

30°
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the NOVI NEWS

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Heated mayoral race rated as top story in 1985

What were the "Top 10" stories in Novi during 1985?

The mayoral race between Robert Schmid and Patricia Karevich had to be one of them. In fact, after looking over the year's events, we rated it the number one story of 1985.

Election news also grabbed the number two spot in our rankings as voter approval of a bond issue for the construction of a new civic center has to rank as one of the most important stories of 1985.

Environmental concerns also were prominent during the past year, and they also won a spot in our rankings.

As did the city's increased problems with traffic congestion.

Several of our "Top 10" had to do more with things expected to happen in 1986. The arrival of Trammel Crow on the scene, for example. Or plans to construct a convention center in the Regional Center Area.

Other stories in our "Top 10" are a bit offbeat. Creation of Creme de Novi ice cream, for example. And sports also rated a nod with Barrie Muzbeck's domination of the state gymnastics championships.

At any rate, here are our nominations for the "Top 10 Stories of 1985:"

1. MAYORAL ELECTION

The symbol of a contingent of Novi supporters favoring a "positive" development climate in the City of Novi, 10-year council veteran Patricia Karevich topped a four-person field of candidates in the September primary.

Pitted against two-term incumbent Robert Schmid in the November general election, Karevich again prevailed to become the sixth mayor in the history of the City of Novi. "Our people have been fantastic," Karevich said the night of her elec-

tion. "I think we now have the foundation to build a great city."

2. CIVIC CENTER

A \$7 million civic center will be built on city property on Ten Mile east of Taft Road, thanks to voters' approval of the project by a 300-vote margin in September. Construction of the facility will allow the transfer of all city operations out of the Novi Library building, permitting expansion of library operations and preventing the city from having to rent office space at high market rates.

Two months after the election, Civic Center Steering Committee representatives announced millage rates to finance the project will be lower than originally anticipated because bids for interest rates on the loan came in lower than anticipated.

3. QUAZITE CORPORATION

The industrial brick manufacturing company became the focal point of an environmental controversy concerning its plant on Grand River Avenue, finally landing Quazite and the city in court in November. While

representatives of the firm reported extensively of the safety of their underground storage of flammable toxic chemicals, mounting concerns over groundwater contamination put city council on the spot.

In September, a new tack arose when neighboring resident Mary Wikman told city council noise from delivery trucks to Quazite site was disruptive up to 15 hours per week. Because of the complaint, council ordered a shutdown of the plant, an order Quazite rejected. Quazite

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Kriewall foresees boom in commercial building

By PHILIP JEROME
managing editor

1986 will be a banner year in the history of Novi, according to City Manager Edward Kriewall.

"It will probably be Novi's largest year for commercial development since Twelve Oaks Mall was built in 1977," asserted Kriewall in his annual outlook at the year ahead.

In addition to the anticipated surge in commercial development, the coming year will be marked by the start of construction on the new civic center which was approved by voters in the September primary election.

Kriewall also anticipates major progress in such areas as the proposed convention center, Town Center and Lakeshore property projects, as well as continued work on such problems as traffic congestion and sewage treatment capacity.

But if there's one theme that will predominate 1986 it will be commercial development, according to the city manager.

"All the projects that have been in the discussion and planning stages over the past two to three years should start to become a reality in 1986," he predicted.

"Some of the larger commercial developments plan to begin and complete construction during 1986 so they can be open in time for next Christmas," he added, referring specifically to Ramco-Gershenson's proposed West Oaks II shopping center at the Twelve Mile/Novi Road intersection as well as the Trammel Crow Company's 51-acre commercial development on the northeast corner of Grand River and Novi Road.

Kriewall noted that the serious intentions of Ramco-Gershenson, Trammel Crow and other commercial developers are amply illustrated by the flurry of activity in the city's building department over the holidays.

"A lot of developers will take vacations during the holidays, and things get pretty slow in the building department," he said. "But this year has been different. The developers have been in every day, getting all their approvals so they can begin construction as early as possible. They

Kriewall: 'All the projects that have been in the discussion and planning stages over the past two to three years should start to become a reality in 1986. Some of the larger commercial developments plan to begin and complete construction during 1986 so they can be open in time for next Christmas.'

need to put in the footings and underground utilities in March in order to be opened by December.

"Everybody's making sure they can begin work as soon as the frost comes out of the ground."

Kriewall also anticipates that the proposed convention center project will come into focus more clearly in 1986. It's possible, he said, that construction of the convention center could begin next year.

"We see the convention center as having a two-fold impact on Section 15," he said. "First, it will trigger completion of a Special Assessment District (SAD) so that we can begin developing the internal road system and related utilities that will open the entire section up for development.

"And, secondly, it should allow our planning department to track additional office development, and perhaps even an additional hotel, for Section 15."

The commercial development and continued progress on the convention center should permit the city's planning department to take on a different direction, Kriewall believes.

The city manager suggests that the West Oaks II and Trammel Crow developments should enable the city to fill a significant portion of the commercial areas designated on the master plan. "We'll be close to closing the door on much more commercial development after that," he said. "What's taking place right now still

conforms to the master plan and we'll be able to turn our attention to other areas."

Kriewall said the city will see the start of construction on the new civic center approved by voters in the September primary. "It's very rewarding in that construction of the civic center will mark the completion of the capital improvements program we outlined some 10 years ago," he noted.

"During that period we have built a new library, new police headquarters, a new DPW facility and four new fire stations. The civic center is the last major building improvement that the city is going to need."

In the area of residential development, Kriewall anticipates a continuation of multiple-family development. Although three new single-family developments are anticipated in the coming year, Kriewall expects continued caution among developers of single-family homes.

"Our current inventory (of single-family lots) is very low; only about 200 lots remaining in the community.

"The problem is that developers of single-family homes got burned during the recession and they're not going to make the same mistake again. Because of what happened in the early 1980s, their policy is not to get too far ahead of the demand and have too

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Novi News/STEVE FECHT

Downhill racers

Some things are guaranteed. Take the day after Christmas, for instance. Just as sure as Santa Claus has a white beard, you can bet that local youngsters will be out playing with their new sleds in the new snow. Trying out the "sled run"

outside the Village Oaks clubhouse last week were (bottom, left and right) Kristi Oikarinen, 7, and Amy Sumerton, 9, while Christi Bruce, 9, waits her turn to slide down the hill and out onto the ice of the Village Oaks lake.

Youth struck by auto near shopping center

A 15-year-old Northville youth remains hospitalized at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills after he was struck by an automobile on Novi Road on Monday, December 23.

A hospital spokesman said Monday (December 30) that Wayne Harrison of First Street in Northville is listed in "stable" condition. The spokesman also said the youth was "comfortable."

Harrison suffered extensive injuries when he was struck by an automobile while attempting to cross Novi Road from the West Oaks shopping center to the Twelve Oaks Mall at approximately 6:14 p.m. on December 23.

The accident occurred during a peak traffic period, and Novi police officers were on the scene at the time, attempting to alleviate the congested traffic conditions.

According to police reports, Harrison and his father were attempting

to cross Novi Road just south of West Oaks Drive. The father observed a southbound vehicle approaching from the north and stepped back onto the curb, police said, but the youth apparently did not see the vehicle and proceeded to walk into the path of a 1981 Ford Escort driven by Richard Frank Wright, 26, of Novi.

The youth was knocked into the air by the force of the impact and landed on the pavement, officers said. He was dragged out of the path of oncoming traffic and onto the side of the road by his father, according to reports.

Officer Thomas Hesse was at the scene at the time of the accident, directing traffic on the east side of Novi Road. Hesse said traffic was so heavy that it took him some time to make his way across the road.

Hesse reported that there is no pedestrian walkway at the location and that traffic flow was continuous when the accident occurred.

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Resolutions

Civic leaders pledge to do better in 1986

By SHARON ROSE
special writer

For some, New Year's Day means nursing a nasty hangover and viewing a marathon of football games.

Others sensibly see it as a symbolic new beginning, a fresh start and a chance to put their lives in order. Hence, the traditional New Year's Resolution.

Making a New Year's resolution is a job for an optimist. And it's kind of like wishing on a birthday candle — you might have better luck if you keep it a secret.

However, as a source of inspiration (and a sign of serious commitment), some of Novi's movers and shakers bravely agreed to share their high hopes for 1986.

After failing in her attempt to have Christmas postponed until her shopping was finished, PATRICIA KAREVICH, Novi's new mayor, resolv-

ed to "be more organized for the rest of the year. I have piles of paper — agendas from various councils and committees — all over my house," she said. "I definitely intend to get my life — and house — in order, and be on time for Christmas 1986."

Civic-minded City Council Member ARLEN SCHROEDER promised, "There are going to be a lot of important issues coming up before the city council in the next year, and I intend to forget about politics and just do what's best for the city."

Put away your checkered flags for awhile. City Manager EDWARD KRIEWALL says, "I promise not to try to enter the Novi race car in the Indianapolis 500 for 1986. But I won't commit myself beyond that."

PAUL POTTER, Economic Development Corporation president, didn't have to think twice. "I'm going to spend time with my children this year. My son, Scott, is 16 and my daughter,

Christine, is 10. I was looking at a family album recently, and it made me realize how quickly they've grown.

"When we moved to Novi six or seven years ago, they were just little kids. Now Scott is 6-feet-2 and 180 pounds. They'll be grown up and gone before we know it. My resolution is to spend more time with them — and I'm really going to keep it."

Back for a return engagement is CLARA PORTER, Director of Community Education for Novi. "I make the same resolution every year — I agree to play one more season on my softball team."

Porter is pitcher for the Typewriter Shop team in a Novi Parks and Recreation summer league. "I really do enjoy it. My daughter, Nancy Muraste, is also on the team, and we've been playing together for eight years. So, this year, once again, I promise to sign a new contract."

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Chicago firm picks Novi for expansion

MainStreet, the newest retail fashion division of Federated Department Stores, has announced plans to enter the Detroit market in its first expansion outside the Chicago area.

One of the division's first stores in the Detroit market will be located in Novi and is scheduled to open in the fall of 1986. Three other stores will be located in Sterling Heights, Roseville and Troy. All four stores are scheduled for fall 1986 openings. MainStreet Chairman John H. Elyer said six to eight additional stores are planned for the suburban Detroit area.

