-winning young performers should inspire your kids to keep practicing.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit www.skokiellibrary.info.

MOVIE REVIEW

Growing pains

By BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

WINTER IN WARTIME
★ ★ ★ 1/2

You know the story of the little Dutch boy who saved his country by sticking his finger in a leaking dike? That kid had it easy. You've got a leaking dike, you've got a finger — it's a duh, right? Simple problem; simple solution.

Fourteen-year-old Michiel, the son of a mayor in a small town occupied by Germans during World War II, isn't so lucky. He's got to deal with secrecy, moral ambiguity, shifting perspectives on reality and the stubborn refusal of events to conform to his ideas about proper heroic behavior during wartime. All at a time when his biggest worry should be whether or not there's a pimple emerging on the tip of his nose.

Based on an autobiographical children's novel by nuclear physicist/politician/author Jan Terlouw, "Winter in Wartime" is essentially Michiel's coming-of-age (far too soon) story — one that satisfies on many levels, despite a closing shot that undercuts the apparent point of it all. Admirably crafted by writer/director Martin Koolhoven in a manner that reframes the story for adults, "Winter" was a whopping hit in the Netherlands and its short-listed entry for this year's Academy Awards.

Michiel (Martijn Lakemeier) still sleeps with model airplanes hanging from the ceiling, when a real plane, a British fighter going down in flames, crashes in the woods nearby in the opening scene. His first reaction is to comb the



The high price of resistance: Martijn Lakemeier in "Winter in Wartime."

wreckage for cool stuff with his best friend ("Look, brains!" the other boy shouts, holding up a gory pilot's helmet), but subsequent events will gradually draw Michiel into more direct involvement.

Michiel naturally idolizes the men in his town who fight the Germans as part of the Dutch resistance movement, just as he is contemptuous of his father Johan's mayoral policy of carefully weighed cooperation with the occupiers — which allows him to negotiate on behalf of the town. So he's thrilled when a secret message he's asked to deliver eventually leads him to a young, wounded British pilot named Jack (Jamie Campbell Bower), who's been hidden in the woods by the resistance. And he decides to help the man escape, despite the army of German soldiers who have been alerted that Jack is somewhere in the woods.

Now, that might sound like an almost finger-in-the-dike straight-forward proposition, but the story, which is seen from Michiel's point of view, is continually complicated by the fact that there's often a significant discrepancy between the way he sees things and the way things really are. Beginning with the situation at home, where Michiel disdains his

father (Raymond Thiry, a stand-out in a generally impressive cast) and worships his Uncle Ben (Yorick van Wageningen), an apparent hero of the resistance.

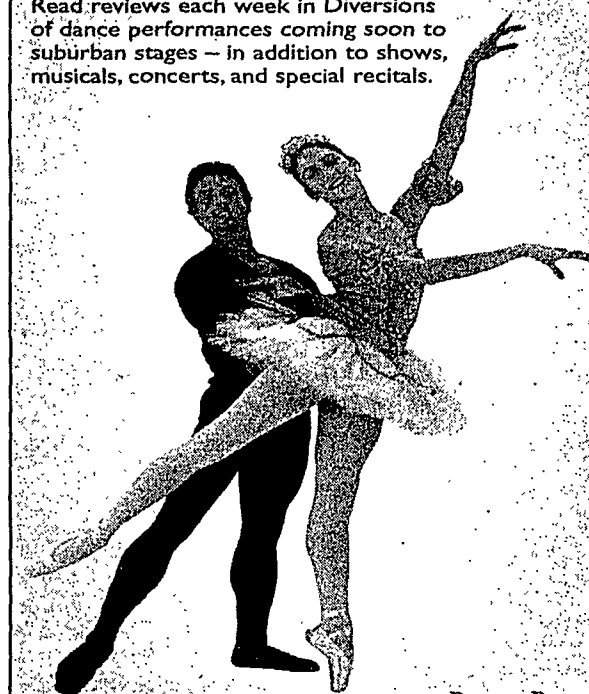
"Winter" generally does a good job underscoring that life is seldom as simple as we expect it to be. The German soldiers occupying the town, for example (most of them, like Jack, not much older than Michiel), are not depicted as evil fiends (though they are certainly willing to gun people down in the street). In fact, one of them saves Michiel's life at one point — an event he finds profoundly embarrassing. There is also a particularly eloquent scene in which Johan teaches Michiel to shave, the obvious warmth of their bond dispelling, momentarily, the boy's adolescent overlay of scorn.

Michiel eventually gets all of the excitement and adventure he yearns for, though it comes at a terrible cost and comes hand in hand with outright terror. Michiel eventually gets his wish about growing up, also, though the event that finally moves him toward manhood is a shocking and tragic development.

And when he gets there, he finds out it's not nearly as much fun as he imagined.

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I was a teenage Easter Bunny? The adolescent son (Russell Brand) of the Big Bunny leaves home to realize his dream of becoming a drummer...

INSIDIOUS

The new residents (Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne) of a haunted house try to save their son when he's targeted by evil spirits.

SOURCE CODE

A soldier (Jake Gyllenhaal) wakes up to find himself in the body of another man, with a mission to uncover the identity of a bomber who has threatened to blow up a train.

TRUST

Suburban parents (Clive Owen and Catherine Keener) are shocked to find their family threatened by their young daughter's new boyfriend when he turns out to be an Internet predator.

WINTER IN WARTIME

A 14-year-old boy yearning to be a man quickly gets more than he bargained for after deciding to help a downed British pilot in Nazi-occupied Holland.

STILL PLAYING:

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES

In this sequel to last year's surprise hit, wimpy Greg and his tormenting older brother Rodrick (Zachary Gordon and Devon Bostick) must cope with their parents' plans to make them bond.

FILM CLIPS



"Hop" (Astro Boy) directed the comedy, based on the mega-selling series of young adult books.

SUCKER PUNCH

After being locked up in an asylum by her evil stepfather, a girl (Australian actress Emily Browning) retreats into an action-adventure fantasy world and discovers it may hold the key to her freedom.

JANE EYRE

A young governess (Mia Wasikowska) moves to a mysterious estate where she uncovers disturbing secrets - and the possibility of romance with her brooding employer (Michael Fassbender).

LIMITLESS

Better cogitating through chemistry - with a sizable downside. Bradley Cooper plays failed writer Eddie Morra, who's given the chance to raise his brainpower beyond calculation with an experimental drug called NZT.

STILL PLAYING:

something), emphasizing the wry humor of Eddie's almost omnipresent voice-over narration - while gradually upping the thrill quotient.

THE LINCOLN LAWYER

Matthew McConaughey rides in style as a cool, worldly-wise ambulance-chasing LA defense attorney who operates out of the back seat of his Lincoln Continental.

LIMITLESS

Better cogitating through chemistry - with a sizable downside. Bradley Cooper plays failed writer Eddie Morra, who's given the chance to raise his brainpower beyond calculation with an experimental drug called NZT.

PAUL

It sounded good in theory: Simon Pegg (a dedicated sci-fi nerd in real life) and Nick Frost following up on the spectacular "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz" as dorky fanboys

helping a little green laid-back stoner alien named Paul (voiced by Seth Rogen, thank you very much) on the run from evil government agents. Somehow, though, the comedy never clicks. The main trouble is probably the substitution of Greg Mottola ("Superbad," "Adventureland") for the duo's previous director Edgar Wright...

BATTLE: LOS ANGELES

A marine sergeant (Aaron Eckhart) leads mankind's last stand in a war against alien invaders. Jonathan Liebesman ("Darkness Falls") directed the sci-fi action thriller.

MARS NEEDS MOMS

A young boy (voice of Seth Green) learns to appreciate his mother after she is abducted by Martians. Simon Wells (the great-great grandson of H.G. Wells) wrote and directed the animated family comedy.

RED RIDING HOOD

In a medieval village, a young girl (Amanda Seyfried), who has fallen in love with a poor woodcutter, travels through the woods to be with him - despite the fact that a werewolf is on the loose.

THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

Supernatural forces attempt to separate a politician and a dancer (Matt Damon and Emily Blunt) who have fallen in love at first sight. Screenwriter George Nolfi ("The Bourne Identity," "Ocean's Twelve") adapted this romantic story by sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick for his directorial debut.

SHOWTIMES

- WIN WIN (R) Fri-Sun: 12:00-3:00
GNOME & JULIET (G) Fri, Sat: 10:05-12:15-2:30
JANE EYRE (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 11:30-2:15-5:10-8:00
CERTIFIED COPY (NR) Fri-Sun: 11:45-2:20-5:00-7:40
OF GODS AND MEN (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 11:00-1:50
THE KING'S SPEECH (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:30
MOUNT PROSPECT Randhurst 101 Euclid Ave. (888) 262-4386
HOP (PG) Fri, Sat: 11:00-1:30-4:05-6:35-9:00
INSIDIOUS (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:30-8:05
SOURCE CODE (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 9:50-12:20-2:50-5:10-7:30
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG) Fri, Sat: 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25
SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 11:50-2:15-4:50-7:25
LIMITLESS (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 9:40-12:05-2:40-5:15-8:00
THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R) Fri, Sat: 11:00-1:55-4:40-7:40-10:35
BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 10:10-1:00-3:45-6:45-9:30
MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG) Sat: 7:35-9:45
MARS NEEDS MOMS IN 3-D (PG) Fri: 10:15-12:35-3:05-5:20-7:35-9:45
RED RIDING HOOD (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 11:50-4:45-7:30-10:15
THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 9:55-12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55
BEASTLY (PG-13) Fri: 10:50-11:30-3:30-5:50-10:45
THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 7:00-9:30
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- Fri-Sun: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
INSIDIOUS (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 11:40-2:35-5:20-8:10-11:00
SOURCE CODE (PG-13) Fri-Thurs: 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG) Fri-Thurs: 10:55-1:40-4:25-7:10
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES (PG) DIGITAL PRESENTATION Fri, Sat: 10:00-12:45-3:25-6:10-8:55-11:20
SUCKER PUNCH (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 11:35-5:25-8:20-10:55
SUCKER PUNCH: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri-Sun: 10:25-1:10-4:05-7:00-10:00
LIMITLESS (PG-13) Fri-Thurs: 11:15-2:05-5:05-8:00-10:50
LIMITLESS (PG-13) DIGITAL Fri-Thurs: 10:15-12:55-3:45-6:35-9:25
THE LINCOLN LAWYER (R) Fri-Thurs: 10:05-1:05-4:20-7:20-10:25
PAUL (R) Fri, Sun-Thurs: 10:20-12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20
WIN WIN (R) Fri-Thurs: 11:10-2:00-4:45-7:40-10:35
BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (PG-13) Fri, Sat: 11:05-2:20-5:30-8:30-11:20
MARS NEEDS MOMS (PG) Fri-Thurs: 11:00-1:3-4:10
RED RIDING HOOD (PG-13) Fri-Thurs: 2:40
THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU (PG-13) Fri-Thurs: 6:45-9:35
RANGO (PG) Fri-Thurs: 10:05-1:00-3:55-6:50-9:45
HALL PASS (R) Fri-Thurs: 9:55
THE KING'S SPEECH (R) Fri-Thurs: 10:00-12:40-3:35-6:40-9:40
WILMETTE Wilmette 1122 Central Ave. (847) 251-7411
CEDAR RAPIDS (R) Fri, Wed, Thurs: 5:00-7:10
BARNEY'S VERSION (R) Fri, Wed: 4:20-7:00
PAGE TO SCREEN: SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS Thurs: 1:00
OPERA IN CINEMA - THE MAGIC FLUTE FROM LA SCALA, ITALY Thurs: 7:00

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Saturday, April 9

Willow Creek Community Church North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Rd
Northfield, IL 60093

Questions?
Contact Jackie Herron-Whitfield
224-512-6637

Sign up online and pick one or more 2-hour serving shifts
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

www.WillowCreekNorthShore.org



Songs and dance

Folksinger/songwriter Andrew Calhoun performs, with his daughter Casey adding vocals and interpretive dance, in a program at the Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffee House, 8 p.m. April 9, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. \$8 includes refreshments. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhumanist.org/coffeehouse.

go.

Continued from PAGE B7

tion, call (847) 991-4748 or visit www.americansocietyofartists.org. Call for artists for the Skokie Art Guild's 50th annual Art Fair, to be held July 9-10 on Skokie's Village Green, 5211 W. Dakton. Fine art only; prizes and awards are available. For information or an application, visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

BENEFITS

Japan Benefit Concert, 6-9 p.m. April 6 in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Soloists and small ensembles will perform baroque, folk, pop, opera and musical theatre works as well as traditional Japanese music. Donations in any amount will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will benefit the American Red Cross earthquake and tsunami disaster relief efforts in Japan. For information, call (847) 491-5441 or visit www.pick-staiger.org.

BOOKS & POETRY

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. April 1, 10:30 a.m.: Suzanne Hales reviews *The Last Time I Saw You* by Elizabeth Berg. April 11, 11 a.m.: Discussion of *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver.

CHILD'S PLAY

Harand Camp of the Theatre Arts will hold open auditions for its 2011 summer season from 6-8 p.m. March 31 at the North Shore Hotel, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Open to ages 7-18. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a familiar song with music or a cappella, read from a script and do some basic choreography. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (847) 867-1356 or visit www.harandcamp.com.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Through April 19, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays: Stories & More, a storytime for children ages 3-5. Through April 20, 10 a.m. Wednesdays: Beginning with Books, featuring stories, songs and activities for infants to 2-year-olds, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. April 4, 3:30 p.m.: Screening of "Ramona and Beezus." April 11, 3:30 p.m.: Screening of "Harriet the Spy-Blog Wars." April 18, 3:30 p.m.: Screening of "Despicable Me." Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. May 12-15: Sesame Street Live "1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends." Performances at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$15, \$25 and \$30. \$40 Gold Circle seats and \$85 Sunny Seats are also available. Opening night, all seats (excluding Gold Circle and Sunny Seats) are \$15.

COMEDY

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.monroeroom.com. (847) 544-5300. April 9, 8:30 p.m.: The Second City presents "Fair & Unbalanced." Tickets are \$15-\$20 in advance; \$20-\$25 at the door. April 23: Steve Cochran presents "Ladies' Night," featuring stand-up comedy by Patti Vasquez, Ana Belaval and Jann Karem. S27. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. April 1 and 29, 8:30 p.m.: The Edge Comedy Club. \$15.

DANCE

Chicago Barn Dance Company will host contra dance with East Coast band Perpetual E-Motion and caller Jack Mitchell from 8-11 p.m. April 16 at SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. All dances taught, no partner necessary. Admission is \$5-\$7. Call (224) 534-9173. Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance, the national organization representing

go., PAGE B13

chicagooperatheater

Brian Dickie, General Director

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Friday, April 22, 8:00

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Skokie's Spring Greening A Community Expo

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Reuse and recycling drop-off

(see www.skokiespringgreening.org for acceptable items)

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Special Easter Menu with a variety of entree choices including Ham, Prime Rib, Roasted Duckling, Lamb Shank and several traditional German choices.

Children's menu available • Holiday menu is table service, not a buffet

Reservations are required and space fills quickly for Easter.

Seating times are 11:30, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00 & 5:30.

Johnny Wagner will perform from 1:00 - 5:00 pm

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In 250 words or less, tell us how a friend or a family member inspires you through community involvement, volunteering or charitable efforts. Please include a photo if possible. *Pioneer Press* will feature the most outstanding moms in its annual Mother's Day special sections on April 28.

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steppenwolf

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Sexy Sundays

Special events in between performances of Sex with Strangers on certain Sundays.

Next Up: Professionally Sexy—5:30 p.m. on March 27

Three sex and relationship bloggers from Chicago join us for a spicy conversation about the business of making some of our most private moments available for public conversation.

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Continued from PAGE B8

amateur ballroom dancers. Lesson begins at 7:30 p.m., dancing from 8:15-11 p.m. Admission: \$8 members; \$10 non-members; \$6 for students with ID. Dance music for all swing, Latin and ballroom dances. Partners not required—singles welcome. Beginning dancers encouraged. For information, call (847) 577-9014 or visit www.usadancechicago.org. April 9: Dance at The Centre at North Park, 10040 Addison, Franklin Park. American style foxtrot lesson by Cinnamon Tramwell of The Center for Ballroom and Dance.

Northwestern University's Marjorie Ward Marshall Dance Center, 10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. April 14-16, 8 p.m.: "Sombros—Three Works by Joel Valentin-Martinez." A talk-back with the choreographer and dancers will follow the Friday performance. Tickets: \$15; \$5 for students. April 29-30, 8 p.m.: "The NU Group," work created, designed and performed by Northwestern alumni.

The Oakton Community College Alliance for Lifelong Learning offers Mad Hot Ballroom and Swing (PED D01-02), featuring the tango, rumba, cha-cha and swing, at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. No prior experience or dance partner required. Six-week course meets from 7:35-8:35 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 7. Course fee is \$49. To register, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.

Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. Admission is \$5 for members; \$6 for guests. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. April 11: "Step to a Wave—New Dancer Dance." April 25: "Showers and Flowers."

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

The 2011 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil will be held April 8-10 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. The Fleadh Cheoil, which is Irish for music festival, is an annual competition for traditional musicians, singers and dancers of all ages. The regional festival serves as the first round of competition for entry in the All-Ireland competition in Cavan, Ireland. Admission is \$20; \$50 for an all-access all weekend pass. Children under the age of 12, who are not competitors, are admitted free of charge. For information and a schedule of competitions and events, visit www.midwestfleadh.com.

FILM

Block Cinema, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/block-cinema. March 31, 7:30 p.m.: Guitarist-composer Alex de Grassi will perform his original score for the 1934 silent film "A Story of Floating Weeds"

by Japanese filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu. \$8. April 8, 7:30 p.m.: "Silent Surrealism," silent films with live gypsy jazz by the Hot Club of San Francisco. \$8. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Friday Films at 1 p.m.—April 1: "Waiting for Superman." April 8: "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps." April 15: "Babies" and "The Karate Kid." April 22: "Conviction." Morning Matinees at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays—April 7: "Monsters." April 14: "Babies" and "The Karate Kid." April 21: "Disneyature Oceans."

The North Shore Movie Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. April 6 in the parish hall at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month for the showing of a thought-provoking

feature film, followed by discussion. New members welcome. For information, call (847) 966-8445.

Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgelibrary.org. "Legends of Laughter" film series, presented at 7 p.m. Thursdays, unless otherwise noted. All showings will be accompanied by a short talk and introduction by film historian Matthew Hoffman. Admission is free. March 31: "The Circus" (1928) starring Charlie Chaplin. April 7: "The Freshman" (1925) starring Harold Lloyd. April 10: "Speedy" (1928) starring Harold Lloyd, 6:30 p.m. at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. \$8. In addition to the film with live organ accompaniment courtesy of the Silent Film Society of Chicago, the Lloyd short film, "Never Weaken," will

be shown. April 14: "Steamboat Bill" (1928) starring Buster Keaton. April 21: "City Lights" (1931) starring Charlie Chaplin. April 28: "The Kid Brother" (1927) starring Harold Lloyd.

ORGANIZATIONS

North Shore Affiliates of the Museum of Contemporary Art will celebrate "All Things Artful, Two" at its spring luncheon at 11 a.m. May 17 at Bryn Mawr Country Club, 6600 N. Crawford, Lincolnwood. Chicago artist Nick Cave will discuss his work and share his views on the importance of art in our lives. In addition, works by artists who create jewelry, accessories, ceramics and mosaics will be on exhibit and for sale. For reservations and information, call (847) 948-9222.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Oakton Community College Emeritus Program offers courses at its Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus. Marvelous Mancini (MUS B55-71) journeys into the genius and creativity of composer Henry Mancini, responsible for memorable compositions including "The Pink Panther" and "Peter Gunn." Session meets from 10-11:30 a.m. April 6. Course fee is \$20. Four Plays (ENG E96-71) offers debate on the aesthetic and sociopolitical value of four of the hottest plays to hit the stages of Chicago and

go., PAGE B16

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SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 8:00

Bluegrass royalty and three-time Grammy Award-winner Dr. Ralph Stanley and his Clinch Mountain Boys have teamed up with the "first family of bluegrass," Cherryholmes, for a dynamic celebration of the very best of this musical tradition's past, present and future. More than 60 years after he formed the Clinch Mountain Boys in rural southwest Virginia, Stanley preserves bluegrass, old-time and mountain music traditions.

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Artists, times and programs subject to change

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Continued from PAGE B13

New York. Four-week course meets from 1-3 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 7. Course fee is \$60. The Life and Passions of Miss Jane Austen (HUM C07-71) will meet from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, starting April 14, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glenview. Course fee is \$84.

ET CETERA

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. April 17 and May 8, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.: The Amazing

Acrocats. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door; \$10/\$12 for children. Solo Works by master puppeteer Michael Montenegro, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, April 8-May 21, at Theatre Zarko, located in the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Studio 213, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. The show presents a wide range of puppet styles and techniques. Not recommended for children under 8 years old. Montenegro will be available for a post-show discussion after every performance. \$15; \$10 per person for groups of four or more. Visit www.theatrezarko.org.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: \$12; \$8 for students and senior citizens; \$6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through May 31: "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges." The exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and 1940s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement and American society. April 10, 1:30-3 p.m. Wendy A. Sarti discusses and signs her recently published book, Women and Nazis: Perpetrators of Genocide and Other Crimes During Hitler's Regime, 1933-1945.

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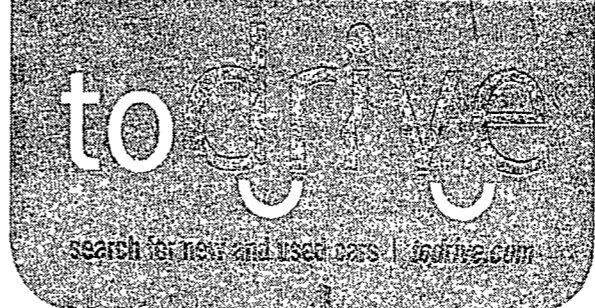
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LEXUS IS 350

BY JOHN STEIN
ToDrive Editor

Lexus launched the IS 350 sedan in 2005 with the crosshairs set directly on the BMW 3 Series. Six years later there has not been a significant defection from that BMW small sedan, but Lexus has carved out its own place where the IS 350 stands, rightfully, on its own.

The IS 350 is definitely a Lexus, which is to say it is luxurious and well built with comfort and convenience top of the mind for virtually everything one encounters in the cabin. While there are some nice sporty cues on the exterior and a reasonably enthusiastic response under the hood, the IS 350 digs its heels in as a solid entry-level luxury sedan.

Interestingly, as Lexus has settled into its self-imposed territory, upstarts like the Acura TL SH-AWD, an impressive luxury performer with all-wheel drive, have tried to work their way into Lexus' piece of the pie. Lexus was wise to offer an AWD option this year to ensure an apples-to-apples comparison.

Exterior styling is unmistakably Lexus; there is nothing middle of the road in any aspect of the looks on the IS 350. From the beautiful 17-inch 10-spoke aluminum alloy rims to the bold LED-outlined strip below the headlights to the roofline leaping back toward the trunk, the IS 350 looks gorgeous and stands out in a crowd.

My IS 350 tester had a base price of \$41,030, which makes it one of the best

luxury values in this class. Inside the cabin you get everything Lexus is known for — and a bit more.

Keeping in mind the small sedan class is not about backseat comfort, this IS 350 does manage to eke out as much legroom as possible.

Leather is a signature element for Lexus and the IS350 is no exception. Ten-way power adjustments for both front seats deliver perfect posture for any length ride while power tilt allows the driver a customized position and dual-zone climate creates a comfortable space for everyone.

Visibility is good and safety measures for the IS 350 are abundant. Lexus' new Enform telematics service lets drivers preselect destinations on their home computers, then send them to the car. Enform also includes the usual concierge services through an operator.

The real kudos for the IS 350 go to the engine, a 3.5-liter V-6 using an innovative fuel delivery system combining direct injection and port injection. The result is 306 horsepower at 6,400 rpm and 277 pound-feet of torque at 4,800 rpm. This is what competitors tend to get with a 3.7-liter V-6. The engine is paired with a

steady-performing six-speed automatic transmission that has a sport mode and manual gear selection.

With the new all-wheel-drive system, Environmental Protection Agency fuel economy is 18 mpg city and 25 mpg highway. The V-6 provides nice acceleration and plenty of confidence to pass anyone who happens to be in the way.

The AWD, which comes from the IS 250, delivers tremendous traction on the pavement during inclement weather. The system, which is set for 70 percent torque on the rear wheels and 30 percent on the front, is capable of a flat balance of torque at a 50/50 split.

Overall, the IS 350 is an outstanding luxury sedan for those looking to get into the segment. While cabin space is tight, it is luxurious and comfortable inside with a bevy of technology and convenience options. The final price for my tester landed at \$47,265, after more than \$5,000 in options and \$875 on delivery.

2011 LEXUS IS 350

- ENGINE: 306-horsepower 3.5-liter V-6
- TRANSMISSION: six-speed automatic
- DRIVETRAIN: all-wheel drive
- FUEL ECONOMY: 18 city/25 highway
- BASE PRICE: \$41,030
- AS TESTED: \$47,265
- WEBSITE: lexus.com



Editor: John Stein jstein@suntimes.com | Asst. Editor: Jennifer Burklow Design: John Lemein | To Advertise: Mike Nathan 312.321.2975

today's

The Crossings bridges the gap between renter and owner

With the Metra station just steps away and a monthly mortgage payment lower than typical city rent, the new luxury rowhomes at The Crossings at Morton Grove are quickly becoming home for commuters.

For a limited time, the builder is offering a special mortgage buy down program allowing qualified buyers to own a new three-level rowhome at The Crossings at Morton Grove for as low as \$1,011 per month. Sales representatives can explain the details and calculate the benefits for prospective buyers.

The mortgage buy down program is available through the company's in-house mortgage division, TBI Mortgage for a limited time only. To give an example, a qualified buyer can purchase the Oakton model at \$249,995 with a 5/1 ARM and only 10 percent down and we will buy down the rate to 3.5 percent, giving them a low monthly mortgage payment of only \$1,011. The company's local mortgage representative is available to meet with prospective buyers and discuss this program as well as all of the options.

The build is available for immediate closing. Highlighting three levels with granite master bedroom suite, two From 1-mile, turn more into com. For "Crossin For in Bloomi South E

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\$33 A ROOM

Limited Time Offer! CALL TODAY!

Minimum charges apply. Must present coupon at time of service. Not valid with any other offer. Residential Only. Combined living areas, 1st/2nd floors and rooms over 300 sq. ft. are considered 2 areas. Baths, halls, staircases, large walk-in closets and area rugs are priced separately. Protector not included. Valid at participating locations only. Offer expires 4/30/11. Promo Code: 5C33

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PERCENT FINANCING DOLLARS DOWN PAYMENTS TIL JULY

WE'LL PAY OFF YOUR TRADE NO MATTER WHAT YOU OWE!

 <p>New 2011 Nissan Versa 1.8 \$9,998</p>	 <p>New 2011 Nissan Sentra \$11,489</p>	 <p>New 2011 Nissan Altima 2.5s \$14,895</p>
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EARLY LEASE TERMINATION TURN YOUR LEASE IN EARLY & WE WILL WAIVE YOUR REMAINING 3 PAYMENTS & GET \$500-\$1000 CASH BACK!

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Nissan NOW

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Star Nissan Used Car Outlet		Mid City Nissan Used Car Outlet	
03 Nissan Sentra	\$9,900	07 Nissan Murano	\$14,900
02 Volkswagen GTI	\$9,900	05 Toyota Sienna XLE	\$15,900
07 Ford Focus	\$9,900	06 Nissan Pathfinder	\$15,900
06 Chevrolet Impala LS	\$9,900	07 Nissan Xterra	\$15,900
04 Toyota Camry XLE	\$10,900	05 Honda Odyssey Touring EX	\$17,900
07 Nissan Quest	\$12,900	07 Ford Explorer	\$18,900
06 Cadillac GTS	\$12,900	05 Nissan Titan LE	\$19,900
07 Subaru Impreza	\$12,900	09 Cadillac GTS	\$26,900
03 Chevrolet Malibu	\$4,995	08 Nissan Quest	\$12,995
00 Nissan Xterra	\$7,995	04 BMW 330xi	\$13,495
02 Subaru Forester	\$7,995	06 Nissan Rogue	\$14,995
04 Mitsubishi Galant	\$7,995	08 Nissan Altima SL	\$15,995
05 Nissan Altima	\$8,995	06 Ford F-150	\$16,995
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New 2011 Subaru Impreza 2.5i
\$17,506

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0.9% APR AVAILABLE!

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5.7 Hemi, Sunroof, 20" Wheels
MSRP \$34,105
SAVE \$7110 OFF MSRP*

SHERMAN PRICE: \$26,995

NEW 2011 JEEP PATRIOT



Includes Air Conditioning
Stk #1409
MSRP \$16,695
SHERMAN PRICE: \$11,995

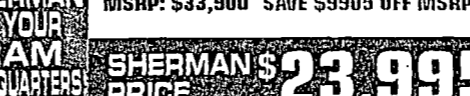
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SHERMAN PRICE: \$23,995

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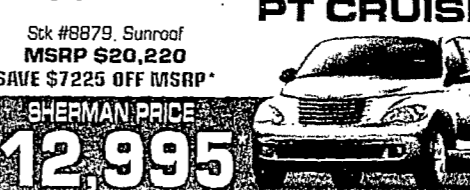
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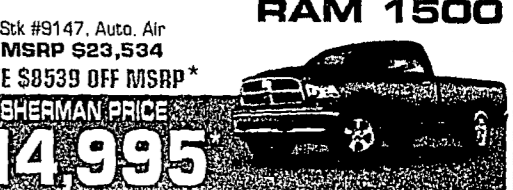
0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS NOW AVAILABLE!

