

THE NOVI NEWS

SERVING THE CITY AND TOWNSHIP OF NOVI

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10 CENTS

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Board nears conclusion in school budget talks

By KATHY JENNINGS

It appears Novi School board members will be able to put the finishing touches on the 1983-84 budget without cutting personnel or raising taxes, two options which were under consideration when budget sessions began.

The latest spending proposal does call for the posts of the special education director and the maintenance foreman to be left vacant in the coming school year.

But reducing the number of teachers, counselors, social workers, librarians and other employees, unless dictated by declining enrollment, was not included in the latest budgeting alternatives presented for the school board's review Thursday.

Trustees are now considering a \$10.3-million budget with a 29.9-mill levy.

"We think this new proposal meets the requirements of the tax rate — the millage levy is increased but the dollar amount is approximately the same," Superintendent Robert Piwko told the school board. "It does not go into the fund equity, does not go into personnel, and it continues the fine programs Novi is known for."

Although the proposed millage levy calls for a two-mill increase over the

current levy, the administration explained that for most taxpayers there will be no increase in school taxes. That is possible as a result of this year's lower property assessments.

As an example, the homeowner with a \$61,500 house assessed at \$30,750 had a state equalized value of \$32,595 in 1982 because of the state imposed factor. This year that home will be assessed at \$30,150. That resident paid approximately \$910 in school taxes last year and under the latest budget proposal would pay \$904 this year.

In this spring's millage election voters authorized the school board to levy up to 33.04 mills, although they are now levying just 27.9 mills. As it asked voters for authorization to levy the full 33 mills, the school district indicated it would levy only what was necessary to continue programs.

Early in budget proceedings the school board learned continuing programs with no cuts could mean increasing the levy by three mills. As an alternative, the administration proposed a 1.7-mill increase and the use of approximately \$288,400 in fund equity to balance the budget.

Instead, the school board asked the administration to look at areas which could be reduced without critically affecting the program offered to students.

After reviewing the latest budget proposal trustees voiced the most objection to holding supplies and book purchases at 1982-83 levels and the elimination of clubs and middle school camp. Board members asked administrators to return with information on budget cuts in those areas at the next meeting, which is Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

As an alternative to the proposed budget, Trustee Robert Schram suggested his own version of the spending plan. He proposed the board reduce the millage rate to a point where tax payers would recognize a slight reduction in taxes. His version of the budget also called for using \$100,000 of the fund equity. Schram also identified specific changes in the proposed budget to eliminate cuts he viewed as unacceptable.

When asked for a consensus regarding use of the fund equity, the trustees indicated they did not support dipping into those funds unless absolutely necessary. A number of trustees pointed out unforeseen expenditures may mean the district will need the fund balance to meet the budget.

The fund equity, in part, is made up of revenues the school district collected last year but did not spend. Those funds are carried over into the next budget.

Continued on 8

Judge orders payment of special assessments

By KATHY JENNINGS

The City of Novi has been given the go ahead to tax Section 15 property owners for the construction of streets, water mains and storm sewers in a judgement from the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

A member of the full tribunal overturned an earlier recommended opinion from a tribunal hearing officer which would have prevented taxing Section 15 property owners for the \$5 million public improvement project.

Tribunal Judge Roy L. Spencer found the special assessments in Section 15 are valid and ordered property owners to pay them.

Eight of the 21 property owners in the 160-acre piece of property across from Twelve Oaks Mall, known as Section 15, objected to being billed for construction of the proposed public improvements and have taken their appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Spencer's decision deals with the first of those appeals made by the Dixon Road Group and Novi 12 Associates. The city has reached agreements with a number of the other property owners. With settlement of the Dixon Road appeal, only one case remains outstanding.

'We hope this will conclude the whole matter.'

— David Fried,
Novi City Attorney

overtaken because they were "unreasonable and out of proportion to the benefits conferred." But when the case was heard at the tribunal level, Spencer ruled that if the local officials "appear to have a reasonable basis for finding that a special benefit to the properties occurred, the court will not substitute its judgement for that of the local officials."

Fried explained the city objected to the findings of the hearing officer and those objections were adopted by the judge.

Novi officials had reason to believe the properties would receive a special benefit since the public improvements will increase property values and allow the property to be more easily developed, Spencer ruled.

Spencer also found "the (property owners) will benefit more than the community as a whole from the improvements once made, and thus they should bear the cost."

"Since there exists a reasonable basis upon which to find a special benefit flowing to Petitioners' property, the Tribunal will not substitute its judgement for that of the local officials concerning this special assessment," Spencer ruled.

Continued on 8

Anti-Blanchard forces rally to support recall campaign

By BRUCE MARTIN

About 50 area supporters of the drive to recall Governor James Blanchard congregated at Novi's Middle School South on Taft Road last Thursday. "Congregate" might indeed be the best verb to describe the gathering. The

fire-and-brimstone was of a political, rather than a religious, nature, and there was a box for contributions instead of a collection plate. But it was clear outstate coordinator of the "Recall Blanchard" campaign Nancy Young was speaking to the faithful. There were about half as many peo-

ple as chairs, but the numbers seemed to please Young, who has been working in counties across the state to convert the masses. "This is a grass-roots movement that has just had a tremendous response," she told the audience.

"You're going to see a whole new change in the way this state is going to be run," Young added. By trade a Christmas-tree farmer from St. Charles, Michigan, Young explained she grew interested in the campaign after reading a report prepared by the state auditor general's office documenting fiscal waste in Michigan government programs.

"I testified before a state senate hearing on the auditor's report," she said, "and the report shows where we can clearly save millions of dollars that are being wasted in non-working programs. And I asked them (state senators) what they would do about it. I asked if any of them had even read it. No reaction."

In particular, Young pointed out the auditor's condemnation of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) as "the biggest scandal program we have."

She went on to criticize administration of foster-care facilities by state agencies, increases in legislative and gubernatorial salaries and she referred to editorials in the Detroit News critical of the Blanchard administration.

Continued on 6



Memorial salute

Americans around the country took time out to recognize those fallen soldiers who gave their lives at war Monday. In Novi the memorial was remembered with a parade and a salute by

V.F.W. Post 1519. A ceremony was conducted in front of the memorial near the Community Building. (News photo by Chris Boyd)

Dispatch to be shared

By KATHY JENNINGS

Three communities will join with the City of Novi in the initiation of regional dispatch for emergency communication — police, fire and emergency medical service — as a result of recent action by the city council.

Council members voted 7-0 to approve entering into contracts with Wixom, South Lyon and Lyon township to provide those communities with 24-hour dispatch service.

Surrounding communities, including Northville, Northville Township and Walled Lake, also were asked to take advantage of the service being offered by Novi, but decided not to join the system.

Dispatch service will be centered in Novi and connected to neighboring police departments through the use of

telephone lines. Police departments in surrounding areas would continue to use their existing radio frequencies and equipment.

"They keep their own equipment," Sergeant Gordon Nelson said. "They can dispatch for themselves, pilot their ship, float their own boat. If our equipment breaks down, we'll have a console in another location and we can telephone them. There'll be no major problem."

Council members, who earlier authorized city administrators to propose regional service to surrounding communities, discussed minor revisions to proposed contracts and approved the concept.

Novi is offering dispatch service for \$12,000 annually to interested communities. Lyon township is receiving the service for \$4,000 since only fire

dispatch is needed. The City of South Lyon will pay \$16,000 since emergency medical service dispatch is being provided in addition to police and fire communication service.

Assistant City Manager Craig Klaver told the council that in addition to the "cost advantage" communities involved will realize, there will be benefits in terms of mutual aid.

"By banning together we'll have more frequencies available and politically we'll have more clout representing four communities than any of us do individually," Klaver said. This becomes even more important as radio frequencies become increasingly scarce, he indicated.

To meet the demands of the three communities, Novi will hire a dispatcher, bringing its total to eight.

Continued on 6



Shannon Rossler addresses the media

Gala Day events scheduled

What's one way to have fun and help your community at the same time? Show up during Gala Days, scheduled this year for June 8-12.

Gala Days is an event planned for the whole family, according to Terry Mercer.

"Family participation is stressed," Mercer said. "This is for kids, teens and adults. We'd like to get the family out together."

Sponsored for the past 12 years by the Novi Jaycees, Gala Days is one of the two major fund raising events the group has each year.

Proceeds from Gala Days go back into the community, funding projects such as the senior citizens' outing, purchase of a Vita-Course stand, a scholarship for a Novi High School student, purchase of equipment for the handicapped, providing parties for special kids and for Boy Scout Troops, Mercer indicated. And those are just some of the more than 100 projects the Jaycees work on each year, Mercer said.

"This helps provide funds for projects for the community throughout the year," Mercer said.

Highlights of special events planned for this year's Gala Days are:

- a dunk tank and jail running continuously Wednesday through Saturday;
 - the Novi High School jazz band performance Friday at 6 p.m.;
 - a Novi fire truck display all day Saturday and Sunday;
 - a parachutist landing Saturday at 12 p.m.;
 - a recital by Elaine's School of dance in the parking lot Saturday at 2 p.m.
 - Almost Anything Goes, (a contest of whacky events open to all community groups) coordinated by Novi Parks and Recreation, Saturday at 2 p.m.;
 - Karate demonstration with Bob Gordon Saturday at 3 p.m.;
 - the first annual Novi Waiters and Waitresses contest (running with trays full of watered drinks) Sunday at 1 p.m.
 - the Michigan Scottish Pipes and Drums Limited performance 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.
- There also will be various contests throughout the weekend. And the beer tent, with entertainment, will be open Wednesday through Saturday evenings. Rides will be presented again this year by Fugh shows.

Delayed bike meet reset rain or shine

Weekend rain washed out the Novi bike-athon for the benefit of St. Jude's Research Hospital. But the event has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 5.

"Everyone's invited. Volunteer riders are needed to raise funds for St. Jude's Research Hospital," said Phil Konedda, president of the Novi Jaycees, which is sponsoring the annual event in conjunction with other community groups.

Volunteers will be asked to sign up contributors to make donations for each mile completed. Bikers will travel a two-mile route on Taft Road; there is a 50-mile limit.

Participants can solicit donations from family, neighbors and friends, Konedda said.

Bikers will gather in the Novi high school parking lot on Taft Road at 8

a.m. The ride will get underway at 9 a.m. The ride for those who travel the maximum route will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"They can ride two miles or 50 miles," Konedda explained.

Prizes will be awarded, including one for the person who collects the greatest number of donations.

Sponsor forms are available at all Novi schools, the Novi School Administration Building, Novi Parks and Recreation offices, Novi city offices and the Novi Public Library.

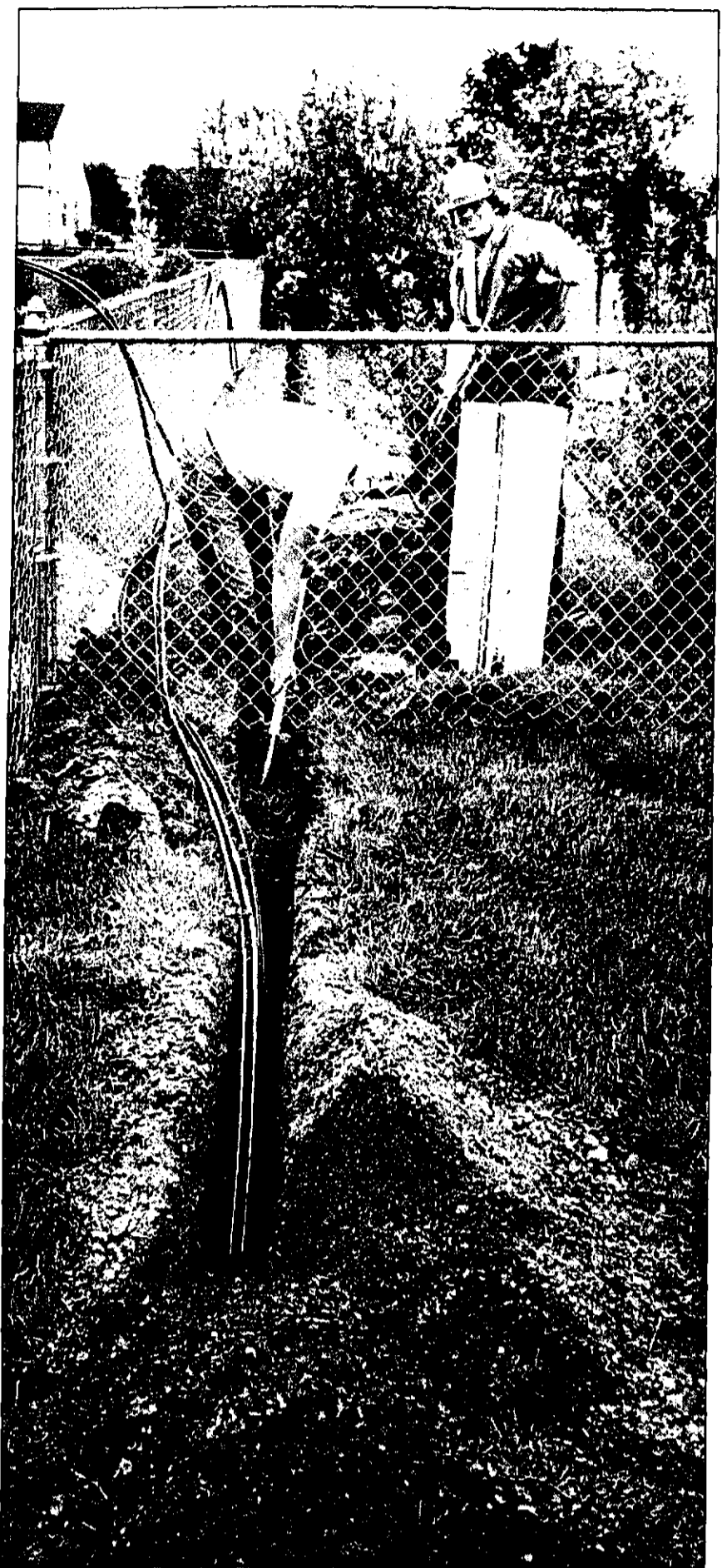
The bike-athon is a cooperative effort sponsored by the Novi Jaycees, Novi Kiwanis, Community Education Department, the Michigan Week Committee and Novi Kiwanis.