"We feel Detroit is the perfect area for the chain's first expansion beyond Chicago because of the high concentration of middle income households," said Elyer. "We appeal to moderate income families looking for good value and customer service they aren't finding in other stores."

"We are very pleased with the development of MainStreet thus far," added James J. Amann, president of the division.

"In just 14 months, MainStreet has grown to nine stores with two additional stores in the Chicago area planned for the spring of 1986. The four stores in Detroit will be our first step outside of Chicago as we aggressively pursue a national rollout. Four additional 1986 Detroit stores are expected to bring the total to 19 stores in 24 months."

Each of the new MainStreet stores will range in size from 70,000 to 75,000 square feet.

In Novi, MainStreet will be one of the major anchor tenants of a new retail complex being developed by Ramco-Gershenson, Inc. The new shopping center, West Oaks II, will be located at Twelve Mile and Novi Road, immediately north of West Oaks I and directly across the street from the Twelve Oaks Mall.

MainStreet specializes in apparel and home textiles for the entire family and has been designed to fill the marketing niche between department stores and mass merchandisers.

"Consumers want a larger selection of popular-priced merchandise than is usually available at traditional department stores," said Elyer. "A great number of consumers believe their apparel and home textile needs are not being filled by existing retailers."

Elyer said MainStreet will fill this gap by offering large assortments of fashion merchandise and brand names the customers know and trusts. It also offers quality, value and customer service in an easy-to-shop, visually exciting environment, Elyer said.

MainStreet has created nearly 2,000 jobs in the Chicago area. The four Detroit stores are expected to bring nearly 800 new jobs to Michigan.



Santa's workshop

Anybody who saw the special culinary version of Santa's workshop at the Sheraton Oaks during the holidays will know that it wasn't something the staff whipped up overnight. In fact, Pastry Chef Helen Dowling (left) with considerable help from Susan Hudson

(right) and Rebecca Woodruff (not pictured) started work on the village in October, ultimately spending more than 60 hours apiece on the special display.

Novi News/STEVE FECHT

County announces new wage package

PONTIAC — The Oakland County Board of Commissioners has adopted a new salary administration package for its 1,300 non-union employees.

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said the new salary package will evaluate job responsibilities and duties within the organization. "The new salary package is a more modern and sophisticated method of evaluating salaries," said Murphy. "Similar plans are being used by private employers. I'm satisfied with the package."

The Personnel Committee appointed a study group in 1984 to review the county's current classification and salary structures. Commissioners who gave extra efforts to support the salary package include John Calandro (R-Neovi), James Dayon (D-Madison Heights) and Nancy McConnell (R-Bloomfield Hills).

The study group's objective was to develop a better method of evaluating job classifications to determine pay ranges. The package will be implemented in January 1986.

Currently, the county has more than 400 salary ranges. The new system will establish 15 grades for employees included in the plan. In each classification, the salary grade will be based on points received on 10 different factors, including education, experience required, supervisory responsibilities, problem solving and others.

The percentage increase for employees will vary and be based on whether the current maximum rate of the employee's class is above or below the recommended salary grade maximum.

Twelve Mile plans move forward

Despite opposition from one member, Farmington Hills City Council took the first step this week to establish a financing mechanism — a Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) — to pay for road improvements along the Twelve Mile corridor and I-696.

In a 6-1 vote December 16, council created a tax increment authority by appointing the nine-member Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors as the TIFA governing board. Council also designated the boundaries of a TIFA district in which the financing mechanism would be used.

Under TIFA, property values in the designated district would remain frozen. Tax increment revenue is derived from the increase in assessed valuations in the district over the initial value at the time the TIFA plan is enacted. Farmington Hills officials propose capturing such revenue for up to 12 years.

The revenue derived from the increase in assessed valuation is used by the city to pay for the improvements. A city has the option of taking all or part of any property tax revenue based on the assessment increase. The Farmington Hills plan calls for capturing 47.8 percent of the revenue based on increased valuations.

Critics of TIFA claim its diversion of property tax revenue away from schools puts an unfair strain on school district budgets. The one Farmington council member to oppose granting the funding mechanism, Terry Sever, told fellow board members: "I oppose the creation of this in principle. I don't see any reasoning behind shifting this burden to the Farmington school board."

The improvements along the thoroughfare and I-696 serves as a foundation for the city's creation of a TIFA along the commercial corridor. Although all costs still are estimates, the city would be faced with an approximately \$9.6 million bill for construction of a four-lane boulevard along Twelve Mile from Farmington to Haggerty Road, as well as I-696 improvements. The funds would include widening and construction of additional interchanges.

To help pay estimated total costs, city officials plan to use approximately \$40,500 in the city's share of the state's gas and weight taxes. The remaining \$9.5 million would, if all goes according to plan, be paid for with help of TIFA revenues.

The Twelve Mile plan also calls for the widening of the thoroughfare from Inkster to Orchard Lake. But the more than \$500,000 price tag would not be included under the TIFA plan.

In order to qualify for TIFA, the council must designate a district and outline the type and cost of improvements. Sometime in January or February, final development and tax increment plans are to be presented at a public hearing. At that time, city officials expect to have more accurate cost projections.

Sales still booming 'day after' holiday

By JEAN D'AMICO

Shoppers seeking bargains at after-Christmas sales were responsible in large measure for crowds at area stores last Thursday and Friday. A smaller number were toting packages to return or exchange.

Twelve Oaks Mall Manager William Clogg described post-Christmas as the mail as "typical for the day after Christmas" and mentioned that "anytime you buy there's the chance of the wrong size, or color, or it just doesn't work."

"There is no uniform policy on returns or exchanges at the mall in Novi, noted Clogg."

"All (stores) have their own home offices and their own policies," he said. He also reported that "there's an awful lot of money — customers are out spending (money) gifts from Christmas."

"Store managers are very positive about the way sales are going. There doesn't seem to be a lot of hostility in the air. I haven't seen any on either side (purchase or salesperson)."

Clogg explained that excessive returns or lack of merchandise to make an exchange could cause hostility, but emphasized there did not seem to be that situation this year.

"The clean out of Christmas merchandise was very orderly in the gift shops, such as Hallmark, in the mall," Clogg added, noting that Lord and Taylor had put its Christmas items together in one area.

Linda O'Neill, manager of the Eddie Bauer store, said she is not allowed to give out figures but noted that returns were "average" and customers were doing much sale shopping.

"An awful lot of (mall) stores had shelves very bare before Christmas as a result of a very strong season. We can't complain," Clogg concluded.

Nearby, in Northville, Scott Lapham, president of the Northville Community Chamber of Commerce, said that returns this year seemed to be "minimal" for his shop (Lapham's Clothing) and that he had received no reports of many from other merchants along Northville's Main Street.

"Sandra's Hallmark (at 124 East Main) had people at 8:30 a.m. waiting for the store to open at 9 a.m. Then they were lined up from one end of the store to the other," Lapham reported.

At Four Seasons across the street Thursday morning business also was brisk. Both stores had reduced Christmas merchandise, cards and wrapping to half price.

"They were here at 9 a.m. with their noses pressed at the front door," he said. Whittington of Four Seasons reported.

Clogg: 'An awful lot of (mall) stores had shelves very bare before Christmas'

She added that a Detroit couple was among the store's first customers and that they purchased almost \$500 of Christmas merchandise.

"It seems they had dinner earlier in the month at Genetti's and then gone window shopping in town," she related, "and someone had told them about our after-Christmas sale."

"We asked if they had a shop, but the woman said no, that her husband was 'just in love with Christmas' and they decorated 'from basement up through the whole house.'"

Four Seasons' owner G. Dewey Gardner said he did not believe the shop had a single return.

Lapham attributed the minimal number of returns at his store to the effort of salespeople to help with sizes as Christmas selections were made.

"I guess we did a good job of figuring sizes," he said, "noting that customers had been encouraged to bring in clothing but that salespeople could judge the size."

Lapham said that Northville merchants do not have a uniform return policy. His store will make returns or give cash refunds (if customers have receipts) through January 6.

"We have to have it (merchandise) back so we can start our sale January 8," he explained.

He said a few local stores give bills of credit rather than cash exchanges and emphasized that each store has its own policy.

"The Better Business Bureau of Detroit and Eastern Michigan notes that most retail businesses have a specific return, refund or exchange policy and points out that 'they are not required to give you a cash refund.'"

"Some stores have an exchange policy only. You can exchange the gift for a similar item, but you cannot get a refund. Others give full cash refunds or credit your charge account with no questions asked," the BBB report states, adding that policies should be posted or noted on sales slips.



New group offers help

A special educational/support group for adults who grew up in homes with an alcoholic parent or parents is being started by the Faith Community United Presbyterian Church in conjunction with Counseling Concepts of Northville.

"There is a growing awareness that this group of individuals faces a special set of problems and needs," commented Reverend Richard Henderson, pastor of the church on Ten Mile between Novi and Tait Roads.

The group will be led by Deirdre Warren, an ACSW with Community Concepts.

The group will meet at Faith Community, beginning Monday, January 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sessions will continue to be held at the church every Monday for eight consecutive weeks.

Warren received her Master's degree from the University of Michigan in 1973. She worked three years as a medical social worker at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor and has worked at Family Services of Detroit and Wayne County for the past 10 years.

"Children from families with alcoholic parents learn to take on certain types of roles as survival techniques," she explained. "They may become extremely responsible, a loner, a clown or a scapegoat."

"The problem is that once they leave the home, they're stuck with that certain role; they need to get out and find out who they are and what they want to do."

"Often times, the roles they adopted as a survival technique in the home situation can inhibit their ability to function in a normal situation. The old roles are no longer being needed."

Anyone interested in more information may call Warren at 348-3121 or Henderson at 349-5666. The program is offered free of charge.

Pets need extra care

Now that the cold winter months have arrived, the Oakland County Animal Control Division is reminding all pet owners not to leave their pets outside without proper shelter, food and water.

If pets must be kept outdoors, be sure to fill their shelters with fresh straw, cedar chips and cover the entrance with a heavy flap to keep pets from freezing. Remember, it is a Michigan law to provide your animal with shelter.

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'Test drive' turns into truck theft

A man who asked to "test drive" a new 1986 Chevrolet four-wheel pickup truck at Marty Feldman Chevrolet December 19 may still be driving as far as police know.