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Stk #9872
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SHERMAN PRICE: \$16,995

NEW 2010 Dodge RAM 1500



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0% x 72 PLUS YOU GET THE REBATE. Every Buick, GMC & Cadillac is Marked Down to its LOWEST PRICE!

Grid of Buick, GMC, and Cadillac models with prices: NEW 2011 BUICK REGAL \$21,990, NEW 2011 GMC ACADIA \$26,990, NEW 2011 CADILLAC SRX \$30,990, NEW 2011 BUICK LACROSSE \$22,990, NEW 2011 GMC SIERRA \$15,990, NEW 2011 CADILLAC CTS \$28,990, NEW 2011 BUICK LUCERNE \$23,990, NEW 2011 GMC TERRAIN \$2,990, NEW 2011 CADILLAC DTS \$36,990, NEW 2011 BUICK ENCLAVE \$29,990, NEW 2011 GMC YUKON \$29,990, NEW 2011 CADILLAC ESCALADE \$69,990.

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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



NEW 2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT CREW CAB 4X4
MSRP: \$39,580 #D5407

SAVE \$11,000 OFF MSRP! BIG HORN EDITION

ALL DODGE RAMS IN STOCK!
\$11,000 OFF MSRP

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NEW 2011 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN V6, W/POWER CONVENIENCE PACKAGE GROUP1
MSRP: \$28,125 #D5446

EMPLOYEE PRICING

NEW 2011 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN V6, W/POWER CONVENIENCE PACKAGE GROUP1
MSRP: \$28,125 #D5446

EMPLOYEE PRICING

NEW 2011 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4
MSRP: \$23,690 #J2834

SAVE \$2,740 OFF MSRP!

THE Jeep Giant

EMPLOYEE PRICING

NEW 2011 DODGE CALIBER MAINSTREET
MSRP: \$19,235 #D5404

26/31 MPG

EMPLOYEE PRICING

NEW 2011 DODGE NITRO HEAT
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EMPLOYEE PRICING

BRAND NEW 2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING
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OR **1.9% x 60 MONTHS!**

\$1900 due at signing, plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee.

BRAND NEW 2011 DODGE CHARGER RALLY EDITION
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OR **1.9% x 60 MONTHS!**

\$2500 due at signing, plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee.

BRAND NEW 2011 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4
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OR **1.9% x 60 MONTHS!**

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Prices plus tax, title, license and \$155 doc fee. All manufacturer rebates and dealer discounts applied to final price. Cannot be combined with other offers. Rebates in lieu of incentives. Amount off MSRP may not be price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. In lieu of special financing. Includes all applicable manufacturer incentives and/or dealer discounts. *Example: Rio gets at 4.09% for 72 mos. w/ \$2500 down (\$15.68 per \$1000 fin.) 21 lease with \$2000 down (\$3000 down on 2011 Sorento) plus 1st mo. prnt., tax, title, lic. sec. dep. & doc. fee (\$1156.00), 12k mi/yr, 20k mi. over. Residual: Kia Forte \$7,826, Kia Soul \$7,837, Kia Sorento \$11,019. *Lease responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance & mileage. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. Ends 3/31/11.

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MARCH MARKDOWN

FINAL DAY!

TOYOTA

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2010 & 2011 Prii AVAILABLE

OVER 60 PRII TO CHOOSE FROM \$1000 REBATE ON 2010 PRII

NEW 2011 TOYOTA COROLLA \$14,695 = \$149

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OVER 300 TOP QUALITY USED VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM

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'03 VW PASSAT	'07 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER	'07 TOYOTA CAMRY LE	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'03 KIA SORENTO	'08 MINI COOPER S	'07 TOYOTA CAMRY LE	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'05 TOYOTA COROLLA	'07 DODGE CHARGER R/T BLACK	'09 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'03 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX	'03 CADILLAC ESCALADE	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'08 FORD ESCAPE XLT	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'05 TOYOTA CAMRY	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
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'09 CHEVROLET AVEO	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'05 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT
'03 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT	'08 TOYOTA TACOMA	'08 HONDA RIDGELINE RT

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The Last Name You Need To Know

Grossinger TOYOTA NORTH

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800-989-0244

Scan to view our inventory.

GrossingerToyotaNorth.com

Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable rebates & incentives applied to vehicle prices. 10% apr for 60 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$16.67 per \$1000 fin.). On most new Toyota models. *Excludes tax, title, lic & \$156.08 doc. fee. 1) Based on EPA hwy estimates. Actual mileage may vary. 2) Rebate from Toyota. 3) Off MSRP, from Toyota. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. All offers end 3 days after pub. date.

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2003 SATURN ION	2007 KIA RONDO	2009 KIA OPTIMA
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800-917-1267

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GrossingerKia.com

Offers to qualified buyers. All mfr. rebates and incentives applied. 10% APR for 72 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$13.89 per \$1000 fin.). \$10,000 max to fr. may affect final sales price. *Plus tax, title, lic. & doc. fees. **Example: Rio gets at 4.09% for 72 mos. w/ \$2500 down (\$15.68 per \$1000 fin.) 21 lease with \$2000 down (\$3000 down on 2011 Sorento) plus 1st mo. prnt., tax, title, lic. sec. dep. & doc. fee (\$1156.00), 12k mi/yr, 20k mi. over. Residual: Kia Forte \$7,826, Kia Soul \$7,837, Kia Sorento \$11,019. *Lease responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance & mileage. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this advertisement. All offers end 3 days after pub. date.

0% APR for 24 mos. ON USED!

 08 SUZUKI SX4 \$8,980*	 09 TOYOTA CAMRY \$13,980*
 10 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD \$17,980*	 06 AUDI A4 S-LINE \$18,980*

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- 2007 NISSAN VERSA #B0037A...\$8,995*
- 2005 SAAB 9-2X #C1320A...\$10,980*
- 2008 VW JETTA #P123...\$10,980*
- 2006 VW PASSAT #P127...\$10,980*
- 2004 INFINITI G35 AWD #A0052-1...\$10,995*
- 2010 MITSUBISHI GALANT #Q367...\$12,980*
- 2006 NISSAN ALTIMA SR V6 #P140...\$13,980*
- 2005 BMW 325i #B0045A...\$13,980*
- 2010 FORD FUSION #P106...\$13,980*
- 2004 VW TOURAREG #P128...\$15,980*
- 2006 NISSAN MURANO SL AWD #P118...\$15,995*
- 2011 TOYOTA COROLLA LE...\$16,980*
- 2009 SUBARU IMPREZA #B0016A...\$16,980*
- 2010 NISSAN ALTIMA #P144...\$16,980*
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- 2010 VW JETTA WAGON #A0050A...\$18,980*
- 2010 SUZUKI KIZASHI GTS #Q378...\$18,980*
- 2008 ACURA RDX #P116...\$22,980*
- 2008 JEEP WRANGLER X #P138...\$25,980*
- 2010 CADILLAC CTS #P143...\$26,980*
- 2008 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HYBRID #P142...\$33,980*

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DRIVE A SUZUKI TODAY! We'll Get You Approved!

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0% for 72 MONTHS!

AVAILABLE ON ALL SUZUKI MODELS

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America's #1 Warranty

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Offers to qualified buyers. All applicable manufacturer rebates & incentives applied to vehicle prices. *Excludes tax, title, lic. & doc. fee. 1) May require down payment. †10% apr for 72 mos. to qualified buyers in lieu of rebates and incentives (\$13.21 per \$1000 financed), \$10,000 max to finance. Buy down rate may affect final sales price. †10% apr for 24 mos. to qualified buyers on select models (\$41.67 per \$1000 financed), \$30,000 max to finance, may affect final sales price. Dealer will not honor pricing errors in this ad. Offers end 3 days after publication.

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- 2005 PONTIAC SUNFIRE 2 DOOR Stk# H25236C - Nice Car, GREAT ON GAS!!! \$8,988
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550 Skokie Valley Road Highland Park 847-831-4200 highlandparkusedcars.com

KIA SUBARU Used Cars

2001 Dodge Ram P/U #ST3546 \$4,492

2004 Kia Sedona Clean #KT3708 \$6,880

2002 Chrysler P/T Cruiser 65K Miles #KC3714 \$5,988

2006 Hyundai Elantra Cheap! #KC3735 \$6,878

2002 Ford Ranger 4X4 #SC3690 \$6,980

2002 Chevy S-10 Crew Cab 4X4 #ST3677 \$6,988

2007 Saturn Vue #ST3647 \$8,495

2005 Subaru Outback AWD #SC3650 \$10,950

2009 Pontiac Vibe #KP3599 \$11,748 or \$229/mo.

2009 Nissan Cube #KP3598 \$11,888 or \$229/mo.

2008 VW Jetta S- #ST3694 \$13,922 or \$269/mo.

2009 Kia Sedona LX Family Fun! #KP3380 \$14,988 or \$279/mo.

2009 Toyota Camry LE #KC3749 \$15,788 or \$299/mo.

2011 Hyundai GLS Clean #SP3542 \$18,465 or \$349/mo.

2009 Kia Borrego LX #KP3685 \$18,466 or \$349/mo.

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BUILDERS' SHOWCASE WEEK 8

From renter TO OWNER

The Crossings bridges the gap from paying rent to owning a home

With the Metra station just steps away and a monthly mortgage payment lower than typical city rent, the new luxury rowhomes at The Crossings at Morton Grove are quickly becoming home for commuters. For a limited time, the builder is offering a special mortgage buy down program allowing qualified buyers to own a new three-level rowhome at The Crossings at Morton Grove for as low as \$1,011 per month. Sales representatives can explain the details and calculate the benefits for prospective buyers.

The new program is a perfect opportunity for renters to make the move and buy instead of renewing that 2011 apartment lease.

"With this special mortgage program, the monthly payment to buy a new rowhome at The Crossings at Morton Grove is often lower than the rent on a downtown apartment," said Brett Taylor, Senior Sales Manager for Toll Brothers.

The mortgage buy down program is available through the company's in-house mortgage division, TBI Mortgage for a limited time only.

"To give an example, a qualified buyer can purchase our Oakton model at \$249,995 with a 5/1 ARM and only 10 percent down and we will buy down the rate to 3.5 percent, giving them a low monthly mortgage payment of only \$1,011," said Taylor.

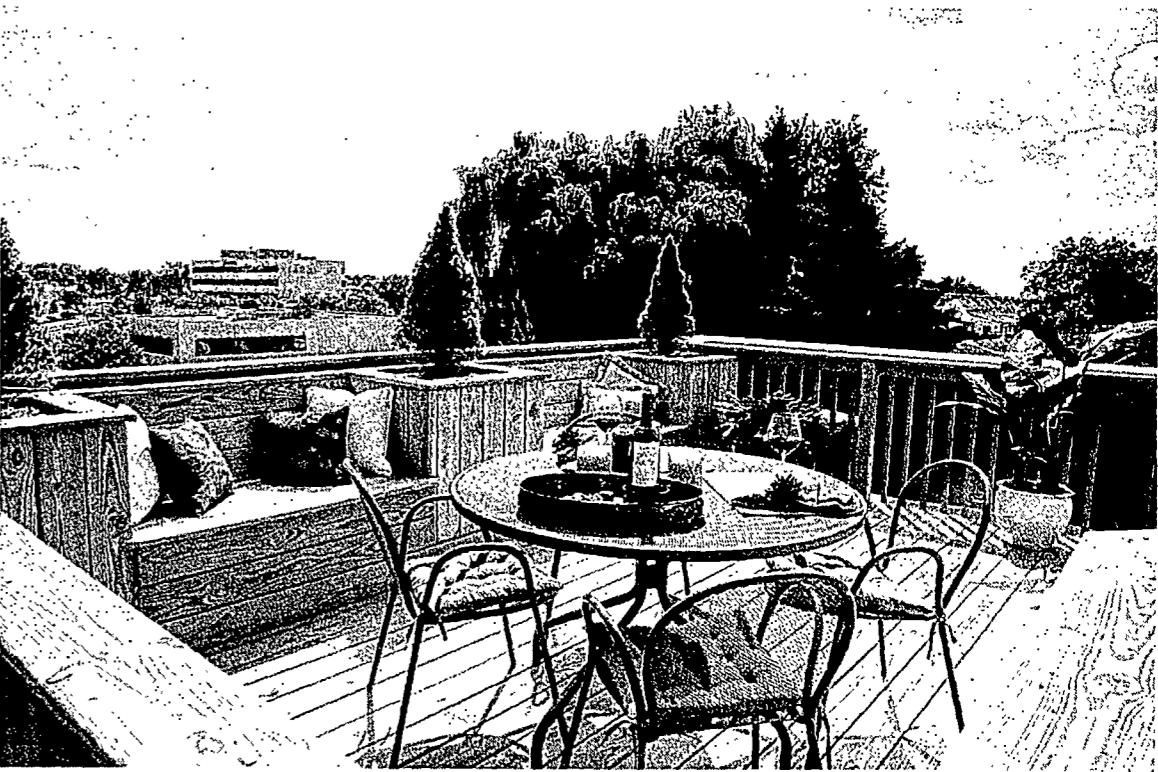
The company's local mortgage representative is available to meet with prospective buyers and discuss this program as well as all of today's financing options.

"The Oakton offers 1,480 square feet of living space on three levels of living with two bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and features a large kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, impressive master suite, two-car garage, basement, and a rooftop deck," said Taylor. "We have an Oakton available to move-in as early as April."

The builder also has another larger quick delivery home



Easy living: The model home at The Crossings at Morton Grove is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pictured is a model living room.



Rowhome with a view: A neat feature available at The Crossings of Morton Grove is the rooftop deck, offering great views and private outdoor space.

available for immediate move-in. Priced at \$369,995, the two-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath Henning rowhome features 1,860 square feet of living space on three levels.

Highlights of this end-unit rowhome are the additional windows on all three levels, a large family room or home office, gourmet island kitchen with granite countertops and

stainless steel appliances, and a spacious master bedroom with bay window, huge walk-in closet, and an impressive master bath with separate tub and shower, and private lavatory. This rowhome also boasts a bay window in the

SEE THE CROSSINGS, PAGE 4

BlockShopper, 5 | Local transactions, 7 | Don DeBat, 10

*New car prices & payments include applicable manufacturer incentives & manufacturer rebates. Price includes destination charge & excludes tax, title, license, & dealer fees. Dealer sets actual price. †MSRP. MSRP may not be price at which vehicle is sold in trade area. Excludes applicable manufacturer rebates and manufacturer incentives. In lieu of special financing, Ex. 2010 Ford Focus SRV MSRP \$14,200 - \$14,000 - \$34,995. Price tax, title, license & dealer fees. Financing rate 7.99% for 72 months. \$1,999 cash financing w/ \$500 down. Ex. \$9.76 per \$1,000 financed w/ \$500 down. Expires 3/31/11. **With approved credit. On select models. In lieu of manufacturer rebate. 0.9% APR for 66 months. \$1,011 per month. Max. cash rebate \$10,000. Ex. \$19.89 per \$1,000 financed w/ \$0 down. *Based on 2010 FWD total new retail vehicle sales report. **APR estimated by NADA. Dealer will not honor any pricing errors in this advertisement. Prices are good 7 days from date of publication. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. See dealer for details.

Buyers can buy into city legacy at The Legacy

What are suburban buyers really looking for when contemplating a move to downtown Chicago?

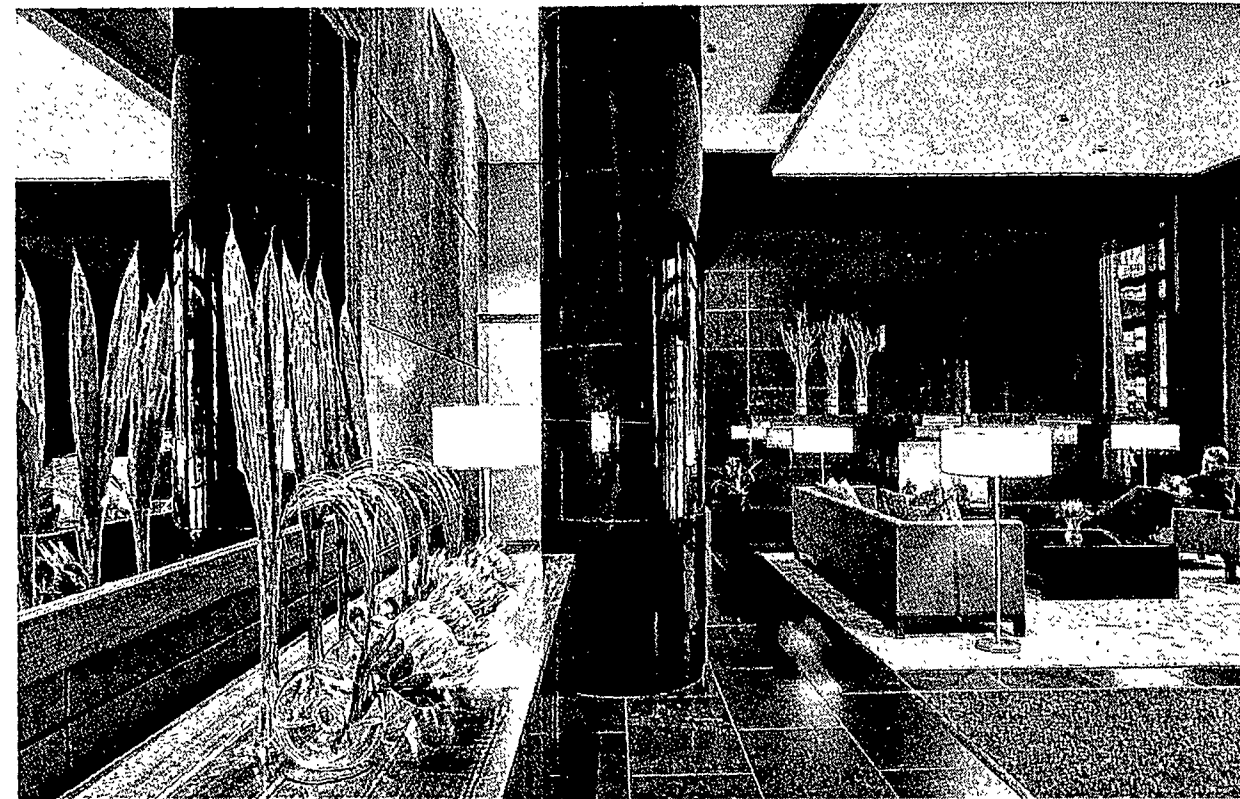
Clearly everyone is looking for value these days, but beside that, the wish list is the same as for any location. The list includes location, views, floor plan, interior space, building amenities, entertainment, convenience and the appearance of the building itself.

From interviews with residents at The Legacy at Millennium Park, it was learned that they chose the building because it was the only one downtown that offered everything they were looking for in

FIND OUT MORE

The sales center is open at 60 E. Monroe, Suite 3802, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 312-252-0060 or visit www.thelegacyatmillenniumpark.com.

a residential high-rise. Location and convenience were the top priority for these buyers. Views and amenities ran a close second, according to Audra Hall, public relations agent at CMR, Inc.



Legacy living: The lobby at The Legacy is just one of the scenic, spacious assets of this downtown Chicago development.

The Legacy is located a block away from Millennium Park and is also close enough for many residents to walk to work. Location was very important to Robin and Gary Beadle when they decided to move to The Legacy. The Beadles were living in the suburbs and wanted the convenience of a downtown lifestyle. Gary is now able to walk to his office, which is seven blocks away from their residence. Robin still works in the suburbs but going against traffic, it takes her twenty minutes to get from downtown to her office.

Robin and Gary were particularly impressed of The Legacy and Millennium Park. The park is one block from their residence. Now that they live at The Legacy, Robin and Gary can take advantage of everything there is to do at Millennium Park. In the winter, one option is ice-skating in the midst of a park with the architecture, the landscape and the Chicago city lights around. From November through March, the park is home to a 16,000-square-foot ice skating rink with free admission. Also in winter, international dance lessons are available on-stage and inside at Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

In the summer, Millennium Park really comes alive with art and culture. Free classical music from The Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus can be enjoyed with a picnic

of cheese and wine in the park. The landscaped Lurie Garden is the perfect setting for a stroll. Millennium Park events and entertainment are endless in the summer. More information is available at explorechicago.org.

The Beadles are also thrilled with their view at The Legacy. They have a city view facing northwest and find the city lights downtown incredible as they shine through the floor-to-ceiling windows, as well as the sunsets. The views are also breathtaking in the sky lounges on the 42nd and 60th floors. Residents can enjoy these indoor/outdoor spaces for entertaining or simply relaxing.

Another amenity that is actually attached to the building is the University Club, an independent, private membership club with admission governed by its own membership policies and bylaws. The club offers several restaurants, a fitness center, squash courts and guest rooms for overnight guests. The Beadles were not interested in purchasing an extra bedroom for infrequent, overnight visitors so the University Club guest rooms are a convenient option. Guests do not have to go far or outside in inclement weather.

The Beadles also appreciate the historical significance of The Legacy. The building at The Legacy's base is

known as The Sharp Building and was originally built in 1903. Mesa Development preserved the historical façade at street level while creating a very modern and architecturally pleasing tower in the center of the site.

The interior of their residence was a priority for Robin and Gary as well. Few luxury high-rise buildings offer practical, yet gorgeous, kitchens that compare to those at The Legacy. Most kitchens at The Legacy are enormous, especially when compared to other buildings. The finishes and appliances are top-of-the-line and included in the price.

The Patel family also purchased at The Legacy. After commuting to work from Burr Ridge for twelve years, they had enough of the daily traffic. They became empty nesters, but were still working full time, so they decided that urban living was no longer a dream.

Since Raj Patel works from home full time, they decided they needed four bedrooms. The Patels looked just about everywhere downtown and were unable to find a four-bedroom condominium. Comparable buildings did not offer a fourth bedroom, except in some penthouses, so The Legacy became an obvious choice.

The incredible amenities in the building were also a draw for them. Mr. Patel takes

an exercise break during the day in The Legacy's fitness center. He also uses the business center and conference room inside the building. Since he has a need for business meetings from time to time, having an impressive conference room is a must. The sky lounges are also available to entertain business clients, a large group of friends or a large party. Other amenities include an indoor lap pool and a twenty-four hour door staff and concierge.

Mr. Patel also mentioned the convenience of being able to walk to business meetings and appointments, as well as to endless entertainment options. The symphony, the theatre district and several fabulous restaurants are nearby. The family especially loves to attend plays and The Art Institute, which are all within three blocks of the building.

The Legacy is a residential, luxury high-rise that fits the desires of many suburban buyers. Prices range from one bedrooms starting in the mid \$300,000s to three bedrooms, and penthouses that start in the \$900,000s.

The sales center is open at 60 E. Monroe, Suite 3802, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 312-252-0060 or visit www.thelegacyatmillenniumpark.com.

TODAY'S HOMES

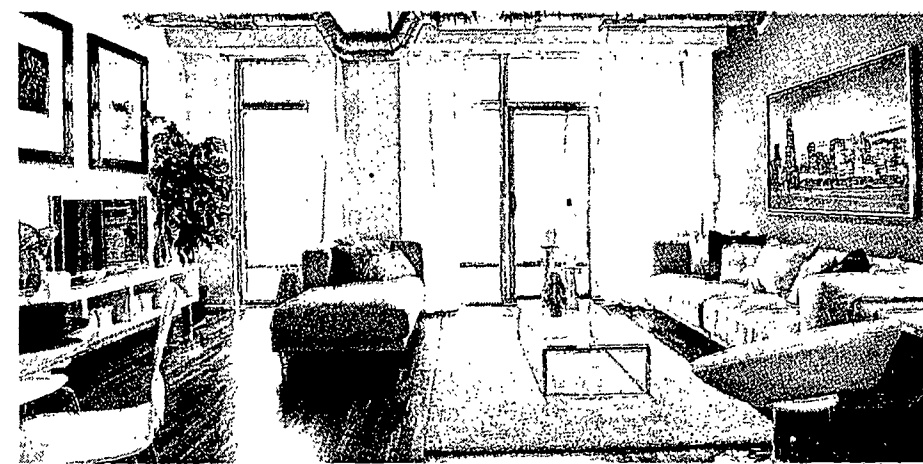
Leland Crossing offers lifestyle in 'international' Albany Park

Homebuyers can "explore the world" without leaving Chicago by simply living in Albany Park.

Albany Park provides a doorway to enjoying a community where such opportunities as Flamenco dancing and viewing Cambodian art can be found.

Many people are introduced first to this area through the dining options that are available. Long North Kedzie Avenue is nearly every type of food and shopping available, everything from Japanese food to Peruvian to French food and more.

Rising up in this vibrant Chicago community is Leland Crossing, a luxury 45-unit new-construction condominium development featuring a dramatic entry and lobby, high-speed elevator and wide designer hallways. The urban "soft-loft" condominiums have 10-foot concrete ceilings, exposed spiral ducts and oversized windows. On floors two through four of the building, buyers



Open to the world: Leland Crossing, a loft-style condominium community, offers luxury living in Albany Park, an up-and-coming local crossroads of world cuisine and culture.

will find 12 units with two bedrooms and two bathrooms ranging from 950 and 1,230 square feet, storage for every unit on each floor and heated, attached garage parking on the ground level.

A recent addition to the commercial space is the new boutique health club facility, "Bodyworx," offering a 24-

hour virtual trainer, 20 pieces of cardio from True and Life Fitness and more than 30 pieces of strength equipment, all while maintaining a group exercise program and a full-service locker room. The club is built around personal service, but maintains enough selection to match the variety that buyers would get from

big box club options. The nine penthouse units on the fifth floor feature larger two-bedroom, two-bathroom homes (ranging from 1,230 to 1,420 square feet) with large terraces and skyline views. Most penthouse units also feature full-size laundry rooms, and sumptuous master bathrooms

with Whirlpool tubs and separate showers.

Each residence features individual, climate controlled high-efficiency (90-percent) gas, is wired for the Internet and has cable TV jacks. The custom designed kitchens include Italian custom cabinetry, granite countertops with stainless steel undermount sinks and under cabinet lighting. The high-end semi-professional Whirlpool Gold appliance package includes a five-burner stove, Bosch quiet dishwasher with controls in door top and a microwave with steam function.

The floors are an environmentally friendly pre-engineered material guaranteed not to scratch or dent, and will maintain their luster, guaranteed for 15 years. Bathrooms include Toto toilets, custom vanity cabinetry with a double bowl vanity and walk-in "zero clearance" showers in the master, a single-bowl vanity and full tub and shower in the second bathroom and ceramic tile

surround in the master. These homes feature in-unit laundry hook ups, abundant closets and pantries and unique designs.

With nearly 40 percent sold approved FHA financing, purchasers can buy with as little as 3.5 percent down, and when using a preferred lender, Guaranteed Rate (contact Joe Catalbiano for more information at 773-290-0335), the developer has arranged to have \$1,000 of closing costs paid for the purchaser.

Prices for new-construction condos in Chicago, range from \$224,900 to \$349,900, and with low assessments and taxes, monthly payments will rival rental prices for comparable area apartments.

Prospective buyers can become fans on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LelandCrossing. Visit one of the Open Houses on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or call Conlon A Real Estate Company at 773-435-5800 and ask for a member of the Leland Crossing Team.

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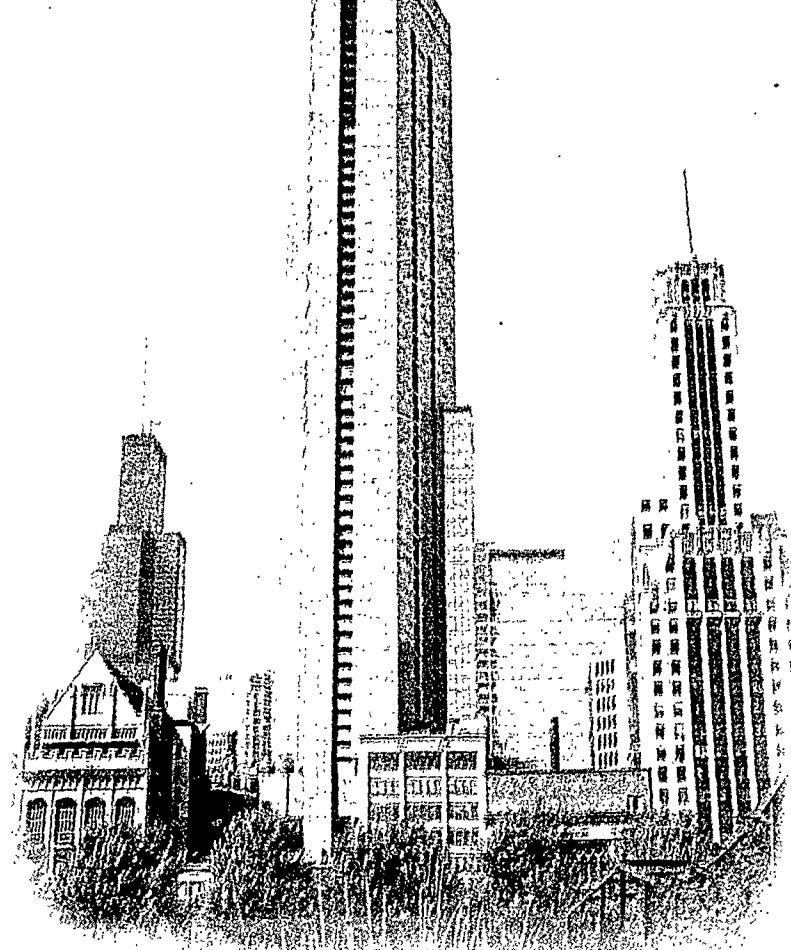
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TODAY'S HOMES

THE CROSSINGS

living room, full basement, two-car garage, and a fabulous rooftop deck.