For more information contact school parking lot on Taft Road at 8

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Cable installations ahead of schedule

MetroVision, a cable consortium serving Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills, expects to have at least 7000 houses installed by September, says executive director Lark Samuelson.

Everything seems to be going smoothly, says general manager, Tom Bjorklund. "We are even ahead of schedule." Currently Metro vision has already hooked up 2500 subscribers, and other parts of the construction are expected to be completed soon. Residential underground areas are expected to be hooked up within a few months.

The cable consortium itself has several levels, starting with city councils of the three communities which elect representatives to the cable commission. Samuelson is the administrator of the cable commission. Novi representatives on the cable commission are City Manager Edward Kriewall and Council Member Ronald Watson.

Samuelson is also the liaison between the cable commission, and the Metrovision staff and the citizen access committee. The citizen access committee will coordinate public access programming. Novi members of the public access committee are Carol Bauer, Patrick Brunett and Joella Shulman. The committee will meet with any special interest group or help organize groups interested in developing cable programs.

"I understand why the state wants us to join the Rouge system but why does Huron Valley want us to join even temporarily," said council member John Lee. "We have a problem only with the phosphorus levels, which the state isn't pushing. Detroit can't make its limits

Sewer approval efforts continue

By LEANNE ROGERS

Efforts to keep Commerce Township and Wixom in the sewer system are continuing as the deadline for responding to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) letter approaches.

"Things appear to be moving very quickly one way or another," said Commerce Township Supervisor Robert Long, following two meetings held last week on super sewer. "The Wayne County Department of Public Works (D'PW) appeared to be very pessimistic. After a meeting in Lansing it seemed hopeful so maybe we are receiving more consideration than expected."

The DNR review of the sewer grant application raised questions about the inclusion of Commerce and Wixom in the project. An alternative cited by the DNR as possibly more cost effective is hooking into Detroit's Rouge Valley System.

Among the questions raised by the DNR were local funding commitments to the project.

Both communities had adopted resolutions committing themselves to the project. Wixom, however included a clause to permit it to drop from the project in the future.

Oakland County sewer and water division manager Don Ringler agreed that increased use of the system would result in spills in the Rouge River during storms. An alternative to the resolution, council voted to rescind that action.

City attorney Thomas Connelly said the city would have legal recourse if the terms of the project were not met. "If we enter this project and we don't get service, the bottom line is we have a legal attack," he said.

Super sewer is a \$298 million project with a sewage treatment plant and sewer interceptor designed to serve western Wayne and Oakland counties. The communities hope to obtain \$20 million in funding through the federal EPA.

A September, 1984 deadline for beginning construction of the project has been set by the EPA or federal funding would be reduced to 50 percent.

Detroit officials have recently contended that the Rouge system has sufficient capacity to handle effluent from the northern tier of communities, including Commerce and Wixom.

Wayne County officials have until May 31 to respond to the review questions of the DNR and we don't get the loss of funding for the current fiscal year.

Ringler described the current situation as political and something which might be very different in a year. "This is exactly the way the Rouge system was built. Future capacity was sold to the communities to finance the project," he said.

Commerce eyes park takeover

By LEANNE ROGERS

The 196 acres that form Dodge Park number five have changed hands multiple times since they were first deeded through a government grant in 1825.

The Dodge brothers acquired the property in 1922 and deeded it to the state in 1924 for use as a public park. Now Commerce Township officials would like to take ownership of the property to maintain its public use.

"There really isn't that much land for casual use. You can just come out here and walk around," said Commerce assessor Wynn Berry, who has been active in the West Oakland YMCA operation of the park. "On state land you have to get permits and a lot of time people are there in formal groups. Here we can have a daily use."

The township board recently approved a resolution asking State Representative Robert McGee (R-Commerce, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake, Wixom) and State Senator Richard Frazier (R-Commerce, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake, Wixom) to promote legislation to transfer park ownership from the state to the township.

Last year the township obtained a use permit to reopen the park. The park had been closed for several years due to funding cutbacks at the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The West Oakland YMCA had entered into an agreement with the township to operate programs in the park. Among the activities offered at the park are walking or jogging trails, camping sites and a picnic area and a soccer field, which is being developed currently.

The Multi-Lakes Conservation Club has expressed an interest in obtaining a portion of the park, located north of the club's headquarters off Welch Road.

Township officials have questioned whether a private club could purchase the property under its deed restrictions.

When the Dodge brothers deeded the land to the state, it was with the stipulation that it be kept open to the public, free of charge.

"We have 18,000 people living within about a two-mile radius of this land,"



News photo/STEVE FECHT
A canopy bridge dots the Dodge No. 5 landscape

Reagan praises students

Congratulations and commendations from President Ronald Reagan have been received by Walled Lake Central High School students for their annual charity volleyball fund-raiser.

In a letter dated May 13, Reagan wrote, "Over the years, I have witnessed many times the greatness of the American spirit. Compassion for others, creativity in meeting challenges, and determination to accomplish our goals are significant attributes of our people."

"One evidence of this spirit is the

of organizations such as Walled Lake Central High School," the letter continues. "I am pleased to extend my personal congratulations and commendation to you for your generous voluntary contributions to your community."

Reagan added, "Your involvement exemplifies the highest tradition of service to others and enhances the lives of all citizens."

Two hundred and twenty-two Walled Lake Central students raised over \$22,000 in pledges during the 24-hour volleyball marathon, held Friday and Saturday, April 29-30.

Over the seven years of fundraising by the students, over \$118,000. Among the programs funded by the 1982 marathon were public awareness campaigns about Lupus, patient workshops, development of in-depth therapy series and literature distribution.

A number of area businesses supported the marathon with donations of food, prizes, money and miscellaneous items.

Superintendent's rating is close

After a recent lengthy debate, the Wall Lake Board of Education recently decided to have the superintendent's review completed by a three-member committee.

Board members individually complete evaluation sheets on the superintendent. A large amount of discussion centered on whether individual members should sign their sheets and make them part of the public record.

Some board members expressed concern about signing the forms indicating the board should evaluate the superintendent as a body. Another concern was liability over comments made by individual board members.

Board president Robert Cooper appointed board members Betty Campion, Michael Reeds and Mario Tozzi to complete board members evaluation sheets. A Friday, May 27, deadline was set for submitting evaluation sheets.

"The process seemed acceptable to the majority of the board," said superintendent Dr. Don Sheldon. "They seem to have discarded the idea of signing their evaluation sheets. I think this is a decent procedure and will accomplish what an evaluation process is supposed to do."

The compilation of the evaluation forms is scheduled to be completed prior to the next board meeting on Monday, June 6.

School employees to provide support

Employees of the Novi schools are sharing with the community through their involvement in the Novi Emergency Food Program.

Recently, members of five school employee groups decided to donate a portion of their salaries to the food program through the remaining part of the year.

Assistant Superintendent William Barr said the idea came up during a regular meeting with the heads of the employee groups and the superintendent.

"This came out of that meeting as something they would urge or ask the people to do," Barr said.

Notices were sent out to employees asking if they would be interested in contributing a portion of their salaries to the food program. Approximately 99 employees responded to the appeal.

Together the school employees will donate \$2,000 or approximately \$215 each month.

"We think that it is a generous show of support from the City of Novi by the employees of the school system in their contribution to the Novi Emergency Food Program," Linda Crawford, a food program organizer, said. "This will be a major portion of the funds we receive and will make a big difference in the effective administration of the program."

Contributions will be donated to the Novi Emergency Food Program, an ongoing project to provide food for Novi's needy. It was formed in response to former Governor William G. Milliken's declaration of southeastern Michigan as a financial disaster area, which created a food emergency. Collection and distribution will continue until the food emergency is over.

Canned or packaged food also is being collected at all local schools and area churches. Food also can be taken to the Novi Public Library from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Faith Community United Presbyterian Church from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information on the food program contact Linda Crawford or Richard Henderson, Novi Emergency Food Program coordinator, at 349-5666.

Novi high school band schedules pops event

It's Pops Concert time again! announces Evelyn Young of the Novi Band Boosters.

Performing cabaret style again this year will be the Symphony Band, the Concert Band and the Jazz-Rock Ensemble in concert June 8 on the Novi High School grounds at 7:30 p.m.

"One of the nicest annual events of the Novi High School Band is the outdoor Pops concert held on the grounds of the high school every spring," Young said.

"We guarantee a beautiful, balmy evening," Young said. "But should the weatherman not cooperate, the concert will be held in the Commons."

Craig Strain and Paula Joynor will direct the bands in favorite music of the past year.

"It promises to be a festive affair with gaily decorated tables and light refreshments available," Young said. "This will be the last in a series of free concerts given by the bands in appreciation of community support during the past school year."

'This will be a major portion of the funds we receive...' - Linda Crawford, Food program coordinator

Contributions will be donated to the Novi Emergency Food Program, an ongoing project to provide food for Novi's needy. It was formed in response to former Governor William G. Milliken's declaration of southeastern Michigan as a financial disaster area, which created a food emergency. Collection and distribution will continue until the food emergency is over.

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WALLED LAKE

SECOND FRONT PAGE

Page 4-A THE NOVI NEWS—THE WALLED LAKE NEWS Wednesday, June 1, 1983

in the NEWS

Wixom to celebrate 25th birthday as city



Wixom's 25th Anniversary
Wixom is having a birthday and it's being celebrated with a variety of activities, as well as remembrances from those who developed the community. For information on Wixom's past and present see the special section inside today's Novi-Walled Lake News.

Twenty-five years of cityhood will be celebrated by Wixom at an open house at city hall Sunday, June 5, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Wixom was a closely knit but unofficially organized community until 1957 when Ford's Lincoln Assembly Plant was constructed. "We were always a community, just not organized," said Mayor Lillian Spencer. "We thought Novi would make the Ford plant part of their city."

Voters in the area proposed for cityhood chose to incorporate in an election held November 26, 1957. Cityhood did not become official until May, with the approval of a city charter and election of officials.

As an interim step leading to cityhood, the village of Wixom was established in 1957.

Wixom's incorporation has improved

the services received by residents, according to Spencer. "One of the first things done by the village was to get Loon Lake Road paved," she said. "In the spring people used to leave their cars on Wixom Road because Loon Lake Road was so bad."

The city has been able to provide many services that weren't available from Oakland County during the community's unincorporated days, Spencer added, citing the police and fire departments.

Although cityhood did not occur until 1958, Wixom was settled in the 1830s. Commerce was attracted to the area because of the town's railroad depot.

After the development of automobiles for individual transportation, Wixom's business district registered an impact. The Ford Assembly Plant offered substantial revenues for the city and

hope for growth during the 1950s.

Today future growth could be impacted by the expansion of Spencer Memorial Airport and the downtown area revitalization.

"If the airport expansion comes to fruition, it will do more than change the city. It will change the whole surrounding area, providing jobs and a better tax base," Spencer said.

The installation of sidewalks and lighting improvements in Wixom's downtown area is another step forward, according to Spencer.

Among the challenges facing the city in the future, Spencer added, are whether sewer services will be handled through super sewer or through an independent system. "That will be a big decision," she said. "We also will have to look at our water system but we don't have to think about that immediately."



One of a kind
The Southwest Oakland Vocational Education Center recently purchased a current semi-tractor and trailer combination. Located at 1000 Beck Road, Wixom, the center is probably the only one in the country that offers this type of equipment for training high school juniors and seniors. Roger Enyart, instructor, praised for the Oakland schools and Walled Lake Consolidated Schools for their combined efforts in obtaining the Diesel-powered rig.

Longtime resident cited for community service

Walled Lake's best loved and most honored volunteer, Mary Kupovits, believes in her community.

"What I do is a community project. I don't feel the awards I have won are my own. They're for all the volunteers and the community. They belong to the community as much as my work does," said Kupovits, a member of the Walled Lake community for 31 years.

Last week Kupovits was honored by the Walled Lake Jaycees and the Union Lake Veterans of Foreign Wars. Both honors were for outstanding community service. In February of this year Kupovits was presented with a plaque from the mayor of Walled Lake, Gaspare LaMarca. He declared February 1 Mary Kupovits Day in the city.