A salesman at the Chevrolet dealership on Grand River told police that the man drove into the lot in a 1983 GMC pickup truck at approximately 6 p.m. and asked to test drive the new 1986 model. The man told the salesman he wanted to drive the pickup truck to Farmington so that his wife could see it, according to reports.

The suspect then left in the new truck, leaving the 1983 GMC pickup behind. When he had not returned more than an hour later, the salesman called police to file a stolen vehicle report.

Investigating officers later discovered that the GMC truck had been reported stolen out of the City of Farmington earlier that same day.

The suspect was described as a white male with blonde hair and approximately 36 years old. He was further described as 6'0" tall and 175 pounds.

Alert work by two employees at the Merry Go Round store at Twelve Oaks Mall led to the recovery of a 1983 jacket on December 20.

A store employee reported that three black males entered the store at approximately 5:30 p.m. While two of the suspects were distracting the attention of clerks, the third suspect concealed the jacket underneath a coat he was carrying over his arm, reports said.

When the three suspects left the store, they were followed by a male employee into the lower level of the Lord & Taylor store at the east end of the mall. The suspect with the coat apparently observed that he was being followed and dropped the stolen merchandise behind a clothing rack in the

Area Blotters

children's department, where it was recovered by the employee and returned to the store.

Some \$500 worth of Christmas presents were stolen from a car owned by a Wixom man while it was parked outside Blue Ribbon Screen Printing at 4311 Grand River on December 19.

The complainant said he placed the merchandise in his car at 9:30 p.m. and then went off to do more shopping. When he returned to the vehicle at 11:30 p.m., he discovered that someone had used a rock to smash the passenger side window.

The responsible parties removed an Escort radar detector in addition to the merchandise, which included three women's sweaters, a watch, gloves, a scarf and some negligee.

A Novi resident reported that thieves smashed the windows of his 1980 Chevrolet Corvette and stole both T-ops while the vehicle was parked outside the A&P store on Ten Mile on December 22.

The man said he parked the car outside the store at 4:20 p.m. and returned no more than 10 minutes later to find the windows smashed and the T-tops missing.

When the three suspects left the store, they were followed by a male employee into the lower level of the Lord & Taylor store at the east end of the mall. The suspect with the coat apparently observed that he was being followed and dropped the stolen merchandise behind a clothing rack in the

Two white females are suspected of stealing two pairs of leather gloves and a set of Guy Laroche underwear from Winkelman's at Twelve Oaks on December 17.

A clerk in the store said she was helping the two suspects try on merchandise. She said the two women took a quantity of clothing into the dressing rooms and subsequently left without making any purchases.

When the clerk checked the dressing room the two women had been using, she found store clothing tags as well as sensor-matic tags lying on the floor.

A woman from Port Wayne, Indiana, reported that two suitcases filled with clothing were stolen, apparently from the lobby of the Novi Hilton on Haggerty Road.

The woman said she saw the luggage sitting in the lobby of the hotel while she was checking out on December 21 at 8:30 a.m. She assumed the luggage had been placed in her car and did not discover the theft until she arrived at her home.

Two pink jacquard blouses were reported stolen from the Women's World clothing store at Twelve Oaks on December 23 at approximately 5:20 p.m.

A clerk told police that she saw two black females take the blouses, but she had been unable to locate the suspects once they left the store. Value of the stolen blouses was placed at \$132.

A fourteen mile resident reported that unknown individuals broke into his residence and removed some \$498 in cash from the top of a bedroom dresser.

The man said the money was taken December 21 between 6:40 and 10:30

p.m. Police said nothing else appeared to have been taken and that no signs of forced entry could be located.

A Wixom man reported the theft of his 1984 Pontiac Firebird from the Twelve Oaks parking lot at December 20.

The man said he parked the car in the Blue Lot at 4 p.m. to go shopping and discovered it missing when he returned approximately four hours later.

A 1979 Ford van stolen from Jones Insulation at 22811 Heslip Drive during the night of December 20-21 was recovered three days later by Livonia police.

The owner told police the van was stolen from in front of Jones Insulation between 6 p.m. on December 20 and 7 a.m. on December 21. The van was valued at \$10,000 and contained a Vanco automatic insulation blowing machine valued at \$6,000 as well as two ladders and assorted hand tools.

The vehicle was recovered at the corner of Schoolcraft and Newburgh Road shortly after noon on December 24. Reports indicated that the ignition switch had been punched out. Reports did not indicate whether the blowing machine, ladders and hand tools had been taken.

Wire wheel covers were stolen from four different automobiles while they were parked outside the Red Tumbler restaurant at 4081 Grand River on December 21. All four thefts occurred between 7:30 and 11 p.m.

One complainant told police he was leaving the restaurant at approximately 11 p.m. when he observed a white Ford van occupied by a white male and white female leave the lot at a high rate of speed.

Area Briefs

HOW MANY CASES OF AIDS

have been recorded in Oakland County? Since 1981 there have been 18 cases of Oakland County residents contracting AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), according to the Oakland County Health Division.

County health officials reported nine cases of AIDS through the fall months of this year. Eight cases were reported in 1984 and one was reported in 1985. There were no cases in 1982 or 1983.

Of the 18 Oakland County residents contracting AIDS, all have been adults with an average age of 34-35, according to officials.

THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

has filed suit to force the Birmingham School District to provide remedial reading, speech therapy and other auxiliary services to non-public, non-resident school students as well as transportation from parochial schools to receive the services.

The action came a little more than a month after the Birmingham school board decided it would not obey an order from the State Department of Education to provide the services. All school districts in Michigan are required to comply with the order from the State Department of Education.

The Birmingham school board decided to disregard the order on the basis of the large and growing number of non-public schools within its boundaries and the near-total dependence on local tax money to pay for the services.

The attorney general has ruled that a school district where the non-public school is located is accountable to pay for the services. Birmingham's position is that the school district where a student lives and his family pays taxes should be required to pay for the services.

A NEAR MAJORITY OF VOTERS

in the seven-county region would support a one-cent increase in the sales tax to build and operate public transportation in the region, according to a poll commissioned by the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMATA).

An opinion poll by DeVries and Associates showed that 49 percent said they would vote for a sales tax increase, while 43 percent said they are opposed. Eighty percent are undecided. Support for the tax has increased 6 percentage points since last February when 43 percent favored it.

Walter DeVries, who conducted the poll for SEMATA, said voter support for public transit and for higher taxes to build and operate transit systems appears to be at an all-time high in the region.

Obituaries

JESSIE THOMAS HEAVENS

Jessie Thomas Heavens, a longtime area resident, died December 19 at the Huron View Lodge Nursing Home in Ann Arbor.

A funeral service was held December 21 at Lynch & Sons (Richardson-Bird Chapel) in Walled Lake with Pastor Perry Thomas officiating.

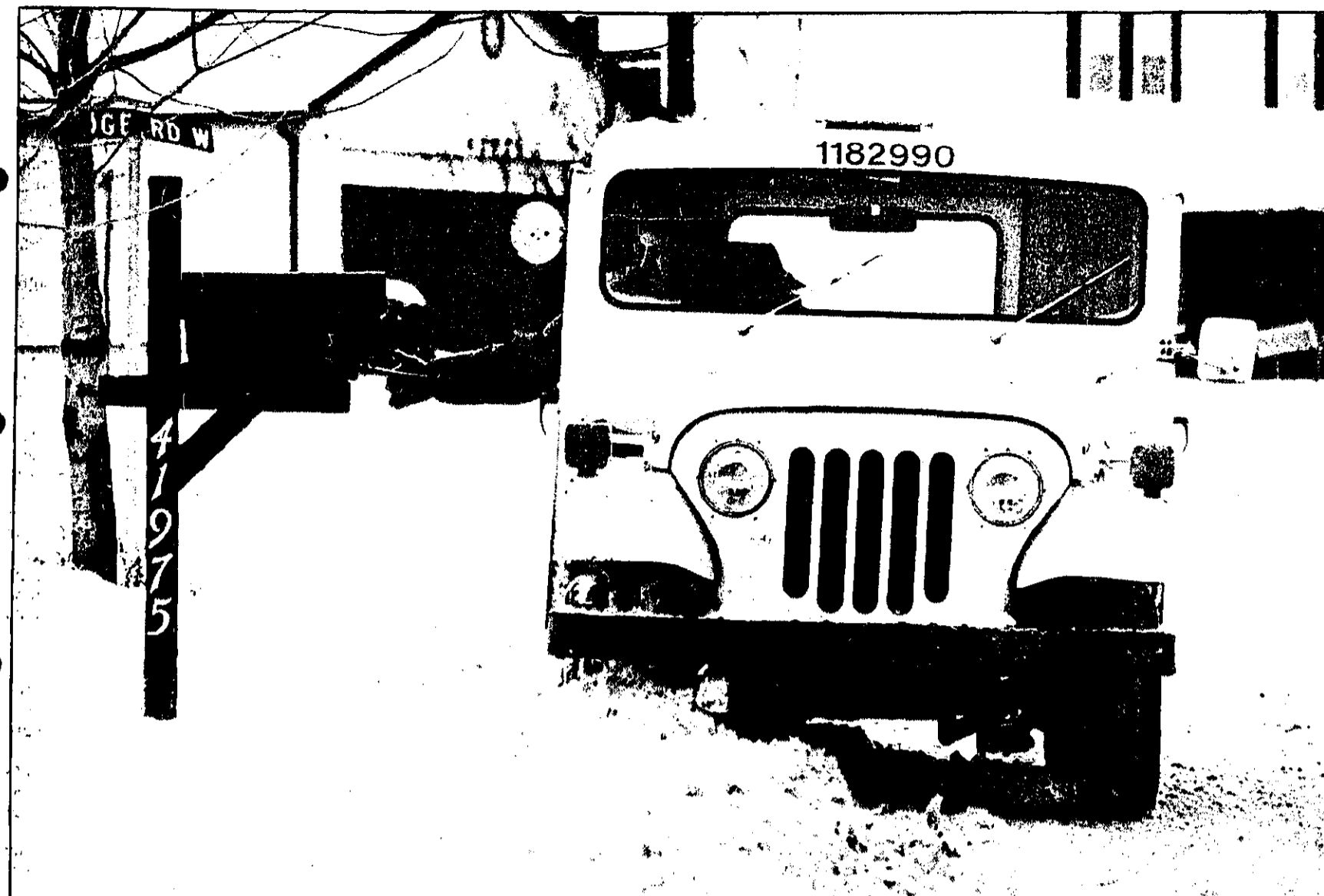
The daughter of Andrew and Henrietta (Elliott) Wilson, she was born in Ontario on January 16, 1893, and was 92 at the time of her death.