The Crossings at Morton Grove is approaching 80 percent sold out.

"Visitors can see the hustle and bustle of activity and don't want to miss out," said Taylor.

The Crossings of Morton Grove is an enclave of 64 three-level rowhomes, priced from

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$249,995, within an established neighborhood in Morton Grove. Commuters may be drawn to the desirable location, just a few short blocks from the Metra station and 17 minutes from O'Hare airport. Another draw is the easy low-maintenance lifestyle with lawn care and snow removal provided by the Homeowners Association.

Buyers are pleasantly surprised with our long list of included features. Each three-level rowhome includes granite countertops, 42-inch maple cabinets, and Whirlpool Gold stainless steel appliances in the kitchen, plus hardwood floors, Kohler plumbing fixtures, and a washer and dryer.

Features include 9-foot first-floor and second-floor ceilings, expansive living/dining room, and the master suite with walk-in closets and a luxurious bath with a soaking tub and separate shower. A two-car attached garage and a full basement are also included.

The area surrounding The Crossings at Morton Grove features a variety of recreational opportunities. Beautiful Lake Michigan is only 15 minutes

away offering boating and other water sports. Several local and state parks are nearby, including Harrier Park & Pool, the Linne Woods and St. Paul's Woods Forest Preserve, providing swimming, hiking, and picnicking. Owners who enjoy a morning jog or a weekend bike ride will find the North Branch Bike Trail close by and all will enjoy an educational walk through the Botanic Gardens.

Visitors are invited to tour the rowhome available for immediate occupancy, as well as the Webster model. The sales center is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

From I-94 Edens Expressway, exit Dempster St. west, proceed ½ mile, turn left on Ferris Ave., travel 1 block south on Hennings Ct. For more information, call (847) 881-0888 or visit CrossingsatMortonGrove.com. For Facebook users, the community can be found by searching for "CrossingsAtMortonGrove."

For information on Toll Brothers other Chicagoland communities in Bloomingdale, Elgin, Glenview, Hawthorn Woods, North Aurora, and South Barrington, visit TollBrothers.com/Illinois.

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TODAY'S HOMES

HOME FRONT BY BLOCKSHOPPER

Country-style condo

WHERE WE LIVE | Vernon Hills condo community abuts forest preserve

BY JEREMY SCHNITKER
blockshopper.com



Four yet-to-be-occupied units are available at the River's Edge condo community in Vernon Hills, which was built three years ago.

Unit 806, a two-bedroom, two-bath condo that covers 1,901 square feet of living space is listed by agent Christine Frizzelle for \$449,000.

The top-floor condo has a kitchen with ample wood cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Brazilian cherry wood flooring runs through most of the unit, including the kitchen and a sunny living room, which has a fireplace and sliding glass doors that open to a balcony.

Carpeting and a ceiling fan can be found in the master bedroom, while the master bathroom has a dual vanity, spa tub and walk-in shower.

The unit comes with a private storage space

and a two-car garage.

River's Edge, which was built by Weiss Development, offers access to exercise and club rooms, has grounds with mature, professionally-designed landscaping, a 1.2-acre private nature park and a gazebo with a terrace.

The community lies next to a forest preserve and is within 2 miles of access to the Vernon Hills Metra station.

DATA POINT

WAYNE REAL ESTATE
BY THE NUMBERS

9

The number of properties for sale in Wayne with an asking price more than \$1 million.

Bank executive buys in Lake Forest

A banking executive has purchased a home in the southwest part of Lake Forest.

Jeffrey Brandlick and Louise Brandlick bought the five-bedroom, 5.5-bath in the 400 block of Stable Lane for \$950,000 on Jan. 19 from Rosaria Donohoe.

The 4,828-square-foot house was built in 1995. It is located in the McIlvane Meadow subdivision.

Jeffrey Brandlick works as the

senior vice president of marketing and analysis at HSBC Card Services and also serves in a similar role with Best Buy Card at HSBC. Previously, he was a vice president of finance at Capital One and an analyst with Johnson & Johnson.

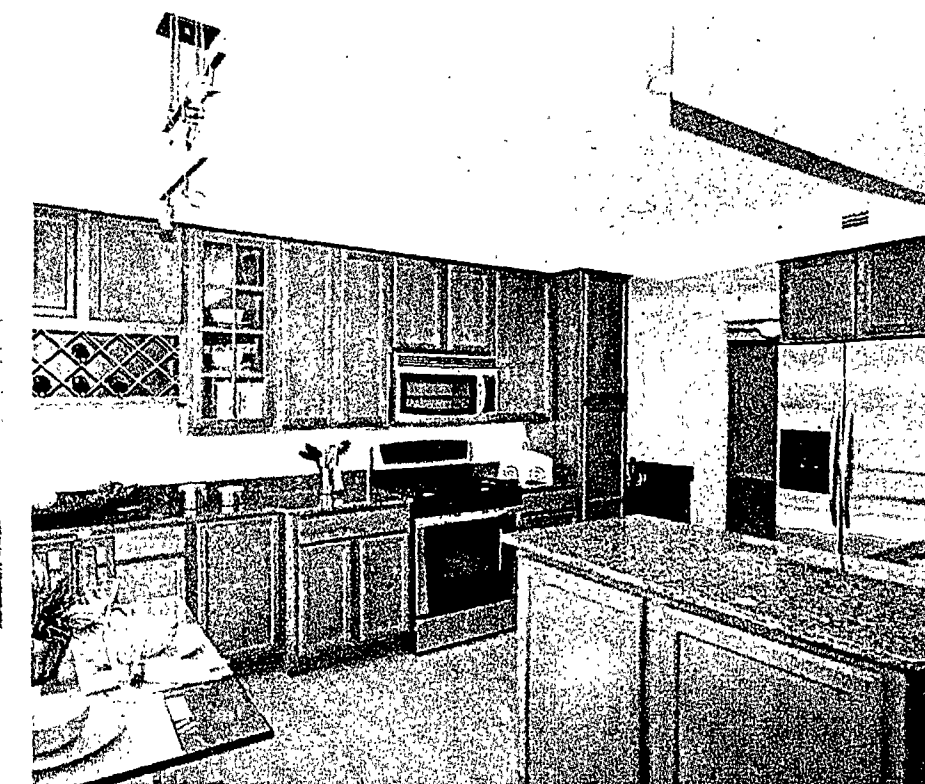
He attended Harvard Business School and Washington and Lee University.

— John Peyton

MARKET WATCH

City	For sale	Median price	Rate of foreclosure	# of sales	# of foreclosures
Barrington	3.98%	\$385,000	5.88%	153	9
Buffalo Grove	2.92%	\$241,250	13.25%	453	60
Des Plaines	3.37%	\$187,500	35.21%	730	257
Evanston	3.65%	\$310,000	16.16%	730	118
Gurnee	2.94%	\$215,000	3.58%	307	11
Highland Park	3.6%	\$400,000	4.53%	309	14
Lake Forest	4.98%	\$800,000	2.2%	182	4
Park Ridge	2.88%	\$350,000	10.66%	394	42
Skokie	2.94%	\$248,000	28.99%	576	167
Wilmette	2.81%	\$617,000	4.91%	326	16

Source: Chicago.BlockShopper.com. Data track last 12 months of sales.



Flooded with light, wood cabinets, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors highlight the well-lit kitchen. | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ACHIEVEMENT: HAS ITS OWN PATCH OF GRASS

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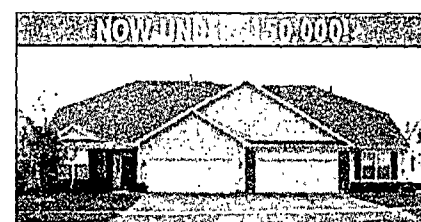
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TODAY'S HOMES

TRANSACTIONS

Curious about more home sales in your neighborhood? For more Chicago area transactions, see "recent sales" at www.searchchicago.suntimes.com/homes/.

Antioch

940 Harvest Dr: Bolton, Sara L; \$160,000
597 Indian Trail Rd: Badame, Joseph P & Pamela M; \$115,000

Beach Park

39891 Ackworth Ln: Rivera, Nora & Sanchez, Daniel; \$170,000
1143 Mary Jane Ln: Bardos, Victoria; \$175,000

39123 N Aberdeen Ln: Reuskens, John & Sheila; \$85,000

10360 W Paddock Ave: Kasbashian, Sue A; \$158,500
10676 W Pickford Ave: Brugioni, Bruce A & Lori; \$196,000 Deerfield

380 Craig Ct: Tenenbaum, Jason & Lauren; \$395,000
313 Lake View Ct: Levin, Daniel A; \$300,000
425 Pintail Ln: Hardy, Maureen L; \$235,000

Buffalo Grove

507 Cameron Way: Medley, Brian M & Michelle M; \$340,000
400 E Dundee Rd 409: Waller, Ronald A & Harriet A; \$110,000

651 Hapsfield Ln 302: Girak, Oleg V; \$108,000
710 Heatherdown Way: Tam, Ewa & Chung, Patricia Y; \$219,000

175 Lake Blvd 322: Lerman, Dmitry; \$125,000
1193 Ranch View Ct: Belmonti, Michael A & Fred; \$105,000

336 Satinwood Ct N: Holzer, Steve J & Susan S; \$360,000
916 Stradford Cir: Kaboff, Jane; \$103,000

2495 Waterbury Ln: Klivickis, Kenneth M; \$274,000

Des Plaines
9426 Bay Colony Dr 3W: Muszynski, Aleksandra; \$75,000
290 Berkshire Ln: Saini, Bhupinder S & Balwinder K; \$575,000

606 Berkshire Ln: Patel, Rakesh R; \$361,000
9204 Bumble Bee Dr 2H: Mohiuddin, Maqsood & Aini, Qurattul; \$90,000

1277 E Thacker St 202: Drehabl, David; \$135,000
208 E Washington St: Marchetti, Tammy L; \$155,000

2219 Eastview Dr: Kalinowski, John Janusz & Dorothy; \$530,000
1262 Evergreen Ave: Giacalone, Natalino; \$216,000
1715 Illinois St: Thompson, Deann M; \$125,000

9402 Ironwood Ln: Khan, Meraj M; \$111,000
9463 Park Ln: Dinkha, Joseph T & Eshoo, Sandi; \$70,000
656 Pearson St 701: Henriquez, Jose L; \$220,000

2035 Pine St: Davydov, Anna; \$75,500
926 S Westgate Rd: Steinfest, John Scott & Develasco, Linda R; \$640,000

379 Stratford Rd: Wodskow, Chad M & Leena; \$425,000

39123 N Aberdeen Ln: Reuskens, John & Sheila; \$85,000

10360 W Paddock Ave: Kasbashian, Sue A; \$158,500
10676 W Pickford Ave: Brugioni, Bruce A & Lori; \$196,000 Deerfield

380 Craig Ct: Tenenbaum, Jason & Lauren; \$395,000
313 Lake View Ct: Levin, Daniel A; \$300,000
425 Pintail Ln: Hardy, Maureen L; \$235,000

Evanston
1723 Ashland Ave: Xu, Di; \$100,000
1102 Cleveland St: Nickell, Jacob & Shondi; \$470,000

807 Davis St 1105: Piper Jr, James R & Piper, Sharon E; \$462,500
1311 Elmwood Ave: Solar, Julie A & Lisa J; \$700,000

2773 Garrison Ave: Meyer, Bonnie O; \$719,000
3441 Harrison St: Gibbs, Jerry; \$241,000

2719 Hurd Ave: Rogers, Steven S; \$475,000
510 Lee St 2: Keenan, Rhea J; \$270,000

711 Madison St: Wallin, Nicholas L & Swan, Alice E; \$425,000
904 Michigan Ave 1: Flentye, Laurel; \$430,000

725 Noyes St: Abraham, Daniel M & Megan R; \$500,000
2537 Prairie Ave 1W: Mereu, Stefano & Swearingen, Carrie; \$75,000

Fox Lake
1031 Fairway Dr: Kerns, Robert; \$154,000
263 Rainier Way: Pugh, Matthew & McBrien, Jessica; \$96,000

Glencoe
572 Dundee Rd: Straight, Dennis; \$470,000
722 Redwood Ln: Hayes, Matthew R; \$717,500

Glenview
2561 Central Rd: Seske, Mark & Kristin; \$245,000
1698 Constitution Dr: Burke, James B & Heidi; \$650,000

1220 Depot St 205: Campbell, Bonnie; \$173,000

1771 Dewes St B: Berman, Brandon & Betsy; \$427,500
805 Glenwood Ln: Mahandru, Sanjay & Kimberly; \$635,000
2132 Rugen Rd C: Rao, Naraharisetty; \$158,000

Grayslake

17437 Bluff Dr: Howard, Stephen W; \$145,000
1003 Manchester Cir: Schmidt, David J; \$69,500

33061 N Sears Blvd: Elliott, Dustin D & Kristin A; \$150,000
1082 Norfolk Ln: Macchesney, Tracie A; \$170,000

Gurnee

351 Belle Plaine Ave: Dominguez, Nicanor; \$100,000
6473 Davidson Ct: Fields, Lisa A; \$375,000
5055 Grand Ave: Garnet, Albert J; \$125,000

7568 Melon Ct: Jervis, Jeremy J & Letay M; \$207,500
36385 N Field View Dr: Horn, Donald & Jannongpipatkul, Alisa; \$340,000

Highland Park

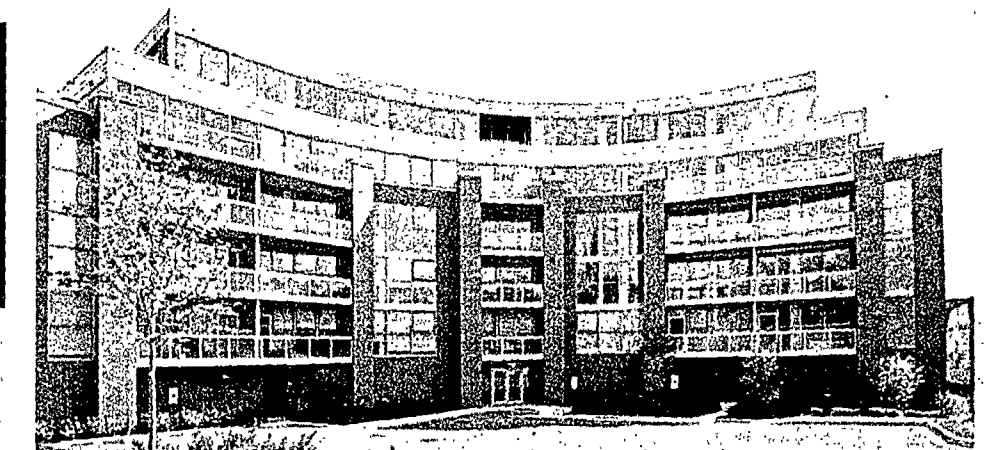
1633 2nd St 106: Peters, Frances; \$200,000
881 Apple Tree Ln: Callaghan, Janet; \$307,000
1868 Cavell Ave: Meyman, Yevgeny & Kogan, Irina; \$340,000

255 Lincolnwood Rd: Doran, Brett & Shawna; \$435,000

SEE SALES, PAGE 9



AT GREENBAY



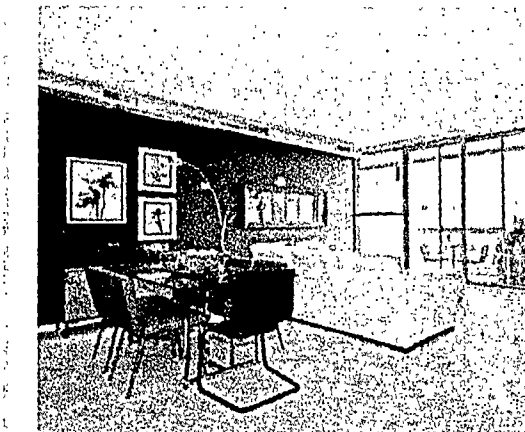
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Hunters Chase - Philippe Builders, Inc. Single Family and Villas Starting at \$140s 1689 Windscape Lane, Beecher, IL 708-946-0100 • www.philippebuilders.com

Prairie Park - Castleton Homes

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Coffee Creek - Philippe Builders, Inc. Townhomes • 197,900 - 217,900 606 Village Point Chesterton IN 219-921-1200 • www.philippebuilders.com

Chicago

Library Tower - Lennar Condominiums • \$442,990 - \$479,990 520 S. State Street #801 / Chicago, IL 60605 877-867-7753 • www.librarytower.com

Chicago Ridge

Kerry Ridge - Lennar Townhomes • \$169,990 - \$209,990 10329 Kerry Ridge Court / Chicago Ridge, IL 60415 877-217-4846 • www.lennar.com

Downers Grove

Acedia on the Green New England Builders Condominium • \$293,900-\$435,900 935 Burlington Ave. 630-963-5300 • www.nelinc.com

Dyer, IN

Prairie Trails Philippe Builders, Inc. Townhomes • 189,900 - 239,900 1057 Gallier Street, Dyer Indiana 219-558-8000 • www.philippebuilders.com

Elgin

Bowes Creek Country Club Toll Brothers Single-Family and Ranch Townhome Active-Adult From the upper \$100,000s 3841 Valhalla Drive, Elgin IL 60124 847-695-0961 • www.bowescreekcountryclub.com

Highland Woods

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Sandy Creek Estates

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Greyclub Club - Lennar

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Lakewood Prairie

William Ryan Homes Single Family Homes • \$195,990 - \$305,990 1200 Barbary Way, Joliet IL • 847-769-1871 http://www.williamryanhomes.com/lakewoodprairie/

Frankfort

Circle B Townhomes - Circle B Builders Luxury Townhomes • From \$299,900 Pfeiffer Road and Mackinac Pointe Drive 815 464 1201

Genoa

Riverbend William Ryan Homes Single Family • \$150,000 - \$209,990 Model located at our Sandy Creek Estates community, 434 W Amerside, Elgin IL 847-214-1367 http://www.williamryanhomes.com/

Libertyville

The Enclave at the Reserve at the Merit Club - Merit Homes Single Family • \$494,500-\$625,000 1720 Tall Pine Way, Libertyville, IL 847-680-0090 • www.merithomes.net

Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Place on the Village Green Weiss Development Condominium • \$365,000 to \$899,000 400 Village Green 847 276 2670 • lincolnshirereplace.com

Lincolnshire

Church Street Station - M/I Homes Townhomes • \$191,990 - \$237,990 6515 Lilac Boulevard, Hanover Park, IL 60133 630.640.1000 • www.mihomes.com

Hawthorn Woods

Hawthorn Woods Country Club Toll Brothers Villa, Single-family, townhome From the upper \$300,000s 4 Turnbull Court, Hawthorn Woods, IL 60447 847-847-7048 • www.hawthornwoodscc.com

Huntington

Hennig Estates - Rock Creek Homes Semi-Custom Single Family Ranch From the mid \$300s 16809 Church Road, Huntley, IL 60142 847-336-3821 • www.hennigestates.com

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Spring Run Philippe Builders, Inc. Single Family • 189,900 - 259,900 Lovell Indiana 219-696-8000 • www.philippebuilders.com

Manhattan

White Feather McDonnell Development Single Family Homes • \$240's to low \$300's 24351 Shawnee Lane, Manhattan, IL 60442 815-478-0400 • www.mcdonnelldevelopment.com

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Manitowish

Oakridge Homes Manufactured • \$60-100,000 1099 Oakridge Drive Manitowish IL 60950 815-468-6041 • Oakridge-Homes.com

Maplebrook

Maplebrook Manufactured Home Community - Maplebrook Manufactured Homes • 30s to 90s 21635 S. Ridgeland Avenue Matteson IL 60443 708-932-0522 • www.maplebrook.com

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Manchester Cove Hartz Construction Co., Inc. Townhomes • \$205,900-\$249,900 19210 S. 104TH Ave. 708-478-6912 • WWW.HARTZHHOMES.COM

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Marquis Pointe P.D. Hartz Construction Company, Inc. Single Family • \$196,900-\$355,900 966 Amethyst Ln 630-228-3425 • WWW.HARTZHOMES.COM

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Crossings at Morton Grove Toll Brothers Rowhomes • From the upper \$200,000s 6337 Hennings Court, Morton Grove IL, 60053 847-561-8888 • www.crossingsatmortongrove.com

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TODAY'S HOMES

SALES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Ingleside

33474 N Christa Dr: Walker, John & Linda; \$192,000 26230 W Cooney Island Rd: Monroe, Luke M; \$175,000 26098 W Sunnybrook Rd: Layton, Russell B & Caitlin R; \$230,000

Lake Forest

221 Brampton Ln: Kiah, Christopher R & Debra L; \$1,400,000 1681 Harvard Ct: Krga, Joseph & Joan S; \$620,000 655 Oak Knoll Dr: Thatcher, Kevin & Diane Citrin; \$1,000,000

Lake Villa

617 Blazing Star Dr: Daley, Bradley E & Jaime N; \$370,000 654 Iris Ct: Chavez, Gustavo & Villa

Chavez, Maria Joyce A; \$370,000

658 Iris Ct: Villa, Steve A & Marina E; \$352,000 39203 N Golden Ln: Bode, Robert L & Melody P; \$165,000 39252 N Golden Ln: Belanski, Marc J & Shawn Q; \$441,500 37275 N Hillside Dr: Bittton, Tamara; \$147,000 36673 N Yew Tree Dr: McGinn, Paul M & Mary L; \$229,500

Libertyville

804 Dawes St: Greenhill, Tammy; \$286,000 541 Fairhill Rd: Marsch, Kenneth T & Brittany; \$247,000 203 Garfield Ave: Witt, Donald W & Odellia; \$199,000 611 S Dymond Rd: Cihak, John & Siobhan M Foley; \$340,000 1709 Tall Pine Way: Brennan, John J & Marsha A; \$535,000

Lincolnshire

220 Dover Cir: Dean, Paul & Lisa; \$622,000 450 Village Grn 114: Sperling, Jack

Libertyville

804 Dawes St: Greenhill, Tammy; \$286,000 541 Fairhill Rd: Marsch, Kenneth T & Brittany; \$247,000

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Libertyville

804 Dawes St: Greenhill, Tammy; \$286,000 541 Fairhill Rd: Marsch, Kenneth T & Brittany; \$247,000

P & Melinda R; \$411,000

Mettawa 26211 N Farwell Rd: Borje, Marianne; \$400,000 Morton Grove 7533 Churchill St: Fox, Steven T & Tetania E; \$192,000 9237 Harlem Ave: Owens, Patricia A & Murphy, Joseph E; \$147,500

Mundelein

964 Highland Rd: Snyder, Sandra M; \$160,000 3652 Monticeto Cir: Schmid, Arthur & Ruthann; \$415,000 246 N Prairie Ave: Rosales, Fabian & Rodriguez, Carla E; \$122,500 811 Salceda Dr: Chance, Gregory & April; \$330,000 742 W Maple Ave: Livingston, Jeffrey; \$78,500

Niles

7863 N Caldwell Ave 20B: Panigyrakis, Gus & Raucii, Diane; \$175,000 8143 N Grace Ave: Chlebek, Krystyna & Van Cannon, Billy J; \$428,000 9806 N Huber Ln: Ramirez, Rita S; \$325,000

Northfield

1562 Harding Rd: Chauhdary, Eun; \$195,000 2108 Middlefork Rd: Damon, Joshua M & Jennifer S; \$632,500 2134 Northgate Rd: Zanic, Tanja L & Lisa; \$460,000

Northbrook

715 Alice Dr: Davydov, Anna; \$230,000 3838 Bordeaux Dr: Tarter, Dina & Barry; \$510,000 4705 Forest View Dr: Klassman, Kenneth S; \$230,000 541 Helen Dr: Lev Weissberg, Andrew; \$1,010,000 3035 Kayjay Dr: Hoffman, Bryan B & Christina M; \$560,000 3801 Mission Hills Rd 59S: Schaeffer, Marshall & Sandra; \$150,000 3219 N Parkway Dr 3A: Mittal, Chetan; \$68,000 242 Red Coach Ln: Schwager, Eric J & Jill R; \$270,000 242 Red Coach Ln: Schwager, Eric J & Jill R; \$270,000 3855 Rutgers Ln: Caringella, Sandra; \$462,500 3915 Snowbird Ln: Huang, Zhongwen & Liang, Huifang; \$525,000

Northbrook

715 Alice Dr: Davydov, Anna; \$230,000 3838 Bordeaux Dr: Tarter, Dina & Barry; \$510,000 4705 Forest View Dr: Klassman, Kenneth S; \$230,000

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TODAY'S HOMES

Homeownership slips, but it's still the American Dream

For decades, homeownership in the United States has been defined as the American Dream, and housing experts say owning a home is the key way to build wealth for the average person in the U.S.

However, homeownership rate likely would decline even more quickly if the federal government eliminated or reduced the incentives now in place to make it more affordable, such as the mortgage interest deduction, predicts the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

In 2011, as the nation struggles to survive the greatest recession and financial crisis since the Great Depression, some critics have said too much emphasis has been placed on the virtues of homeownership.

The decline in homeownership in America has pushed NAR to launch a crusade called "Homeownership Matters" to revive the dream.

"The people of the U.S. have believed for 234 years that property ownership is a core value for this country," said NAR President Ronald L. Phipps. "To say that we should stop encouraging people to own a home because the system failed them is to forget who we are as a nation."



ON THE HOME FRONT
DON DEBAT

A recent poll of both owners and renters conducted by NAR and Harris Interactive found that homeownership remains a dream of Americans and it makes a positive difference in people's family relationships, finances, and feelings of being connected to their community. Here is an outline of the findings of the poll:

- Respondents cited financial security as the most important factor in achieving the American Dream.
- Asked if owning a home was a better financial decision than renting, and overwhelming number of homeowners — 96 percent — said it was, and 71 percent of the renters agreed.
- Even in the midst of today's recession and economic crisis, both homeowners and renters see homeownership as a smart financial move and a means for achieving financial security.
- More than half of the homeowners who responded felt "connected" and "committed" to their communities, while fewer than 40 percent of renters acknowledged similar feelings.

Data from the Federal Reserve Board supports the findings of the opinion poll. Today, there is a very real and extreme disparity in wealth

between homeowners and renters. In 2007, the median net worth of U.S. homeowner families was \$234,200, compared with only \$5,100 for renting families, according to a Federal Reserve report on household finances.

In 1998, prior to the real estate boom and bubble, homeowner families' median net worth was \$168,200, while the net worth for renters was only \$5,400. (Figures from both years are calculated in 2007 dollars.)

Despite a loss in home equity nationwide during the economic downturn since 2006, Realtors maintain in the long run homeownership is a wealth builder for most middle-income Americans.

However, the NAR-Harris poll also found that young adults age 18 to 29 believe it will be more difficult for them to achieve the American Dream. Seventy-one percent say it now is more or much more difficult to buy a home that it was for their parents' generation, and 72 percent predict it will be even more difficult for the next generation.

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DeBat Media Services. For more home-buying information visit his Web site at www.dondebat.net.

SALES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

3827 Howard St. Gandhi, Harshad A. & Chetana H.; \$220,000

9508 Keeler Ave. Tam, Pac Keong & Kou, Wa Peng; \$203,000

7711 Kenton Ave. Dubow, Maynard H.; \$252,500

8330 Kildare Ave. Brutt, Eli & Sophie, Renee; \$200,000

9655 Woods Dr 1304: Vilems, Kasparis; \$162,000

Vernon Hills

313 Cherry Valley Rd. Margolis, Michael; \$70,000

327 Somerset Ln: Yin, Scott Rui & Wang, Wei; \$72,000

323 Westmoreland Dr: Bresen, Brian S.; \$155,000

314 Westwood Ct: Milosch, James & Kristin; \$112,000

Volo

290 Bedford Ln: Schawel, Keith; \$214,000

902 Richard Brown Blvd: Chung, Jin O; \$117,000

Waukegan

1019 Glenwood Ave: Sanchez, Eduardo; \$71,500

2516 Linden Ave: Norels, Tammy M; \$72,500

640 Washington Park: Casco, Maria Dejesus & Ruiz, Martin; \$95,000

Wilmette

2052 Old Glenview Rd: Ludwig, Marcus U & Tribunskaja, Elena; \$300,000

1041 Ridge Rd 214: Furniss, Robert F & Adrianna B; \$480,000

435 Ridge Rd 101: Bonner, Thomas H; \$115,000

1511 Washington Ave: Harding, Brooks S; \$390,000

Winnetka

637 Garland Ave: Schirmang, Julie E & Todd C; \$835,000

SEE SALES, PAGE 11

TODAY'S HOMES



Garden gem: Homes at The Enclave are surrounded by mature trees, sparkling ponds and stunning rock gardens.

Ranches regaled

Single-level living in luxury from the upper \$400,000s

Single-level living is a top priority for "mature" adults, yet comfort and a relaxed lifestyle is equally important.

These homebuyers not only desire a ranch they can customize to their taste, but also want spare bedrooms for when their kids come home from college or need a home large enough to accommodate their grandchildren's visits.

That's why Merit Homes offers five different ranch plans at The Enclave at The Reserve at the Merit Club in Libertyville priced from the upper \$400,000s.