Kupovits has spent more than 28 years organizing community service projects. Fifteen years ago she organized the FISH Closet in Walled Lake. That organization now serves not only Walled Lake, but just about all the surrounding communities in southwest Oakland County.

Her current project is directing the emergency food distribution program twice a week out of the Walled Lake

Fire Station.

FISH does just about everything. "I'm on call 24 hours a day. I feel like a postman—through wind, rain, snow," Kupovits said while she took a break from her work at the fire station. "This isn't a one-person job, it's a community job and we have to do it."

Kupovits loves her work and it's catching. Her husband Charles and daughters Charriann and Amy are also involved in the FISH efforts.

What Kupovits said she learned from her father and mother when she lived in her home in the city.

"My parents worked very hard all their lives giving themselves to others and caring," she said. "I'm just carrying on in the modern way. What they showed me, I want to share with others."

Kupovits' example has spurred other community residents, of all ages, into working in volunteer programs. "It's so beautiful when you have children working in a program like this. I can't tell you how much it makes my heart feel good about our community," she said.

Kupovits doesn't make any money in her very special work, but then, she

would refuse it anyway. "I can't express why I do it, but I could never accept money."

One of Kupovits' "helpers" at the emergency food center, Claire Robinson, said, "She is one of the most outstanding women I've ever met. We have a marvelous organization, thanks to her. We work in harmony with everyone."

Another volunteer at the food center, Al Krusac, echoed Robinson's thoughts. She has a beautiful set-up here. It's well controlled and because of that, it works," he said.

The food center serves over 257 families from Walled Lake and surrounding communities. It was organized in January of this year and will continue until the end of the school year. After that FISH Closet will again take over the task of helping to feed the needy.

"This food center is a community project. Everyone is working on it and there are so many people that need to be thanked," said Kupovits, an active church member at St. Williams. "This community has a heart. It doesn't need a leader; it needs a friend."

Rain's no deterrent

Neither rain nor cool weather could keep this mother and two children from Monday's Memorial Day parade in Walled Lake. Huddled under the umbrella is Chris Savage and her two children, Stephanie, 4, and Sidney Ann, 8, as parade participants and on-lookers paid tribute to the community's war dead and the ultimate sacrifice they made to keep this country free. (News photo by Steve Fecht)

Wixom pinpoints projects for jobs

Two proposals to create jobs and further the revitalization of Wixom's downtown were approved by the city council last week.

The proposals would seek funding under the Emergency Jobs Bill program for downtown revitalization activities, according to city Administrator Stephen Bonczek.

Wixom would receive a basic allocation of \$16,900 for the first phase in revitalization. The objective in phase one is to address the "blighting influences" i.e. dilapidated commercial buildings, deteriorated sidewalks, inappropriate signage, etc., in order to enhance the attractiveness of the central business district.

Bonczek estimated six to eight weeks employment would be provided to 15 temporary construction workers under the project. The construction is proposed for September 1 through October 15, with completion by November 1.

The second phase funding sought is \$157,100. That phase would include acquisition of property and demolition of current Wixom Auto Parts. Part of the funding would be used to relocate the auto parts business within the city.

The objectives in phase two include retaining an existing business and jobs, eliminating blighted structures and stabilizing existing commercial development while encouraging new businesses.

An estimated 10 temporary construction jobs would result from the project, with five additional retail positions created. The project would not be totally completed until February, 1984.

Bonczek said the projects were both aimed at meeting the federal criteria of creating and retaining employment opportunities, initiating construction activity and assisting low/moderate income people.

Cable group nears final decision

Delegates of West Oakland County's Cable Television Authority are continuing their deliberations on the selection of a cable company to serve the area.

"We are really getting down to the wire. I haven't decided on which company I'll vote for," said Midwest Township delegate and Treasurer Mary Jane Cagney. "We have two companies which are right up there."

Three firms submitted bids to provide cable television services to the nine-community consortium. The com-

petition seems to be between the top two rated companies, Greater Media Cablevision and Comstar Cablevision of Michigan.

The authority's consultant, Carl Plinik of the Los Angeles-based Telecommunications Management Corporation (TMC), has raised the firms' proposals. Greater Media was top ranked in the final evaluation with 428.5 points. Comstar followed with 402 points and the third firm, Bloomfield Communications, Inc., received only 330.5 points.

The delegates will now have to con-

sider Plinik's recommendation that "...there appears to be reason to conclude that Greater Media now holds at least enough of a margin to warrant consideration as the leading candidate with which to negotiate a franchise agreement."

Both Greater Media and Comstar have been contacting delegates individually since public presentations were made by all three firms on May 21. Comstar is specifically objecting to a revision which widened the gap in the top firm's ratings.

The revision stemmed from Com-

star's proposal to offer energy management services through a third party. In the final report, Greater Media received equal credit for energy management since Plinik said it could propose the services also.

Authority delegates are scheduled to meet Wednesday, June 8, to discuss and possibly vote on which firm will be negotiated with. Currently the delegates are reporting to their governing bodies, which must adopt the franchise.

Continued on 11

Church rallies around child

Little Bruce Sharp believes in Jesus. Bruce is a two and a half-year-old member of the pentecostal Walled Lake Church of God and is in desperate need of a new liver to replace a diseased one.

Bruce has biliary atresia, a condition that destroys or inhibits the main bile ducts through which bile travels from the liver to the intestine. His condition will be fatal unless he receives a new liver.

"Jesus loves me," says Bruce, son of Bruce Sharp, Sr. and Shirley Sharp, residents of West Bloomfield and former residents of Walled Lake.

One of Bruce's favorite prayers, according to his father, is "Jesus heal me."

Thanks to concerned and caring community residents and the Walled Lake Church of God, money is being raised to fund a liver transplant at the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Bruce, a bright and intensely active boy, qualified for a liver in April. His parents carry a besper with them 24 hours a day waiting for the call from Pittsburgh.

"The average wait is four months," said Bruce's mother. "We just pray the Lord will keep him until the time comes

for his operation."

Meanwhile, all-out efforts are being made by the 200 members of the Walled Lake Church of God to help the Sharp family with personal expenses and spiritual support.

The Bruce Sharp Personal Expense Fund was started about two months ago by church Pastor Howard Haar. A volunteer committee, made up of Doris Ross, Kay Richardson and Marlene Brown, has spearheaded the fund raising efforts of the church.

"Other groups are helping raise money for the medical expenses so we decided to help out by raising as much money as possible to help the family with personal expenses," said Pastor Haar. "I'd estimate it will cost Bruce's parents \$5,000 to \$7,000 to stay with

their son in Pittsburgh."

The personal fund is also being used to help the family pay for its home bills.

"We started a savings account last week," said Haar. "We just want to be able to help in any way we can." Bruce, Sr. was laid off from Paragon Steel in Novi last August and hasn't had any luck getting back to work.

Bruce has been in and out of Ann Arbor's Mott Hospital ever since his disease was first discovered, when he was just seven weeks old.

"At that time," said Bruce, Sr., "we were told Bruce would not live to be eight months old."

"We couldn't have gotten through this far without the support of our church and friends. Their prayers are greatly appreciated by our entire family," he added.

The Sharps became members of the Walled Lake Church of God after they were married by Haar, known as Brother Haar to congregation members.

"We had some family attending and knew that the people of the church were caring," said Shirley, an employee of the Novi Enamelum Company. "Being



BRUCE SHARP



One of a kind
The Southwest Oakland Vocational Education Center recently purchased a current semi-tractor and trailer combination. Located at 1000 Beck Road, Wixom, the center is probably the only one in the country that offers this type of equipment for training high school juniors and seniors. Roger Enyart, instructor, praised for the Oakland schools and Walled Lake Consolidated Schools for their combined efforts in obtaining the Diesel-powered rig.

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Notice is hereby given that a Public Accuracy Test will be conducted by the Commerce Township Election Commission to test the ballot program for the June 13, 1983 Annual School Election on the EL-PAC Computer. The test will be conducted at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 1, 1983 at the Commerce Township Office, 2840 Fisher Ave.

Bonnie Venzke, Secretary
Walled Lake Board of Education
Publish: 5/25/83

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Novi connection?

Inclusion of Wixom in Novi's water master plan was okayed by Wixom City Council recently.

City administrator Stephen Bonczek said he and Mayor Lillian Spencer had previously met with Novi officials to discuss linking Wixom to Detroit city water via Novi connections.

Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall sent a letter to Wixom asking whether Wixom wanted to be included in Novi's present and/or future water service. The master plan would outline Novi's water transmission, distribution and service to existing and future customers.

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Baseball sale set

The Novi Youth Baseball spring rummage sale is scheduled for June 4 at the Novi High School parking lot on Taft Road from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kathy Rhea at 477-2799 in the evening. Proceeds will go to the Novi Youth Baseball Program.

Participants also are asked to plan ahead for the Novi Youth Baseball A & P Donation Days beginning June 15. Cards soon will be sent to all players.

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Sports

NOVI-WALLED LAKE NEWS

Walled Lake nine drops title in season finale

Walled Lake Western's baseball squad ended its best season ever Thursday with a 12-2 loss to Plymouth Canton in the championship game of the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division title.

A malady of errors, eight in all, by the Warriors told the tale on Thursday as Canton's Chiefs scored two runs in the first inning, four in the fourth, two in the sixth and four more in the seventh.

Both squads had been tied in the division race with 10-2 records. The winner took the first-ever WLA baseball title. "I don't know why we committed so many costly errors. Canton's first eight runs were all unearned," said Western coach Chuck Apap. "It was the first time we've had a chance to play for a league title. Maybe the pressure of the game took its toll."

Baseball teams don't win games with errors, added Apap. "I don't want to take away anything from Canton's effort. They played a good game," he said. The Chiefs committed just one error.

The Warriors defeated Canton in the last time the two squads played, 11-10. In Thursday's game, both teams tallied up eight hits. Western allowed 11 walks to Canton's four.

Guy Whittington was the losing pitcher. He pitched all seven innings, gave up 11 walks and struckout seven batters. The senior righthander dropped his record to 4-3 on the season with the defeat.



Novi pitcher Guy Whittington wound up season

Triple play paces win in little league play

First baseman J.J. Mullet and shortstop Denny Moon combined for a triple play en route to J.S. Trudeau's 12-2 romp over Cone Zone in Novi Pony League baseball action last week.

Mullet snagged a line drive, stepped on first and fired to Moon at second for the tag on the runner to complete the rarity. Rickey Timrec led Trudeau with two singles and two RBIs in the win, while teammates Mike Donley and Mike Kostik each collected two hits in the contest.

In the Major League, Tim Harris Tisch and Steve Meyers pacing Bobby socked a grand slam home run in the third inning to power General Filters to a 12-4 win over Novi Police. Chris Gravelis pitched six good innings for the win, striking out five along the way.

The Filters' Greg Courville and Devon Peyton also slammed round-trippers in the runaway win.

McSweeney Electric knocked off Bobby T Ranch 11-7 with Rob Vetro Todd Gronowski, Jim Reid, Brian Hess, Brian Carlson, Adam Correll, Tom Wigley and Mark Girard driving in McSweeney runs and Ed O'Hare, John Tisch and Steve Meyers pacing Bobby Thitters.

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"Guy wasn't as sharp for us as he normally is, but he did a great job all year," Apap said. "It's been a great season for us. We were in the league race all the way."

The Warriors scored single runs in the third and sixth innings.

Mitch Pancyk singled home Mark Johnson after Johnson had gotten on base with a hit and stole second for the first Western run.

Pancyk's hit broke an individual school record for most hits in a single season. Pancyk collected 32 hits this year. The previous mark, set last year, was 30.

Whittington knocked in the second Western run with a sacrifice fly in the sixth inning. Dan Gabriele had reached first on a walk. Mike Bulgarelli then singled to put runners at first and third before Whittington's deep shot to left field.

Pancyk tallied two hits in the game, while Rick Hunter and Dave Meyer also had two hits in four trips to the plate. "We fell short but not because of a lack of effort," said Apap.

Last Tuesday the Warriors played in the first round of the George Gary Baseball Tournament for the top 16 teams in Oakland County. The Warriors dumped Clarkston 7-1 in that game and advanced to action on Memorial Day. A hurler. He pitched all seven innings, gave up 11 walks and struckout seven batters. The senior righthander dropped his record to 4-3 on the season with the defeat.

Western's winning pitcher, Gabriele set a school record for most strikeouts in a game as he set down 16 batters. The previous mark was 13 set two weeks ago by Gabriele. The record of 12 stood for eight years before this season.

Gabriele pitched a no-hitter through the sixth inning before allowing three hits and a run. The sophomore righthander is 6-1 on the year.

Pancyk clubbed three hits in four trips to the plate to lead the Warriors. He also picked up two RBIs, scored two runs and grabbed two stolen bases.

Bulgarelli went 3-4 at the plate and had two RBIs and a pair of stolen bases, while Meyer was 1-3 with one RBI and one stolen base.

Western finished the regular season with a 12-4 overall record and 10-3 in the conference.

"Percentage-wise this is the best season we've had. Last year we went 14-9," Apap said.



Ted Felegy during his last coaching season

Coach Ted Felegy quits cage post

By B.J. MARTIN

After eight years of coaching Walled Lake Western's varsity basketball team, Ted Felegy announced last week he will do so no longer.