Mrs. Thomas was a Walled Lake area resident from 1927 to 1982. She was a teacher in the Walled Lake school system from 1927 until she retired in 1962. She was a member of the Commerce United Methodist Church, Commerce Eastern Star, Westlakes Parliamentary Club and the Toastmistress Club of Tempe, Arizona.

She taught dramatics and was active in amateur theater.

She is survived by three daughters: Mrs. Harry (Marion) Colestock of Ann Arbor; Mrs. Terry (Beverly) Snider of Tempe, Arizona; and Mrs. Larry (Margaret) Ridley of Walled Lake. Ten grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren also survive.

Interment was at Commerce Cemetery.



Looking for help

Sure the roads are cleared, but it's the snow piled alongside the road which creates problems for letter carriers like John Edwards. Shown delivering mail in the Meadowbrook Glens subdivision in the picture above, Edwards said plowing through the snow is no problem when the truck is filled at the start of the run. The problems come at the end of the run when he has to get out and walk through the snow to put the letters in the mailboxes.

blem when the truck is filled at the start of the run. The problems come at the end of the run when he has to get out and walk through the snow to put the letters in the mailboxes.

Bill takes aim at curtailing tax appeals

LANSING — A six-bill legislative package has been introduced in the Michigan House to help local communities battle large firms seeking to reduce property taxes, according to State Representative Willis "Bill" Bullard, one of the sponsors of the proposals.

Bullard (R-Highland) said the legislation was prompted by General Motors' attempt to cut its \$215 million annual state and local property tax bill. Bullard's district includes Novi.

Bullard's bill (HB 5266) would require industrial taxpayers appearing an assessment before a local board of review to provide a good faith estimate of the property in question and the method used to determine that value.

"It has become common practice for large industrial firms to demand assessment reductions without providing any information to the review board," said Bullard. "This legislation is designed to address this issue. With so much at stake for the companies and for the local districts, these records are important."

"With tens of millions of dollars being considered, boards of review must have an opportunity to evaluate fairly the taxpayer's claims," he added.

Bullard said that while a reduction by a board of review is recognized in state and county equaliza-

tion as well as in local budgeting, reductions ordered by the Michigan Tax Tribunal must often be paid from a single tax year and can seriously jeopardize local budgets.

"These lower assessments could mean less money for schools and local services, and possibly higher property taxes for residents," he said.

The bills are scheduled to go to the House Property Tax subcommittee for hearings early next year.

"This bipartisan package is a sound approach to this problem," Bullard asserted. "It would help local assessors learn quickly if a large firm wants to challenge its tax assessment, and it would give them the legal tools to deal with the appeals."

One complainant told police he was leaving the restaurant at approximately 11 p.m. when he observed a white Ford van occupied by a white male and white female leave the lot at a high rate of speed.

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'Doctors not leaving Michigan'

Contrary to public statements, doctors are not leaving Michigan and not discontinuing obstetric service, according to a recent analysis by the Michigan Office of Health and Medical Services.

The statewide study reveals that the supply of obstetricians/gynecologists exceeds the national average by 42 percent. As a consequence, according to the report, "obstetricians/gynecologists are likely to experience growing economic competition with the likelihood that some will seek less crowded specialties."

The report contradicts claims by the Michigan State Medical Society that malpractice insurance rates are forcing physicians in this specialty to discontinue the service or leave the state. The study emphasizes that the new factor in such decisions is "the current and future surplus of obstetric capacity in Michigan."

"This survey provides scientific proof that the insurance companies and the medical profession are not telling us the truth," charged Nicholas Rine, president of the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA). "Their scare tactics amount to emotional blackmail intended to frighten and intimidate the public with threats of a doctor shortage caused by malpractice lawsuits. In reality, their numbers are increasing to the point where they are competing

furiously with each other for the business."

Dr. Robben W. Fleming, Governor Blanchard's special factfinder assigned to analyze the malpractice "crisis," found that the total number of doctors practicing in Michigan has increased by more than one-third since 1975. Dr. Fleming poses the question: "Is the fact that there are now more malpractice claims, with accompanying rise in insurance premiums, aggregate damages and aggregate expenses, simply or partially a function of the fact that there are more doctors than there were before?"

Michigan's share of residents in obstetrics/gynecology is more than 50 percent greater than the rest of the nation, assuring continuing expansion in this field.

"Michigan can expect to have an abundance of obstetric capacity for the foreseeable future," according to the study, but "physicians are not distributed evenly across the state. . . . A surplus of providers does not resolve the access problems and higher profits, and it is the medical profession itself which has failed to weed out its bad doctors and demand safe and proper standards of medical care."

The Office of Health and Medical Affairs survey was published December 6, 1985, by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget.

Michigan's share of residents in obstetrics/gynecology is more than 50 percent greater than the rest of the nation, assuring continuing expansion in this field.

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FARMINGTON HILLS

City leaders reveal resolutions for '86

Continued from Page 1

In the "try and try again" department, Novi City Clerk GERRI STIPP says, "I'd like to roll over a couple resolutions that I made last year, but didn't quite accomplish. This year, for sure, I'm going to lose 20 pounds and I'm going to have a will made."

Joining the ranks of the diet-conscious is TOM O'BRIANOVIC, Novi's Parks and Recreation Director. "I've promised myself I'll lose 30 pounds. I intend to discipline myself mentally and physically to get into a good exercise and diet program."

"I used to be very active, but since college I've gone progressively downhill. I'm just going to have to make more time for exercise. Early morning is my best bet. I always had a bridge over it so that those who follow will have an easier time."

"Second, I resolve to let my children, Ryan, 13, and Phillip, 9, remain children as long as they can. Too many parents want their kids to grow up quickly and act like adults."

"And the third is for my wife, Linda. I've promised to try to be home from work by 8:30 every night, but here we are again on the threshold of a brand new year. Out with the old, in with the new. It's not too late to resolve anew."

"I'd like to complete a ground water information exhibit here at the library. I've promised Joe Bretl that I'll do it — now I've got to find the time."

Still having trouble tackling the topic of resolutions? Experience shows one only need consult a spouse for help. Husbands and wives are usually more than happy to offer suggestions.

Last year's New Year's Day ice storm may have gotten some people off to a slippery start, but here we are again on the threshold of a brand new year. Out with the old, in with the new. It's not too late to resolve anew.

Entry permits offered to Maybury State Park

Annual entry permits for Maybury State Park in Northville are now on sale in the park.

Assistant Park Manager David Chapman reports that the price remains the same: \$10 a year, with senior citizens 65 or older who are Michigan residents getting a reduced price of \$1.

Chapman said the park will mail permits if a self-addressed envelope is included with the request and a check made out to the State of Michigan. Send request to Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck Road, Northville, Michigan, 48167. The permits are valid for all Michigan State Parks.

Opinions

the NOVI NEWS

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1988

As We See It

Sewers and roads head area agenda

The holiday pause in the normally frantic pace of modern life gives us all an opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year and to lay plans for the next. Assuming that our elected representatives in Washington and Lansing have also managed to step back from the furor of daily budget battles and partisan ax-swinging, we'd like to suggest a few items that we feel deserve attention in the coming year.

This is not a priority list — you won't find the state prison program or the malpractice liability issues discussed here, nor will we address federal tax reform or the Strategic Defense Initiative. We've tried to focus on items that receive less attention but should not be stuck on the back-burner.

High on the list of necessary items for this area is infrastructure improvement. Sewers and roads both are feeling the strain of the continuing development boom in the Novi-Northville area. Local governments can go only so far in addressing these problems.

Getting some form of the former Super Sewer project reinstated would go a long way toward not only accommodating the development taking place, but also toward improving the environment. The Rouge River is acknowledged as little more than an open sewer that slashes through Oakland and Wayne Counties like an infected wound. Improving and expanding sewer service through the river valley deserves a higher priority than it is getting in Lansing or Washington.

Similarly, traffic congestion is becoming common on Haggerty Road, Novi Road, Six, Eight, Ten and Twelve Mile roads. For all the noise about Michigan's improving business climate, and the real evidence that the improvements all have led to business expansion, too little attention is paid to the need for roads to service this expanding economy.

While we may be contradicting ourselves a bit, we also feel certain that Reducing the Federal Deficit is a necessary step that demands an immediate response. Doing so might mean postponing some infrastructure improvements we think necessary, but that price is acceptable if the burden is spread evenly. For all the publicity on this issue, real progress has been invisible. Although the deficit and the strain it puts on the lending system is a threat to the economic recovery, our major concern is that we are mortgaging our nation's future to fuel an economic boom for political purposes. Anyone who has tried it with their household budget knows you can't go on borrowing forever — one day all comes due. Even if there is a way to put it off for now, it is immoral to hang that burden over our children's heads.

Stoppag measures to address deficiencies in Michigan liquor licensing laws are commonplace and we hope to see yet another passed early in the year to help restaurants to serve beer and wine on the premises. But what's needed is a Complete Review and Revision of the Liquor Licensing System. The current quota system has substantial support from those who have invested heavily in it, but a more objective look indicates that

the system creates a needless restraint of trade in some instances. Regionalizing the quota system so that it is less dependent on boundaries between local governmental units is one means of addressing the problem. Another would be to draw clearer distinctions between the various licenses — there is no sense to a system that denies a restaurant the privilege of serving wine with full meals because there is a bar down the street that survives by selling shots of whiskey.

Every six months or so, we see another proposal to reorganize the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make it more efficient and more effective in performing its duties. It's about time for the talk to turn into action.

The problem is not only with the DNR — environmental protection, for instance, is assigned to a hodge-podge of state departments as is the promotion of tourism. The most rational proposals we've seen would make the present DNR a nearly pure parks and recreation agency while assigning its environmental and tourism duties to new departments.