In addition to the benefits of one-level living, buyers are attracted to the architectural design of the ranch plans. High ceilings throughout the home and open floor plans establish a feeling of spaciousness. Kitchens, family rooms and living rooms flow into each other making entertaining convenient, while separate bedroom areas provide privacy.

Large basements are perfect for creating a spacious recreational room for teenagers, or they can be transformed into in-law quarters with a full bath.

"When out-of-town guests remain for an extended stay, you can still maintain your privacy," said Jeri Szatko, listing for Merit Homes. "Ranches are also more suitable homes when in-laws need a temporary or permanent residence," she added.

"Since prices have been substantially cut by \$100,000 on all our stunning designs, we're seeing an increased interest in our homes and have chalked up four sales in the last month," said Szatko.

She said there is a large pent-up demand among young professionals who desire single-level living and "mature buyers" who are ready to downsize and that this major price reduction has helped stimulate sales.

At The Enclave, buyers can choose from seven homes; two are two-story designs featuring first-floor master bedrooms. With 1,900 to 3,000 square feet of luxury space, homes have two to four bedrooms and up to 3½ baths and are priced from \$494,900 to \$625,900.

The two-bedroom, two-bath Carrington model is open for touring and offers views of a nationally acclaimed golf course and groves of mature trees through a 9-foot rear window wall. Enter through the charm-



Home at the ranch: Beautiful ranch homes at the Enclave at the Merit Club in Libertyville are priced from the upper \$400,000s.

ing covered front porch into a foyer and straight ahead is an architecturally charming great room adorned with three arched openings on both sides. To the right is a large kitchen with cherry cabinets, a granite-covered island with a cozy eating nook, KitchenAid appliances and breakfast area. The deck is reached through French doors from either the kitchen or family room.

A cozy family room offers a granite fireplace and is modeled with an optional screened porch which extends the living space.

Surrounded by windows, the master bedroom suite is adjacent to a master bath with a soaking tub, large walk-in shower and double bowl vanity. The second bedroom and laundry room with appliances and oak cabinets complete the home. Merit Homes offers finished basements and the Carrington showcases an English basement and third full bath.

Every home at The Enclave offers upgraded luxury features standard, such as site-stained oak flooring, Kohler fixtures, maple, oak, cherry, and alder cabinets, granite countertops, all major appliances, full masonry fireplace, extensive trim details, Pella wood windows, cedar shake roofs, and zoned temperature control.

To customize their home, every buyer starts with a plan and can change the footprint of the house by eliminating or adding rooms. They can select

from the same finish level as a custom home buyer.

Part of a gated community called the Reserve at the Merit Club, the 17-home Enclave is surrounded by semi-custom homes and one-acre custom homes on 100 acres of landscaped rolling terrain. A natural landscape of scenic rock gardens, ponds and wildflowers enhance the tranquil setting. Most residences have views of the Merit Club, an 18-hole private golf course that is ranked as one of the top 100 courses in the world.

Also, Merit Homes guarantees its buyers that the natural setting will remain a conservation area forever. Homebuyers understand that there will be no future development because the site is protected by a conservation easement. To visit The Enclave, take Interstate 94 to Route 137, go west to Route 21 (Milwaukee Avenue), then north 1¼ miles to the sales center, which is open Friday to Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 847 880-0090 or visit merithomes.net.

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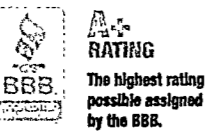
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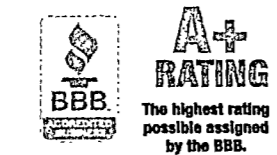
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SPRING home & garden

SPRUCE UP your small spaces

BY TERRA COONEY
Special to Pioneer Press

Clean and modern are the looks for the home this season. Find help at the Abt Design Center, located in Glenview. Independently owned showrooms focus on looks for kitchen and bath fixtures, cabinets, lighting, flooring, closets and more. Read on for some spring inspiration, especially for those smaller spaces.

Reorganization

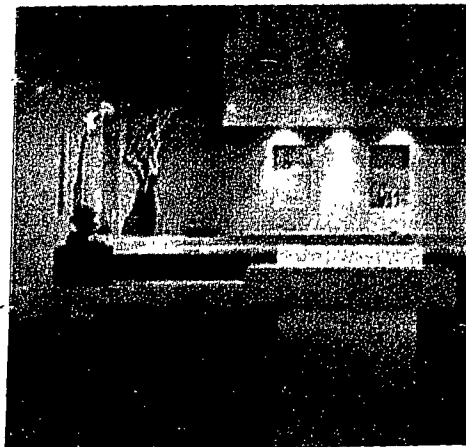
Clutter-free environments enhance clean lines, and reorganization is the key for 2011. Lynn Schrage, marketing manager of The KOHLER Store, with a showroom inside the Abt Design Center, says instead of moving, people are editing their spaces.

"This is translating into clean, chic environments in our homes," Schrage says. "Fewer additions are being made than in the past, and larger projects are not about adding space, but moving walls around to maximize use and flow."

Lisa Côté, sales and marketing manager of California Closets knows a little something about this. With three showrooms, including the Abt Design Center, the company has been able to transfer many clients' dreams into reality.

"Spring is a popular time to clean and reorganize, but we are available to help organize your space anytime!" Côté says.

California Closets is known to increase the value of your home with its well-known national name and expertise. Any small space can seem larger and more comfortable after an update. Côté estimates most projects can be completed in two to three weeks.



Visions by Exotic Marble | Courtesy of The Design Center at Abt

Lavish Luxuries

Schrage says global travels have created an infusion of new experiences, memories and nostalgia. As the hospitality industry is placing a greater emphasis on the spa bath, customers want to recreate these experiences at home.

"We continue to see lounging, respite areas, deep soaking baths, and steam and aromatherapy in the showering environment," she says.

Luxury materials with strong statements accompany the comfortable spaces. Schrage sees more granite slabs, steel, fur, leather, strong wallpaper and monochromatic tiles in many of the most noteworthy interior designs.

"Entire surfaces are being covered to create a bold visual background, while accessories are sculptural," she says.

A decorative mirror makes any room, especially in a small bathroom, appear larger because it reflects natural light into your space. Consider a large, dramatic piece.

Color Palettes

"Consider watery blue and green tones to bring about a quiet spa-like feel, or combine muted grays and brown tones to create a more natural environment," Schrage suggests.

Contrast dramatic surfaces and accessories with bold prints with warmer colored walls.

Love your lawn

BY TERRA COONEY
Special to Pioneer Press

Make your lawn the envy of the block.

Horticulture Help

Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc. specializes in anything from comprehensive master planning to single tree installation. Eric Galloway, landscape division manager, and Sandy Just, maintenance division manager, provide a customized plan to enhance the beauty and prolong the life of your landscape. However, if you have a green thumb, use your talents to make your lawn the loveliest.

Fertilization Frequency

Just says to avoid over-fertilizing, which burns the lawn, as well as not fertilizing. Fertilizer encourages growth and helps keep lawns greener. As we approach mid-April, try fertilizer with pre-emergent crabgrass control 20-3-10. Use this before temperature of soil reaches 60 degrees when crabgrass germinates. Use this again in late October and early November to keep your grass looking good year-round. In late May and early June, and then again around early to mid-September, fertilize with pre-emergent broadleaf control and insecticide for grub control 25-3-3. The numbers on the label indicate the percentage by weight of three important nutrients — nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

"Lawn growth depends on nutrients

and elements absorbed by roots from the soil," Just shares. "Most of the elements are supplied by natural soil processes, [but] nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are the most important."

Soil Temperatures

The optimum soil temperatures for root growth is 70 degrees. After the winter months, turf will start to show disease symptoms as it emerges from dormancy. Removing thatch or the layer of dead material in grass helps. Avoid late summer applications of nitrogen, and control weeds and improve drainage.

Just also suggests, "converting from common varieties of turf to Bermuda grass, which has good winter hardiness."

Consider shade. In reduced sun, grass can have an upright growth pattern, shallow roots and less density. Choose a seed that has a formulation for shade or a ground cover.

Landscaping Trends

For spring, Galloway is seeing sustainable landscape practices, native plantings and outdoor entertainment areas, including patios, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces or fire pits. He says some pavers made of recycled material help mitigate storm water run-off. Flowers with an early bloom time are also popular.

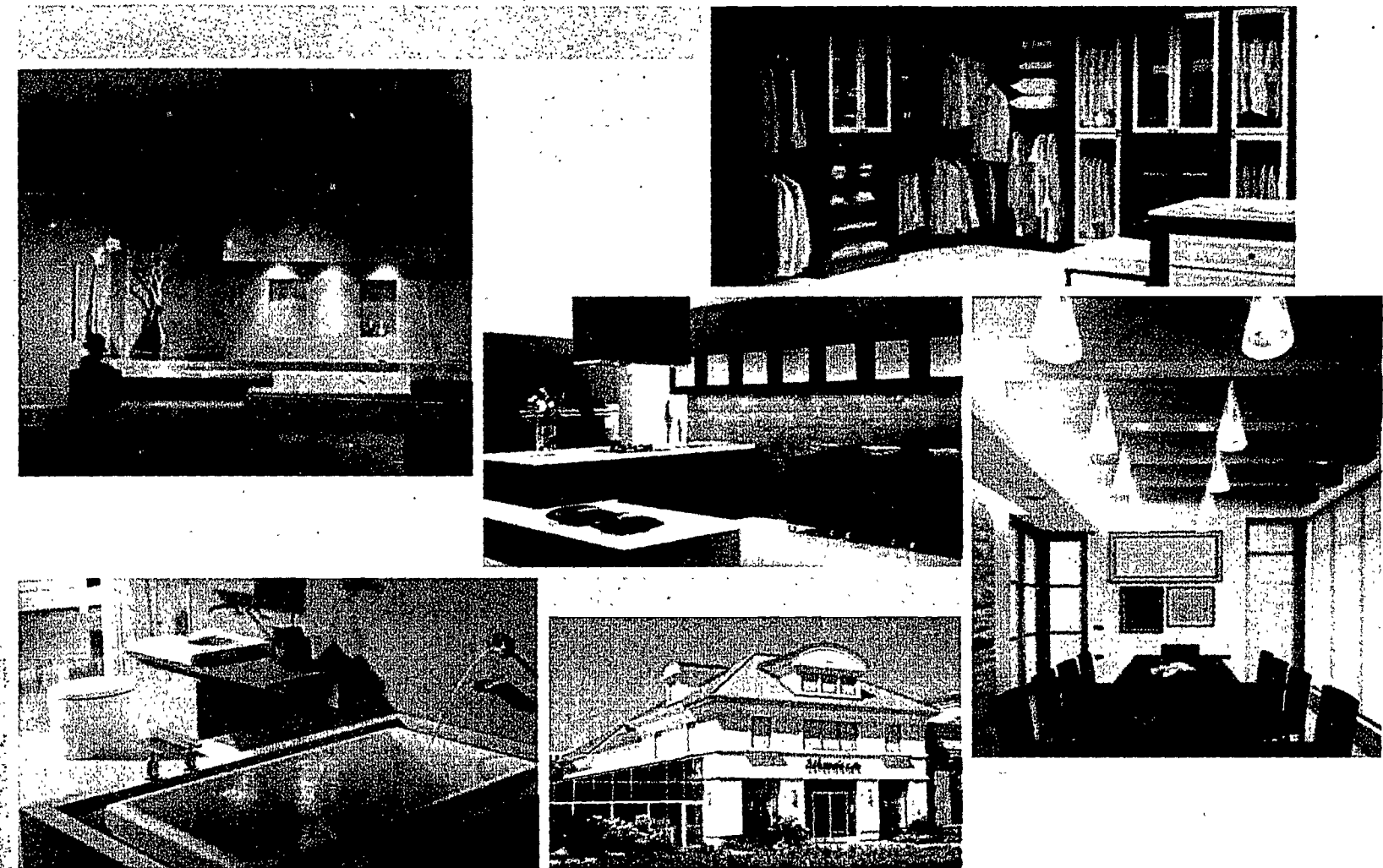
"Ornamental trees, such as redbud, magnolia, serviceberry and crabapples, all provide early spring blooms," Galloway shares. "For traditionalists, you can't go wrong with

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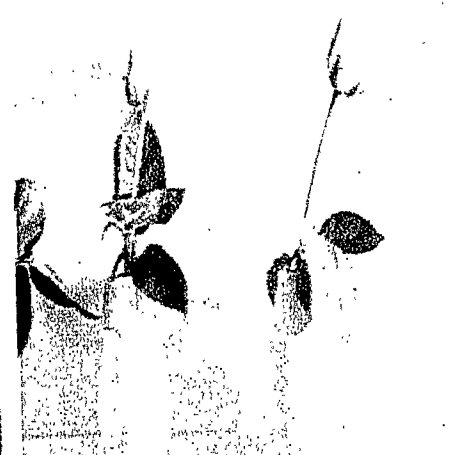
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 - 56 Youngster
 - 59 Squeezed out the suds
 - 60 Vacation sensation
 - 61 Numbers man?
 - 62 Kansas city
 - 64 Soon
 - 66 Show one's teeth
 - 69 Vane letters
 - 70 Serengeti sahib
 - 71 Cut of meat
 - 72 Blender setting
 - 73 Show one's feelings
 - 74 Bovine bellow
 - 75 "The Flamyana," e.g.
 - 76 Coloratura Pons
 - 80 Neighbor of Niger
 - 81 Man or stallion
 - 82 Patrick of "A Clockwork Orange"
 - 84 Shake-spearan
 - 85 Kind of print
 - 86 Factions
 - 87 Owns
 - 90 Leonine
 - 91 Reasonably balanced
 - 94 See 109
 - 95 China's — Biao
 - 96 Skater
 - 97 Amis' "Lucky —"
 - 98 Sound of disapproval
 - 102 Under the — (secretly)
 - 103 Cupid's missile
 - 104 Sierra —
 - 106 Philharmon-ic section
 - 107 Bleak critique
 - 108 Whirlpool
 - 109 With
 - 94 Down, fragrant container
 - 111 Cornfield critter
 - 112 Only
 - 113 "Puppy Love" singer
 - 114 Gallagher of Oasis
 - 115 Utah city
 - 117 Actor's lunch?
 - 118 Self-esteem
 - 119 Theater sign
 - 120 Word with take or hang
 - 121 Solo of "Star Wars"
 - 122 Coleridge composition
 - 123 "— Good Cop" ('91 film)

HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 6 — April 12

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It isn't always easy for the rambunctious Aries to give a second thought to their often spur-of-the-moment choices. But aspects favor rechecking a decision before declaring it final.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Information emerges for the business-driven Bovine who feels ready to restart a stalled project. Be prepared to make adjustments as needed at any time during the process.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Part of you wants to complete plans for an upcoming event, while your other self wants to see how things develop first. Compromise by moving ahead with your plans while being open to change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An unexpected change in a relationship could open up a problem or could lead to a much-needed and too-long-delayed reassessment of a number of matters. The choice is yours to make.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Time for the Lion to total the pluses and minuses resulting from recent personal and/or professional decisions. See what worked, what didn't and why, and base your next big move on the results.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The clever Virgo can make persuasion work by presenting a case built on hard facts. Sentiment might touch the heart, but it's good, solid information that invariably wins the day.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You usually can win over the most stubborn skeptics on your own. But this time you can benefit from supporters

who have been there, done that and are willing to speak up on your behalf.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You win admiration for your determination to do the right thing. Don't be distracted from that course, despite the offer of tempting alternatives that might suddenly turn up.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While you still need to maintain control of a dominant situation, a new development emerges, making the task easier and the outcome potentially more rewarding.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) New factors might have a positive effect on a still-pending matter, but only if the information proves to be credible. Trusted colleagues might be able to offer needed advice.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The week favors moderation, especially if a health problem is involved. Resist the impulse to do more than might be good for you at this time. You can catch up later.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You could feel more than a mile upset by someone or some people who might be creating problems for you. Find out why they won't change their ways. Their reasons might surprise you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You know how to inspire others to do their best by setting a persuasive example of your own.

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Tell Us What You Think...

Pioneer Press values your opinions. We want your feedback to find out what you like about our newspaper and how we can improve it. Please visit our Web site and click on the "Tell us what you think..." button, call us at (847) 486-9300, or go to pioneerlocal.com/survey. Thank you for your readership.

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"I saw your sticker on the front of the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate."

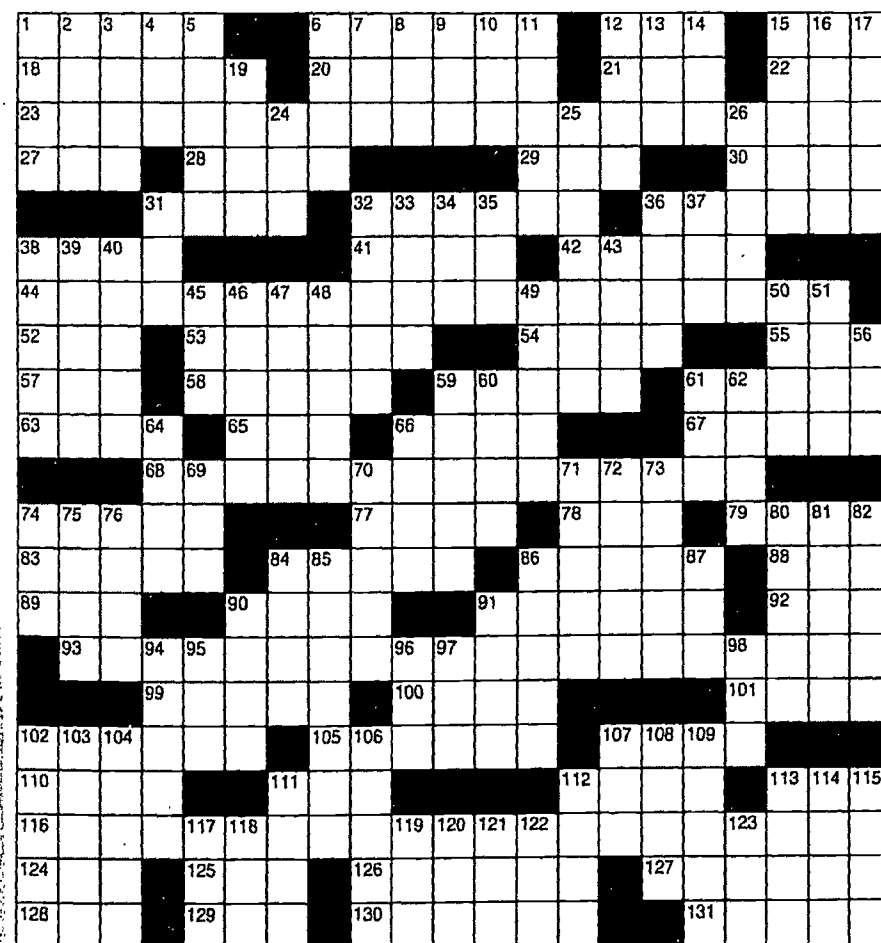
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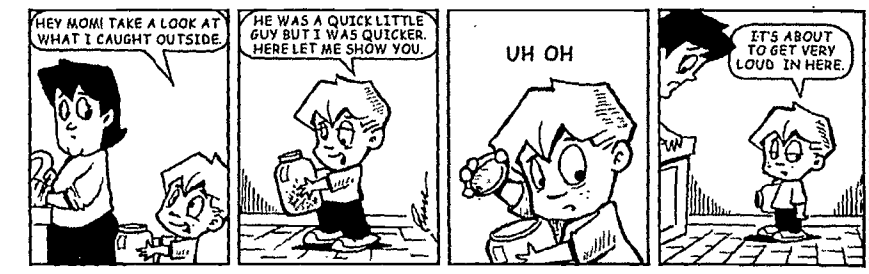
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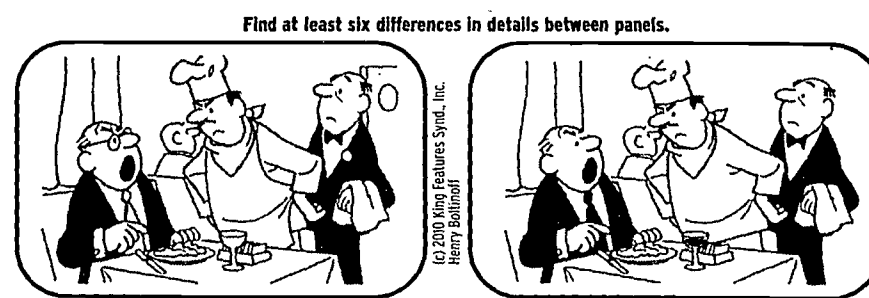


Answers: Inside today's classified section

AMBER WAVES



HOCUS FOCUS



Reflections. Remembrances. Condolences.

Sign a guest book, share memories and send flowers, gifts and charitable contributions online.

Visit legacy.pioneerlocal.com for a complete list of Death Notices and In Memoriams

PIONEER PRESS YOUR LOCAL SOURCE

Death Notices

Garlich, Marvin O. Age 88, of Glenview, at rest March 20, 2011, beloved husband of Carolyn-nee Peck...

He was a proud Army veteran of WWII and Korea and a member since 1954 of the Morton Grove Community Church 8944 McVicker Ave...

Interment was held at Ridgewood Cemetery. Memorials to Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care 2050 Claire Ct. Glenview, IL 60025 appreciated.

Sign online guestbook at www.simkinsfh.com. Arrangements handled by Simkins Funeral Home 847-965-2500.



Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

In Memoriam

Lost a loved one? Downsizing? Sandy Lane Estate Sales. We're Here To Help (773) 406-3402 sandylaneestatesales.com

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In Memoriam

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Death Notices

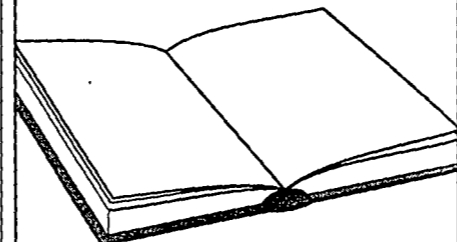
Martin, Edmund J. Born in Chicago, Illinois on Aug. 29, 1937. Departed on Mar. 28, 2011 and resided in Park Ridge, IL. Ed Martin, age 73, of Park Ridge. Beloved husband of Janet Martin nee Wroblewski...

He was well traveled, visiting all of the contiguous United States and was a member of the Adventurer's Club (WDW). He was an enthusiastic golfer. He spent many years coaching football and semi-pro hockey, taking his team to win the state championship.

Funeral Mass Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Park Ridge. Laid to rest at St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

Express Condolences



Sign the online Guest Book

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Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems. Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)

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Health Care LOYOLA PATIENT CARE TECH/SERVICE REP Park Ridge, IL

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Answers to Super Crossword RULER MIRAGE SAD TEE OPERAS ARARAT PIE HAL BOARDKICKDISHBURNSARM END AIDE EERN WILE ARNE APOLLO FRASER AMES NEROLOIDIOM LIGHTLARKCAPBLUEDIVE LAY DEVLIS REEF ILL IMP SAONE WEARS CHAKA NITA PIGGRAS PALED NETDOBUSHSPRAY MELON WINE HUE SLAM OPINE TWANG SARAH IDA OIL BOON SENECA BUG CYCLEBOATJACKETSTYLE HIRED AINT SAT TALENT CRIMES PECK ARES CUE JADE ANO BROTHERTESTHOUNDONOR LONAGO DREADS YANKEE EWE MOW SONNET REALM

Health Care LOYOLA PATIENT CARE TECH/SERVICE REP Park Ridge, IL

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Garage Sales Hugo Basement Flea Market 8146/Book/Clothes/Books/CDs/DVDs/Records/Tools/Reba Place. Evanson, April 2nd 8AM-4PM...

Interior Design & Decorating Workroom downsize, Sewing supplies, window treatments, furniture items, office supplies, & misc. Sat 3/31 10am-2pm...

MORTON GROVE Moving Sale 2514 North Overhill, April 2nd, 7am-3pm & April 3rd, 8am-12pm. Furniture, dishes, kitchenware, tools & much more!

FRANKLIN PARK 3604 Emerson St. Fri 4/1-Sun 4/3, 10am-3pm. New York Here To Come! Home Sale! Appliances, Dora table saw, arts & crafts & more! Great pricing! BANG your truck & cash. *****

MOVING SALE Friday and Saturday, April 1st and 2nd, 9am-3pm. Garage and Moving Sale. Furniture, toys, Logo and K'Nex sets, Boys' Books, household items, books, all kinds of stuff, at low prices. We're moving and it's our gain so we don't have to pack it and move it 4012 Pictary Drive Northbrook 9AM-4PM

GLENCOE HUGE MOVING SALE Saturday, April 2nd 8am-3pm. 673 Birch Rd, Dundee to Forest View, north to Sycamore, left to Prairieton, right to Hickory, stamp collection, housewares, flurn. Piano & more

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Antiques and Collectibles ANTIQUE AUCTION! Tuesday, Apr. 5, 3:30 - 10:00 PM 7232 N. Western Ave. Chicago 2nd South Side Estates & Other Estates & Conignmentals...

Estate Sales CLARENDON HILLS SALE '59 Shortland' Fri Sat 10-4, #A99300 GRIFFIN Farm, Sectional, KITCHEN, Elliptical Treadmill, Air Hockey & more! 'KEY Estate Sales' Photos, & Details: www.koyestatesales.com

Estate Sales MORTON GROVE ESTATE SALE 6252 S. 147th St. 10am-4pm Living room furniture, antique mahogany table & chairs, china and buffet cabinet, bedroom furniture, microwave, dishes, ladies clothes, much more! Everything must sell!

Estate Sales NEW TRIER SALES 424 Ashland Pl. Highland Park Sat. April 2, 11-4, # 10:30 Ant. jewelry, furniture, etc. See estatesales.net for info

Furniture Antiquo Bedroom Set with brand new full size bed (narrow), sofa, 8550 or best offer. Antiquo solid mahogany buffet, 5775 Kitchen set, 5 piece, \$125. Love seat, \$10. 847-823-6915

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PIONEER PRESS Garage Sale Guide

Table with columns: Location, Day, Time. Rows include Franklin Park, Glencoe, Gurnee, Northbrook, Skokie.

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Garages. Store Your Special Car. Heat, secured, Month or Annual. Call 847-998-3400

Comm'l-Industrial. CHICAGO 2000 sq industrial unit, warehouse 10% office. Call 847-998-3400

Offices. CHICAGO 5151 N. Harlem Office Office SPACE FOR RENT \$250. Call 847-998-3400

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Offices. CHICAGO 5151 N. Harlem Office Office SPACE FOR RENT \$250. Call 847-998-3400

Garages. Store Your Special Car. Heat, secured, Month or Annual. Call 847-998-3400

Comm'l-Industrial. CHICAGO 2000 sq industrial unit, warehouse 10% office. Call 847-998-3400

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FIND YOUR PERFECT APARTMENT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. SAY IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS, CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

FIND YOUR PERFECT APARTMENT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS. TO PLACE YOUR GARAGE SALE AD, CALL 847-998-3400

Judicial Sales-Real Est. SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est. MORTON GROVE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est. BUFFALO GROVE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE...

Judicial Sales-Real Est. SKOKIE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION... NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE...

LEGAL Adoption Assumed Name Auction-Real Estate Bid Notice Divorce Foreclosures Foundations Notices Judicial Sales Mechanics Liens Name Change Probate Public Hearings Public Notices Storage - Legal Take Notices

LEGAL Assumed Name Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct of transaction of Business in the State," as amended...

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Bid Notice Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 by the Board of Education, Skokie School District #30, Skokie, Illinois, for the following bid package:

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The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and The Doings with advertising of a national appeal. To advertise in this section, please call ICAN directly at (217) 241-1700. Both Pioneer Press and The Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.