The move was not much of a surprise. Felegy was one of 34 Walled Lake school district teachers who were given notice in April their jobs were to be discontinued by the school district.

"I had thought a while about what would happen when I was pink-slipped," Felegy said last Thursday. "I just see it would be difficult to make a full contribution to the basketball team if I were no longer a teacher in the district. It would be tough to make that commitment."

Felegy has taught physical education and history at Walled Lake Western during his eight-year stay with the district, but the budget cuts resulting from declining property tax revenues and hampered state aid made his position vulnerable. Teachers with as much as nine years' experience with the district were also pink-slipped.

Prior to working for Walled Lake schools, Felegy had been a teacher for

nine years in the Southfield school district, and had coached junior varsity and freshman basketball at Brother Rice and spent a year coaching junior varsity basketball at Southfield Lathrup.

Under Felegy, the Warriors had had mixed years — in 1981-1982 Western was co-champs of the old Western Six league with Farmington Harrison. But last season, the Warriors went 6-for-20 before mustering two dramatic upset wins in the Class A MHSAA district playoffs over Millford and Walled Lake Central to make it to the district finals.

Kensington Valley Conference champion Lakeland, however, downed the Warriors 87-45 in the district final to end Western's season.

Felegy wanted to make it clear the lackluster regular-season record had nothing to do with his decision to give up the post. "I'd just like to spend a little more time with my family at this point," he said. "I have a daughter who's nine now and a son who's six and I'd like to see something of them."

"You see, it really takes a full commitment, not just during the regular season, but year 'round."

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Novi baseballers bite state dust

Bob Weinburger was still trying to figure it out. "We had the talent to have a much better season," the Novi coach said after Fowlerville had ended the Wildcats' MHSAA tournament hopes last Friday, dealing Novi an 8-5 loss.

Also collecting hits in the contest were Eric Lavery, John Moniz and McWeeney, who singled in two runs. In the eighth, Deline scattered seven hits and kept the Redskins guessing, walking three and striking two and getting some sparking defense from his teammates.

What happened was, that instead of contending for the lead in the Kensington Valley Conference league track meet last Tuesday — as Smith expected — the 11-1 Wildcats finished seventh in the eight-team tournament with 52 points, way back of league and tourney champ Lakeland with 119.

Novi thinclads tumble to 7th

Well, they didn't do it. "Yeah," Novi boys track coach Bob Smith said sheepishly, "it's funny, everybody's going to be coming up to me and saying, 'What happened to you guys?'"

Novi's remaining points came from a third-place shot put of 46-5/8 by Kern Stahr, who exceeded his previous best by nearly two feet, Stahr's sixth place discus throw of 123-8, Paul Mooter's sixth-place 5-10 high jump and Novi's fourth-place finish in the 400 relay.

twice in preliminaries before qualifying for the finals with a two-thirds speed careful jump. "Yes, it's psychological," Smith explained. "His first meet out this year he didn't foul. We'll work on it together this summer."

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Express is focus of soccer camp

Budding soccer players in the Novi area can hone their skills and learn the game at a Detroit Express soccer camp to take place at Middle North School June 27-29.

The camp is sponsored by the Express, Schneider's sporting goods store, Mitre sports equipment and the White Lake Chuck E. Cheese, which will offer participants a Chuck E. Cheese party at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, for an additional fee.

Tennis tourney begins Saturday

The Novi Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor an 18-and-over invitational tennis tournament this weekend at Novi High School.

Beginning matches will take place Friday at 6 p.m., with additional competition to be scheduled over the weekend depending on the level of interest. To register for the tourney, contact the Novi Parks and Recreation Department at 349-1976.

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Wagner is only Warrior to place

Junior Mark Wagner, Walled Lake Western's lone qualifier for this Saturday's Class A State boy's track meet in Jackson, scored the Warriors' single point at the Oakland County meet Friday.

The foursome of Frank Garback, Tim Robde, Dave Moody and Wagner turned in an effort of 3:32 in the mile relay but also missed scoring.

cleared five feet eight inches for first. Brian Shrubnub won the discus with a toss of 96 feet and Doria won the long jump with a leap of 19 feet four inches.

Western girls run to 18th spot

Walled Lake Western's girls track squad finished 14th at the Oakland County Girls Track meet Friday. Some 38 teams competed in the all day event.

11.8 seconds, Pam Roselle was first in the high jump, five feet, Fran Cullen was first in the 440-yard run, 1:04.1, Jabonsky was first in 220-yard dash, 27.5 seconds, Nancy Glasgow was first in the mile, 5:47.9, and Lisa Edwards was first in the shot put, 31 feet two inches.

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078 Industrial, Commercial For Rent
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101 Antiques
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021 Houses
\$51,900
HOWELL. For big family or...

021 Houses
\$42,900
Wanted country living? New...

022 Lakefront Homes
HURON River at Ore Lake...

022 Mobile Homes
BRIGHTON, Sylvan Glen...

030 Northern Property
LUTHER by owner, 2 bedroom...

061 Houses For Rent
PINKNEY, Lakeland, 2 bedroom...

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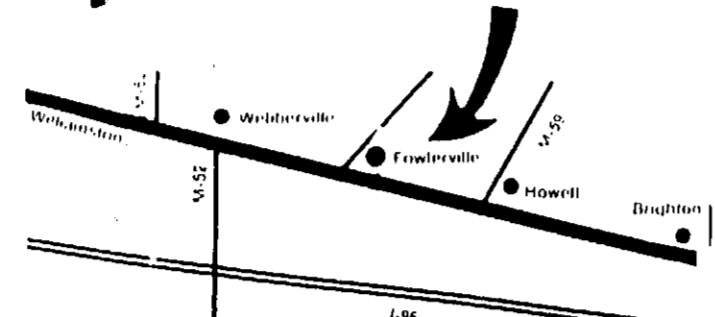
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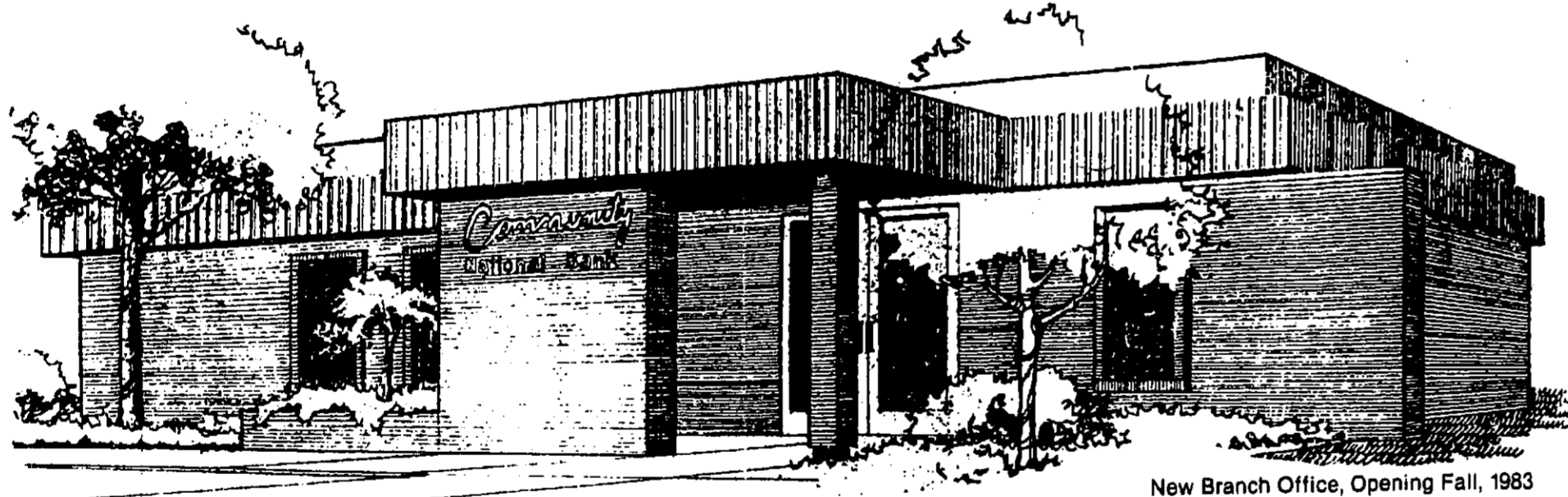
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Wixom's 25th Anniversary



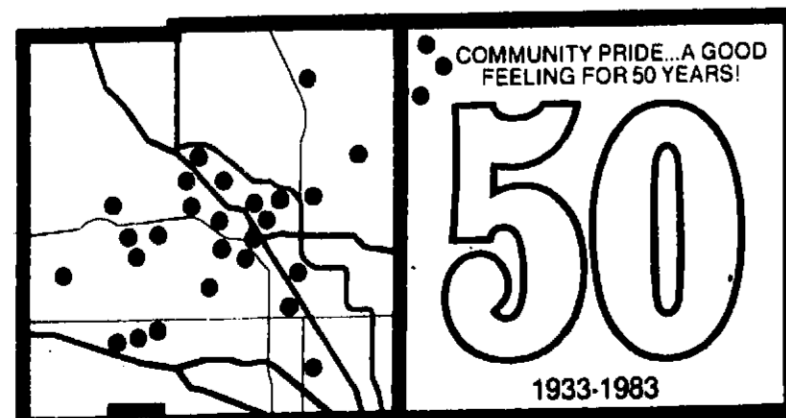
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New Branch Office, Opening Fall, 1983

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A message from the mayor

An open letter from Mayor Lillian Spencer:

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the City of Wixom, we look to those of you who play such a vital role in its growth.

To commemorate the occasion, the City of Wixom invites you and your family to a Special Open House on Sunday, June 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Wixom Municipal Center, 49045 Pontiac Trail.

We will honor those who have served and who are serving the community. Look to our past through photographs and remembrances and view our future with drawings of city projects and displays from our business sector.

It is our hope that you will be able to join us in this celebration.

Celebrate Wixom

*From the City Council, City Administration,
Employees and Residents
of the City of Walled Lake*

Staff

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*The Residents, City Council,
Administration and Employees of the
City of Novi wish you well.*

Wixom's incorporation was economical



Photo/Courtesy of Wixom Historical Society

By **LEANNE ROGERS**
News Staff Writer

As Wixom celebrates its 25th anniversary, a look back at the city's formation gives a clear reason for incorporation.

"Pontiac Trail really divides Wixom into parts in Commerce and Novi," said current Wixom Mayor Lillian Spencer. "The Ford plant was in Novi Township. We thought Novi would become a city and take the plant."

Without the opening of the Ford Lincoln Assembly Plant in 1957, the unofficial community known as Wixom might never have had the impetus to incorporate.

"We had always been a community but just not organized," said Spencer. "Becoming a city has made us a closer-knit community. I

am very proud of this."

Wixom voters approved incorporation as a village February 5, 1957. The village charter was adopted July 15, 1957, with village officers elected.

The first order of business for the newly created village was to seek incorporation as a fourth class city. The move was necessary "in order to insure ourselves against encroachment by other communities and to give ourselves needed tax rights over industry and commerce in our boundaries," said newly elected village President Joseph Stadnik.

The dispute over the Lincoln Assembly Plant, as it was then known, brought national news attention to Wixom and Novi Township. In June, 1957, the Wall Street Journal carried a front page story headlined,

"New Lincoln Plant Sparks Feud Between 2 Michigan Towns."

Among those interviewed for the Journal story were Novi Township Supervisor Frazier Staman, Wixom Postmaster Herb Abrams and several business people.

One of the disputed points was reportedly the handling of the plant's mail. The Novi post office processed the factory's mail, although the Wixom post office was located within a half mile.

Stadnik was elected village president, defeating Wesley McAtee and Everett Pearsall. The three candidates for village president all had impact on Wixom after cityhood.

McAtee was elected mayor in 1962 and served until 1970. Pearsall, who had served on the city charter

commission, was appointed as the first city treasurer.

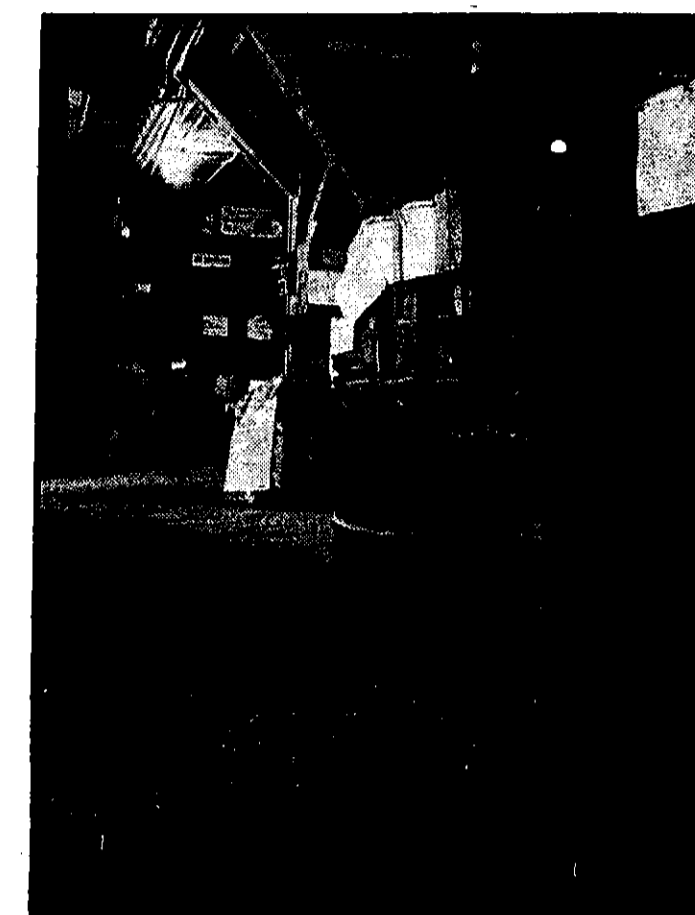
Fifteen candidates sought seats on the village council, including Gunnar Mettala, who served on the village body and has been sitting on the city council since 1958.