Such sweeping change is unlikely in an election year like 1988, especially if it means hiring additional state employees. Governor James Blanchard is intent on keeping state employment levels down at least through the election because it makes for a handy little illustration of purported efficiency. We think most voters understand that efficiency is more than raw numbers and would welcome a more rational organization of state government.

Which brings us to the issue of bolstering the Department of Mental Health. If Blanchard is serious about making room for new prison guards on the state employment rolls by cutting employment in all other departments, he will do a disservice to DMH. The DMH was damaged as much during the recession, and needs restoration at least as badly, as the department of corrections.

We aren't exactly enthusiastic supporters of the way DMH has been run in the past decade, but we have to acknowledge that strict limitations on resources played a major role in some of the worst decisions the department has made. We neglected our corrections system until it got so bad that it could no longer be ignored. We should learn from that experience and address the problems in DMH before they reach crisis proportions.

Michigan passed a seatbelt law in 1985 and started trumpeting decreases in traffic fatalities almost immediately. At the same time, the state police spent a bundle on an absurd high-intensity enforcement effort in order to get 51 percent of the highway drivers to drive at 55 mph or below to keep the federal government from withholding highway construction funds. A repeat of this wasteful effort is virtually inevitable in 1988.

The limit was initiated in 1974 as a "temporary" measure to address the oil shortage, which has since become a glut. A decade of this foolishness is enough — Abolish the 55 MPH Speed Limit and let's spend our time and money on more fruitful pursuits.

Families gather for Christmas



Jean Day

It wasn't until 10 minutes after 10 a.m. Christmas morning that we knew whether we would be eating Christmas dinner in Northville or in Ada, Michigan (a Grand Rapids suburb).

Daughter Laurie is a visiting nurse in Kent County and was "on call" until 10 a.m. Christmas morning. Had she gotten a telephone message to go on emergency duty we were going to pick up the 33-pound turkey (which had been cooking in the oven since 7 a.m.) and take dinner across the state. Thankfully, she wasn't called, but it made us realize how much we look forward to the togetherness of Christmas.

Actually, it at times is easier to get together from across the country than across the state. Air travel has helped continue the tradition of "home for Christmas" for great numbers of people. Daughter Robin flew in from Seattle (bringing vivid pictures of her trekking adventure in Nepal, India and Thailand and show).

The large number of former Northville residents now living in the Puge Sound area found this holiday season that there finally are non-stop flights between Seattle and Detroit. John Jerome, his wife Becky (the former Becky Kaake) and their baby daughter Emily also flew in from Seattle for the holidays — and stopped by the newspaper office to see John's brother Phil.

Northville Township Treasurer Richard Henningsen reported he had his sons, daughter and parents for the holiday and also had a story of a Christmas season birthday celebration made possible by some well-planned air connections.

Henningsen's wife Ann and daughter Beth, on vacation from her studies at Michigan State University, had taken a trip to Phoenix and routed themselves home via New York City in order to participate in a surprise birthday celebration there.

Beth's friend and Northville Commons neighbor, Lisa Ehlert, now a student at Kalamazoo College, was celebrating her 21st birthday with a trip to N.Y.C. as she and her mother

Actually, it at times is easier to get together from across the country than across the state. Air travel has helped continue the tradition of "home for Christmas" for great numbers of people.

Kathy Ehlert stepped off the plane to begin the birthday adventure, a surprised Lisa was greeted by Beth and her mother. The four then had a special lunch and shopped along Fifth Avenue, making for a memorable 21st Christmas season birthday.

The holiday reunion for the Ed Jamieson family (he's owner of Northville Travel Plans) brought together son Jeff from Michigan State University and daughter Kelly from Stockholm, Sweden. Kelly is staying with a former roommate from the University of France and her mother in Stockholm while interviewing for a position in international marketing.

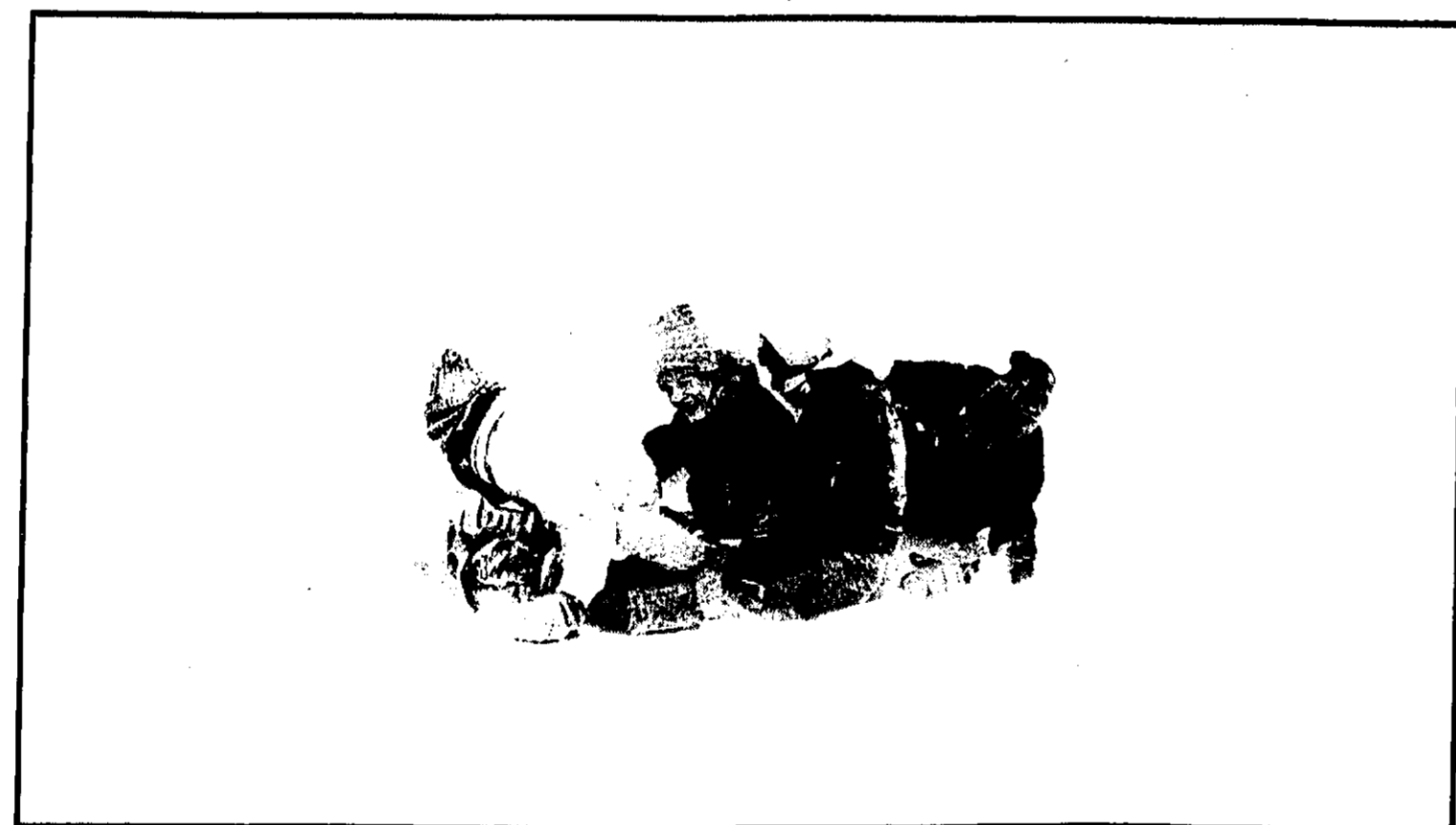
The visit initially was saddened by the loss of the family's golden retriever to cancer two weeks ago. Someone, however, recalled seeing a Green Sheet classified ad for golden retrievers and the Jamiesons traced it down last weekend.

From a litter of 12 five-week old puppies, they have reserved one to be picked up next week — leaving just enough time for Kelly to train the Christmas present puppy before she returns to Sweden.

These tales of Christmas are a far cry from the "over the river and through the woods" versions of the past, but they will be the memories of Christmas 1988 in years to come as Lisa recalls the year she flew to New York and the Jamiesons remember their golden retriever's age by the season in which he joined the household.

In sight

By Steve Fecht



Slideways

Cinnamon roles delivered in limo



Phil Jerome

My plea last week for the recipe for cinnamon roles that appeared on the old Bisquick boxes was answered Christmas morning... sort of.

Anybody who found time to read last week's column may remember that one of the Christmas traditions in my family was that my mother always made special cinnamon roles after we had opened our gifts on Christmas morning.

Well, we're still hoping that somebody remembers the recipe, but in the meantime we had the next best thing.

We were sitting around the Christmas tree opening our gifts Christmas morning when my wife suddenly announced that someone was at the front door and asked if I recognized him.

I glanced quickly out the front window and saw a man who I did not recognize standing outside with a big smile on his face.

"I don't know who it is," I announced, getting up to answer the front door.

It was while I was passing the living room window that I

saw the long, sleek, grey limousine standing in the driveway. "But whoever it is travels in style," I added.

After arriving at the front door, I realized there were two people, not one, standing outside.

And when I opened the door, I was able to see the second man — Gary Selbert, general manager of the Novi Hilton. All dressed up in a suit and a nice overcoat.

"I read your column yesterday and thought you might enjoy some of the cinnamon roles from the Novi Hilton," he announced. "I don't know if they're the same kind your mother used to make, but I guarantee they're good. Our pastry chefs at the hotel baked them up."

He then handed over seven boxes of cinnamon roles, declined my invitation to step inside for a cup of coffee, got back into the limousine with his aide and drove away.

He was right about those cinnamon roles, too. They were great. Not exactly the kind my mother used to make, but several of them were very close. Very, very close.

It was a really nice gesture... added a special touch to our Christmas morning. And even though the Hilton's cinnamon roles weren't exact duplicates of my mother's roles, they tasted just as good.

Still hoping for progress in 1988



Kevin Wilson

"new" makes us forget that the calendar year is an entirely arbitrary measure of time and that the wheels of government turn slowly, if at all.

So it was with our editorial staff last January, when we drummed up an agenda for government actions we hoped to see in 1988. At the risk of great embarrassment, I looked up that editorial to see what happened. We made five suggestions and, being generous in interpreting them, we can say two bore fruit.