Name Change
COOK COUNTY CHANGE OF NAME FORM
 State of Illinois
 County of Cook
 In The Circuit Court For Cook County, Illinois
 In the Matter of the Petition of Jessica Marie Wohlgemuth For Change of Name
 Case No. 2011 M3 001019
 Notice of Publication
 Public Notice is hereby given that on May 19, 2011, being one of the return days in the Circuit Court of the County of Cook, I will file my petition in said court praying for the change of my name from Jessica Marie Wohlgemuth to that of Jessica Marie-Kathleen Wohlgemuth, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.
 Dated at Rolling Meadows, Illinois, March 24, 2011
 Signature of Petitioner Jessica Wohlgemuth
 Pub:3/31/11/414111 #55520 C

Probate
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
 In the matter of the estate of Magdalene C. Clesen, Deceased.
 Case No. 11 P 1222
PUBLICATION NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given of the death of Magdalene C. Clesen of Arlington Hills, IL. Letters of office were issued on March 24, 2011 to Robert Clesen, 621 W. Kinz Avenue, Cary, IL 60013, whose attorney is Cary A. Lind, 121 S. Wike Rd., Suite 407, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, 847-677-0039.
 Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Room 1202, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 1, 2011, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.
 /s/ Magdalene C. Clesen (Representative)
 /s/ Cary A. Lind (Attorney)
 Pub:3/31/11/414111 #55988 C

Probate
STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
 In the matter of the estate of Ellen E. Merr of Mt. Prospect, IL. Letters of office were issued on March 27, 2011 to Thomas A. Reed, 514 W. Kingsley Road, Arlington Hills, IL 60005, whose attorney is Cary A. Lind, 121 S. Wike Rd., Suite 407, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, 847-677-0039.
 Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Room 1202, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 1, 2011, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.
 /s/ Thomas A. Reed (Representative)
 /s/ Cary A. Lind (Attorney)
 Pub:3/31/11/414111 #55988 C

Public Notices
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
 To the registered voters, residents of the Town of Norwood Park, in the County of Cook, in the State of Illinois, that the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of said Town will take place on
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011
 Being the second TUESDAY of said month
 At the hour of 6:30 p.m., at
 7833 West Lawrence Avenue, Illinois
 for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said Town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law or agenda, come before the meeting. The agenda of said meeting shall include the following:
 1. Reading of Minutes of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting
 2. Reading of the Supervisor's Report and Financial Statements and Consideration of Resolutions regarding:
 a. Authorizing expenditures for senior citizen services
 b. Authorizing the Board to dispose, pursuant to law, of surplus property of the Town and/or Highway Department;
 c. Ratifying the prior public actions of the Town Board
 d. Approving the audit of the Town Funds
 e. Authorizing the preparation of Township Government
 f. Authorizing an increase in the tax rate for the various funds of the town
 g. Establishing the next meeting date.
 DATED: March 31, 2011
BOCCO SECCO TOWN CLERK
 Pub: 3/31/11(51515)C

Public Notices
THIS ORDINANCE MAY BE CITED AS VILLAGE ORDINANCE NUMBER 11-3-P-3828 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8103 FLORAL AVENUE, SKOKIE, ILLINOIS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES
 WHEREAS, following described real estate:
 4 IN THE SUBDIVISION LOT 29 IN BLAUMER'S SOUTH DIVISION OF THE SOUTH 105 ACRES OF THE EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 PIN: 10-2-02-00-00-00
 commonly known as 8103 Floral Avenue, Skokie, Illinois (hereinafter "Subject Property"), is located within the Village of Skokie and within the Downtown TIF District 90-1, a Tax Increment Financing Allocation in the form attached, and
 WHEREAS, the Village of Skokie is desirous of purchasing the Subject Property in the amount of \$220,000, to be utilized for a public purpose; and
 WHEREAS, the purchase price will be paid from funds out of the Downtown Tax Increment Financing District 90-1; and
 WHEREAS, the Corporation Counsel and Village Manager recommended the following to the Mayor and Board of Trustees:
 (i) That the Village be authorized to acquire title to and own the Subject Property commonly known as 8103 Floral Avenue, Skokie, Illinois, to be utilized for a public purpose;
 (ii) That the Real Estate Contract attached hereto and marked Exhibit "1" to the purchase of 8103 Floral Avenue, Skokie, Illinois be approved, substantially in the form attached, subject to changes approved by the Village Manager, or designee, and the Corporation Counsel of the Village of Skokie;
 (iii) That the Village Manager be authorized to execute the Real Estate Contract marked as Exhibit "1", on behalf of the Village; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois, that they do hereby incorporate in this Section 1 as if fully set forth herein:
 Section 2: That the Subject Property, legally described above, be purchased by the Village of Skokie, Illinois, in the amount of \$220,000, to be utilized for a public purpose, as provided by law.
 Section 3: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois hereby authorize the Village Manager, or designee, and the Corporation Counsel of the Village of Skokie, to purchase and acquire the Subject Property to be utilized for a public purpose.
 Section 4: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois hereby authorize the Village of Skokie to purchase and acquire the Subject Property to be utilized for a public purpose.
 Section 5: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois hereby authorize the Village Manager, or designee, and the Corporation Counsel of the Village of Skokie, to purchase and acquire the Subject Property to be utilized for a public purpose.
 Section 6: That the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois hereby authorize the Village Manager, or designee, and the Corporation Counsel of the Village of Skokie, to purchase and acquire the Subject Property to be utilized for a public purpose, as provided by law.
 Section 7: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form and in the Skokie Review on March 31, 2011 and April 7, 2011, as provided by law.
ADOPTED this 21st day of March, 2011.
 Ayes: 6 (Bromberg, Lorge, Roberts, Village Clerk
 Ayes: 0 (Penh) Village Clerk
 Attested and filed in my office this 22nd day of March, 2011; and published in full view according to law on March 31, 2011 and April 7, 2011.
 Approved by me this 21st day of March, 2011.
 Mayor, Village of Skokie
 Pub: 3/31/11(5346)C

Public Notices
REACH OUT TO MORE QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES IN CHICAGOLAND WITH MONSTER, CALL 847-998-3400

Public Notices
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Storage - Legal
 Life Storage Centers of Addison will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at Life Storage Centers of Addison, 426 South Westgate, Addison, Illinois 60101. Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registrations.

Tenant Name	Unit #	Stored Items
Luko Fikejs	1065	Boxes, Computers, Household Goods

 Pub:3/24, 3/31/11(52401) C

Storage - Legal
 Life Storage Centers of Addison will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at Life Storage Centers of Addison, 426 South Westgate, Addison, Illinois 60101. Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registrations.

Tenant Name	Unit #	Stored Items
Luko Fikejs	1065	Boxes, Computers, Household Goods

 Pub:3/24, 3/31/11(52401) C

Storage - Legal
NOTICE OF AUCTION
 Life Storage Centers of Morton Grove will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 1:00 P.M. on Friday, April 15, 2011 at Life Storage Centers of Morton Grove, 6505 West Oakton Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registrations.

Tenant Name	Unit #	Stored Items
Illinois Multi Medical	1109	Boxes

 Pub: 3/24, 3/31/11(51687)C2s

Storage - Legal
NOTICE OF AUCTION
 Life Storage Centers of South Loop will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 15, 2011, at Life Storage Centers of South Loop, 2361 S. Stato St. Chicago, Illinois, 60616.
 Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registrations.

Tenant Name	Unit #	Stored Items
Kendra Shaw	3182	HHG, Furniture, Boxes
Lealand Hill	5065	Clothes, Boxes
Ibrahim Amusan	5041	HHG, Furniture, Boxes
Lakisha Perkins	2180	Furniture, Boxes

 Pub:3/24, 3/31/11(51988) C2s

Storage - Legal
U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758066 Morton Grove
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.
 Notice is hereby given that on April 6, 2011, U-HAUL Auctioneer, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following location, 9009 Waukegan Rd, Morton Grove, IL 60053 and will be at or after 9:45 am and continue day by day until all units are sold.
 Miss Andrade, P.O. Box 3089, Tampa, FL Unit 171- Cooler, mini fridge, fan and boxes.
 Pub: 3/24, 3/31/11(52960)C2

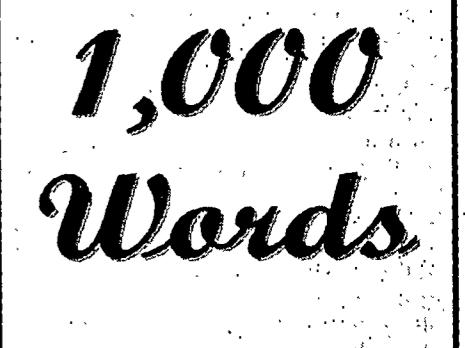
Storage - Legal
U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758059 LINCOLN PARK
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.
 Notice is hereby given that on April 6, 2011, U-HAUL Auctioneer, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following location, 1200 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60614 and will be at or after 3:00pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.
 Luke Eastman- 224 Cleveland, Chicago, IL Unit C373- Boxes, Debbert Arrington- 233 Wacker, Chicago, IL Unit C356 Clothing and bags, Marie Ferguson- 921 Newport, Chicago, IL Unit D51- Loveseat, dresser, mattress, boxspring, mirror, TV and grill, Zach Redden- 2875 Meadow Drive, St. Charles, IL Unit F390- Clothing, suitcase and pictures, Jorge Ramirez- 2855 Archer Ave., Chicago, IL Unit G165- Sofa, Jai Thomas- 11850 9th St., Saint Petersburg, FL Unit G210- HHG, readmitt, bookshelf, fan and boxes, Ricky Damper- 4325 Magnolia, Chicago, IL Unit G356- Clothing, coat and boxes.
 Pub: 3/24, 3/31/11(52923)C2

Storage - Legal
U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2011 758075 Fortress
NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.
 Notice is hereby given that on April 6, 2011, U-HAUL Auctioneer, Executive Administrator, Storage Clerk for U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following location, 4100 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60639 and will be at or after 1:15pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.
 Denise Brewer-Frieds- 4814 W. Concord, Chicago, IL Unit 3884- TV, coffee table, toolbox, TV, washer, freezer, fridge and stove, Casey Cingan- 839 Sheridan, Chicago, IL Unit 3004- Leather chair and boxes, Tiffany Fentry- 126 Hamlin, Chicago, IL Unit 3502- Stereo, speakers, mirror, chair, suitcases and boxes, Wayne Gopstein, Chicago, IL Unit 3901- Army bag and army coat, Alexis Soto- 2449 Meado, Chicago, IL Unit 3347- Choral quilt, Raquel Gobin- 2454 Spaulding, Chicago, IL Unit 3891- Bike, clothing, boxes and bags, Miguel Gonzalez- 4100 W. Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL Unit 4804- Speaker, stereo, rug and boxes, Alberta Bello- 2821 Fletcher, Chicago, IL Unit 4238- Kitchen chairs, kitchen table, TV and A/C, Ethel Harrison- 1528 N. Leclair, Chicago, IL Unit 4702- Bags, boxes and computer desk, John Doe - 4100 W. Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL Unit 4518 - Daybed, sofa, lamp, bike, microwave, office chairs and loveseat.
 Pub: 3/24, 3/31/11(52896)C2

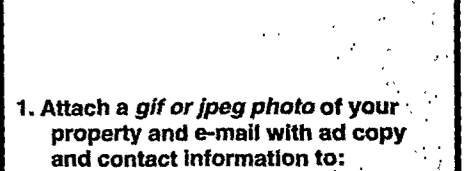
Storage - Legal
NOTICE OF AUCTION
 Life Storage Centers of Rogers Park will hold a public sale to enforce a lien imposed on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Illinois Code 770 ILCS 95/1 to 95/7, at 11:00 AM on Monday, April 11, 2011, at Life Storage Centers of Rogers Park, 7524 N. Paulina Street, Chicago, IL 60626.
 Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or motor vehicles are sold "As Is / Parts Only," no titles or registrations.

Tenant Name	Unit #	Stored Items
Deborah Bell	115	Boxes
Tishawn Wilson	276	HHG
Bobby Jennings	335	HHG
Barbara Humphrey	346	HHG
Andrea Allen	41	HHG
Latonia S Tuff	462	HHG
Chanell Scott	492	Furn, Boxes
Tanya Johnson	53	HHG
Sarah Winkfield	55	Fum HHG
Chiquita M. Carroll	50	Fum HHG
Pedro M. Serrano-Gutierrez	578	HHG
Maria L Perez	601	HHG
Melone Dillingham	607	HHG
Terry Harb	623	Fum Boxes
Eleanora Gates	633	Bags
Michelle Henderson	686	HHG
Elda Cruz	726	HHG
Jessica Cruz	742	HHG
Kathelaine Stewart	752	HHG
Kanesha M. Brough	808	HHG
Stephanie Morales	815	HHG
Israel Rodriguez	871	HHG, Boxes

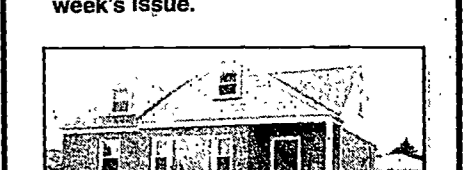
 Pub:3/24, 3/31/11(51391) C2s



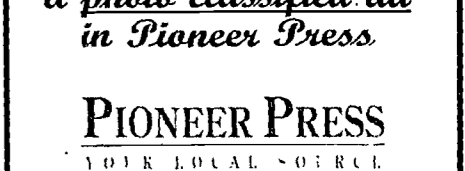
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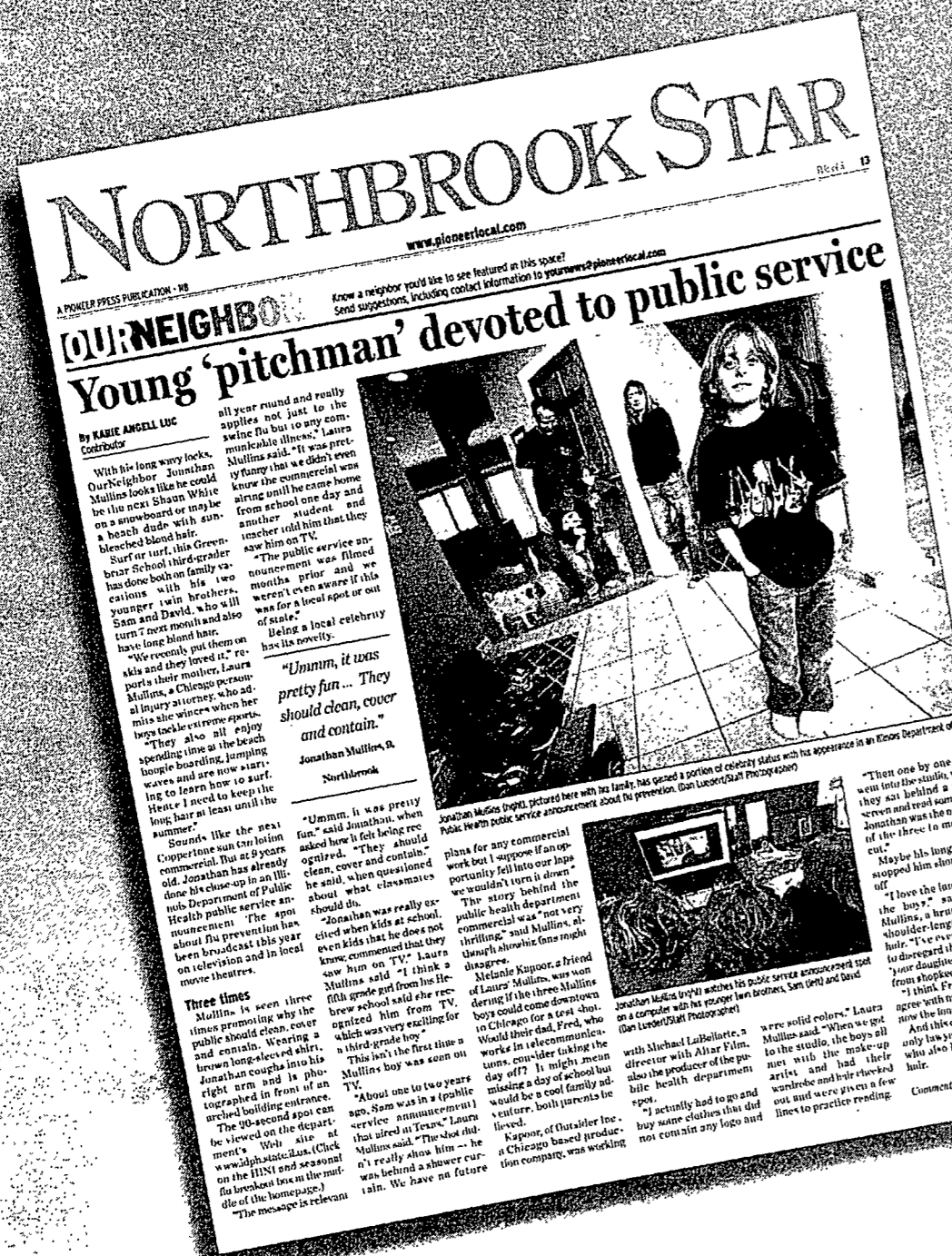
Bid Notice
SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT TWO SCHOOLS
 CARPENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 300 North Hamlin Avenue
 Park Ridge, Illinois 60066
 FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 2401 Manor Lane
 Park Ridge, Illinois 60066
 For PARK RIDGE/NILES SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Sealed bids for the above named construction project will be received by the Clerk at the business office of Park Ridge/Niles School District 64 at 164 South Prospect, Park Ridge, Illinois, until 10:00 a.m. local time, 21 April 2011, at which time they may be publicly opened and read aloud. The sealed bids must be submitted in duplicate on the form provided. Project Name, Date and Time of Bid clearly marked on the outside of the envelope to prevent premature opening. Bid forms can be downloaded from our website at www.greenassociates.com. Bids will be received for a single price contract. In general the Project work consists of paving, concrete, underground detention, site utilities, foundation waterproofing, plumbing, site lighting, fencing, railings, and landscaping at the referenced buildings as identified herein. Drawings and Project Manual may be examined at the offices of the Owner and Architect. Documents are also on file at: McCreaw-Hill Construction/COGS
 Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association
 1111 South Apine Road
 Suite 202
 Rockford, Illinois 61108
 Reed Construction Data
 Construction Association of Will & Grundy Counties
 223 North Springfield Avenue
 Joliet, Illinois 60435
 Bid Documents are available in digital PDF format only. At the Architect's website www.greenassociates.com. Addenda will be made available in digital format to plan holders of record.
 1. Bid Security is required in the form of a Bid Bond. AIA Document A310 in an amount equal to not less than ten percent (10%) of the Base Bid and all Additive Alternates.
 2. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum, on AIA Document A312, as issued by the American Institute of Architects. The Owner will not issue the Notice to Proceed until these bonds are provided and all other insurance requirements have been met.
 3. All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 1301-12). The Contract is subject to the Park Ridge School District 64 Project Labor Agreement.
 4. Contractors are encouraged to visit the sites and familiarize themselves with the conditions. However no access onto is permitted between 8:00am and 4:00pm on school days. Failure to abide by this schedule may result in rejection of bid.
 5. If the Owner's intent to issue a Notice of Award to the successful Bidder within thirty (30) calendar days of the Bid Date. AIA Document A310 will be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the opening of bids.
 6. Any bid submitted unsealed, or unsigned, without bid bond or rejected subsequent to the aforementioned date and hour will be disqualified and returned to the bidder.
 Direct inquiries to:
 Andrew Jose GreenAssociates, Inc.
 111 Deerlake Road Suite 135
 Deerfield, Illinois 60015
 Office greenassociates.com
 847-317-0852 847-317-0999 Facsimile
 Pub: 3/31/11 (54601)C

Bid Notice
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NORWOOD PARK TOWNSHIP STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
 NOTICE is hereby given that the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the NORWOOD PARK TOWNSHIP LIGHTING DISTRICT in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2011 and ending May 31, 2012, will be on display for inspection at the Norwood Park Township Office, 7833 West Lawrence Avenue, Norwood, Illinois from and after 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2011.
 Notice is further given that a public hearing on the said Tax Levy Ordinance will be held at 1:00 o'clock P.M., Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at the Norwood Park Township Office, 7833 West Lawrence Avenue, Norwood, Illinois, at which time all persons interested in the proposed Ordinance will be heard.
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NORWOOD PARK TOWNSHIP STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT TENTATIVE TAX LEVY ORDINANCE
 NOTICE is hereby given that the Public Hearing on the said Tax Levy Ordinance for the Norwood Park Township, Street Lighting District in Cook County, Illinois, for the year beginning June 1, 2011 and ending May 31, 2012, will be held at the offices of the Board of Trustees of the Township of Norwood Park, Illinois, on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 7:30 P.M.
 Citizens attending the Hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the tentative Tax Levy Ordinance.
 NOTICE is further given that said Tentative Tax Levy Ordinance will be on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Norwood Park Township Town Hall, 7833 West Lawrence Avenue, Norwood, Illinois, and after 10:00 o'clock A.M., on Thursday, March 31, 2011.
 The Tentative Tax Levy of all funds for said fiscal year is \$15,546.00. Dated this thirty first day of March, 2011.
 Nils Palo, Trustee
 Hannelore Kopsch, Trustee
 Robert Schafer, Trustee
 Pub: 3/31/11(52829)C

Public Hearings
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE - THE MORTON GROVE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7:30 P.M. in the Board of Trustees Chambers, Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois. Considering the following cases: 1. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 2. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 3. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 4. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 5. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 6. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 7. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 8. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 9. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 10. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 11. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 12. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 13. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 14. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 15. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 16. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 17. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 18. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 19. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 20. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 21. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 22. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 23. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 24. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 25. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 26. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 27. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 28. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 29. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 30. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 31. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 32. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 33. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 34. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 35. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 36. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 37. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 38. Requesting Var. Amendments to the Village of Morton Grove Unified Code Sections 12-4-3 and 12-17-1 to allow Dry Cleaning facilities in the C1 (General Commercial) Zoning District. The applicant is Jay Brown for Lonoza Plaza, 2530 Crawford Ave #102. Evansion. I 6029. 39. Requesting Var. Amendments to

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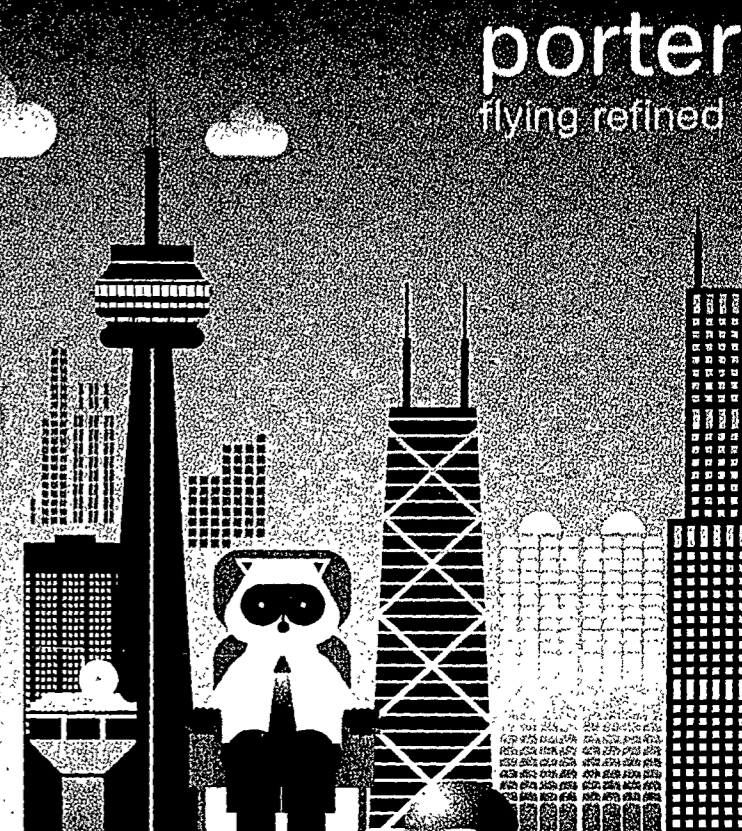


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Chicago's Lacrosse Team

#2 Northwestern vs. #3 Duke

Saturday, April 2nd Lakeside Field - Noon

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- FREE Post Match Clinic For Girls in Grades 8 and Under Hosted By Coach Kelly Amonte-Hiller
- Bring Goggles and a Stick



CALL 888-GO-PURPLE TO ORDER TICKETS

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles's Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Benefit

The Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation will host the 20th Annual Play for the Cure Golf Outing on June 20 at Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster St., in Skokie. With proceeds going toward breast cancer research, the event invites golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a day of fun in the sun as they "putt for pink." The 18-hole outing begins with registration at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Tee-off is at 1 p.m., and the day is capped off with an evening cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. The cost is \$900 per person, and sponsorships are available from \$2,500 to \$20,000. The first golfer scoring an ace on any of the four Par 3 holes at Evanston Golf Club will win a luxurious automobile. Call (312) 926-7133 or visit www.lynsage.org.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation, by appointment.

Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Monday, April 11 - Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 10 a.m.

Tuesdays, April 5 and 19 - Medicare counseling, by appointment.

Wednesdays, April 6 and 20 - Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturdays, April 9 and 23 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Saturday, April 30 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Join the "Celebrate A Job Well Done," event honoring Mary Schurder, retired executive director of the Center of Concern, from 6-9 p.m. April 8 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Cost for the dinner reception and benefit is \$50. Call Dawn at (847) 823-0453, Ext. 125.

Low-cost income tax preparation will be available by appointment at the Center of Concern on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. Adults of all ages with annual incomes under \$40,000 (excluding Social Security benefits) are welcome. The fee for basic federal and state returns, including Schedules A, B, and D and forms for the Earned Income Tax Credit, is \$35. More complex returns cost up to \$50. The center's offices are at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite #310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453 to make an appointment. Homebound residents may ask to have a tax preparer come to their home.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Cares Rx (prescription drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the longtime-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption. **Preparation of simple wills** and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Civic

State Representative Rosemary Mulligan, R-65th, has opened her new 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Her other contact information remains the same: Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmulligan@usa.net; website and E-News sign-up: http://repulligan.com. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

A representative from the Niles Township Clerk's office will be available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

The Maine Township Neighborhood Watch meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in the basement of Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff's Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township's Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report any concerns or problems in their neighborhood.

Classes

To strengthen your brain and learn about cognitive fitness, CogFit-Quest offers a free, 1-1/2 hour, interactive workshop on April 5 or April 8 in Skokie. Expert trainers at CogFit-Quest will guide you through a series of engaging and fun activities. Enjoy games that target long- and short-term memory, concentration, word recall, and other cognitive skills. For details, call (847) 674-8060 or visit Cogfitquest.com. Space is limited.

Niles Township Government Com-

puter Training Center is offering computer classes. Computer Lab Sessions: Practice & tutoring one-on-one with an experienced teacher. (Optional for current and former students; recommended for all students). The Computer Lab fee is \$30 per student and is open noon-2 p.m. Fridays through April 22. Course fees include an instructional workbook. Students must bring their own USB Flash Drive to save and transfer files needed for all classes. All ages are welcome. A Certificate of Completion is awarded last day of class. Call (847) 673-9300.

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is \$60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs

The Heritage Club of Polish Americans will meet at 1:30 p.m. April 3 at the Merrimac Park Field House, 6343 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Monika Starczuk from the Polish Initiative of Chicago will discuss the organization's history and purposes and upcoming events in Polonia. Tickets to the club's May 1 annual Easter "Swieconka" party will be available at this meeting. Admission is \$1 for non-members; the public is invited. Refreshments will be served. Call (773) 852-6757.

A Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by the Twenty-first Star Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be held from 9 a.m.-noon April 2 on the third floor of the Park Ridge Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., across the street from the Pickwick Theater. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with one of the members of the lineage research team and receive assistance with application papers. This workshop is for women who are interested in joining the DAR. Bring along all your records and information; there will be reference books available for use. Call Betty Borman at (847) 818-9001.

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel which entertains at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-8320.

I Chiacchieroni Italian-language dinner group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Salerno's, 1716 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect. The next meeting will be April 14. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf



Emerson eagle
Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano and two of his department staff volunteered March 11 to help move an American Eagle statue to Emerson Middle School in Niles. The statue was accepted by Principal Victoria Mogli. Kane Connell, branch manager of Liberty Bank in Park Ridge, arranged for the donation. The statue was originally sponsored by Liberty Bank as part of the 2010 Promise of Park Ridge public art project and was displayed in Hodges Park in front of the Park Ridge City Hall. The mascot for Emerson is the eagle. Contributed photo

War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverly, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

The Korean War Veterans Association, Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Henmueller, (773) 774-9671.

Join the Catholic Women's Bowling League for Ladies Night Out at Classic Bowl, 8530 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove. Fee is \$15 per week. All skill levels welcome. Call Deanne Drozd at (224) 628-4009 or d.drozd@comcast.net.

The Knights of Columbus (North American Martyrs Council, Niles), provides ways for members to help others in the community while trying to improve their family and spiritual lives. Call Bob Galassi, (847) 965-0920.

Niles Chapter Toastmasters meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

Community

The Fourth Annual North Shore Women's Conference will be presented May 6 at the Skokie Banquet & Conference Center, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. The free expo highlighting 75 vendors will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The luncheon from noon-1:30 p.m. will feature "Kitchen Confidential" with keynote speaker and Celebrity Chef Gale Gand. Attendees can also choose to participate in hot topic break-out workshops. Cost is \$30 per person. Call DBR Chamber of Commerce at (847) 945-4660.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of the St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox

Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles, will hold its Spring Bake Sale from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 12 and 13 in the Community Center. The Bake Shop will feature sweet Tsoureki bread and Koulourakia. Also, for the Pascha celebration there will be lambethes, dyed red eggs sold by the dozen, and Easter gift baskets. Home-made Greek pastries, such as Baklava, Diples, Kataifi, Galaktoboureko, Kourambethes and Melomakarouna will also be available for holiday entertaining. A Lenten lunch will be served both days and a Coffee Shop to sit and enjoy a pastry and coffee will also be featured. There is no admission and plenty of free parking. Call ahead to place a pastry order for pick-up. Contact the church office, (847) 647-8880.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800, www.holocaustmuseum.org, offers the following: A special exhibition: "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges." Exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and '40s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement, and American society. Daily, through May 31. Free with museum admission. Book and Author Discussion: "Women + Nazis: Perpetrators of Genocide and Other Crimes During Hitler's Regime, 1933-1945" will be presented by Professor Wendy A. Sarti from 1:30-3 p.m. April 10. Sarti discusses her recently published study of the participation of women in carrying out the Nazi program of persecution. O&A will be moderated by Dr. Leon Stein, Professor Emeritus of History, Roosevelt University. A book-signing follows.

Free with museum admission. Reservations recommended, call (847) 967-4889.

Our Lady of Ransom Parish, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles, will hold its annual Rummage Sale from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 1 and 9 a.m.-noon April 2 with an early shopping opportunity from 6-9 p.m. March 31 (\$2 admission fee is requested). There will be a variety of items available. Clothing, glassware, toys, tools, household items, jewelry, small appliances, exercise equipment, small furniture, lamps, bedding, books and more. There is also a "Treasure Room" that will have items that are new or slightly used. The sale benefits the parish as a whole. Call Ruth, (847) 823-2550.