At the first meeting of the village council, Stadnik said he would work with officials in neighboring communities to improve relations. Three Novi officials attended the swearing in of the village officials, wishing them a productive year.

One of the first orders of business for the village council was calling for a volunteer police officer to serve the city until a paid police force was deemed necessary. In the interim police protection was to be provided by the Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's



Photo/Courtesy of Wixom Historical Society



Photo/Courtesy of Wixom Historical Society

votes. Wixom's first city hall was located on Wixom Road, the current location of the Hair Station. Later a small building was constructed on Pontiac Trail, where the current facility was opened in 1978.

"Over the past 25 years we have been providing the services that we weren't getting from Oakland County," said Spencer. "I think that we have improved the quality of life here. Most people think this is still a nice rural community. It is a very pleasant place to live."

Among the future challenges facing the city will be improving its sewer system, expansion of Spencer Memorial Airport and revitalization of the downtown area, according to Spencer.

"The city stood still for a long time. There were growing pains when more people came because that calls for more services," she added. "People just wouldn't believe the growth of the city. Wixom is not a little country town anymore."

As was the case in the 1950s with the Ford Plant, Wixom is again seeking growth through a large development. "If the airport plans come to fruition that will mean more changes for the city and the surrounding area," commented Spencer. "It will provide more jobs and a better tax base, which means less taxes individually."

Historic Wixom grew and grew following incorporation. Wixom was a whistle stop between Lansing and Detroit (opposite page) and farm country for early settlers (this page, left). The Wixom Co-op was important to the entire area during its more rural days.

Department and Novi police.

Today, Wixom has a professional police department with 11 officers, including a chief. The city also has a fire department with a fulltime chief, 30 certified volunteer firefighters and six firefighting or rescue vehicles.

"I think we are very fortunate to have the police department and the fire department," said Spencer. "We have a nice city hall. I see a lot of communities that are bigger but don't do the things we do in Wixom."

Also attending the first village council meeting was William Jewell, a representative of the Detroit Metropolitan Area Planning Committee.

The Novi News account of the meeting reported Jewell's prediction that Wixom would have a

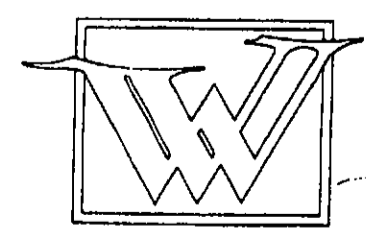
population of 20,000-30,000 by 1968. According to Jewell, Wixom had the potential to become a "second River Rouge" home of another major Ford facility.

Wixom hasn't quite grown to the extent predicted by Jewell. According to the 1980 census, Wixom's population has reached 6,713. The 1970 population level was 2,010, up from 1,531 in 1960.

In November, 1957, Wixom Village electors approved the move to cityhood, 267 votes to 61. The first city charter was adopted by a wide margin, 323 "yes" votes to 43 "no" votes, on May 19, 1958. Eighty percent of Wixom's registered voters made it to the polls that day.

Stadnik was elected the city's first mayor by a large margin, receiving 302 votes. His nearest challenger, McAtee, received 128

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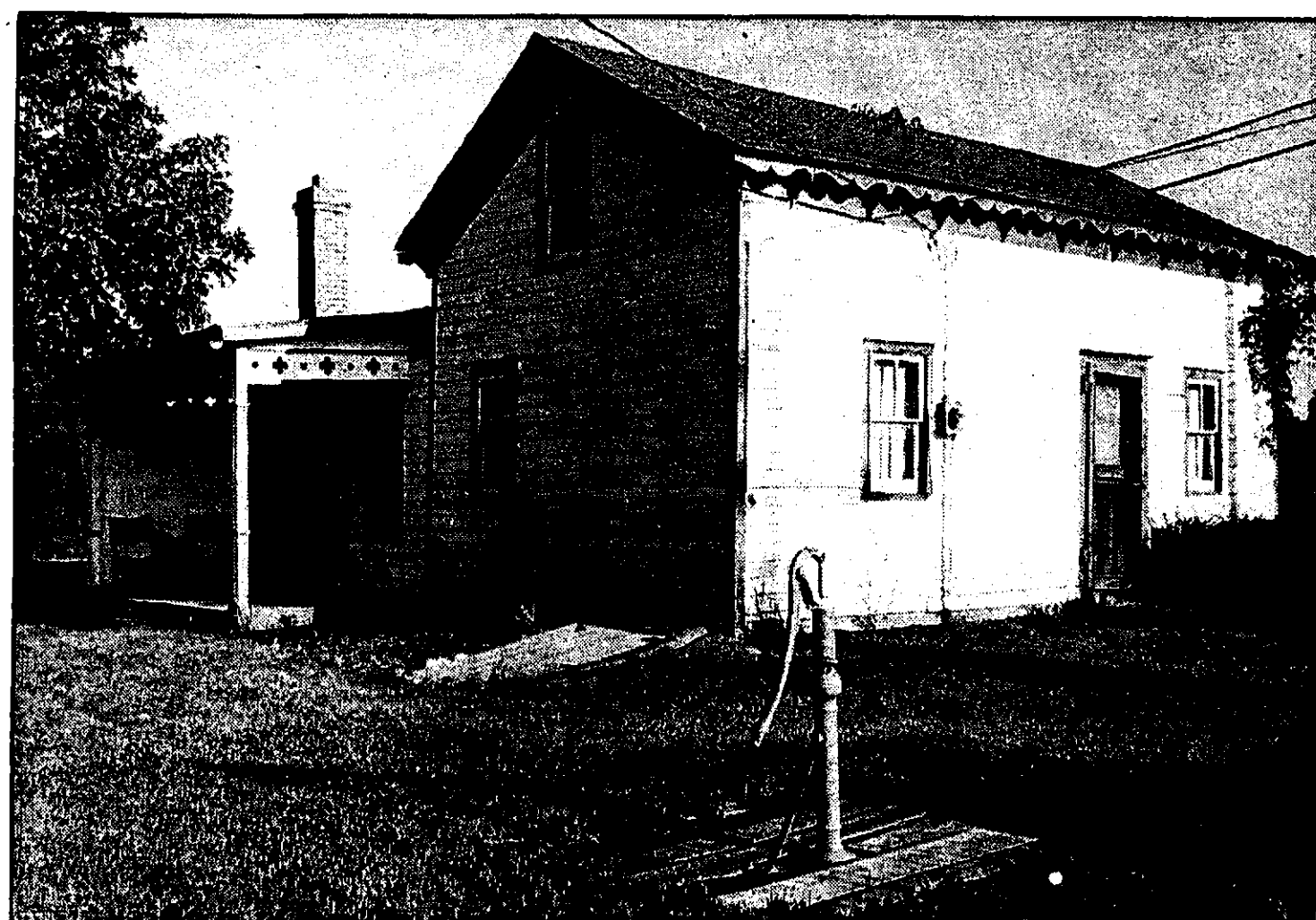


**Congratulations
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Attorney for the city of Wixom
2410 South Commerce
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Tiffin House

Wixom's historical foundation



Photo/Courtesy of Wixom Historical Society

The Wixom-Wire home or the Tiffin House. Whatever name is used for the home at Wixom and Maple roads, its historical significance in Wixom remains the same.

Constructed around 1855, the home was added to the state historical register earlier this year. The home has long been referred to as the Tiffin House, after the family which purchased it in 1897.

The state historical commission refers to the structure by the name of the original owners. Reverend Samuel Wire constructed the home for his wife Lucy Wixom, whose family name was adopted by the community.

The City of Wixom acquired the home in 1975 after the deaths of the Tiffin brothers, William and Charles,

aged 95 and 105 years. The brothers were the last residents of the home, which now houses the Wixom Historical Society. The society rents the home from the city for \$1 annually and the group's work on renovating the historic home.

The Tiffin House may be considered unusual among restored historic homes. It is not an opulent residence, originally built as the parsonage for the Commerce Township Free Will Baptist Church.

The home itself was probably used as a church by early settlers since a church was not constructed in Wixom until 1865. An unusual feature in the home is a nook where caskets were placed during funeral services.

The house contains a single bedroom, a closet and an attic sleeping area for the children. Under the home is the traditional

Michigan basement, an earthen-floored cellar used for food storage.

An additional room was added to the home during the 1870s, with a kitchen constructed sometime in the 1920s. Also at the site are a vine-covered, three-seater outhouse and a small barn, which was relocated from the Hopkins farm.

The Historical Society began restoration of the home after the city acquisition in 1975. The society had funded the restoration project until the city provided community block grant funds.

Members of the Historical Society worked three times a week over a period of several years scraping the paint, removing wallpaper and stripping varnish accumulated over the 128-year life of the house. Efforts could then begin to restore the home to its original state with new painting, wallpaper and

refinishing.

The restoration work began as a Bicentennial project but progressed slowly. Fundraising efforts were helped by the discovery of \$800 hidden in a milk can found in the home.

A museum has been established in the home and efforts are underway to find furnishings dating from the 1850s. Most of the furnishings left in the home by the Tiffin brothers was too modern to be included in the museum.

The initial efforts to gain state recognition for the home and the adjoining cemetery in 1978 were unsuccessful. Historical Society members indicated the Tiffin House may have been overlooked in that year, when the state historical commission was overloaded with requests. The successful application also contained additional detailed information about the home.

Mayoral government working for the city



LILLIAN SPENCER

Wixom's city charter establishes a strong mayoral form of government. Over the city's 25-year history, five mayors have guided the city.

Elected as village president in 1957, Joseph Stadnik served as the

city's first mayor from 1958-1960.

Donald Brooks succeeded Stadnik, serving a two-year stint as mayor, beginning in 1960. Wesley McAtee was elected mayor in 1962 and served eight years, giving him the longest tenure among Wixom mayors.

In 1970, Gilbert Willis was elected mayor. Willis served three and one half years, resigning from office in 1974 before the end of his second term.

After Willis' resignation, Mayor Protem Val Vangieson became mayor. Vangieson filled the remainder of Willis' term and was elected mayor for a full term in 1976.

Lillian Spencer was elected mayor in 1977 and subsequently returned to office in 1979 and 1981. Wixom will be selecting a new mayor in November since Spencer has indicated she will not be seeking re-election.

Happy birthday to us!

Wixom's 25th birthday will be celebrated in a traditional way — a party on Sunday, June 5, complete with cake and candles.

Invitations have been extended to all of Wixom's past-elected and appointed officials. Officials in neighboring communities and local state legislators also have been invited.

Council member Nancy Dingeldey, who is handling arrangements for the party, said two longtime city officials, Gunnar Mettala and Johanna Ware, will be asked to blow out the candles on the city birthday cake.

Mettala has been a city council member since Wixom incorporated and served an additional year as a village councilman. Ware has served since it was formed 25 years ago.

To commemorate their lengthy service to the community, trees being planted as part of Wixom's

downtown revitalization will be dedicated to Mettala and Ware, along with Mayor Lillian Spencer.

Several area companies will be represented at the open house, including planning consultants Villcan-Leman, Acromag, Mac Valve, Detroit Edison, Ford Motor Company and Williams and Works, engineers for the expansion project at Spencer Airport.

"There has been a really good response from the companies," said Dingeldey. "Edison will have a heat pump display. Williams and Works will show a plan of what the airport will look like in the future. That's what people want to know (about the airport)."

For entertainment, Dingeldey said she is attempting to get a traveling banjo player. The festivities will be held from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and are set to be videotaped by Fire Chief George Spencer.

Thanks Wixom!

Here's a Salute to the First
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the next 25 finds us both on
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I'll check your present coverage. See that you have the right kind of insurance.

Cover you for today's higher replacement costs. And provide adequate coverage in the future, automatically, through our Value Protection Program.

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Kevin Ayers Agency
Pontiac Trail & Wixom Rd.
In downtown Wixom



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Mister Natural's
Sandwich & Pizza Cafe

624-9300

30940 Beck
Novi

M-THURS 11-11
FRI-SAT 11-1
SUN 2-10

GRADUATION SPECIAL

6 Ft. SUB	FEEDS 35 People	Reg. '60	'40
3 Ft. SUB	FEEDS 17½ People	Reg. '30	'20
Square PIZZA Party Trays	(12 lg. sq. pieces)		'7 <small>A TRAY</small>

★ Must order by June 9 for Savings ★

WIXOM CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

49175 Pontiac Trail
(Just East of Wixom Rd.)

DR. MARK WELLER

DR. BRYAN KOSTELNIK

OFFICE OPEN: Mon.-Wed.-Fri. 9-12 & 3-7

669-1108

Wixom's 25th Anniversary Special

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

PRESENT THIS COUPON

FREE CHIROPRACTIC EXAM

If x-rays are necessary most insurance plans cover the cost.