We are not so presumptuous as to claim it was because of our words, but we did see a continued improvement in Michigan's business climate and measures taken to protect the Great Lakes from the potential of diversion. Read last year's editorial in detail, however, and you'd note that the measures taken don't match the ones we'd suggested very well.

Something about the New Year warps the editorial mind, compelling it to make rash predictions, call for action in the coming year that is known to be highly unlikely and generally roam about claiming that the next 12 months should be better than the last. The idea of something being "new" makes us forget that the calendar year is an entirely arbitrary measure of time and that the wheels of government turn slowly, if at all.

On the other three issues, we've seen less progress. Included was a call for a renewal of effort to expand sewer capacity in northwest Wayne and southwest Oakland County. The suggestion is repeated in today's editorial because nothing has been done.

We also suggested work toward an equitable and swift means of designating prison sites — that Oakland County used the entire year before coming up with a solid recommendation is ample evidence that no one took that suggestion seriously.

And, finally, we urged a re-evaluation of the formula for the distribution of state school aid funds — fat chance.

We weren't totally off-base — all three suggestions remain sound to my mind and have been topics of discussion. But getting action out of government, unless there is a crisis, has become virtually impossible. Consider the things that did happen in 1987 that we might have suggested that would have improved our record.

There was the seatbelt law, for instance. It looked dead-in-the-water last December but came back to the forefront more rapidly than even its strongest supporters could have reasonably hoped. Then there was the long wrangle over liability laws and the insurance industry — which will carry over into 1988. And there was the continuous partisan squabble

over when the state income tax would be rolled back, particularly in light of the hyped-up "Solvency Day" when the deficit was at last eliminated. And don't forget all the attention on South Africa and the resulting debate over eliminating state investments in companies that operate there.

In Washington, it was the budget deficit and the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) that dominated the activity. Meanwhile, many worthy ideas receive lip service and nothing more. Looking at the editorial agenda we've compiled for 1988, you could make a case that no significant action is likely on any of the six items within 12 months.

With luck, all the talk about the federal deficit will produce something. But review of the state's liquor laws, re-organizing the DNR, changing the highway speed limit and investing in mental health are all risky ventures for an election year — they may generate campaign rhetoric, if anyone feels compelled to talk sense. We can hope for better roads and sewers, but expecting results in one year may be wishful thinking.

So why do editorial writers, not only here but in almost any paper you can name, devote time and space to talking about these things? Because we're people; like you, we try to find order in the midst of chaos and see in the turning of a calendar page some slim, elusive cause for hope.

Confidence high for U.S. economy

Consumer buying attitudes remain upbeat thanks to lower interest rates and agreeable market prices, according to the University of Michigan's Institute of Social Research (ISR). The latest ISR Survey of Consumer Attitudes shows that although consumers expect slow economic growth during the year ahead, they believe it will be accompanied by low rates of inflation and lead to only small increases in the unemployment rate.

The overall level of consumer confidence remained high in the third quarter survey, which included nearly 2,000 interviews nationwide through September 30.

The ISR Index of Consumer Sentiment registered 92.1, compared to 94.3 in the prior quarter and 98.9 a year earlier. It was the 10th consecutive quarter with an index figure in the 90s, the longest period of consumer optimism at that level since the 1960s.

In the third quarter, 72 percent of all families held favorable buying conditions for large household durables, just below the all-time peak of 74 percent. Attitudes toward new home buying set a new record at 71 percent. Favorable attitudes toward automobile purchases were unchanged at the record level of 67 percent first established in the second quarter.

Increases in consumer spending, according to survey director Richard T. Curtin, are not likely to outpace growth

in incomes, indicating a rising saving rate.

He described an emerging "buyer's market." "The response of consumers to the recent interest rate reductions has demonstrated not only their willingness to spend, but also their resolve to wait for discounts on prices and interest rates," he said. "Gone are the days when consumers felt pressured to act by ever-escalating prices."

"Today, consumers are more willing to engage in comparative price shopping and expect to be enticed by discounts on prices as well as interest rates. Rather than the consumer scrambling to keep up with price increases, now sellers must scramble to keep up with the more demanding consumer."

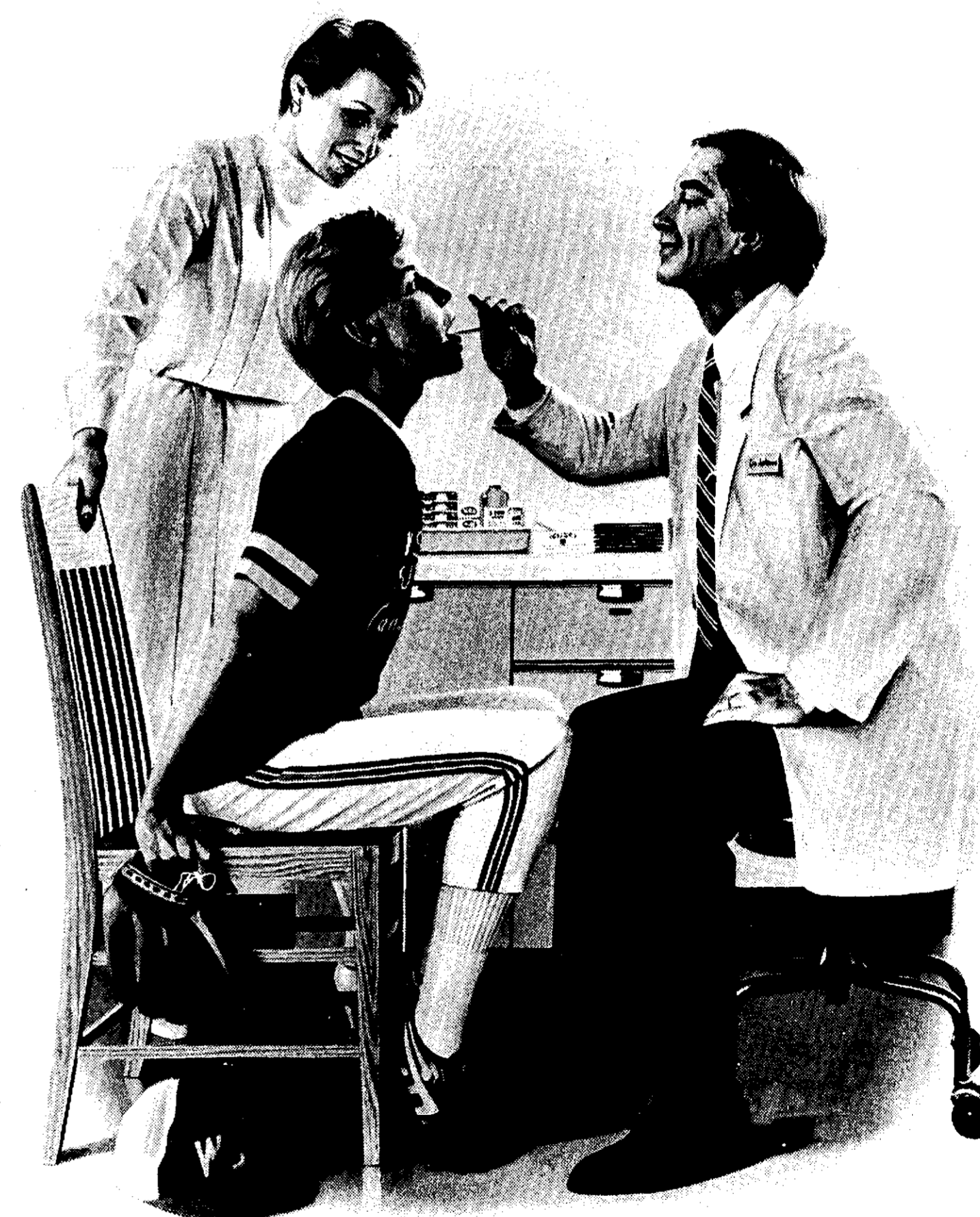
Curtin said changes in various economic conditions are partially offsetting.

"The strongest aspects of consumer sentiment — personal finances and buying attitudes — have resulted from low inflation and widespread discounting," he said. The weakest aspects involved lowered prospects for income and employment. As a result, the pace of real income growth during the year ahead will play a pivotal role.

"Declines in spending would be greater if there were a substantial resurgence in inflation, interest rates or unemployment."

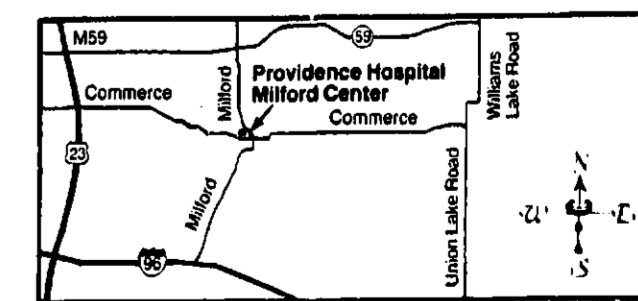
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COUNTY OF OAKLAND

RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION, 1200 N. TELEGRAPH ROAD, PONTIAC, MI 48053 (313)858-0493

On or about January 3, 1988, the County of Oakland will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the 1984 and 1985 Rental Rehabilitation Programs (RRP).

The RRP is designed to assure an adequate supply of standard housing affordable to lower-income tenants by providing (1) government funds to finance the rehabilitation of privately-owned residential rental properties and (2) rental assistance to lower-income persons to help them afford the rent of these units. Approximately \$5,000 from 1984 funding and \$149,000 from 1985 funding will be used to assist the rehabilitation of rental housing located in specific low and moderate income neighborhoods throughout forty-eight communities participating in the Oakland County Community Development Grant Program.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the within project has been made by the County of Oakland which documents the environmental review of the project. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the County of Oakland Community Development Division, 1200 North Telegraph Road and is available for public examination in room 112 of the County Executive Office Building between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

All interested agencies, groups and persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the Environmental Review Record to the Oakland County Community Development Division Manager from December 27, 1985, until the close of business at 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 1986.

The County of Oakland will undertake the Rental Rehabilitation Program as described above with Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of Oakland is certifying to HUD that the County of Oakland and Daniel T. Murphy, County Executive, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certifications is that upon its approval, the County of Oakland may use the Block Grant funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance to the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) That the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; or (b) that applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD at Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 West Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Objections to the release of funds on basis other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. No objection received after January 20, 1986, will be considered by HUD.