Half Price Books at 5605 W. Touhy Ave., Niles, is launching its annual Half Pint Library Book Drive. This 6-week program collects and distributes children's books to families and children in need through local non-profit and community organizations, and for the first time, Half Price Books will match each book donated during the drive. Books donated through the Half Pint Library program provide an escape from the challenges faced by children, while helping to boost literacy outside of school. Half Pint Libraries were created to give children and their families the chance to read and share books while staying at pediatric clinics and community centers across the nation. The drive accepts any type of children's book, including Spanish language books, as long as they are in good condition. The drive runs through March 31. Visit www.hpb.com.

The Polish Fraternal Organizations are again sponsoring the second Polish American Night with the Chicago

Evanston electric contest open to all



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN
THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Readers:
The Fixer has long touted the nonprofit Citizens Utility Board and its programs as a way for consumers to save on electric, natural gas and phone bills. Now CUB is running a contest with seven employers and institutions in Evanston to see who can save the most in electric costs, and they will award two lucky consumers a year's worth of free electricity.

Consumers also can win rewards points for gift cards and discounts. And the best part is the contest is open to all ComEd customers — you do not have to live or work in Evanston to participate.

Here's how it works: First, go to cubenergy-saver.com/evanston to sign up. Pick which one of the seven teams you want to join: Evanston Township High School, NorthShore University HealthSystem, City of Evanston Employees, Rotary Energy EconoMisers, St. Francis Hospital, Northwestern University Employees or District 65.

All year, each team will try to recruit as many new people as they can for the CUBEnergySaver.com program. At the end of 2011, CUB will award a prize to the team that recruits the most new people and a prize to the biggest combined savings on their electric bills. Then they'll choose at random two lucky participants from those teams to win a free year's worth of electricity, courtesy of CUB.

Again — you do NOT need to live or work in Evanston to participate. (The teams are all Evanston-based because Evanston beat out hundreds of other Illinois communities in an earlier CUB contest.)

The way we see it, no one really loses in this contest, because even if you don't win the free year's worth of electricity, you'll still learn ways to cut your electric bill every month. Each participant will get a personalized plan to cut their utility costs as well as reward points for cutting their ComEd bills. The reward points can be redeemed for gift cards or discounts at hundreds of local and national businesses.

The program is free — no strings attached. What's not to love about that?

Dear Fixer: I have been a member at the Fitness 19 health club in Buffalo Grove for more than three years. More than a year ago, I purchased a \$50 prepaid child care punch card that I have in my possession. I've used it infrequently and have a \$37 balance on the card.

When I brought my kids in recently, I found out that the kids club was closed without any notice to the members.

The "safe and secure" kids club is prominently featured on the front page of the Fitness 19 website.

When I inquired about a refund, I was told that even though I had the card, I would also need a receipt to prove I had purchased it. I didn't keep that receipt from a year and a half ago.

Again, I have the actual card in my possession.

If you can get my money back, I would like to donate the \$37 to The Fixer's charity of choice. And I'd challenge the manager of the club to match it (no receipt required).

Dave Holecsek

Dear Dave: The Fixer barely broke a sweat getting your child care money back from Fitness 19. All we did was e-mail the manager, and voila! a check for \$37 was sent out to you.

Honor Flight Chicago (your choice of charity) will be the lucky recipient of the money. You told The Fixer you admire their work in bringing aging World-War II veterans to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor at no cost to them. It looks like a worthwhile charity. Readers who would like to find out more can check out honorflightchicago.org.

Travel tip

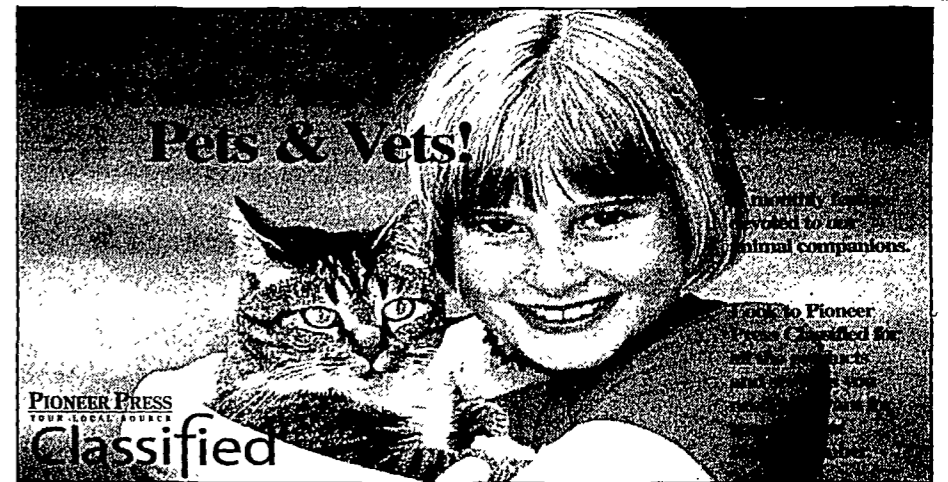
Here's a tip for Priceline.com users from the April issue of ShopSmart magazine, which is published by the people who do Consumer Reports:

If you want to use Priceline.com to bid on travel, first check out prices at Hotwire.com. Then take 10 or 20 percent off the best price and use that to make your bid on Priceline. ShopSmart also recommends checking out BetterBidding.com before bidding on Priceline.com. But make sure your travel dates are set. All sales are final.

Calling all call center people

The Fixer wants to hear more readers' stories about life in a call center. If you work in a customer service call center, we want to know what you like about your job as well as what drives you nuts. Send your thoughts to szimmermann@suntimes.com with CALL CENTER in the subject line. Thanks!

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer. Or, mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026.



Taxes are inevitable. At least paying them can be convenient.

Chase is now accepting Cook County Property Tax payments.

Pay your Tax Year 2010 First Installment Cook County property taxes at any Chase branch in the Chicago area. Since Chase has the most branches and ATM locations in Chicagoland, it's a convenient way to take care of paying your property taxes. You don't even have to be a Chase customer - though, you're always welcome to become one.

CHASE WHAT MATTERS?
Find your nearest Chicagoland Chase branch at chase.com/findus
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CHASE

{food}

Fire up the clay: A chicken's in the pot

By VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

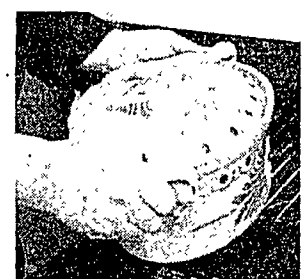
Chefs are fired up about the health and flavor benefits of cooking in clay pots. The original slow cookers, ancient predecessors to the crock pot, are trendy again.

"Clay pot cooking was really a rage in the 1970s," said Rick Petrocelly. "I picked up my first clay pot at a garage sale many years ago."

Petrocelly collected cookbooks like Georgia MacLeod Sales and Grover Sales' classic *The Clay Pot Cookbook: A New Way of Cooking in an Ancient Pot* (Atheneum, 1974). In it, he discovered recipes for cooking foods at extremely high heat like Beggar's Chicken, an Asian-inspired chicken seasoned with ginger, star anise and sesame oil. Orange chicken was another favorite.

But things have changed. While Petrocelly still loves to prowl garage sales, the clay pots he sells at The Olive Tap, the Long Grove culinary shop he owns with his wife, Kathi, were purchased through dealers like Claybourg in Hoffman Estates.

At home in Mundelein, Petrocelly uses his four pots to make flavorful dishes like lemon chicken. The recipe will work in a glazed or unglazed clay pot. An unglazed pot will require a 20-30 minute soak in cold water before each use.



"Without soaking, it (the pot) will absorb much of the liquid from the ingredients," said Petrocelly.

Because they are sealed, clay pots produce especially tender foods. Extra closure can be provided by tightly wrapping a coil of dough around the exterior of the pot, between the lid and the rim. Petrocelly does this to make his lemon chicken.

"Combine one cup of flour with enough water to make dough," Petrocelly explained.

Kathi Harrison, a blogger who teaches Cooking in the Hills culinary classes in her kitchen in Barrington Hills, sometimes makes a kosher salt crust to seal her three clay pots. She makes recipes like chicken with apricots, olives and almonds or beef with prunes and carrots.

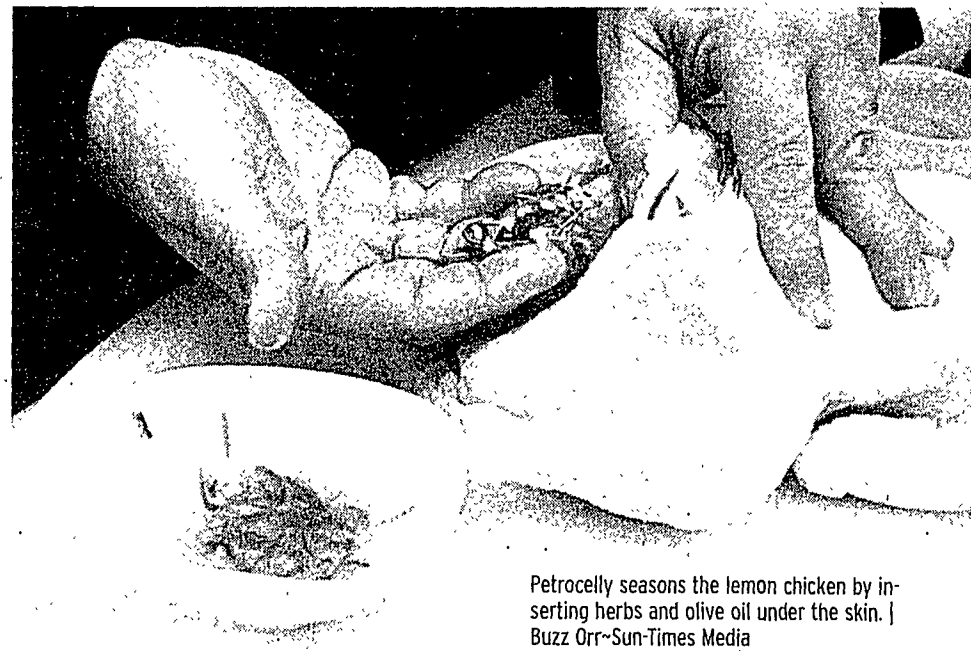
"Clay pot cooking is healthier and less fattening, because you don't have to add olive oil or butter; most of the moisture will come from the ingredients and the pot," she explained.

The lid of her favorite design, a Moroccan tagine style, is cone-shaped "like a witch hat." It rests in a flat bottom, allowing for a unique condensation and evaporation process, amplifying moisture.

As Harrison has learned, clay pots can be delicate, and should never be placed cold into a hot or preheated oven. "Start it off in a cold oven and then bring up the heat," she said.



Rick Petrocelly, owner of The Olive Tap, shows off his lemon chicken after it has baked in a clay pot. Petrocelly lives in Mundelein. | Buzz Orr-Sun-Times Media



Petrocelly seasons the lemon chicken by inserting herbs and olive oil under the skin. | Buzz Orr-Sun-Times Media

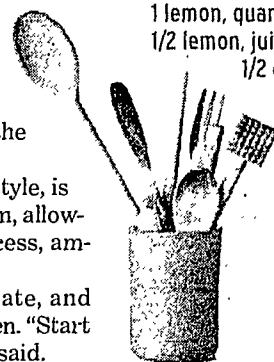
Clay Pot Lemon Chicken

(adapted from Rick Petrocelly, *The Olive Tap in Long Grove*)

- 1 4-5 pound good quality chicken
- 3 tablespoons lemon olive oil, plus 1 tablespoon divided*
- 1 heaping tablespoon fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 teaspoons sea salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper, to taste
- 2 large onions, cut in quarters
- 3 or 4 red potatoes, quartered lengthwise
- 1 lemon, quartered
- 1/2 lemon, juiced

1/2 cup crisp, dry white wine (pinot grigio)

*Substitute: extra virgin olive oil and add lemon zest to herb mixture



If using unglazed clay pot, soak in cold water for 20 minutes before using.

Thoroughly mix olive oil, herbs, garlic, 1 teaspoon sea salt and 1 teaspoon fresh ground pepper in small bowl. Set aside. Rinse and dry bird thoroughly and place on large dish.

Loosen skin of bird, and slide hand under skin thoroughly to separate. Evenly spread olive oil mixture under skin, covering entire breast. Sprinkle inside and outside of bird with remaining salt and pepper. Place one onion and quartered lemon inside bird.

Put bird in clay pot, breast side up. Place remaining onion and potatoes in bowl. Toss with olive oil to coat. Put potatoes and onions around chicken. Pour wine over potatoes and onions. Squeeze lemon juice over bird. Insert meat thermometer into thickest part of thigh. Cover clay pot.

Put into cold oven and set temperature to 450 degrees. Roast for one hour. Remove lid and baste bird thoroughly. Roast for about 30 more minutes and check temperature. When thermometer reads 165 degrees, remove from oven. Leave undisturbed for 10 minutes before slicing. For a more golden skin, remove lid for the last 15-20 minutes of cooking time.

Calendar

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Bulls April 5 at the United Center, 1901 W. Madison St., Chicago, available for the entire family. The Chicago Bulls will host the Phoenix Suns, beginning at 7 p.m. The Fraternal has a special discounted price on these tickets. Bulls game tickets can be purchased and picked up at the Polish National Alliance. Call the Polish National Alliance, Paul Odobina at (800) 621-3723, Ext. 316; visit www.pna-znp.org; information is in the "Events" section on the main page or call Polish Women's Alliance, Sharon Zago, (888) 522-1898, Ext. 208; Polish Roman Catholic Union, Anna Sokolowski, (800) 772-8632, Ext. 2601.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County recently established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries, partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household chemical waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC's program: Alkaline: AA, AAA, C, D and 9V; rechargeable: NiCd, NiMH, lithium ion, lithium polymer. Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place in an individual self-locking plastic baggie to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8000, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling/batteryrecycling.html.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers - PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals - mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org.

This year the Maine South Athletic Pass, entitling bearers to admission to all home football and basketball games (except IHSA games), is available exclusively through the Maine South Athletic Boosters for \$30. See southmaine207.org, click on Organizations, then Hawk Boosters and then the membership link to obtain a membership/pass application - or call Laurie Kovalick, membership commit-

tee chairperson, at (847) 292-1665 or John Wolf, Booster president at (773) 935-5585 for more information or an application. Consider becoming a member in addition to purchasing the pass for the good and benefit of all Maine South athletics.

Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Food Drives

The Maine Township Food Pantry is in desperate need of nonperishable items, including: canned vegetables, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, hamburger/chicken helper, cookies, crackers, spaghetti, rice and snack bars. Items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Niles Chamber of Commerce office, 8060 W. Oakton St., inside the North Side Community Bank building.

Fundraisers

Like New Auto Spa, Inc., 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed, or buys a gift card from the company - and also asks for the Lutheran General discount - will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call AlMee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847)

723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.likenewautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

Health

Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenron at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505. A local dialysis clinic, Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

Senior Advocate of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-pressure screenings 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of every month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

Library

Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise. Niles Public Library will host free events the week of April 2-9 to help consumers learn to manage money wisely. These events are among the more than 500 free classes, seminars and activities promoting financial education that will take place during Money Smart Week Chicago. April 5 - 7:8:30 p.m. Common Mistakes People Make with their IRAs - Certified Financial Planner Scott Goldman and Attorney Ira Moltz identify common mistakes that people make with their IRAs. April 6 - 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Identity Theft: Don't Let It Happen To You - A representative from Fifth Third Bank in Niles explains how these crimes are being carried out and ways to monitor one's bank accounts and credit.

April 7 - 7:8:30 p.m.: Credit Card Smarts - Learn how to obtain a free Credit Report, how to check a credit score and how to build better credit. Tom Lichtenheld, New York Times best-selling children's book author/illustrator, will lead an exclusive art workshop for second-graders and older on April 9 in the Niles Public Library. He will work with children by sharing his skills and mentoring budding artists. Children in third grade and up can register for the 11 a.m.

workshop; students in second to fifth grades may register for the 12:30 p.m. workshop. Niles cardholders can register beginning April 1 and others beginning April 5 by calling (847) 663-6623 or online at nileslibrary.org/calendar.

Following the art workshops is the Niles Public Library annual Bookmark Contest ceremony and illustrator presentation at 2 p.m. View hundreds of bookmarks on display designed by local artists in kindergarten through high school. Lichtenheld will talk about how he created great books after the honorees have received their awards. This event is held as part of National Library Week.

Teens can vote for their favorite song or movie through March 31. Re-

ceive a small prize just for voting and be entered for bigger prizes at the end of the month. Results will be posted in April.

Reading Challenge - Sixth- to eighth-graders who are up for a challenge and like to read can get together a team of 2-6 people, find an adult sponsor, and call (847) 663-6623 or drop by the Youth Services Department to register. Then get reading from the library list of 30 hand-picked books. Sixth-graders who participated in Battle of the Books may also register. Teams compete in April and May for the Reading Challenge Championship. Champions will be taken to lunch in a limousine.

Weekly, counselors from the Chicago Chapter of SCORE, the Service

Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the Library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org/. If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail

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MEAT					
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\$2.99 lb.	\$1.99 lb.	\$1.59 lb.	\$2.99 lb.		
DELI					
ECKRICH HARD SALAMI	JENNIE-O TURKEY BREAST OVEN ROASTED OR SMOKED	BRENNAM HONEY HAM	ALOUETTE BABY BRIE CHEESE		
\$2.99 lb.	\$3.99 lb.	\$2.99 lb.	\$1.99 ea. 13 oz.		
DAIRY					
DEANS HALF & HALF QUARTS	BORDEN 2% & SKIM MILK	DEANS HALF GALLON ORANGE JUICE	LAND-O-LAKES SALTED/UNSALTED BUTTER		
\$1.89 ea. Quart	\$2.49 ea. gal.	\$1.99	\$6.00 2 for ea. 1 lb.		
GROCERY					
LA CAMPAGNA EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL BLEND	"IT'S GREEK TO ME" EGG LEMON SOUP	MAMA FRANCESCA OR FANCI FOOD ARTICHOKE	ERA 2X ULTRA DETERGENT		
\$3.99 ea. 1 qt.	\$1.49 ea.	\$1.99 ea. 14 oz.	\$2.99 ea. 50 oz.		
FROZEN OCTOPUS	GOLDEN RICE PARBOILED	KRAFT MIRACLE WHIP ORIGINAL	NUTELLA HAZELNUT SPREAD		
\$2.99 lb.	\$3.99 ea. 5 lb.	\$2.99 ea. 30 oz.	\$1.99 ea. 13 oz.		

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 25

info@scorechicago.org.
Sports Reading Clubs - Stop by the Youth Services Department and pick up a reading log to win prizes from the Chicago Wolves, Chicago Bears or Northwestern University.
Youth programs on a drop-in basis - *Babytime* 11 a.m. Mondays, for babies age 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. *Rise & Shine Storytime*: 10 a.m. Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

Maine Township
 Gary K. Warner, Clerk of Maine Township, is hosting a special passport event at Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 9. The Clerk's office will provide passport information to U.S. citizens and accept passport applications. U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government. Information on the cost and how to apply for a U.S. passport is also avail-

able at www.travel.state.gov. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.
Maine Township's annual Senior Expo will offer new demonstrations, along with classic entertainment, informational booths and free health screenings. "Swing into Spring" will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 29. The MaineStreamers and Golf Mill Shopping Center are again joining forces for the annual event and exhibit spaces, available on a first-come, first-served basis, are selling fast. To reserve a booth, contact the Expo Office at (847) 698-5069. Jerry and Estrella Hayes, at home winners of the TV reality show "Biggest Loser" Season 7 will share their story at "Swing into Spring. The day begins at 9 a.m. with Early Bird Bingo hosted by Liberty Bank for Savings. Bingo will be held until 10 a.m. in the Community Room. Admission is free. Prizes will be awarded. New this year, Sylvester Marshall, Tai Chi Instructor, will demonstrate the art of Tai Chi at 11 a.m. in Center court. Tai Chi is a centuries-old Chinese exercise focusing on gentle, slow flowing movements that integrate inner-strength with meditation and breathing techniques. Tai Chi can tone muscles, improve flexibility and balance, and nurture physical, emotional and mental well-being. In a return engagement, the vocal trio, Legacy Girls, will entertain with their popular Andrews Sisters musical revue show, "America's

Wartime Sweethearts." Authentic 1940s costumes, dance parodies and synchronized three-part harmonies, and their comedic flair help to focus the audience on the significance of World War II veterans and their essential part in the history of the country. Call MaineStreamers at (847) 297-2510 or visit the www.mainetownship.com.
Maine Township's FISH (Friends In- deed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current driver's license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken, (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

Parks
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles Lunch with Bunny - Kids up to third-grade and adults are invited to celebrate spring at a buffet Lunch with Bunny April 9 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., with two sittings, 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Special entertainment and craft project included. Registration is required. Fees: children residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$12; adults, \$8.
Egg Scramble - Bunny will scatter eggs filled with lots of goodies at 9:30 a.m. April 16 at Golf View Recreation Center, 7800 N. Caldwell Ave. Kids ages 1-8 are invited. There will be complimentary refreshments and goodie bags for registered children. Remember to bring a basket to collect treasures: \$8, residents; \$10, nonresidents.
Flashlight Egg Hunt - Kids 8 years and older are invited to participate in this fun event at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course from 7:30-8:30 p.m. April 20. A pizza dinner will be served at Golf View Recreation Center before the egg hunt. Do not forget a flashlight and bag for eggs. Siblings not registered and parents will not be allowed to participate in the hunt or dinner. Fees: residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$15.
Registration has begun for Niles Park District's Coach Pitch, an instructional league where the coach pitches, no hitting tees involved. This program is for girls and boys, ages 6 to 7 years. One week of indoor clinics is held April 16. Season play runs Saturdays, April 23-July 24, at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Registration fees are residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is taken at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St.
Niles Park District is accepting registration for Girls Softball Leagues for girls in first grade through high school (as of 2010-11 school year). Season play begins April 18. Girls will participate in the Opening Day Parade. Major League replica hats, jerseys and socks are provided by the Park District; each participant must supply pants, shoes and glove. Registration is accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Call (847) 967-1529.
New 3's Preschool - This class offered at Niles Park District is for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2010, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year-old preschool. Children will experience their first classroom experience. Classes are held Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30-2 p.m. at Howard Leisure Center. Session runs to May 20. Call (847) 967-6633.
Niles Park District is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes)

for beginning and intermediate students Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.
Golf Maine
 Visit one of the Golf Maine Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000; www.gmpd.org.
Community Garage Sale - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 14 at Dee Park; reserve a 10-foot by 10-foot spot.
Ballet & Tap - Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.
4th-6th Grade Youth Floor Hockey League - Fridays and Sundays starting in April. Feldman.
Youth Baseball - Leagues available for participants ages 7-15. Register now. Dee Park.
Belly Dance Workshops - A series of one-day workshops learning the basic fundamentals of Belly Dance; April 11 at Feldman.
3rd Shift Indoor Adult Soccer League - Join this early morning indoor league Tuesdays mornings. Feldman.
The Painting Studio classes for adults: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Feldman.
Tiny Tots Open Gym - Parents may

drop in and supervise their 1-5 year-old any Wednesday or Thursday from 9:15-10:30 a.m. for a variety of gym games at Dee Park.
Jelly Bean Sports - Classes are geared for children ages 2-3 and include soccer, T-ball and sport shorts. Class days and times vary but next sessions begin in March. Dee and Feldman Parks.
Over-the-Rainbow - Children ages 3-5 learn colors, read stories, sing songs and more in this eight-week class on Fridays starting April 1. Dee Park.
Preschool - There are still spots available for second-semester preschool (for 4-year-olds). Offered are morning (5 days per week) and afternoon classes (Mondays through Thursdays). All classes are at Dee Park.
Tae Kwon Do - Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.
Youth Soccer Leagues for children ages 4 to sixth grade are under way. Games are played at Prairie Lakes in Des Plaines. Practices at Dee Park.
Various rooms/gyms are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.
The Golf Maine Park District offers a selection of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program. ENERGY STAR Activity Books for children, as well as ENERGY STAR home energy-conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available. CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.
The Golf Maine Park District offers the community an opportunity to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by Abitibi Bowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com/.
Religion
Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave. (near the Niles Veteran Memorial Waterfall), will host a number of services during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Fridays during Lent:

Stations of the Cross; 3 p.m. (Chapel). Palm Sunday services: April 16 at 4 p.m. (Chapel) and April 17 at 9:30 a.m. (5th Floor). Holy Week Services - Triduum Services - Holy Thursday, April 21; Mass of the Last Supper at 4 p.m. (Chapel). Good Friday, April 22: Stations of the Cross at 1 p.m. (Chapel) and Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. (Chapel). Holy Saturday, April 23: Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets at 11 a.m. (first-floor Dining Room) and 2 p.m. (Chapel); Easter Vigil, 6:30 p.m. (Chapel). Easter Sunday, April 24: Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. (5th Floor). Saint Andrew Life Center, a faith based organization, provides affordable living opportunities for older adults. Call (847) 647-8332.
St. Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will hold Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with "Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch" the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.
Temple Judea Mizpah and Agape Life Outreach Center, will co-host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 10 in TJM's social hall, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. This event is open to the community. The American Red Cross will be sponsoring the drive. Call TJM at (847) 676-1566.
Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will host its annual fund-raising event at 6 p.m. May 7. The festive event will feature a performance by the TJM Players, silent and live auctions, a program book, food, and lots of fun. The cost is \$36 per ticket. Call the temple at (847) 676-1566.
Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian-education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Child-care services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.
St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.
Exra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehn.org.

take place from 7-11 p.m. July 16 at Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Cost is \$69 per person includes dinner and dancing with a cash bar. Visit the Facebook page: "Maine East Class of 1969 Reunion/60th Bday Bash" to respond (by April 8) and use easy pay - PayPal. Contact: Anita Pedersen, anitawarrenpr@sbcglobal.net, (630) 803-7593.
The St. Columbkille Alumnae Association will sponsor its annual reunion luncheon March 27 at the Fountain Blue, 2300 S. Mannheim Road (at Touhy) in Des Plaines. Social hour will begin at noon, with lunch at 1 p.m. Cost is \$35. Proceeds benefit the retirement fund for the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana. Call Charlene Switek, president of the St. Columbkille Alumnae Board, (847) 427-1981.
Maine Township High South, Class of 1966, is spearheading a two-day "Mass Reunion" to be held Aug. 26 and 27. Accompanying classes that represented the first collective student body to attend the newly opened high school in 1964 as well as their spouses and guests are to be included. The nucleus of new students that celebrated the opening of Maine South High School migrated from both Maine East and Maine West and includes the classes of 1965, 1966 and 1967. The two-day event will be held in Park Ridge at the recently developed Uptown Plaza located at the intersection of Touhy and Prospect avenues and Northwest Highway. The Friday evening event will take place at Houlihan's Restaurant, which will be closed to the general public. The alumni festivities will reignite on Saturday evening, and the venues will include Houlihan's, Jason's Deli and various neighboring entities within the Uptown Plaza. Tickets for one or both evening events are on sale now and must be purchased in advance. For reservations, contact event coordinator, Glenn Woez (Class of 1966), at MassReunion@gmail.com or (847) 757-8377. Maine South alumni can also subscribe to the "Hawk Droppings" newsletter via the above e-mail address to receive updates and ongoing information on classmates and relevant information.
The 1966 Class of Ridgewood High School is planning a reunion and looking for graduates. Anyone with information concerning alumni is asked to e-mail haydelju@comcast.net or call (217) 352-7254.
St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjb-school.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.
Maine Seniors
The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscrip-

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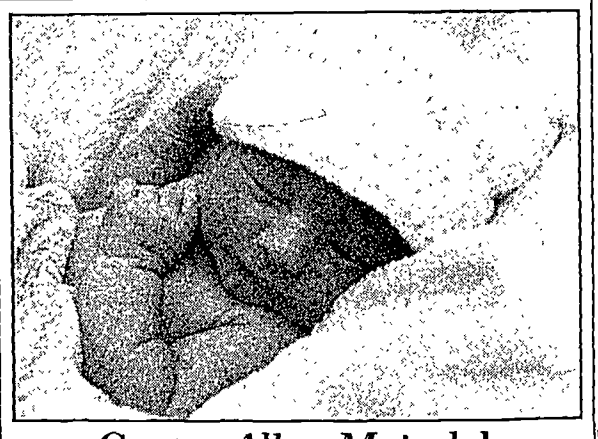
Abrams-Reich Engagement

Bruce and Tricia Abrams of Buffalo Grove, Illinois and Stewart and Debbie Reich of Northbrook, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Jessica Lauren and Michael Scott.
 The bride-to-be is a graduate of Stevenson High School, the University of Illinois-Champaign and Midwestern University. She is a Physician's Assistant for Dr. Loren Schechter.
 The future groom graduated from Glenbrook North High School, the University of Illinois-Champaign and is currently pursuing his Master's Degree at Roosevelt University. He is the Retail Services Manager at Hanson Faso Sales & Marketing in Lombard.
 An August wedding is planned.



Zarling-Hobbs Engagement

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Zarling of Hinsdale, Illinois are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Bridget Zarling to Andrew Hobbs. Andrew is the son of Marjorie and the late Mark Hobbs of Rockford, Illinois. Bridget is a 2000 graduate of Hinsdale Central High School. She graduated from Marquette University in 2004 with a degree in Biomedical Sciences and received her doctorate in physical therapy from Marquette University in 2006. She is a Pediatric Physical Therapist for North Shore Pediatric Therapy in Chicago. Andrew is a 1997 graduate of Boylan Catholic High School. He graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Human Resources in 2002. Andrew is currently employed as a Lead Systems Analyst with Aon Hewitt in Lincolnshire. Both Bridget and Andrew live in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. They are planning a September wedding at St. John of the Cross parish with a reception to follow at Carriage Greens Country Club.