The City of Wixom was born 25 years ago — in 1958. The Village of Wixom was born the year before — in 1957. In a garage in Birch Park Subdivision. A rather unlikely place in which to bring a municipality into being. How it happened is a tale of intrigue, suspense and cooperation worthy of events on an international scale.

Prior to 1957, Wixom was a crossroads place on the map that had a post office and the Wixom Elementary School, both of which served almost the same boundaries. The common bond of the people in the area was their Wixom postal address and the school their children attended.

Then, Ford Motor Company built the assembly plant at Wixom Road and I-96 Expressway. It was in Novi Township and was called the Novi Assembly Plant. It was a big plant. It was also a magnificent tax-base "plum."

Jay Sereno of Birch Park, Herb Abrams, and others had a wild dream. What if Wixom could incorporate as a village and include the Ford Assembly Plant within the village boundaries? They would get enough tax revenue to afford municipal amenities and improvements that neither Novi Township nor Commerce Township could provide. They decided to invite community leaders to a meeting in Jay Sereno's patio garage to talk over the idea.

At that meeting were Jay and Al Sereno, Herb and Bill Abrams, Jesse Birchard, Del Bourgeois, Robert Trombley, Ray Lahti, Paul DePodesta, Robert Wagnitz, Gunnar Mettala, Joseph Stadnik, Wesley McAtee, Ray Burke, Stanley Balon, Walter Tuck, Fred Beamish and possibly a few others.

What we discussed was to be kept a secret. Novi — and especially aggressive Township Supervisor Frazer Staman — should not hear about what we discussed or the "plot" would fail.

The group agreed unanimously that we should try to incorporate as a village. How to go about it? We needed legal advice, Herb Abrams knew of a Pontiac attorney, Gerald Utley, who had some municipal law experience. Utley was contacted and asked if he would help us over the legal hurdles — with payment on an "if come" basis. He agreed.

We had another meeting in Jay Sereno's garage with Utley present. He explained the procedure we would have to follow. We first had to establish the boundaries of the proposed village and then get the people living in the area to sign a petition asking for a special election to decide question of incorporation. At the same election, the voters should elect a charter commission

who would write a charter for the proposed village if incorporation was approved.

What would be the boundaries of the village? It was decided that Wixom would encompass the area served by the Wixom Elementary School — an area of about nine square miles. With a population of about 600. Approximately four square miles of the village south of Pontiac Trail would be in Novi Township and would include the Ford Assembly Plant. The other half of the village north of Pontiac Trail was in Commerce Township.

Utley drafted the petitions and we went to the voters within the proposed boundaries to get signatures. Time was of the essence. We had to act quickly to get our signatures and turn in the petitions to call the special election before Novi Supervisor Staman knew what we were doing and called for an election in Novi to incorporate as a village and thus prevent us from "stealing" the Ford Plant.

Staman did find out. He did propose to incorporate Novi Township as the Village of Novi. But there was parochial bickering among the many Novi subdivisions and larger property owners. They needed time to settle differences. To think about it.

In the meantime, the required number of signatures had been obtained on the Wixom petitions calling for a special election. The petitions were approved and the election was held.

The voters of Wixom approved the incorporation and elected a charter commission. The charter was completed and another election called to vote on accepting the charter and to elect a village president and village council who would serve if the charter were approved.

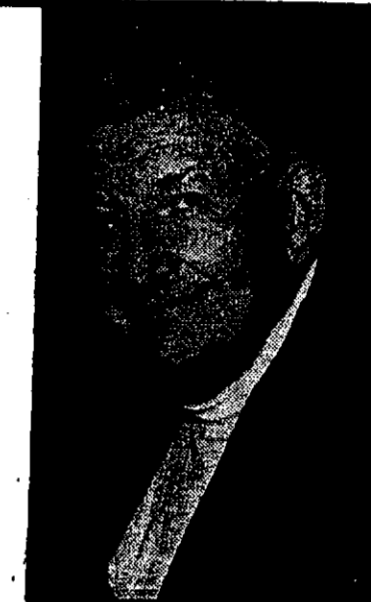
The charter was approved and Joseph Stadnik was elected village president. Elected to the village council were: (July 1957) Gerald Abrams, Robert Wagnitz, Jesse Birchard, Lottie Chambers, Walter Tuck and Gunnar Mettala.

Wixom had been a village for about three months when Joe Stadnik dropped the bomb on us. Supervisor Staman of Novi had not given up the fight for the Ford Plant. Stadnik learned that Staman was promoting incorporation of Novi as a city to get back the Ford Assembly Plant which Wixom had stolen. Because if the township incorporated as a city, it could then absorb into it any village within its boundaries. Which meant that Wixom would lose that half of the village that was in Novi Township — including the Ford Assembly Plant.

The only way Wixom could survive as a municipality was to incorporate as a city before Novi did.

Wixom started in a garage

By GUNNAR METTALA



Again, time was of the essence. Novi again bickered while Wixom circulated petitions asking for a special election to vote on incorporating as a city. Again, secrecy was important. Staman must not find out what we were doing until the petitions were ready. Within one week the required number of signatures were obtained and the petitions turned in. The special election was authorized.

In the election on November 26, 1957, Wixom voted to incorporate as a city and elected a charter commission to draft a charter. Then, early in 1958, another election where the voters approved the charter and elected a mayor and six councilmen.

Joseph Stadnik was elected first mayor of Wixom. Elected to the first Wixom City Council were: Gerald "Bill" Abrams, Lottie Chambers, Jesse Birchard, Ray Lahti, Walter Tuck and Gunnar Mettala.

Four hundred and sixty-six voters in a nine square mile area had created the City of Wixom, nine months after first creating the Village of Wixom.

In 1958, the Ford Motor Company Wixom Assembly Plant had 85 percent of the total assessed valuation of the city — and paid 85 percent of the taxes. It was indeed a tax "plum," and was the reason Wixom came into being.

Gunnar Mettala has been a member of the Wixom City Council since that fateful election in 1958.

Cemetery may be new historic addition

Wixom's cemetery may soon be the community's latest addition to the state historic register, joining the adjacent Tiffin or Wixom-Wire home.

"I feel confident that the state will accept the cemetery for the register," said Wixom Historical Society President Henry Mack. "All of the original settlers are buried there."

The cemetery, located on Wixom Road at Maple Road, was originally known as the South Commerce Burying Ground. "Our records don't really show when the name was changed to the Wixom Cemetery," Mack added.

Among those buried at the cemetery are Alonzo Sibley, whose nearby settlement became known as Sibley Corners. Aijah Wixom, after whom the town was named, is also interred there.

Sibley was president of the cemetery's association, Wixom was secretary and Judson Walker was treasurer. Ironically, the first person buried there was Walker's wife, who died about one month after it was founded.

The cemetery is surrounded with a wrought iron fence, which the historical society is working to restore. "That fence is about 107

years old. It's one of a kind," said Mack. "We are also working to restore grave markers which have been in disrepair through age or vandalism."

The grave markers of Wixom and Reverend Samuel Wire, who built the Wixom-Wire House, are the first to receive restoration. "We will work on a couple markers at a time," he said. "We hope to restore most of the markers with historical significance."

Burials in the cemetery still occur, Mack said, since there are a number of vacant plots. "Once the cemetery was started, the burials were continuing. There really wasn't a peak period for burials," he added. "Now people do have a choice and don't have to be buried in Wixom."

Until shortly after Wixom became a city in 1958 the cemetery was maintained by an association. Since that time grass cutting and other maintenance have been performed by the city Department of Public Works.

"The historical society is working toward another association," said Mack. "Right now there are no set guidelines for plants, flowers, etc. We think it would be beneficial to keep things orderly."

**CONGRATULATIONS
WIXOM ON YOUR
25th ANNIVERSARY.....**

**WE HAVE HAD
EIGHT SUCCESSFUL
YEARS SERVING THE
COMMUNITY OF WIXOM
AND APPRECIATE THE
FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT
OF OUR CUSTOMERS.**

**Brainer's
GARDENLAND**

51701 GRAND RIVER — WIXOM
(1½ Miles West of Wixom Rd.)
349-9070

*We've been with
you from the start.*



**The
Novi-
Walled Lake
News**

Your Hometown Newspaper

See Us For All Your NURSERY NEEDS

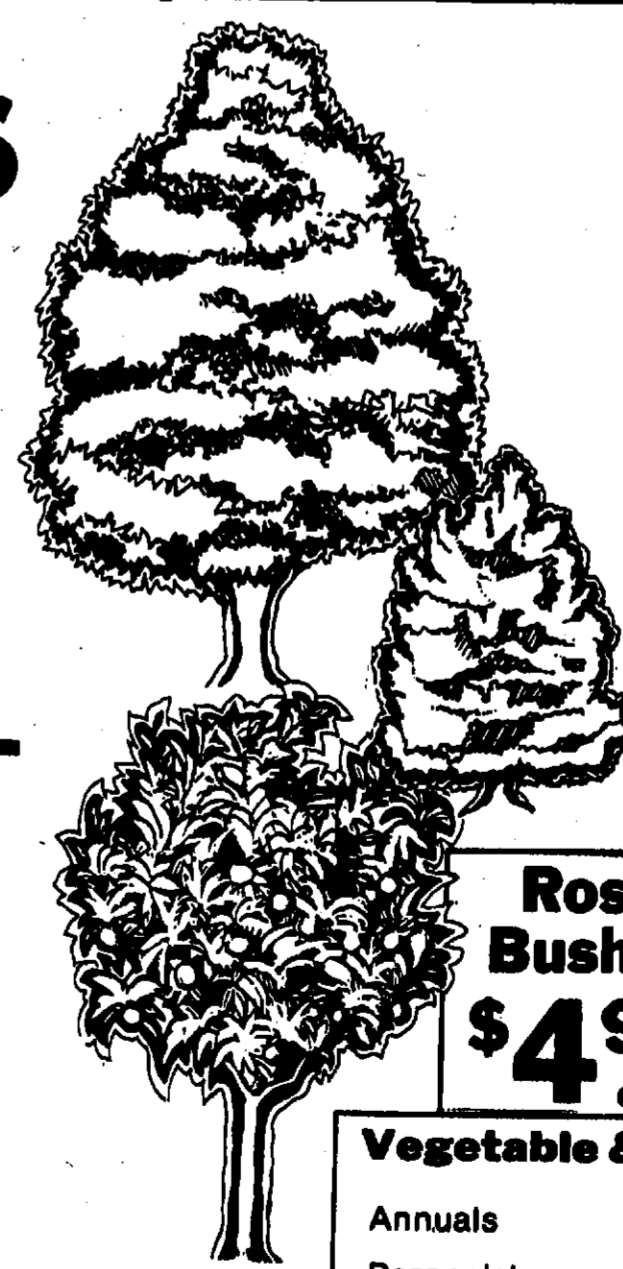
40 Lb.	Mich. Peat	\$1.75
40 Lb.	Top Soil	\$1.75
40 Lb.	Cow Manure	\$2.25

Seed Potatoes	15 lb.	\$3.50
	\$11.00 50 lbs. / 25¢ per lb. / \$19.00 100 lbs.	
Onion Sets	Yellow	69¢ per lb.