DANIEL T. MURPHY
Oakland County Executive

(1-1-86 NN, SLH, MT)

The Novi News welcomes Letters to the Editor. We ask, however, that they be issue oriented, confined to 500 words and that they contain the signature, address and telephone number of the writer. Names will be withheld on request, but a brief explanation of why the request is being made should accompany the letter. Deadline for submission is 3:30 Monday p.m.. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity and libel.

Letters welcome

Cable Listings

The Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission has announced next week's programming schedule for Channel 12, the community access branch of the MetroVision System which serves Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

Noon - Lifestyle
12:30 p.m. - The Artist in You: Drawing the contour
1 p.m. - Madonna Magazine: Hospice
1:30 p.m. - Financial Aid Seminar
3:15 p.m. - Misconceptions about social security
3:30 p.m. - Oakland County Parks and Recreation: All seasons' nature show
6 p.m. - Lifestyle
6:30 p.m. - The Artist in You: Drawing the contour
7 p.m. - Madonna Magazine: Hospice
7:30 p.m. - Financial Aid Seminar
9:15 p.m. - Misconceptions about social security
9:30 p.m. - Oakland County Parks and Recreation: All seasons' nature show

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

Noon - Church of Today: God Speed
1 p.m. - Fitness Fever
1:40 p.m. - Who Will Sound the Alarm? IRS issues
2 p.m. - Insight
2:30 p.m. - Community Upeat
3:30 p.m. - Back Porch Video
6 p.m. - Church of Today: God Speed
7 p.m. - Fitness Fever
7:40 p.m. - Who Will Sound the Alarm? IRS issues
9 p.m. - Insight
9:30 p.m. - Community Upeat
9:30 p.m. - Back Porch Video

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

Noon - Health Talks
12:30 p.m. - On Our Own: Issues of the handicapped
1 p.m. - News Center 12
1:30 p.m. - Oakland County Parks and Recreation: Oaklowns
2 p.m. - Toastmasters
3 p.m. - Livonia Junior League Football: Eagles vs. Vikings
6 p.m. - Health Talks
6:30 p.m. - On Our Own: Issues of the handicapped
7 p.m. - News Center 12
7:30 p.m. - Oakland County Parks and Recreation: Oaklowns
8 p.m. - Toastmasters
9 p.m. - Livonia Junior League Football: Eagles vs. Vikings

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

Noon - Perceptions
12:30 p.m. - Cranbrook Hospice
1 p.m. - Novi Middle School science projects
1:30 p.m. - Viewpoint
2 p.m. - Insight
2:30 p.m. - Community Upeat
3 p.m. - In One Bar
3:30 p.m. - Lifestyle and Health
6 p.m. - Perceptions
6:30 p.m. - Cranbrook Hospice
7 p.m. - Novi Middle School science projects
7:30 p.m. - Viewpoint
8 p.m. - Insight
8:30 p.m. - Community Upeat
9 p.m. - In One Bar
9:30 p.m. - Lifestyle and Health

These stories made news in '86

Continued from Page 1

owners subsequently filed suit against the city in Oakland County Circuit Court, where the matter is to be heard.

4. TRAFFIC

While Novi residents have been relatively enthusiastic about the city's economic growth, the absence of a firm commitment by the county, businesses and the state to address the city's traffic problems is making some of that enthusiasm wear thin.

In particular, no short-term relief has been projected for the long two-lane stretches of Haggerty Road, the Haggerty-1496 interchange, or Twelve Mile east of Novi Road, and of the increasingly-congested Novi Road near the city's commercial district.

The uncertainty of when regional authorities will shoulder the financial burden of improvements has led to a conflict between officials who want to hold off development until the transportation framework improves and officials who insist the road improvements won't come unless developers move in and put increasing economic and political pressure on state and county authorities.

5. TOWN CENTER/GRAND ROAD

The dreamers and pragmatists may have been looking at the same stretch of road, but they were seeing entirely different things. In increasing amounts, the City of Novi has been deluged with what many officials considered a series of unimaginative and downright ugly-

appearing development prospects proposed for the Grand River corridor.

A 90-day freeze on new development declared last spring by City Council left property owners stewing. A subsequent city-initiated rezoning effort lightening up permitted property uses along Grand River did little to relieve their frustration.

But officials - in particular, architect Linda Lemke of Brandon Rogers and Associates - conceived a striking concept for a two-part Town Center area at the rezoning of city council and city planners. Among its enthusiastic believers are Rogers and Mayor Patricia Karevich. Karevich said she expected to see the emergence of a real "downtown" area at Novi Road and Grand River in the next five years - a belief that drew near-unanimous scorn from owners of small business property in the Town Center area.

6. NOVI HILTON

The Novi Hilton's construction at Haggerty Road north of Elm Mile became a highly visible city landmark to passers-by along I-275. During construction of the six-story 240-room hotel, the Orchard Hill Place partnership led by developer Joseph Gerak sold the hotel and surrounding undeveloped office and commercial park space nearby to the Samelson Group, a Bloomfield Hills Development company.

With the Hilton's success assured, the Samelson Group announced it would develop an overall plan for the southern Haggerty corridor in Novi. The plan will include "upstate" retail, office, leisure and restaurant

construction and possibly a festival square area.

7. TRAMMELL CROW

In Novi, Trammell Crow, a multi-billion dollar real estate firm, is on its way to becoming the biggest newsmaker of 1986 as well one of the most prominent of 1985. A "related entity" of the vast Texas-based company, the Dallas Market Center, submitted project plans for a two-part \$5.5 to \$6 million fashion-expo center to neighbor an expanded Sheaton Oaks for development in 1986. Final approvals for plans were still unsettled by year's end, but most city officials appear to be enthusiastic about the project.

Meanwhile, Trammell Crow acquired an option on the site of the now-closed Novi Elementary School building at the edge of the planned Town Center area. The firm also announced it would submit plans to develop a 15.5-acre sector in the northeast Town Center area in accordance with what city planners had hoped for the new district.

8. WINTER STORM

A January 1 ice storm greeted Novi residents in 1985, cutting electricity to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses in the city and leaving hundreds shivering in the dark, some for days.

Firefighters and DPW workers worked around-the-clock shifts trying to restore power and keep downed power lines safe. Seventeen days

later, another winter storm caused the city to declare its first snow emergency January 18. While city services remained intact, a long-lasting stretch of arctic air hampered the effectiveness of the DPW's spreading salt and sand to get drivers some degree of traction.

9. CREME DE NOVI

They call it *Creme de Novi* in town, but it's just one concoction resulting from the cooperation of Guernesey Farm Dairy and Mohawk Liquors. With ice cream courtesy of the dairy and a touch of *Creme de Menthe* liqueur courtesy of Mohawk, a tantalizing minty marriage arose - and more may be on the way, as the businesses reportedly have talked about cooperatively developing a new line of ice cream flavors.

A contest to choose a name for the new flavor drew hundreds of entries, with winners each receiving a half-gallon of the tasty stuff.

10. BARRIE MUZBECK

As a senior at Walled Lake Western, Novi resident Barrie Muzbeck utterly dominated all-around competition at the Class A state gymnastics meet, sweeping first place in three of the four competitive categories: parallel bars, balance beam and floor exercise to easily take the all-around individual crown. Muzbeck, now a freshman at Ohio State University, is one of the leading candidates for a spot on the 1988 U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Team.

City manager predicts boom

Continued from Page 1

much money invested in streets and utilities. They want to have enough lots for one season's demand and not too many after that, he said.

Although construction is expected to boom in 1986, Kriewall said it will also be the year in which the city attempts to finalize solutions to two of its most pressing problems - sewage capacity and transportation.

"Efforts to revive the Super Sewer system are continuing, but we've gone ahead to develop a contingency plan in case it falls apart again," he noted.

"We're looking at the possibility of developing our own sewage treatment plant. We've already asked the DNR for information on a permit to construct our own facility, and early in 1986 we should be in a position to apply to the DNR for a permit if Super Sewer plans don't go through."

"With the amount of development we're anticipating, it's getting to the point where federal funds may not be necessary to finance the project. Due to our growth, we have the potential to fund construction of our own based on the sale of new capacity into the system."

"We fully expect an answer to our sewage capacity problems in 1986.

Kriewall also anticipates answers to the city's continued problems with traffic congestion - problems that can only increase as development continues.

"Novi is not the only community in Oakland County with gridlock conditions," he noted. "Due to the influx of EDS and other major office developments, traffic has become a major problem in Farmington Hills, Auburn Heights, Southfield and Troy as well as Novi."



EDWARD KRIEWALL

Living

the NOVI NEWS

LIFE AWARDS:
Two Novi Boy Scouts receive Life awards/10A

HOLIDAY CHEER:
Local groups help Beverly Manor residents/10A

STAGE-STRUCK:
Cox children shine in Peter Pan production/10A

WHO'S WHO:
Novi residents named to Collegiate Who's Who/10A

9A

Wednesday
JANUARY 1
1986



"Narcissus," constructed in 1983, graces the pond in the backyard of Novi sculptor David Barr's (left) Napier Road home

Nature's structures inspire local sculptor

By ANN CHOWDRY
special writer

The earth felt good under the feet of artist David Barr, so in the 1970s he built his house on four acres of deserted cornfield on Napier Road, and surrounded it with sculptures inspired by basic shapes, the building blocks of nature.

A structuralist, he finds structures in the organization of nature and these are reflected in his work. "I'm interested in the realistic way the world works, the way nature works, the way plates of earth are sliding over each other, the way a tree grows, the way crystals are formed. I tend to want to make the invisible structures of the world visible and the visible structures of the world invisible."

His home was designed by Larry Booth of Chicago to reflect and mesh with the artist's personality and life-style. In the sparsely-populated farming area Barr claims to have found the best neighbors he has ever had in his life.

"The more you get into the country there's a certain kind of tolerance, there's more space and people accept," he said. "I think if I was doing sculptures in a more developed suburb there would be flak about it. Somebody would object."

Through leafless trees his house makes a bright yellow splash against the wintry fields. Though it looks modern, Barr said it is influenced by the Palladio villas of the renaissance.

A red-angled roof reaches over the living area, which abuts the flat-topped studio.

The arisal stairway winds from the Etruscan red entrance hall to the blue living area. Climbing through the circular opening in the maple floor, the visual impact of angular ceilings, cylindrical chimney, diagonal beams and quilted drapestry is striking.

