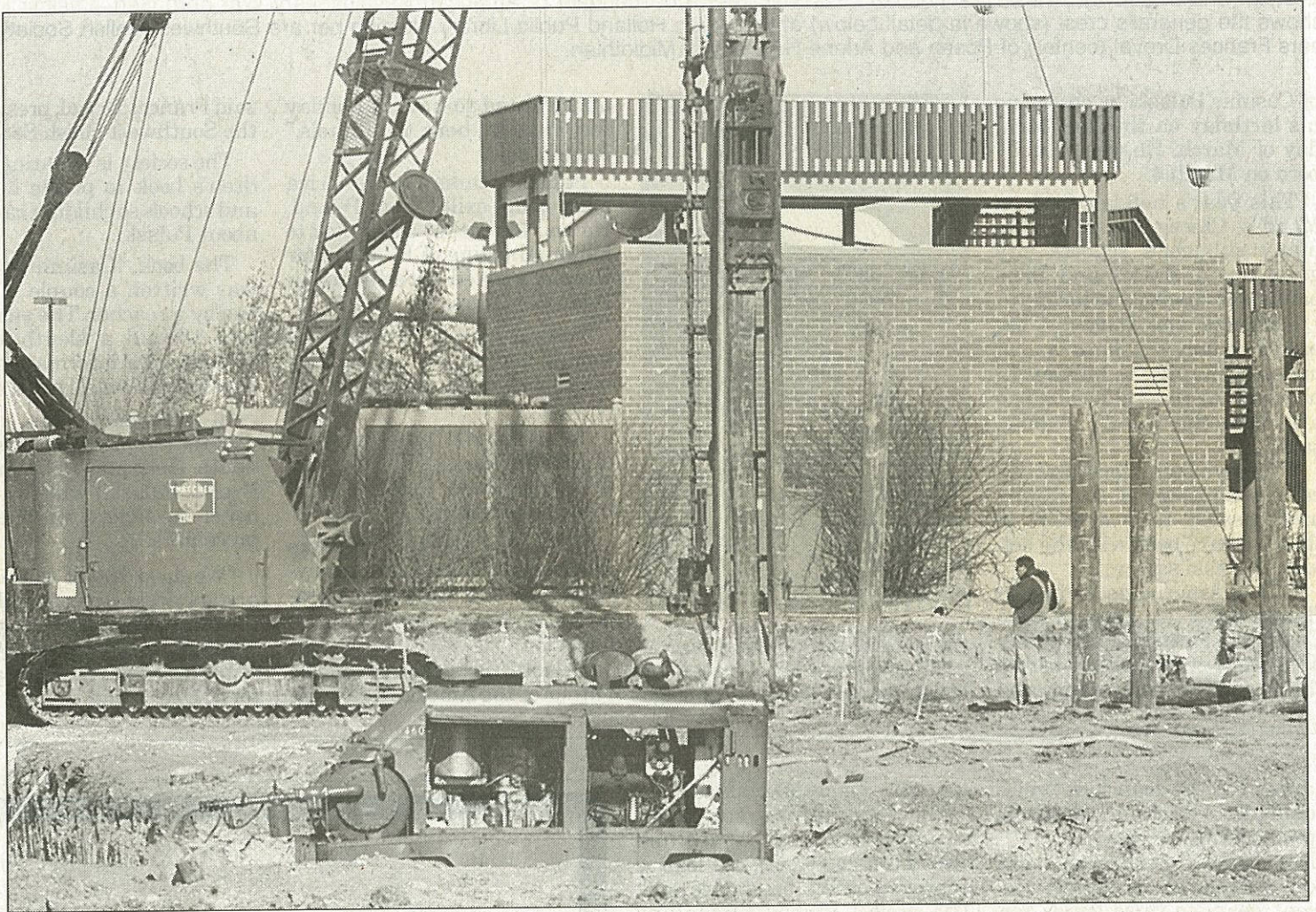


Going swimmingly



Bill Konway/Daily Southtown

Construction continues on the Centennial Park pool near 153rd Street and West Avenue in Orland Park.

Pool project gliding along in Orland

By David Heinzmann

Staff Writer

When the Chicago area was socked by January's blizzard, Orland Park officials feared that the mountains of snow would keep Centennial Pool a construction site well into the summer.

The Jan. 1-2 snowstorm and the bitterly cold weather that followed it for several days hampered outdoor construction all over the Southland.

However, the mild weather that the region has enjoyed since being buried by 23 inches of snow has helped construction crews catch up on the \$3.3 million pool expansion project, said Gary Major, the village's parks and recreation director.

"Construction is under way, and we're further along than we thought we'd be," Major said, adding that the project is

ORLAND PARK

about 20 percent complete.

With luck, it will be finished by July 4, he said. The existing parts of the pool will open, as usual, over the Memorial Day weekend.

Among the highlights of the expansion are construction of a teen shelter, a family locker room, outdoor showers, two additional slides, a tube ride and a "lazy river" ride.

Orland Park officials had been promising to add to the amenities of the pool for years before finally approving

funding and plans for a massive expansion last summer.

Much of the expansion is geared toward attracting more teenage swimmers. The core of pool users has been adults and small children.

"The (village) board really stepped up. They gave us some extra funds to finish Centennial (pool)," Major said.

The pool expansion is among the projects being

See **Pool** page 2