Carter Allen Meindel March 5, 2011

Laura and Kyle Meindel announce the birth of their son, Carter Allen Meindel. Carter was born on March 5, 2011. 7 pounds, 7 ounces, 20.5 inches long.
 Proud grandparents of Carter are, Larry and Michele Hunkele of Naperville, IL and Vince and Linda Meindel of Oconomowoc, WI; and great-grandparents, Mike and Jean Angel of Naperville, IL, Ray Hunkele (the late Mary Lou) of Pittsburgh, PA, Richard and Carol Boehm of Hartland, WI and Richard and Jean Meindel of Clam Lake, WI.

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Schools

28
NIL - THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

RESURRECTION COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

Violin duet earns high marks at state contest

On March 5, Resurrection College Prep High School Chamber Ensemble musicians attended the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Solo and Ensemble Music Contest at Reavis High School in Burbank, Ill.

The violin duet of senior Emily Prochaska and junior Alyssa Carrillo received a Division I, Superior rating, which is the highest rating possible.

The Resurrection College Prep Chamber Ensemble is directed by Mike Longo and the members include the following

students: Alyssa Carrillo '12 (60634), Emily Prochaska '11 (60634), Alex Carley '11 (60016), Donna Gawron '12 (60656), Carolina Woloszyn '13 (60706) and Shanie Caravette '11 (60630).

Resurrection College Prep High School is a Catholic Christian college preparatory high school for young women located at 7500 W. Talcott, Chicago.

For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call (773) 775-6616, ext. 129, or go to www.reshs.org.



Pictured left to right: Alyssa Carrillo '12 (60634), Emily Prochaska '11 (60634), Alex Carley '11 (60016), Donna Gawron '12 (60656), Carolina Woloszyn '13 (60706) and Shanie Caravette '11 (60630). | Contributed photo

DISTRICT 64

Because children of ever-younger ages are accessing the Internet through many different sources at home and on the go, keeping children safe is a growing concern. To help parents supervise children effectively when using computers, cell phones and other mobile devices, Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is sponsoring a "Surfin' Safety" parent program on April 7.

Cyber-bullying, junior identity theft and sexual predators are among the topics to be covered. Sgt. Robert Tornabene of the Niles Police Department will share his years of experience and a wealth of practical knowledge with parents during the 90-minute session starting at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland Ave., Niles. The free event is open to the public as part of April's Healthy Living Month activities in Park Ridge.

To help reinforce Park Ridge-Niles School District 64's civil behavior goals, Carpenter School this

SCHOOLS DIGEST

spring decided to participate for the first time in a program sponsored by the Illinois Principals Association to recognize students who help to create a positive environment in their schools.

According to Principal Marcy Canel, Carpenter's fifth-grade staff selected four students from that grade to consider for the IPA award: **Oliwia Burda, Ryan Petrick, Elaine Smith and Erin Straka.**

"Each of these students really stand out in modeling the traits of respect and responsibility that are at the heart of our civil behavior program in District 64," Dr. Canel said. "Simply stated, these four are all positive persons to know, which is one of the characteristics the IPA wants to highlight," she added. But finding a way to select just one proved challenging. "Because all four students are equally outstanding, to pick a representative from Carpenter the only fair way in the end was to draw one name randomly from a hat," Dr. Canel noted. In that way, **Erin Straka** was selected to attend the IPA Student Recognition Breakfast for

the North Cook Region this month, along with Dr. Canel and her parents, Colleen and Paul Straka.

Ranging from pottery and scratch art to silver prints, painting and watercolors, a lively spectrum of styles and media are featured in the art created by 21 students of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 now on display at the Park Ridge Public Library in celebration of Youth Art Month in March.

This year's elementary school artists include: **Carpenter** — **Paulina Koziel** and **Kristy Tamvakis**, grade 1; **Julia Marin**, grade 5; **Field** — **Anna Schmeltz**, grade 3; **Aidan Herguth**, grade 4; **Elizabeth Armstrong**, grade 5; **Franklin** — **Julia Gryczki**, grade 1; **Anna Wozniakowski**, grade 2; **Jillian Sagat** and **Natalia Sztaszynski**, grade 5; **Roosevelt** — **Caroline Barker**, grade 1; **Kate Stewart**, grade 3; **Melissa Cronnolly**, grade 4; **Washington** — **Sophia Pinc**, grade 1; **Alexis Tzortzis**, grade 3; **Cole Ponsi**, grade 5.

Middle school artists include: **Emerson** — **Molly Paddock**, grade 6; **Nikki Surdyk**, grade 7; **Karolinka Leziak**, grade 8; **Lincoln** — **Carolyn Fitzgibbon** and **Rachel Walsh**,

grade 8. District 64 art teachers selected student works that best captured the creative challenge presented in each project. Sponsored by the Illinois Art Education Association, Youth Art Month showcases the growth of students' creativity and visual communication skills through their original art.

DISTRICT 207

Maine Township High School District 207 is among a handful of school districts nationwide to be honored in the 2011 AP District of the Year Awards.

District 207 is one of only 388 U.S. public school districts that simultaneously increased access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and also maintained or improved the rate at which their AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Only 26 other districts in Illinois earned this distinction.

AP courses are designed to give high school students an introduction to the rigors of college coursework. AP exams are scored on a 5-point scale, and 3 is generally the score for which many

colleges and universities grant higher-education credit to high school students.

The significance of the Honor Roll designation is that it recognizes school districts that have seen students maintain high scores on AP tests even as these districts have encouraged a larger and more diverse group of students to push themselves and test their capabilities by signing up for AP courses.

According to Dr. Ken Wallace, Superintendent, "We have made teaching and learning the critical central mission of what we do each and every day. Our teacher leaders in District 207 have helped us achieve this success through their commitment to continuous improvement, and our leadership team and board have provided critical support and guidance in the process."

Dr. Wallace continued: "We would also be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the great work of our elementary partner Districts 62, 63, and 64 as well as our many private schools that all do a tremendous job of preparing our students for success. We have great working relationships with all of them, and

they are all committed to providing the best possible education to our students in order to provide a foundation for their success."

NORTHRIDGE PREP

Five Northridge Prep students received awards from the Archdiocese on March 6 at the Vicariate II Youth Leadership Award Banquet. This award banquet, which seeks annually to honor young leaders for their service to the community and to the Church included many students from around the Archdiocese.

Fr. Javier del Castillo, chaplain at Northridge Prep, nominated the student leaders of each of the four halls of Northridge, into which all students are divided. These members of student government were nominated to represent their peers. Their work in coordinating and planning food drives and volunteer hours to support the pro-life efforts of the Women's Center of Chicago, or the elderly of St. Joseph's Home and much more has been exemplary to their peers, who will one day be in

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 27

tion to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MaineStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to www.maine-township.com.

Day Trip — Chicago Pizza Tour, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 12. Participants will ride through many of the Chicago neighborhoods stopping at Pisanos, Crust and Gino's East, eating comfortably inside each location for approximately 30 minutes, tasting and learning what makes each one unique. A final stop at Bloomer's chocolate will cover desert. Cost is \$60, members; \$65, guests.

Maine Township is asking for assistance in locating good, reliable handymen in the area. If you know of someone and would like to submit a name, contact Therese Tully, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 260, and she will forward a form to complete.

Maine Township, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

Senior Center

The Niles Senior Center offers membership to Niles residents age 62 and older, and their spouses. Only center members may register for classes or trips, or purchase tickets. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420, for an application.

Seniors

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles will host a trivia contest from 1-4 p.m. March 31. Organize a team of six to 10 players, or join one of the center's teams. Trivia contest questions are appropriate for players ages 55 years and older. Prizes and lunch are included. Call (847) 647-8332 to reserve a spot.

Mather's - More Than a Cafe, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips. Call (773) 774-4804 for more information, except where noted.

Chess Club for checkmate champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basic strategies... Sessions are Wednesdays, at 1 p.m.

Jazzercise — Jazzercise is a fitness program that combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, cardio-kickboxing, and other fitness styles. The classes move incrementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, \$5.35. **Line Dancing** is offered

at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs \$3. A variety of **exercise classes** fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 Mondays and 10 a.m. Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching, and toning routines. Each class costs \$3. **10 Computer Classes** — All classes are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and advance through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month. **The art of Polish paper-cutting** will be taught from noon-1:30 p.m. March 26. Learn the history of "wycinanki" and view historical regional examples, then create two projects suitable for framing. Suggested donation is \$12 and includes supplies. **Lenten Special: All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry** every Friday. Fried cod or baked, breaded orange roughy with two sides. Choose from soup, salad, fresh-cut fries, or the side of the day. Cost: \$11.40; Mather Advantage Discount: \$9.12.

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave., has a new wintertime move-in special. Anyone who moves into Saint Andrew before March 31 will receive a free large button cell phone. The large buttons help make these new phones easier and safer to use. Saint Andrew offers affordable independent living, assisted living, intermediate nursing care and memory care. Call (847) 647-8332 to schedule a personalized tour.

Golf Mill Shopping Center is hosting "Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Township Mainstreamers and Partners in Healthcare (North Shore Physicians Group). Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year every month on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office, (847) 699-1070.

Senior Link Alliance, in collaboration with the City of Chicago Department on Aging, offers a free Home Repair Referral Service to all seniors residing in Park Ridge, Niles, Harwood Heights, Northridge, Schiller Park, River Grove and Elmwood Park. Program helps seniors over 60 find honest reliable workers to help maintain their homes. Seniors are given three names of prescreened qualified handymen or contractors who are matched to the type and size of the job. Jobs include carpentry, plumbing, drywall, plastering, painting, gutter cleaning and repair, electrical work, roofing, washing windows, errand running, yard work, snow removal, furnace repairs, wallpapering, tuckpointing, tiling and more. Call Carol McDavid, (773) 777-0202.

CJE SeniorLife is accepting applications for its Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community com-

posed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building, in a warm, friendly setting designed to serve seniors, 62-years and older, who may need a helping hand. Staff is available on-site, 24 hours a day, in case of emergency. Additional supportive services are available through CJE. Applicants should qualify for subsidized housing under the provisions of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 program. An additional monthly service fee is required. Scholarships are available. For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

Super Seniors, a Jewish Seniors group for people older than 60, meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, books, jokes and Israel. Call (847) 583-9328.

Support

The Family Caregiver Circle, an educational support group for family members caregiving for a senior citizen invites the community to attend a free seminar on "Veteran Benefits and Long-Term Care Planning" at 7 p.m. April 7 at the Morton Grove Community Church, 8944 Austin Ave., Morton Grove. Guest speaker, Andy Kinne, a certified senior advisor and veteran consultant will address veteran benefits for long-term care or in-home caregiving, financial planning for long-term care, and techniques to protect assets if in need of Medicaid assistance. This program is for all, not just veterans. Free monthly meetings are held from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. RSVP by April 3 for the upcoming meeting at (847) 965-2982.

Weight No More, a friendly weight loss support group, welcomes new members. Discussions include weight loss tips, recipes, and helpful ideas to help participants reach their goals. Fees are \$5 monthly to defray the room rental costs, and small fines for weight gain. Meetings take place from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Fridays at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., Niles (elevator accessible). Call (847) 679-4229.

Widowed Support Group is an ongoing support group that addresses losses faced by persons, as a general guideline, who have been widowed less than two years. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Hwy., Suite 145, Park Ridge; \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884 to register.

The Lutheran General Hospital Stroke Club for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who

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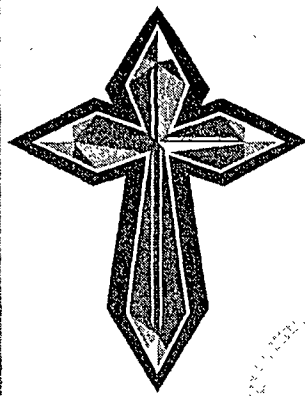
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Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Evensong,
Sunday Worship
8:00 a.m. Traditions (Sept.-May)
9:00 a.m. Spirit Bridge, 10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Parish Deacon
Matt Haider, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day
School, Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

**All Saints Cathedral Parish
National Catholic Church**
9201 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631, 773-380-7131
Website: www.ascpncc.org
Sunday Masses 8:30AM & 11AM
Sunday School/Catechism
9:45AM
Weekday Masses at Noon
Bishop Anthony Kopka, Pastor

CHICAGO

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:00AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors:Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery King

DEERFIELD

North Shore Unitarian Church
Deerfield, IL Phone: 847-234-2460
www.nsuc.org
Every Sunday at
9:15AM & 11:15AM

MORTON GROVE

**Morton Grove Community Church
PresbyterianChurch (USA)**
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcppresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
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NILES

St. John Lutheran Church
7429 Milwaukee Ave., Niles
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Sunday Service 9:30AM

NORTHFIELD

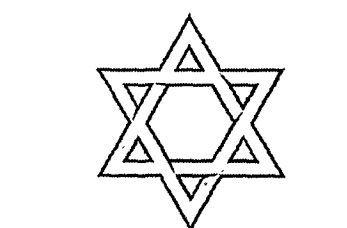
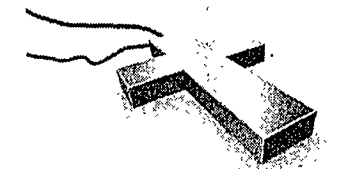
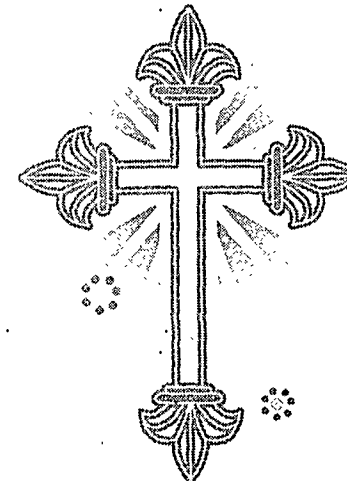
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9 & 11 a.m.
Elevate (Grades 6 - 8): 11 a.m.
Impact (Grades 9 - 12): 6 p.m.
For more information visit
www.WillowCreekNorthShore.org

NORWOOD PARK

Norwood Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL
773-631-2860
Fax: 773-631-0142
Sunday Service 10AM
Sunday School 9AM
(September thru May)
Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM



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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 29

have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18-years-old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholiccharities.net/loss. Groups meet 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

Families Anonymous is a support group for family members and friends who are concerned about and affected by the substance abuse or behavioral problems of a loved one. Group 831 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westminster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot in the rear. Group 173 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge in Parlor Room, south portion of main level; use entrance at rear (Grant Place), across from parking lot. No dues or fees required. First names only used at meetings to preserve individual anonymity. This is a nonprofessional and non-religious program. Call (773) 777-4442 or visit www.familiesanonymous.org.

Community Reinforcement and Family Training Groups provide education on early intervention, tools for motivation and self-care techniques for families as they learn new ways to approach a loved one who misuses, abuses or has addictive behaviors 6:30-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Serenity Center, 29 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Fee is \$35 per group. Open registration required; contact Barbara DeHart, (708) 536-8775 or e-mail refnews4u@gmail.com.

NorthShore Hospice will sponsor the following Grief Support Groups: **Soul Mates**, is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. **Legacy** is an ongoing support group for adults who have experienced the death of a parent. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month 6:30-8 p.m. NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searle Parkway, Skokie. Handicap accessible and parking available. To pre-register for the programs, call Thom Dennis, (847) 982-4364 or e-mail dennis@northshore.org.

Tops Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international weight-loss network of support groups, holds a local meeting weekly on Monday beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 West Howard St. Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. TOPS has

helped individuals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, teens and preteens committed to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight are all invited to join. Visitors are welcome to visit their first TOPS meeting free of charge. For more information about this meeting call (847) 966-4871 or, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call 800-932-8677.

MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/momscclubofnorthernchicago> or e-mail chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

One Hope United, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 245-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The Maryville Crisis Nursery, which opened in 2006, is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as: job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers. The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, invites the public to attend its "Family Support Group" for families of individuals with a mental illness. Program is free and meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nessel Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

The local TOPS Club chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871; to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or cowen@lesturnerals.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children's HomeAid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 723-6690. **Holding On to Hope** is a monthly daytime group for widowed people grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets 12:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. Registration is required. Admission is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Life Transitions Group is an ongoing support group for anyone who, as a general guideline, has been widowed for one to four years, meeting 7-8:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 145, Park Ridge. The fee is \$5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

Good Mourning Program will meet 6:45-8 p.m. every third Monday of the month at Lutheran General Family Care Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Preliminary interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation support group meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Room 1063, Park Ridge. The focus is to assist patients with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, their families, significant others and friends in coping more effectively with the illness. Call (847) 827-0404. **Resurrection Medical Center** sponsors a variety of free cancer-support groups for both patients and their family members. All support groups are free and meet in the Cancer Conference Room (ground floor, Entrance C). Contact Carol Flanagan, (773) 792-5116.

The Cancer Support Group for cancer patients, families and friends meets monthly 7-8:30 p.m. every last Wednesday. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Family Support Group for people with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's Disease and their families meets every first Wednesday of the month.

The Butterfly Club is a support group for children ages 6 to 13 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The group meets every first Wednesday of the month. Registration and parental consent are required.

Your Local Worship Guide

SKOKIE

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton, Ave., Skokie
(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
9000 Kildare Ave. Skokie
847-676-1300
www.StTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10AM

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie, (847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
Friday Shabbat Services 7:30pm;
Family Shabbat 6:30pm, 3rd Fri./month
Kabbalistic Prayer Service 10:30am.
2nd Sat./month
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen
Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks
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Evanshire Presbyterian Church
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
Every Sunday at 11AM

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
847-673-8166
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
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Sunday School 9AM (Sept. thru May)
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Torah Time 10:30 AM
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Digest

Continued from PAGE 28

the position to support these initiatives themselves.

The five students honored were **Lawrence Bilello '11**, head of Riddervon Hall, **Timothy Mersch '11**, Head of Cavalier Hall, **Mark Gigante '11**, Head of Paladin Hall, **William Cleveland '11**, Head of Vytis Hall and **Tyler Kapuska '11**, who was in charge of spreading the news about each of these events.

Northridge Preparatory School is an independent college preparatory school for young men in grades 6-12 in Niles.

RESURRECTION

On April 10, members of the Resurrection College Prep High School community will be inducted into the Resurrection Wall of Honor. Resurrection alumnae and former coaches will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and Resurrection alumnae will be honored as recipients of the Blessed Ce-

line Award.

The Blessed Celine Award recognizes Resurrection alumnae who exemplify the life values of Blessed Celine, the foundress of the Sisters of the Resurrection. The recipients are accomplished in their fields of endeavor and, like Blessed Celine, work toward the advancement of women in society and act as positive Christian role models for young women. The award recipients for 2011 are **Leocadia Motyl Nix '42**, **Elaine Zold-Koepke '41** and **Karen Stahmer Bartuch '94**. The Athletic Hall of Fame

Award recognizes individuals from the Resurrection athletic community who have participated in sports or contributed to the Resurrection College Prep Athletic Program. Athletes inducted into the Hall of Fame have demonstrated outstanding athletic accomplishments, leadership or contributions to the Resurrection Athletic Program. The 2011 inductees are **Mary Burke Fauth '83**, **Lisa Iaccino Albanese '83**, **Danine Juszynski '86**, **Tammy Hener Holzer '86** and former Resurrection staff and coach **Marie Domin**.

Mass will be celebrated in the Resurrection College Prep High School Chapel at 9 a.m. followed by breakfast and awards at 10. All are welcome. RSVP by April 5 to Stefanie Thorpe at sthorpe@reshs.org or (773) 775-6616, Ext. 127.

The Resurrection College Prep High School Alumnae Association presents Breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 9-11:30 a.m. April 16. All are welcome to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny, enjoy entertainment by Resurrection students and make Easter arts and

crafts. Each child will have the opportunity to take a photo with the Easter Bunny and receive a special gift. Tickets for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny are \$8 per child in advance or \$9 at the door; adult tickets are \$5 per adult. Advance reservations are strongly encouraged. To reserve tickets, call (773) 775-6616, Ext. 127, or e-mail sthorpe@reshs.org. Resurrection College Prep High School is a Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school for young women located at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago.

Nicholsin, Wolves ready to rock out in gym

West junior takes garage-band approach

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS GYMNASTICS — The idea of practicing for a gig in the garage is common in the rock music world, but less so in high school sports.

But a few members of the Niles West squad have adapted the garage-band idea. Junior Josh Nicholsin trains on a set of rings he has hanging from the rafters of his garage. Wolves head coach Steve Foerch said the apparatus has been instrumental in the gymnast's steady improvement.

"He came out for the sport last year and was probably the (program's) most improved gymnast at the beginning of the season," the coach said. "He's made some great strides and is a really hard worker. (The rings in the garage) are old-school, and he does strength and conditioning on the old rings."

Meanwhile, junior Ari Lazar's parents' cars have to share space in their garage with their son's pommel horse.

There is precedent for such do-it-yourself training facilities. Bart Conner — Niles West's greatest-ever gymnast — a gold-medal winner at the 1984 Summer Olympics, used to train on a set of rings hanging from a tree outside his family's Morton Grove home. In fact, Foerch said the pipes from which the rings

once hung can still be seen at the Main Street home, though Conner's family has long since moved.

Individual and team practice sessions appear to be paying off for the current Wolves, who placed fourth in Saturday's 22-team Rolling Meadows Invite. At the event, teams were allowed to enter one gymnast per event, and no gymnast could be in more than one.

"It was our highest-ever finish at that event, and many of the teams (we beat), we wouldn't have beaten in a normal format," Foerch said. "It shows that we have at least one good gymnast on each event. (The meet) is not a good indicator of the depth of the team. It's an indicator of the flash of a team."

Leading the way for West was senior Eli Shiheiber, who finished sixth on high bar (8.1).

"He rocked his routine," Foerch said. "It was better than he's done in practice and his form was almost perfect. I watched his routine again on the video and couldn't find anything wrong with it. (Shiheiber) is a competitor and thrives on competition."

Lazar was sixth on pommel horse (8.0), senior Chris Williams placed seventh on vault (8.5) and junior Casey Mahoney-Muno was ninth on floor exercise (7.95).

Foerch said the Rolling Meadows format gave gymnasts a chance to concentrate exclusively on each of their best events, but also heaped on a fair amount of pressure in the process.

"That's why I like the meet — it allows them to focus on

one event," Foerch said. "At the same time, the pressure is on because they know they have to compete. There is no back-up and nobody to hand the ball off to. It's a great format and why we go to the meet."

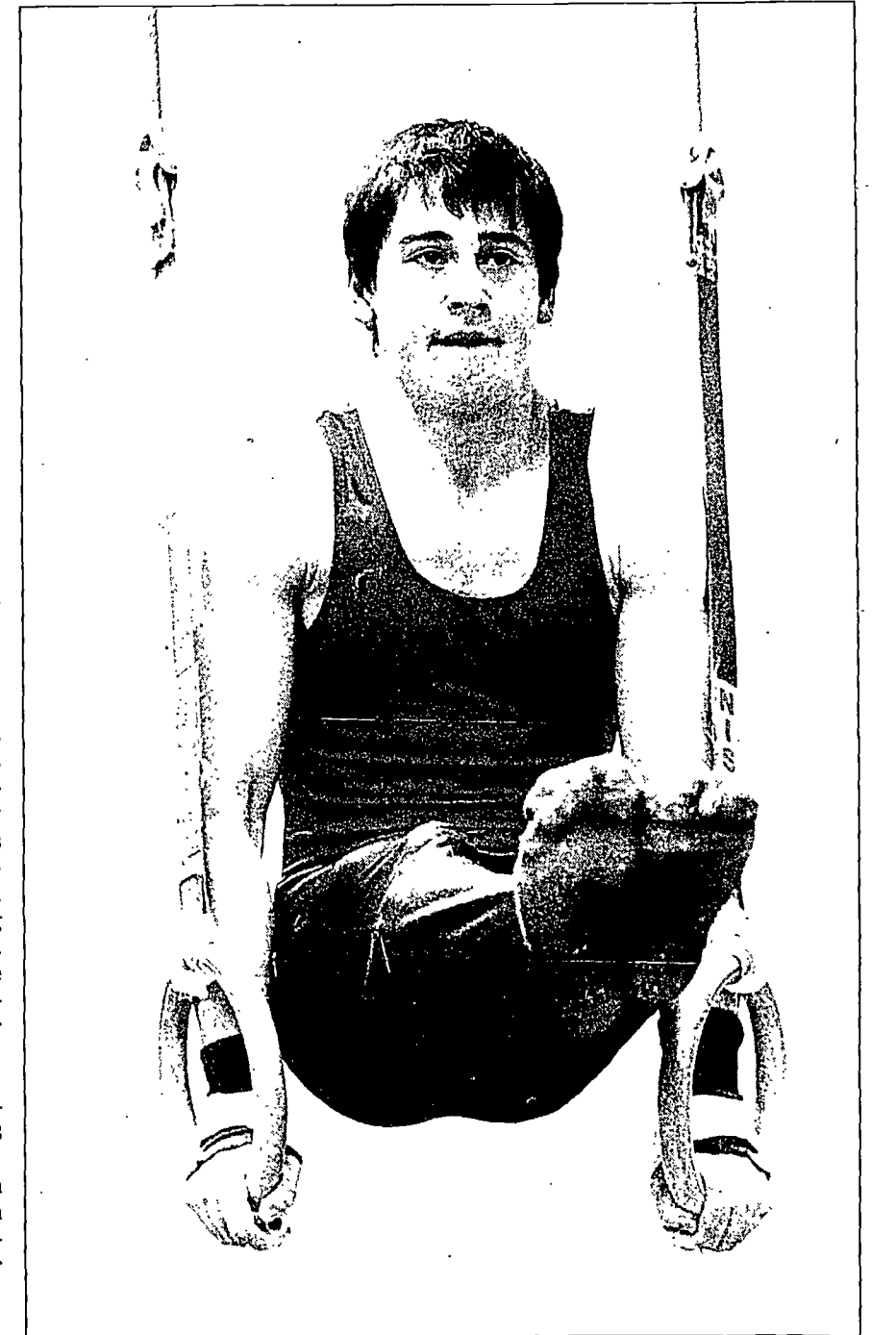
The Wolves will host the 11-team John Burkel Invite — named for the program's legendary former coach, who is now retired and living in South Carolina — at 11 a.m. Saturday. As usual, the field is loaded with talent, including the likes of Highland Park-Deerfield Co-op, Naperville North, Elk Grove and Conant.

"If we can finish in the top half, I'll be happy," Foerch said. "We didn't hold back in inviting good teams. We didn't set ourselves up to win. But the only way to get better is to compete against better teams."

This is likely to be the last Burkel Invite in the school's gymnasium before the program relocates to the new state-of-the-art gymnastics gym. The new gym is scheduled to be open for service in June, though a grand opening is tentatively set for Sept. 2. Burkel is scheduled to be present for the event, and Foerch is also hoping Conner will attend.

Recap: Highland Park-Deerfield defeated Niles West 130.3 to 109.8 on March 22. Lazar finished second on horse (7.0) and second on rings (7.2), and Mahoney-Muno came in third on floor exercise (8.3).

Up next: The Wolves visit Niles North at 6:30 p.m. April 6.



Niles West's Ari Lazar competes on still rings against Evanston in a meet on March 2. The Wolves placed fourth in Saturday's 22-team Rolling Meadows Invite. | Allison Williams-for Sun-Times Media

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North grad Cameron earns shot at Golden Gloves title

BOXING — Matt Cameron, a 2002 graduate of Niles North High School, is one win away from becoming a Chicago Golden Gloves boxing champion. Cameron (6-0) will fight Marcus Ivy for the title in the Senior Novice Super

Heavyweight division at Gordon Tech High School on April 8. The bouts, all with championships on the line, begin at 7:30 p.m. April 7.

The 6-foot-3, 235-pound Cameron convincingly defeated Jeff Gerlick by deci-

sion in a semifinal match March 19. Cameron delivered almost twice as many punches as his 6-5, 308-pound opponent. He pummeled the massive Gerlick in a corner on six occasions during the three-round fight.

Cameron, 26, dominated Chris Jones in a quarterfinal bout on March 12. A football and baseball player at Niles North, Cameron then joined the U.S. Army and served in Iraq. He grew up in Niles and currently lives in Chicago.

Peter George, of the Chicago Fight Club, is Cameron's trainer. A Lincolnwood police officer, George trains and manages his son, Donovan "Da Bomb" George, a former Golden Gloves champion who is now a super middleweight carrying a 21-

1-1 record as a professional. Peter George also trains Mike "Hollywood" Jimenez, who's 4-0 since turning pro. For more information on the final round of the Golden Gloves competition, access www.chicagogoldengloves.com.

For more information on the final round of the Golden Gloves competition, access www.chicagogoldengloves.com.