Onion Sets	White	79¢ per lb.
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Agrico Fertilizers		
50 Lb.	12-12-12	\$6.25
50 Lb.	16-8-8	\$6.50
50 Lb.	6-24-24	\$7.25
50 Lb.	24-8-12	\$8.75
50 Lb.	46-0-0	\$8.75

Save on Ton Lots
Hanging Baskets & Plants



**Rose
Bushes
\$4.95**
each

Vegetable & Flower Plants	
Annuals	\$7.95 per flat
Perennials	\$8.95 per flat

- Ortho Products
- Garden Supplies
- Fencing
- Cedar Posts
- Bedding Plants
- Vegetable Plants
- Baby Chicks
- Ducks
- Geese

Fruit Trees

Potted
Apples Pears Cherry
Peach Apricot
Nectarines

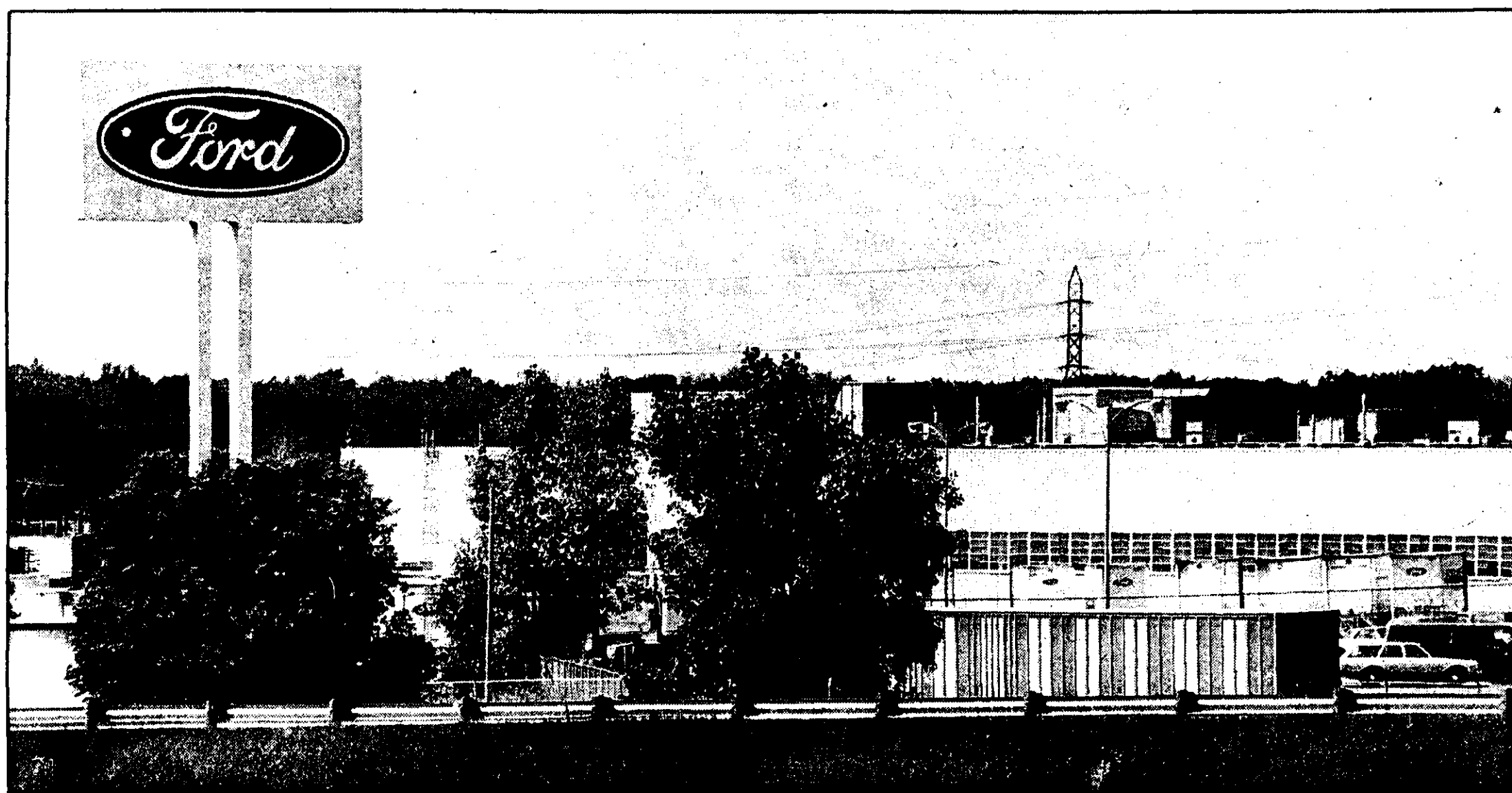
\$5.95
each

Wixom Co-Operative

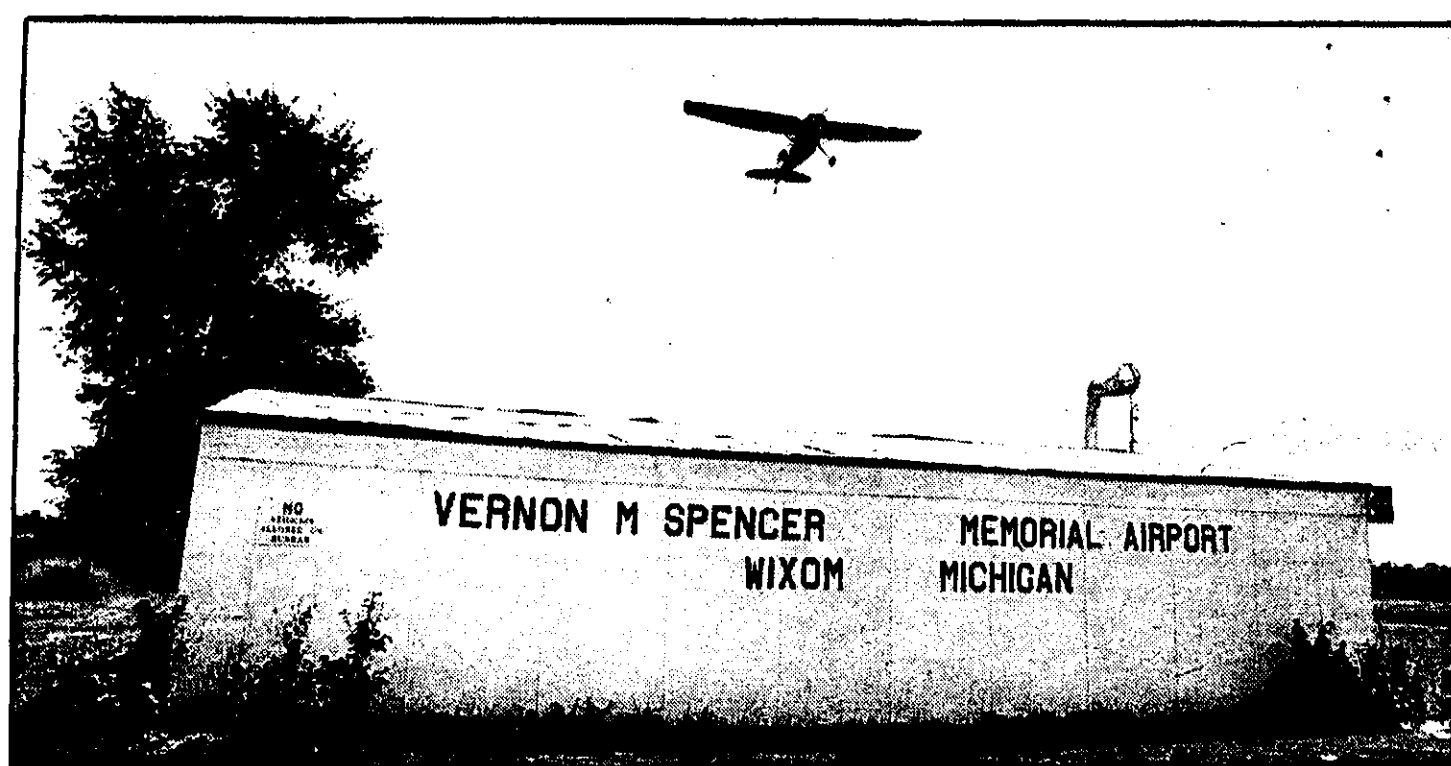
49350 Pontiac Trail

Wixom

624-2301



News photo/STEVE FECHT



News photo/STEVE FECHT



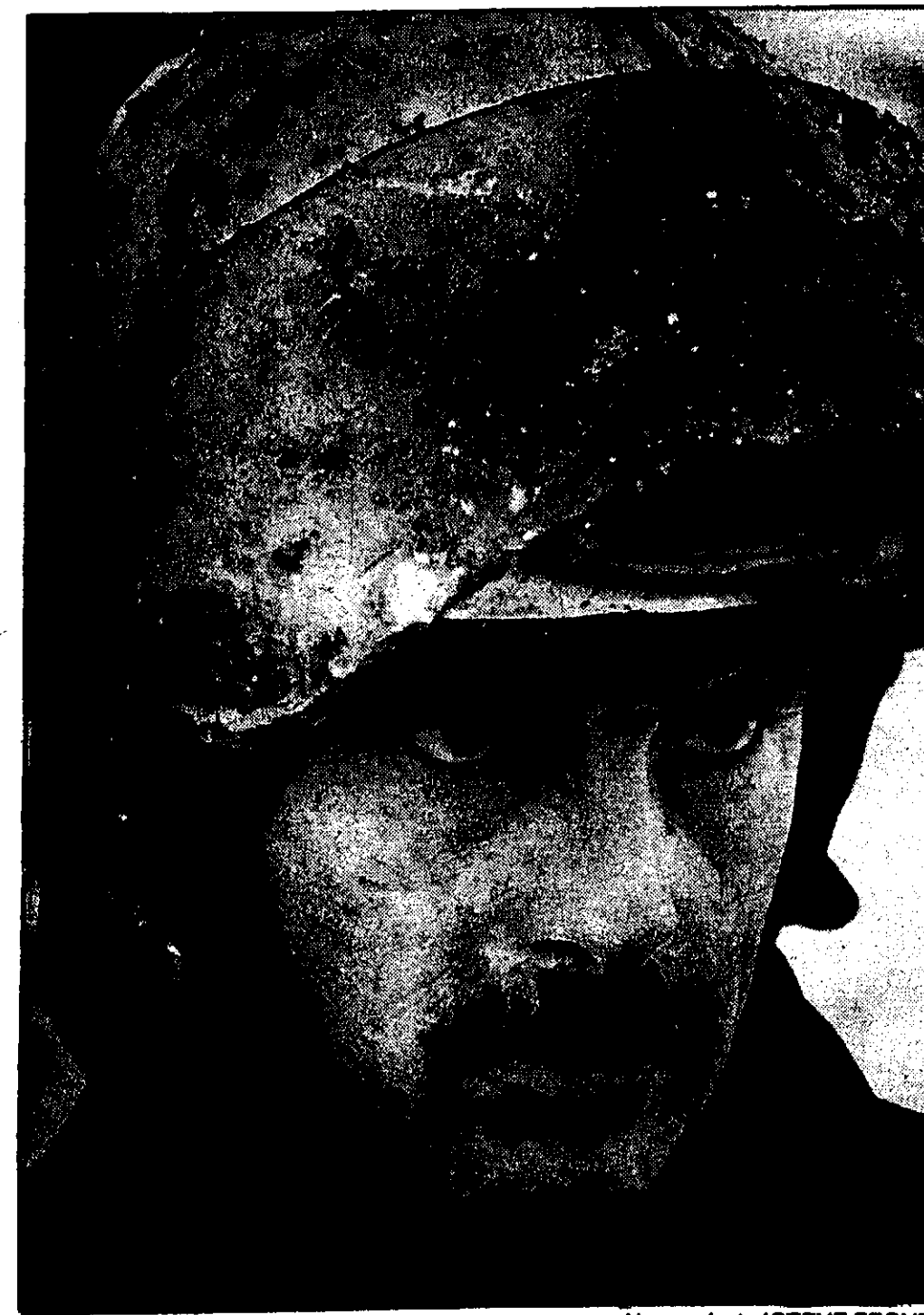
News photo/STEVE FECHT

Look how, Wixom's grown



News photo/STEVE FECHT

After a quarter century, Wixom has blossomed into cityhood offering services, industry and friendship. Some children (beginning above and moving clockwise) discovered what their names looked like in reverse during the library sponsored "Backwards Day." Firefighter Jay Jerore caught his breath after battling a blaze at the Village Apartments during early 1982. Council Member Gunnar Mettala (left) and Police Chief Phil Leonard showed their community spirit during last year's Goodfellows drive. Spencer Airport traffic will be filling the skies of Wixom after its renovation is completed. And the Ford Assembly Plant stands as a fixture in the city's business community.



News photo/STEVE FECHT

Just how fast, fair and friendly are Farmers Agents?

On the night of April 10, 1979, parts of the Texas cities of Vernon and Wichita Falls were devastated by killer tornadoes. Within hours the local Farmers Insurance Group Agents were in the disaster area in force, locating policyholder victims. A few hours later they were joined by a team of claims adjusters who immediately organized an emergency storm center. With radio announcements advising policyholders how and where to file claims and receive emergency funds. The first claim was paid in full in less than 20 hours after the disaster. The final cost to Farmers was in excess of \$16,000,000 on claims for damages or total losses to businesses, private autos, mobile homes, houses and personal property.

With a combined team of Agents and claims adjusters working hand-in-hand, Farmers was one of the leaders in the speedy and satisfactory settlement of claims.

Isn't that a comforting thought?
If you're insured with Farmers,
Why not contact me today?

KEVIN AYERS AGENCY
Pontiac Trail & Wixom Rd. in Downtown Wixom
Ph. 669-3010



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WIXOM

We're New in the City but are looking forward to a long Community Association

WIXOM TV SERVICE

- TV Service
 - Used TV Sales
 - Rotor Antenna Installation & Repair
- 49329 1/2 E. Pontiac Trail - Wixom
624-2316

If You Care - Come and See
Our Accommodations!

Dogs are our business at ..

BOARDING
DOGS AND CATS
BATHING & GROOMING
ALL BREEDS



Member of National Dog Grooming Assoc.
48300 12 MILE RD. NOVI, MICH.
Phone 349-2017

Happy 25th Anniversary Wixom!

Thank you for your patronage.

**Don & Stan's
Servicenter**

49395 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI

624-7222

25 Years And Still Growing Strong . . .



1st City Hall

Proud Of Where We've Been
Proud Of Where We're Going

City of Wixom

Lillian Spencer, Mayor

Stephen Bonczek, Asst. to Mayor

June Buck, Clerk

Richard Holman, Treas.

Council Members

William Wyllie

Wayne Glessner

Dennis Andrews

John Lee

Nancy Dingeldey

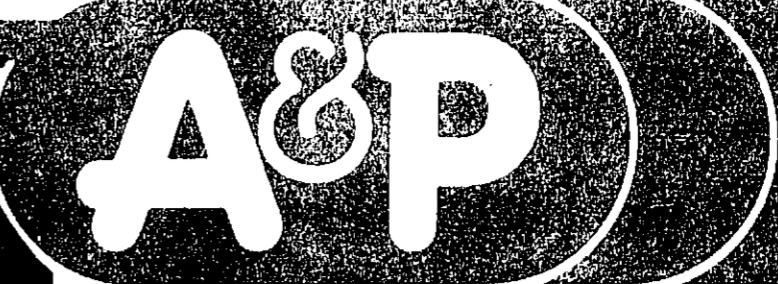
Gunnar Mettala

City Hall

49045 West Pontiac Trail

624-4557

3 WAYS TO SAVE!



ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale at or below the advertised price in each A&P Store, except as specifically noted in this ad.

ITEMS & PRICES EFFECTIVE THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, 1983. QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED.

1. NEW LOW PRICES

We've reduced hundreds of prices throughout the store. Look for our new low price signs on the quality products you buy most.

2. DOUBLE COUPONS

Good on manufacturer's tests-off coupon up to and including 50¢. Does not apply to A&P or Love coupons, or where the total exceeds the price of the item. All Coffee, Cigarettes, and Tobacco. Alcoholic Beverages, Ham, Turkey and Hamburgers coupons excluded. All coupons more than 50¢ or whose total exceeds the price of the item will be redeemed at face value.

3. WEEKLY SUPER BUYS

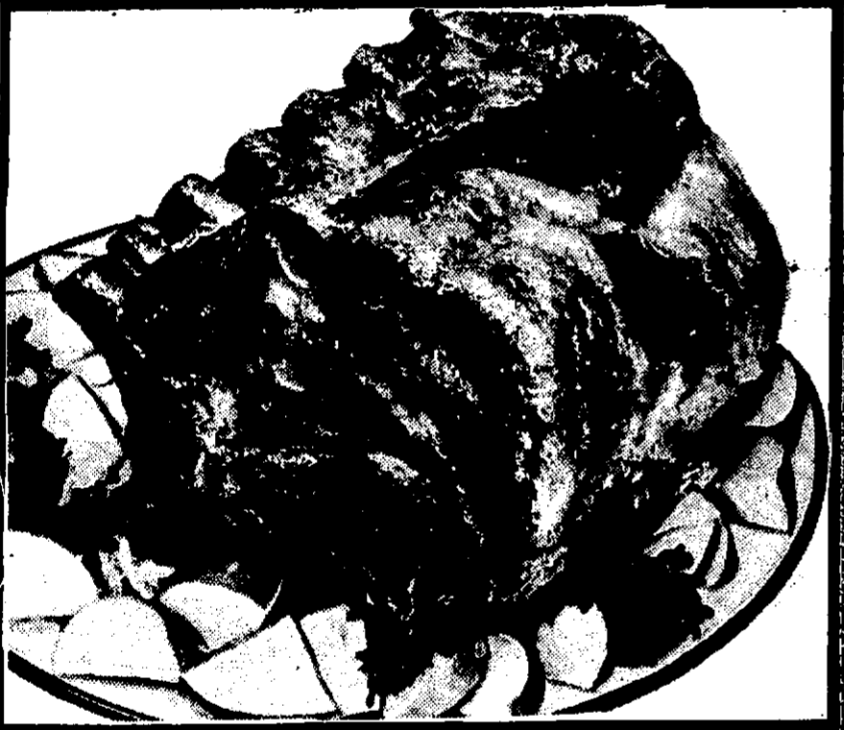
Outstanding savings every week on super buys in every department and save even more with our Super Buy Coupons.

SHOP A&P AT:
41840 W. 10 Mile Rd.
NOVI
OPEN 24 HOURS
8 A.M. MON. THRU 11 P.M. SAT.
SUN. 9:30 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

SHOP A&P AT:
42475 W. 7 Mile Rd.
NORTHVILLE
OPEN 24 HOURS
8 A.M. MON. THRU 11 P.M. SAT.
SUN. 9:30 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

Rib End Pork Roast

PORK LOIN



SAVE 70¢ lb.

1.09

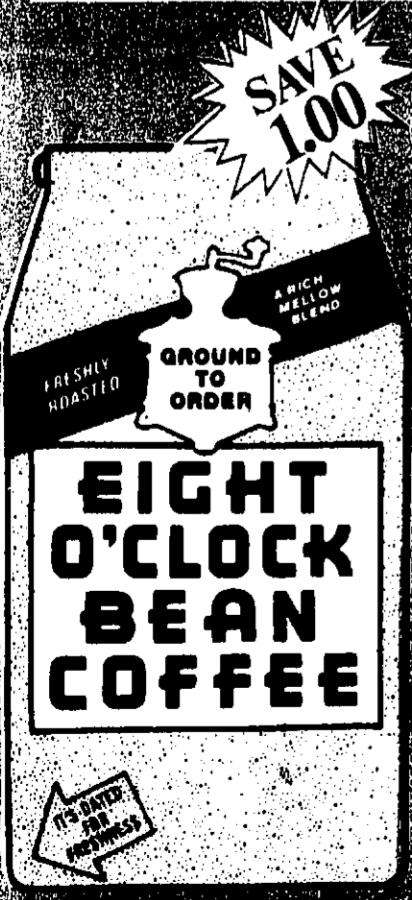
lb.

Golden Ripe Bananas

SAVE

27¢

lb.



Eight O'Clock Coffee

5.99

DR. PEPPER, TAB, SPRITE, SQUIRT, SUNKIST ORANGE, REGULAR OR DIET

Coca Cola

8 1.49

Plus Deposit

½ liter btl.

With Coupon Inside

SAVE

TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE SAVINGS FROM YOUR A&P

SOME ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS AD FOR DESIGN ONLY AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT ITEMS FOR SALE.



ADVERTISED ITEM POLICY Each of these advertised items is required to be readily available for sale at or below the advertised price in each A&P Store, except as specifically noted in this ad.

Items & Prices Effective Thru Saturday, June 4, 1983. Quantity Rights Reserved.

SOME ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS AD FOR DESIGN ONLY AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT ITEMS FOR SALE.

P Super Buy Coupon **SAVE 39¢**

P&Q 20-OZ. LOAF

White Bread BUY ONE-GET ONE FREE

A&P With This Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Customer. Valid Thru Saturday, June 4th, 1983. 658

P Super Buy Coupon **SAVE**

DR. PEPPER, SQUIRT, SUNKIST ORANGE, SPRITE, REGULAR OR DIET

Coca Cola 8 149

1/2 liter btl. plus deposit

A&P With This Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Customer. Valid Thru Saturday, June 4th, 1983. 689

P Super Buy Coupon **SAVE 80¢**

A&P SMALL OR LARGE CURD

Cottage Cheese 79¢

24-oz. ctn.

A&P With This Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Customer. Valid Thru Saturday, June 4th, 1983. 696

PORK SALE from **The Butcher Shop** with supermarket prices

P

Smoked Picnics 69¢

lb.

SAVE 30¢

Ann Page Sliced Bacon 1 69

lb.

SAVE 20¢ per lb.

LARGE END Beef Rib Steaks 2 29

lb.

SAVE 1 40¢ per lb.

CENTER CUT Rib Pork Chops 1 88

Loin 1 98 lb.

SAVE 91¢ per lb.

PORK LOIN Assorted Pork Chops 1 48

lb.

SAVE 31¢ per lb.

P

Rib End Pork Roast 1 09

lb.

SAVE 70¢ per lb.

Loin End Pork Roast lb. 1 19

P FRYER COMBO

Drums, Breasts or Thighs 88¢

lb.

SAVE 41¢ per lb.

TENNESSEE **Family Pack Link Sausage 2 59**

WHOLE OR HALF **Herrud Stick Bologna 1 19**

LUNCHEON OR BEEF PARTY-12 OZ. PKG. **Thorn Apple Valley Assortment 2 19**

THORN APPLE VALLEY SLICED **Family Pack Lunchmeat 2 49**

20-oz. pkg.

Fresh Cod Fillets 2 58

CATCH OF THE WEEK

lb.

GREAT FOR GRILLING **Eckrich Cheese Franks 1 68**

1-lb. pkg.

Eckrich Sliced Bologna 1 99

1-lb. pkg.

Eckrich Smok-Y-Links 1 49

10-oz. pkg.

Eckrich Smoked Sausage 1 99

1-lb. pkg.

P MEAT OR BEEF

Eckrich Franks 1 58

1-lb. pkg.

EIGHT O'CLOCK **SAVE \$1.00**

Coffee 5 99

3-lb. bag

With In-Store Coupon

P A&P CREAMY OR KRUNCHY

Peanut Butter 99¢

18-oz. jar

SAVE 50¢

P A&P DISPOSABLE

Toddler Diapers 5 99

40-ct. pkg.

SAVE

P A&P 1 PLY

Paper Towels 2 \$1

2 jumbo rolls

SAVE

P SUNKIST ORANGE, DR. PEPPER, SQUIRT, TAB, SPRITE, REG. OR DIET

Coca Cola 8 149

1/2-ltr. btl. Plus Deposit

2 Liter 1 09 Plus Deposit

WITH COUPON ABOVE

Ann Page Vegetables 3 \$1

15 1/2-16 1/2 oz. cans

SAVE Up to 12¢

- Fruit Cocktail, Yellow Cling, Sliced or Halves or Slices or Ann Page Mandarin Oranges 59¢ 15-oz. can
- Spinach 1 59 15-oz. can
- Sauerkraut or Ann Page Spinach 2 15-oz. cans

SAVE 20¢

P VAL-U

Homogenized Milk 1 89

plastic gal. jug

DAIRY MONTH Dairy Specials

ALL FLAVORS **Breyer's Yogurt 3 1 29**

8-oz. cups

SAVE

MINUTE MAID **Chilled Orange Juice 99¢**

32-oz. cin.

A&P Cinnamon Rolls 99¢

9.5-oz. tube

A&P Half & Half 59¢

pt. cin.

A&P SWISS, WISCONSIN MED. OR SHARP CHEDDAR OR MILD Pinconning Cheese 2 49

lb.

Delhi Specials Available only in stores with deli.

VIRGINIA Baked Ham 1 59

1/2 lb.

CREAMY Cole Slaw 87¢

lb.

NATURAL Turkey Breasts 1 59

lb.

AMERICAN OR Muenster Cheese 1 39

lb.

BUTCHER BOY Football Loaf 1 99

lb.

P&Q FROZEN **Orange Juice 99¢**

12-oz. can

PLUS DEPOSIT **Pabst Blue Ribbon 8 99**

LANBRUSCO, ROSATO, BIANCO **Ruinite Wine 99¢**

ANN PAGE-11 OZ. JAR **Non Dairy Creamer 99¢**

P&Q SWEET **Cucumber Slices 89¢**

24-oz. jar

P&Q Spaghetti 49¢

18-oz. pkg.

P&Q Plastic Wrap 89¢

20-FT. PKG.

P&Q Margarine 44¢

1-lb. pkg.

Salad Dressing 89¢

P&Q 32-oz. jar

ASST. VARIETIES Cookies 99¢

18-oz. pkg.

A&P ASST. COLORS **Bath Tissue 99¢**

4-roll pkg.

A&P HEAVY DUTY **Laundry Detergent 3 59**

128-oz. btl.

REFILL BTL. **Glass Plus 1 29**

32-oz. btl.

A&P LIQUID BLUE OR GREEN **Dish Detergent 99¢**

32-oz. btl.

A&P ASST. COLORS **Facial Tissue 59¢**

200-ct. box

30-CT. BOX **Kotex Maxi Pads 2 99**

ANN PAGE **Circus Peanuts 89¢**

10-oz. pkg.

PURE VEGETABLE **Wesson Oil 1 89**

38-oz. btl.

DINTY MOORE **Beef Stew 1 59**

24-oz. can

COOKBOOK **Dessert Shells 59¢**

4 1/2-oz. pkg.

ANN PAGE PCSE. & STEMS **Mushrooms 49¢**

4-oz. can

ANN PAGE **Pineapple Juice 1 00**

48-oz. 100

A&P **Tomato Sauce 4 51**

4 8-oz. cans

ANN PAGE WHOLE OR **Stewed Tomatoes 2 16**

16-oz. cans

ANN PAGE **Tomato Ketchup 99¢**

32-oz. btl.

ANN PAGE **Grape Jelly 1 09**

24-oz. jar

CHOCOLATE **Nestles Quik 2 59**

32-oz. can

100-CT. **Our Own Tea Bags 1 49**

SAUCE **Hunt's Manwich 1 79**

27 1/2-oz. can

FRUITY OR COCOA PEBBLES **Post Cereals 1 49**

11-oz. box

Frozen Specials

FROZEN ASSORTED **Ann Page Twin Pops 1 99**

24-ct. pkg.

SAVE

TOPPING **Birdseye Cool Whip 39¢**

4-oz. bowl

Aunt Jemima Waffles 89¢

10-oz. pkg.

PEPPERONI OR SAUSAGE **Ann Page Pizza 79¢**

16-oz. pkg.

APPLE, CHERRY OR PEACH **Pet Ritz Frozen Pies 1 39**

28-oz. pkg.

P ALL FLAVORS **Ann Page Ice Cream 1 49**

1/2-gal. ctn.

SAVE 50¢