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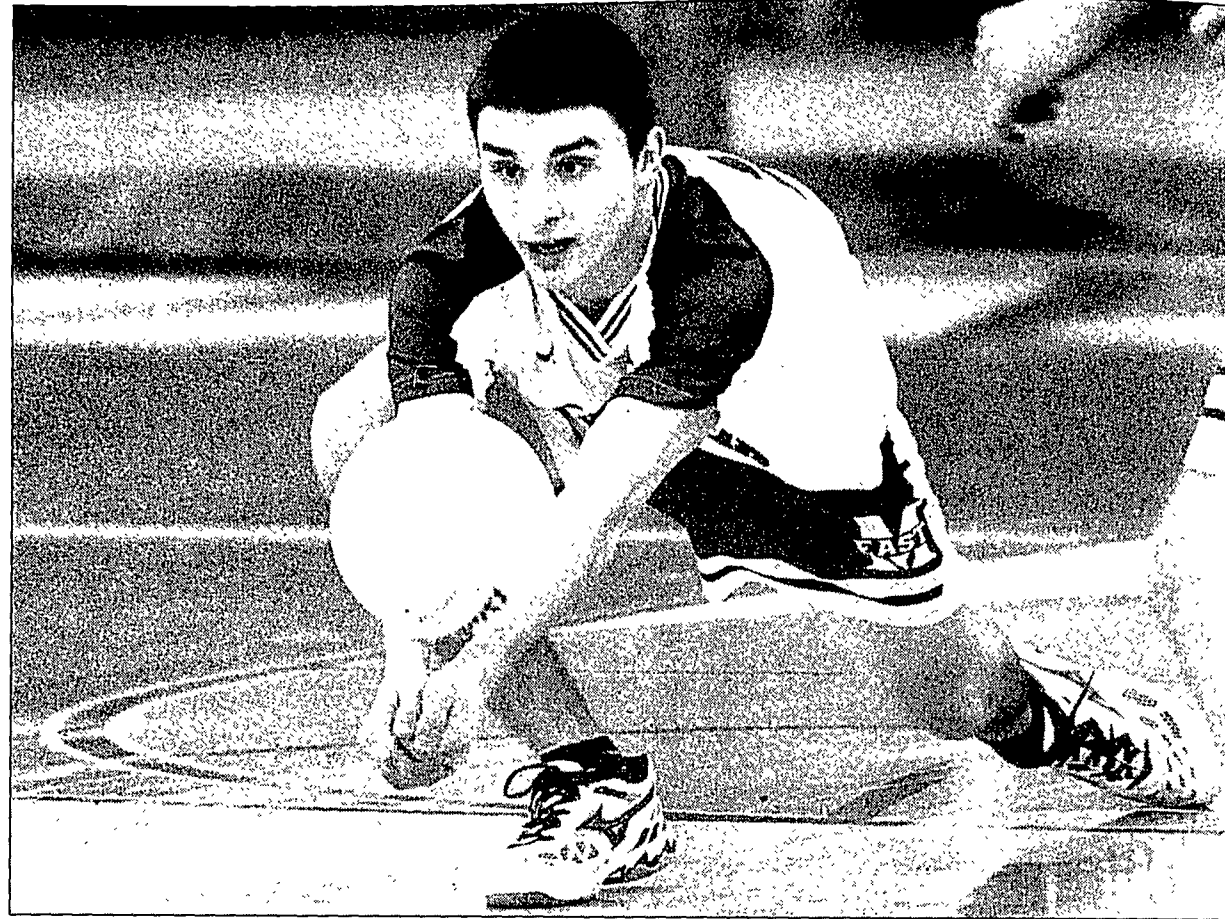
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Digging in Maine East's David Coldea digs up a serve during the 2011 Blue Demon Invitational Volleyball Tournament on Saturday. | Jon Langham-for Sun-Times Media

Winless Demons improving

Young squad learning on fly

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

GIRLS SOCCER — At half-time of Maine East's season opener against Willows Academy, Blue Demons head coach Julie Dickinson posed a question to her team.

"I knew many of our girls had never played a varsity game, and I asked how many of them were scared and intimidated, and pretty much half of them raised their hands," the coach said.

Those nerves were reflected in the performance and the score, an 8-0 Willows win on March 15. The Blue Demons played a little better two days later but fell to Niles West 7-0.

But in Friday's 5-0 loss to Von Steuben, there were

continued signs of progress, especially in the second half when the Blue Demons created some scoring opportunities.

"Each game, the girls are getting better and starting to play more as a team," Dickinson said. "We have so many new players, and they are just finally learning how to work with each other. But it takes a little time. In the second half against Von Steuben, we played awesome. We almost scored a couple times. We made some really nice plays."

Katherine Janik is a pretty good candidate to score the team's first goal. The freshmen central midfielder is in the process of forming a solid midfield partnership with senior Jasmine Martinez.

"(Janik) has a really nice shot from far out, and we keep telling her to start shooting more outside the (18-yard box)," Dickinson

said.

In order for any Blue Demon to score, Maine East must do a better job of getting into favorable position. The inability to mount an attack has put a heavy burden on the defense. But Dickinson has been pleased with the play of sophomore Tara Quinlan at outside defender, and with that of senior Angela Thomas, the team's stopper.

"Quinlan pushes up into the offense and has made some good defensive stops, chasing her man back into the box and saving some goals for us," the coach said. "Thomas is playing really nice defense, too."

Behind them, it's trial by fire in goal for senior Aimee Sweet, who's learning on the job after playing as a defender for much of her career.

"She has never played goalie before and stepped up for us and said she was

willing to learn," Dickinson said. "She's had some rough games and almost got a broken nose, but she wants to work hard and is excited."

Sweet benefits from the instruction of Maine East assistant coach Jeff Bishop, who played goalkeeper at Aurora University.

"(Sweet) is learning how to come out of the goal and that she doesn't have to stay on her line," Dickinson said. "She's learning that this is her goal box and she has to take control of it."

The coach is impressed by Sweet's stick-with-it attitude.

"We were a little worried after the first two games because it was a little rough and not that much fun for her," Dickinson said. "But then before Friday's game, she asked if coach Bishop could work with her a little before she even warmed up. So she clearly wants to work as much as she can."

Vikings start new season on right foot

North posts upsets in Marist Invite

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS VOLLEYBALL — Expectations are high at Niles North this season, and the 2011 campaign started with a bang Friday night.

The Vikings (3-2) beat favored opponents Joliet Catholic and Waubonsie Valley on the opening night of the Marist Invite, earning a spot in the prestigious Gold Bracket.

Though North ultimately came back to earth a little on Saturday, the performance showed the Vikings are much improved over last season, when they finished 11-19.

North, seeded No. 3 in its

pool, opened the tournament with a 25-14, 25-18 win over Joliet Catholic and a 25-17, 25-7 win over Waubonsie Valley. Both opponents were higher seeds, and Waubonsie went on to win the (consolation) Silver Bracket.

"Though we didn't serve well in either Friday game, we were able to side-out well," said North head coach Carol Herlocker. "We played well, took major blocks and our passing was almost perfect. We shocked two teams that were higher seeds."

Senior outside hitter Hershel Patt was at the top of his game on the opening night, finishing with seven solo blocks and eight kills in the two games combined.

"Hershel was out of his mind and played really on Friday," Herlocker said.

The Vikings opened up with a 25-22, 25-17 loss to host Marist on Saturday.

"We played well, took major blocks and our passing was almost perfect."

We shocked two teams that were higher seeds."

Niles North head coach

Carol Herlocker

Providence then came back to beat North 23-25, 25-18, 15-8.

Niles North finished the tournament on a winning note with a 25-22, 22-25, 15-13 win over Andrew.

The quality and speed of the opposition clearly had a lot to do with North's defeats. Herlocker said her

team also may have been a little fatigued after a pulsating Friday night and an early wake-up call and bus ride on Saturday morning. That fatigue manifested itself in some service errors.

But early in the season, gaining experience can be as valuable as wins and losses, and the Vikings may have learned more losing in the Gold Bracket than they would have winning additional games in the less-competitive Silver Bracket.

Herlocker said it had been the first time in five to seven years her team had qualified for the Gold.

"You always want the gold, even if it's against teams like Marist, who are better than us at this time," she said. "But the only way to get better is to play better teams. (Marist and Providence) have a lot quicker offenses (than

most) and both teams have kids who play year-round. You look at their rosters, and there are (several) club kids."

North's top player, senior Andre Shaw, spent much of his offseason training with the basketball team. In fact, the Vikings run to the supersectional meant Shaw had only returned to the volleyball court a few days before the Marist Invite.

The 6-foot-3 Shaw still led the teams with kills, finishing with 37 overall.

"Andre played well, but give him another week. He's still behind everybody as far as his passing," Herlocker said. "He's also not reading the other team's hitters as well as he will. But that will come."

There were plenty of other strong Niles North performances. Senior defensive specialist Jason Persaud passed well, while sen-

ior outside hitter Jed Nulud played nearly error-free volleyball.

Senior Eddie Kao handled many of the setting duties, though senior Eric Chan also got his chances to play the position.

Herlocker said she was pleased with the contribution from sophomore defensive specialist Justin Suh, referring to his passing ability as "money."

The coach said senior Sam Sherman hit well, while junior right side Mike Rowen added 12 kills in all.

"Overall, I think everyone played well. No one was outstanding, but it was such a team effort," Herlocker said. "We were well-balanced and everyone was able to play a little. (Now) when we come down the stretch (in games), we need people to take over."

The Vikings will host Niles West at 6 p.m. April 5.

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French, Dons begin season with solid play

Senior hitter piling up kills early on

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BOYS VOLLEYBALL - Notre Dame head coach Pat Cole said he liked a lot of what he saw from his team during the first week of the season.

There were some aspects of the Dons' play the coach felt were below par, but Cole said those were correctable.

The Dons finished the week with a 4-3 mark, which included going 2-3 in the Marist Invite.

Notre Dame may have lost Peter Maniscalco and Dan Podkowa to graduation, but several returnees already are proving capable of taking their game to the next level. Others with less experience are showing they belong on the court.

Now, it's just a matter of everyone doing the little things, according to the coach.

"We're an impressive team when we do the little things," Cole said. "We have to improve defensively, blocking and coverage on

hitters. Those are the two areas where we're seeing the most deficiency. A lot of it is what we've referred to as effort points. All things can be corrected. We have the personnel and the ability."

One player who has impressed early on is senior right-side/outside hitter Dan French, who had 21 kills in the season-opening win over Lane Tech on March 21. He had 44 kills during the Marist Invite, including 15 in a win over Oak Lawn.

During the first week, junior outside hitter Kyle Krogstad was solid defensively and kept his swings in-bounds, according to Cole.

New setter Evan Choate has made his mark, averaging nearly 25 assists per match. However, the junior was injured on the first day of the Marist Invite, and could miss some time with a sprained ankle.

Senior Conor Maloney debuted at Marist and finished the tournament with an impressive 91 percent serve-receive average. Anything above 80 is considered strong.

Cole also said he was pleased with the play of senior Kevin Regal, who was counted on heavily during the final three

matches at Marist after the lineup was adjusted for Choate's absence.

Note Dame opened up the season with a three-set win over Lane Tech and a two-set triumph over Maine West on March 21.

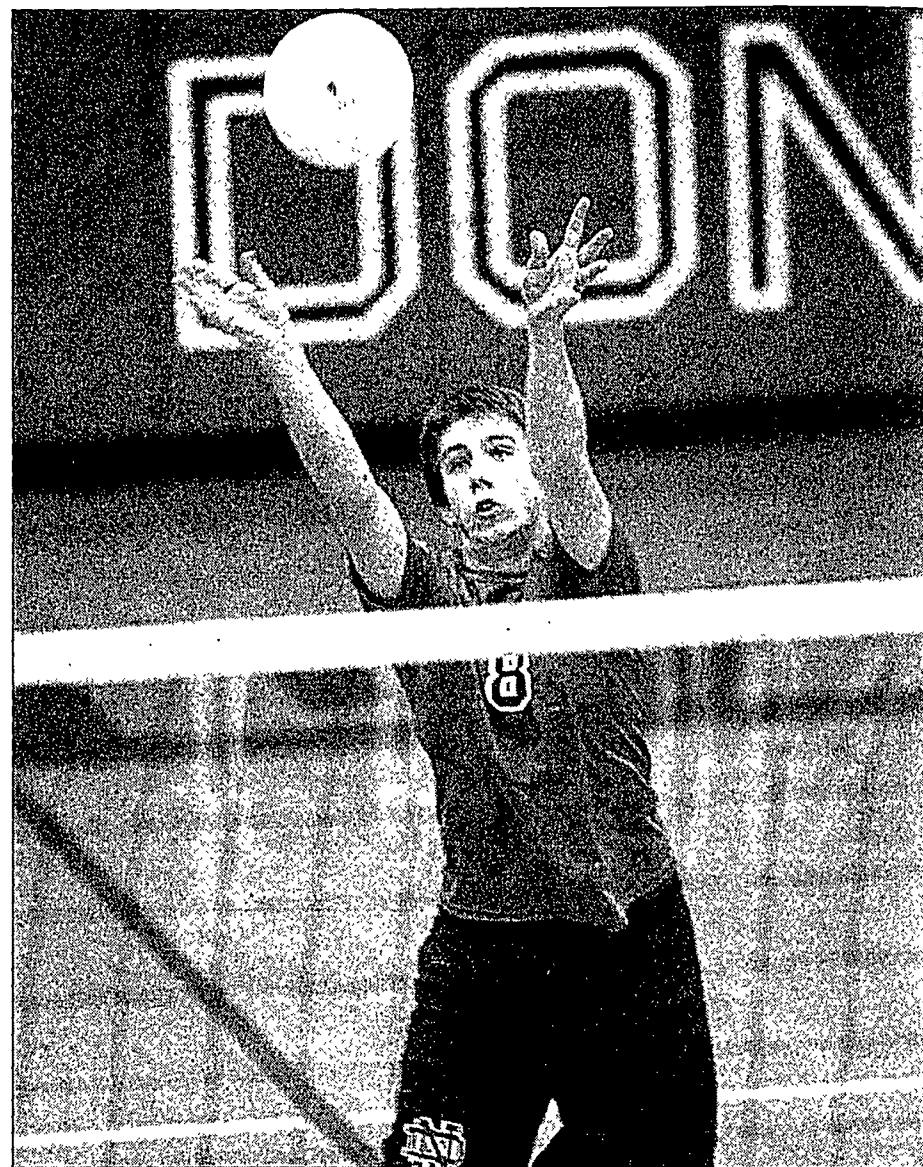
The Dons beat Oak Lawn in 25-23, 25-14 at Marist on Friday and dropped a three-set match to Lincoln-Way East.

In Silver Pool play on Saturday, the Dons fell to Elk Grove, which won 23-25, 25-17, 15-11; beat Stagg 25-19, 25-17; and lost to Benet, which won 20-25, 25-21, 15-13.

Notre Dame will see Elk Grove and conference-foe Benet later in the season, and Cole believes his team will go into both matches with confidence after playing well against both during the weekend.

"Elk Grove and Benet could have been in the Gold (higher) bracket (of the tournament)," Cole said.

"Both are solid, and for us to be down a man and take them to three games. We came up on the losing side, but it's not one of those heartbreaking defeats. We had a few balls that were a few inches away (from going in). Hopefully, later in the year, they will be (going in)."



Notre Dame outside hitter Kyle Krogstad and the Dons posted a 4-3 mark to begin the 2011 season, including a pair of victories in the Marist Invite. | Joe Cyganowski-for Sun-Times Media

North's Bacalla returns with high expectations

Soph back after strong frosh campaign

By MATT HARNES
mharnes@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS TENNIS - After one season, Dave Bacalla put his name into the conversation of best players to ever swing a racket for Niles North. Once the sophomore's ca-

reer is finished, he will probably be all alone at the top.

Bacalla is back to lead the Vikings following his fine freshman season. He earned a 17-32 seed at the state tournament last year and ended up 4-2, playing in the sixth round of the consolation bracket. Bacalla finished 24-8 in his rookie season.

Jaffe compared Bacalla to 2005 graduate Brian Livingston, who played at the state tournament in his

sophomore and junior years.

"Probably the best freshman to ever be in the school," said second-year coach Rich Jaffe, who graduated from Niles North. "When it's all said and done, probably the best to ever play at the school."

Because Bacalla plays at a higher level than his teammates, Jaffe gives the nationally ranked junior stand-out a special exemption to work out on his own with his

own coach.

"He had a very good off-season," Jaffe said. "He's probably looking, I'm guessing, at top 16 in the state this year."

Bacalla is not the only player returning to the Vikings.

Eric Rosen once again will occupy the No. 2 spot at singles. He played there as a freshman and sophomore.

"We have big expectations for him this year," Jaffe said of the junior.

Among the other eight returning players are senior Daniel Schun, senior Saagar Gupta, junior Jeremy Moy, and sophomores Will Braubach, Eddie Reinfrank and Ian Crane. Both Reinfrank and Crane were brought up to varsity late last season.

Jaffe likes the look of his team, but he understands the challenges the Vikings face playing in the CSL North, where Deerfield and Highland Park reside. Deer-

field finished second to New Trier at a national team tournament in Louisville, Ken., during the weekend. Highland Park made it to the semifinals.

"We are realistic about our chances," said Jaffe, whose team was fourth in the league last season. "Outside of the conference, though, we feel like we can compete with anybody."

Niles North starts the season against Lake Forest Academy on April 4.

Speedy Gordon paces West at Top Times meet

Senior posts career-best in 55 dash

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

GIRLS TRACK - Niles West senior Kellion Gordon is fast, and her performance during Saturday's Illinois Prep Top Times Indoor Classic shows the sprinter also is a student of the sport.

At the meet - sometimes referred to as the indoor state meet - in Bloomington, Gordon finished fourth in the 55-meter dash in a career-best time of 7.07. That surpassed her time of 7.11 at the same event in 2010, when she also finished fourth.

In Saturday's prelims, Gordon finished in 7.19, ranking her sixth entering the finals.

But the 55 is all about the start, and after a discussion with Niles West head coach Mark Medland and assistant sprint coach Marykate McCarte, Gordon made the necessary adjustments in the finals. That ability to hone her craft has played an important role Gordon's success.

"The 55 is all about the opening burst. That's something she's worked on a lot the last year - her starts and her burst out of the block," Medland said regarding Gordon, who placed third in the 100 and 200 at the 2010 outdoor state meet. "Kellion now has a lot of experience and knows when something feels right, and when it feels wrong. After prelims, Marykate and I pointed out

things in the start, and Kellion corrected it in the finals."

Waubonsie Valley's Morolake Akinosun won the 55, and Lincoln-Way East's Aaliyah Brown was second.

The 55 turned out to be the highlight of the night for Gordon, who entered the event nursing a slight leg injury.

With the more-important outdoor season around the corner, Gordon likely was running cautiously in her other two events, the 200 and the 400. In fact, Medland said he and Gordon had discussed having her skip one of the other events before ultimately deciding that she'd participate.

Gordon ended up placing 15th (61.27) among 23 runners in the 400. Medland said fatigue may have slowed Gordon during the back end of the race.

In the 200, Gordon placed 12th (26.29) out of 15. It was the runner's second-best time of the winter after the time of 25.67 she posted at the Proviso West Invite earlier this month.

Gordon was Niles West's only participant at the Prep Top Times meet, which was held at Illinois Wesleyan University. Several Wolves narrowly missed qualifying for the meet, though a few remain on the list of the state's best in their respective event at Dyestat.com.

Niles West sophomore thrower Jasmine Townsend, sophomore hurdler Sydney Hellwig, senior hurdler Rita Dawod, and members of the 800 and 1600 relay teams are among those whose names appear on the web-



Niles West's Kellion Gordon (right) finished fourth in the 55-meter dash in a career-best 7.07 during Saturday's Illinois Prep Top Times Indoor Classic in Bloomington. | Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media

site.

Medland said inclusion on those lists should give the athletes confidence heading into the outdoor season.

"The girls know (being among the elite) is within reach," he said. "They know that with that extra work outdoors, they can make the jump into state-qualifying

times (and distances)."

The Wolves are scheduled to open the outdoor season at the New Trier Quad, which begins at 4:30 p.m. April 6.

Maine East tabs Amin to lead Demons in pool

New coach takes over for Guilfoil

By MIKE BUDA
Contributor

GIRLS WATER POLO - Good coaching can be associated with age and experience, but Maine East has gone in a different direction.

Since 2003, Scott Guilfoil ran both the boys and girls water polo teams at East. But at the end of last season, he decided to leave the program, though he re-

quested that the reins be handed over to a former understudy.

"I believe Scott thought I was finally ready to take over the program that meant everything to him," said new girls team coach Mehul Amin. "He believed that no one else would have the same passion and desire for the kids and program to succeed than I would."

The 21-year-old Amin, who learned that he was being awarded the job in the fall, is the JV boys swimming and diving coach as well.

"Many people felt that I was too young to be a head coach,

but I felt that I was well-groomed by Scott Guilfoil and Andrew Kittrell the past few years," Amin said. "I feel that I'm ready to take over and build a successful program."

Amin, a 2008 graduate of Maine East, gained experience by playing four years on varsity under Guilfoil.

"He was the driving force that molded me into who I am today," Amin said. "He groomed me for the past several years under his watchful eye, passing on 40 years of coaching experience on anything and everything that I needed to know."

Since graduating from East, Amin has led the boys JV team, which finished with a 12-5 record last season.

"The confidence I had for myself is something that can never be taken away from me," Amin said. "When you have Scott Guilfoil tell you that he believes in you, there shouldn't be a doubt in your mind that you won't be good at this. He's been (like) a father to me since 2004 when I first met him, and a father never lies to his son."

Under Amin's control, the Blue Demons (1-6, 1-3 CSL) won one game in their first seven tries

this season with a 13-3 victory over Maine West.

Though losses are already accumulating, Amin's first goal has already been accomplished. Maine East has doubled its roster number since last year for the biggest in its history.

"The rebuilding process will never be finished," Amin said. "No matter how good we get and games that we win, we need to know that there is always someone else that is better out there. That should be our motivation to continue to grow and push ourselves to be the best athletes that we can be."

Local Sports

38 NIL - THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

Managing Editor: Rich Martin
Phone: (847) 486-7481 | rmartin@pioneerlocal.com

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THIS WEEK NILES NORTH

Saturday
Boys gymnastics at Niles West Invite, 11 a.m.
Girls soccer hosts Maine South, 1 p.m.
Monday
Boys baseball at Wheeling, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis at Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Girls softball hosts St. Viator, 4:30 p.m.
Girls track at Maine West vs. CSL, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday
Girls soccer at Pepsi Showdown, TBD
Boys tennis hosts Notre Dame, 4:30 p.m.
Boys track at Glenbrook North vs. Niles West, Glenbrook North, 4:30 p.m.
Girls softball hosts Glenbrook South, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball hosts Niles West, 6 p.m.

THIS WEEK NILES WEST

Today
Boys baseball at Danville H.S., 4 p.m.
Friday
Boys baseball hosts Rolling Meadows, 4:30 p.m.
Boys water polo hosts Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Boys water polo at De LaSalle (Valentine Boys Club), 9 a.m.
Boys track at Victor J. Andrew Invite, 10 a.m.
Boys baseball at Buffalo Grove (doubleheader), 11 a.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts John Burkel Invite, 11 a.m.
Girls softball hosts Buffalo Grove (double header), 11 a.m.
Monday
Girls soccer at Lake Forest, 4:45 p.m.
Girls softball at Wheeling, 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday
Boys track at Glenbrook North Quad, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball hosts Von Steuben, 4:45 p.m.
Boys tennis hosts Wheeling, 4:45 p.m.
Girls softball at Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Niles North, 6 p.m.
Boys water polo at Maine East, 5 p.m.

Vikings stand up to mighty New Trier

North plays 'hard and physical' in loss

By MATT HARNESSE
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

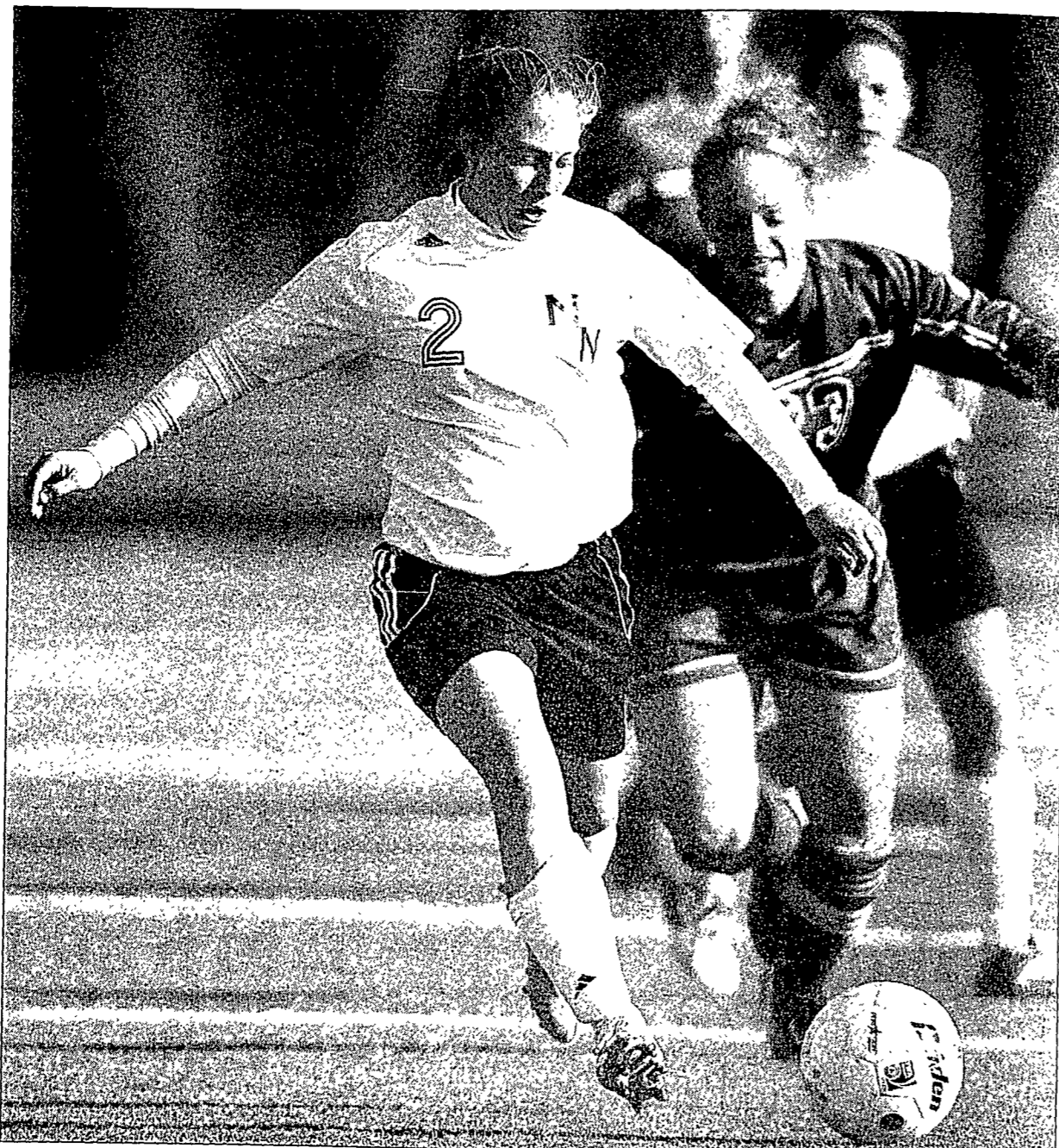
GIRLS SOCCER - Though Niles North lost to No. 2-ranked New Trier 2-0 at home last week, Vikings coach Dan Edminster was pleased with how his girls stood up to the unbeaten Trevians and competed.

"We haven't done very well in our history against them," Edminster said. "But this was probably one of our best games. We played hard and physical. I can't speak for New Trier, but I'm sure they were frustrated. They probably wanted to get goals in and put us out early. For us to hang around that long was impressive."

Niles North rebuffed New Trier's offensive onslaught for more than 20 minutes before Zoe Hawks finally found the net for a 1-0 lead. The Trevians scored a little more than seven minutes later for the final margin.

"A lot of it is mentality with us," said Edminster, whose team dropped to 1-2 overall. "The girls are starting to believe now. We may not be the most skilled team out there, so we have to work twice as hard."

From defender Camila Marquez to midfielder Tiffany Ebeling to forward Jeanine Taerbaum, the Vikings were strong up and down the middle of the field. Marquez even had one of the team's best chances to score on a free kick from 18 yards out, but the shot sailed high and wide of the goal.



Niles North's Deborah Steinberg moves the ball ahead of New Trier's Eliza Fisher during the Trevians' 2-0 win on March 24. | Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

"We (had) some opportunities, which we never really had before against New Trier," Edminster said. "That was something that was positive."

Marquez and Taerbaum have played multiple positions this season, allowing

Edminster more flexibility with his lineup.

"Jeanine's really stepped up her game," the coach said. "I knew she could do it, but we were waiting for her to come out of her shell."

With spring break ongoing, Edminster gave his girls

some time off to rest their banged up bodies. The Vikings are back on the field Saturday against Maine South before competing at the Pepsi Showdown next week.

Niles North opens the state's largest tournament

against Nazareth on April 5.

"That's going to be a good game for us," said Edminster. "We've never played Nazareth before, so we are looking forward to that. We hope things turn around for us this year."

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Last year			5.11			4.47			4.49		

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Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 3/24/11. © 2011 Bankrate, Inc. <http://www.bankrate.com>. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be charged to open the plan. (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union, (BA) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (loans arranged through third parties). "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 700. Illinois Mortgage Licensee. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$435,000. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Lock Days: 30-60. Annual percentage rate (APR) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. Bankrate, Inc. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. Bankrate, Inc. does not own any financial institutions. Some or all of the companies appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. If you are seeking a mortgage in excess of \$417,000, recent legislation may enable lenders in certain locations to provide rates that are different from those shown in the table above. We recommend that you contact your lender directly to determine what rates may be available to you. TO APPEAR IN THIS TABLE, CALL 800-509-4636. TO REPORT ANY INACCURACIES, CALL 888-509-4636. <http://pioneerlocalinterest.com>