Huge leather couches, a grand piano and a flourishing fig tree do not overwhelm the spacious room.

From one wall bursts an explosion of color from an Amish quilt. On another, tribal masks and shields from Africa and New Guinea look strangely at home next to a contemporary relief.

While building the house, Barr had an idea which he has since realized, a symbol for unity and communication across political, cultural, religious and geographic boundaries, a work intended to exist mainly in the human mind and belong to everyone who knows of its existence.

The work known as "The Four Corners Project" is the world's largest sculpture using only a minimum of its

resources.

It's physical components are the four marble corners of a tetrahedron which have been buried so that the imaginary lines which join them form a large tetrahedron spanning the inside of the earth.

One corner is buried on Easter Island, one on a Greenland ice cap, one in South Africa and the fourth in New Guinea.

The work took nine years and is dedicated to the memory of Barr's sister, Robin Doran, who died of cancer before she was 16.

Barr finished his second global project, "Sunswep," a month ago. A symbol of international friendship, it spans the border of the United States and Canada. It comprises a fragmented, black granite arch, sections of which were ceremoniously placed in three strategic locations.

The easternmost section is in the Roosevelt Campobello International Park in New Brunswick, the central section on American Point Island in Lake-of-the-Woods, Minnesota, and the westernmost section on Boundary Bluff, Point Roberts, Washington State.

The coastal sections of the arch reach towards one another, while hand prints engraved on the arches face each other and each side of the border in a gesture of human unity.

"Sunswep" portrays the path of the sun across the continent and the longest friendliest border in world history.

Since Barr's mother was Canadian it was a personal and a global statement.

The artist financed both projects which represent personal ideals, but stresses that neither of them would have been possible without the help of his family, many friends and officials here and overseas.

"I don't think it's any accident," he said, "that projects like this, are coming out of the space age. Man got up in a space ship and looked back and didn't see political divisions, and didn't see a county line or a property line. He saw one globe and realized we've got one set of problems . . . Art transcends differences and all I am trying to do is find new metaphors to do this . . . Images that bridge. That to me is meaning and I believe in an art of meaning."

Barr said his position as a professor at Macomb County Community College enables him to meet the financial obligations to his family but his art supports his art.

"I don't want to be dependent on my art. In 25 years I have never made an art work that I didn't believe in as an art work. If no one buys it my attitude is that if they don't

want it . . . I want it. I believe in it and that's enough.

The first artist to serve as a trustee for Michigan Foundation for the Arts, he feels that he has reached the time in life to do what he can to encourage worthy artistic endeavors.

"The community of the midwest has been generally encouraging, responsive and helpful to me, and I think that as you grow older you start to feel the weight of that and the responsibility, with a measure of indebtedness," he said.

Barr is probably best known in the art world for his

reliefs, some of which are displayed in the Donald Morris Gallery in Birmingham and the Richard Gray Gallery in Chicago.

Others hang in his own home with artifacts from distant corners of the earth.

With them are a series of lithographs documenting the "Four Corners," symbolically uniting far flung human endeavors, bridging gaps and melting barriers with metaphors of hope and love.

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Barr welds steel to form his latest creation, "Abraham"

Boy Scouts receive Life awards

By JEANNE CLARKE
special writer

Mark Skodack and Jimmy McMahon received Life Awards when Nov 10 Boy Scout Troop 407 held a Court of Honor at Nov 10 Middle School recently. Brian Kemp received First Class Rank, while Ted Wathman and Ben Lorenz each received Tenderfoot Rank at the Court of Honor.

Newest members of the troop are John Sabal, Mike McQuillan and Tom Crowley.

The boys have collected canned goods to be used at Holy Family Catholic Church for needy families. The troop also has completed its popcorn-selling project for the Boy Scout Council.

Upcoming plans include a Polar Bear Camp-out under the direction of Scoutmaster Gary Skodack during the January 17-19 weekend. The troop meets every Monday at Nov 10 Middle School North at 7:30 p.m. Boys and parents interested in Scouting are invited to attend. Call Skodack at 476-2398 for more information.

BEVERLY MANOR: Activities Director Jeanne Kopko reports that numerous groups have visited Beverly Manor to help residents celebrate the holidays.

Guests have included the Nov 10 High School Honor Society, Salvation Army and Nov 10 Garden Club as well as several local churches. The Bad Choir from the Northville Methodist Church provided a special program for residents, and Brownie and Girl Scout troops helped decorate the convalescent home for the holidays.

Twelve Beverly Manor residents attended the annual Christmas luncheon sponsored by Nov 10 Rotary. Santa Claus is scheduled to make a special ap-

Novi Highlights

pearance at Beverly Manor on Christmas Eve.

LEGION AUXILIARY: Loretta Olson, membership chairman of American Legion Auxiliary Post 19 in Novi, reports that the local post was the first in the 17th District to attain 100 percent membership for the coming year.

The auxiliary is looking for groups and individuals to sponsor Nov 10 High School students to attend Girls State next summer. Four sponsors have already been located — Carol Mason Realty, Wilkins Equipment, the City of Novi and Novi Youth Assistance. Anyone wishing more information on how to sponsor a girl at Girls State may call Audrey Blackburn.

The auxiliary is again collecting regular, special issue and foreign postage stamps and is asking the community to send them discarded envelopes with the stamps still attached. Metered mail and stamps with letter values C and D are not usable. They are collecting Campbell's Soup labels for the Novi Schools and Manufacturer's Cents-Off coupons for pet food to raise funds for the Animal Shelter.

The next meeting will be held January 14 at the Post Home on Grand River at 8 p.m. More information about membership is available by calling 474-1564.

AARP: The local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) held its annual Christmas party at the Farmington Hills Com-

munity Library. Special speaker was Cathy Mohan of Blue Cross/Blue Shield entertainment was provided by Yvonne Cady who led a sing-along on the grand piano. Members also participated in a Christmas cookie exchange.

The next board meeting will be held January 9 at 1:30 p.m. Members are urged to write their state legislators to oppose passage of Senate Bill 500 which would convert Blue Cross into a private mutual insurance company.

Anyone who is over 50 years old is encouraged to consider joining AARP. Members receive information which helps them prepare for their retirement years. Membership is open to residents from Novi, Farmington, Walled Lake and surrounding areas. Call Past President Bernice Frederick for more information.

PIN POINTERS: New member Lori Seizer won the mystery game. High bowlers were Dorothy Bosie (251), Barbara Detore (196 in 518 series), Dyanne Martin (190), Dora Fattiel (187), Diana Canup (185), Betty Smith (183), Bernice Harrawood (180) and Jan Sheehan (180).

Christmas cheer prizes were won by Bernice Harrawood, Dyanne Martin, Dorothy Bosie, Kathy Kay and Colleen Smith. Standings are as follows: Ghost Busters 37 1/2, 22 1/2; Rock and Rollers 35, 25; Ball Busters 34 1/2, 25 1/2; Hi Lows 32, 28.

Novi Highlights is written by Jeanne Clarke. Groups and organizations may arrange to have their notices published by calling her at 624-9773. Individuals with news about births, birthdays, showers, anniversaries, vacations or other special events also are encouraged to call her.

People

ADAM and SHANA COX of Novi were cast in the roles of "lost boys" in the Northville Marquis Theatre production of "Peter Pan," which was performed three weekends during December.

Adam, 11, is a sixth grader at Novi Middle School North, while Shana, 13, is an eighth grader at Novi Middle School South. They are the children of Richard and Diane Cox of Winfield in Novi.

Their roles in "Peter Pan" marked the first time they had appeared in a community theater production.

Four Novi residents are among the 90,000 students listed in the eighth annual edition of The National Dean's List published by Educational Communications, Inc. of Lake Forest, Illinois.

Local residents and their colleges are DENNIS HOLTSCHEIDER (Niagara University) and DAVID JOLGREN, LAURA SKRIP and SUSAN ZIMMER, all of Wayne State University. Also named to the list was KAREN KORYLA (Evangel College of Walled Lake).

Students are selected for the honor by their college deans or registrars and must be in the upper 10 percent of their class, on their school's dean's list or have earned a comparable honor.

DEBORAH STOSCUP, a student teacher at Novi High School, has been awarded the Harold E. Spenberg Award by Eastern Michigan University. The award is presented annually to an EMU senior in recognition of dedication and leadership.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stoscup of Northville and a 1980 South Lyon High School graduate.

MARK ORTYNE of Slassen Street earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Clothing & Textiles: Fashion Merchandising and Design). **DOUGLAS RENSCH** of Ladene Lane received a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Broadcast & Cinematic Arts: Interpersonal and Public Communication) and **PATRICIA WILKIE** of Cranbrook received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Marketing).

Births

Gary and Denise (DeBriule) Collins of Northville announce the birth of a daughter.

Rachel Bret Collins was born December 13 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, weighing seven pounds, 12 ounces.

Both new parents are Novi High School graduates.

Maternal grandparents are Edward and Sylvia DeBriule of Novi. Paternal grandparents are Robert and Isabelle Collins, also of Novi.

Church Directory

For information regarding rates for church listings call The Northville Record or Novi News 349-1700.

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
5760 Grand River, New Hudson
12 miles west of Milford
Worship Services Sunday 11 a.m.
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study 7 p.m.
For additional information, call 349-1724

CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHURCH
Novi Community Center
2400 Novi Rd., near 196
Worship 10 A.M.
Come Praise the Lord
Pastor Leo Beuchamp, 348-2265

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
145 N. Center, Northville
348-2101
"We Invite You To Come And Fellowship With Us"
Mark Frier, Pastor
Services: Thurs. 7 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.

GRACE CHAPEL
William Tyndale College
12 Miles S. of Farmington Hills, 474-4951
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Wed. evening service
Pastor: Dr. Richard Perrott, Pastor
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
206 E. Main St., Northville 348-0911
Worship 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Church School Grades 1-8 9:30 a.m.
Child Care both services - Grades 1-2 11:00 a.m.
Dr. Lawrence Chamberlain-Pastor
Dr. Richard Perrott, Associate Pastor

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Farmington
2222 Gil Rd.
3 bks. S. of Gd. River, 3 bks. W. of Farmington Rd.
Church 474-8594
Worship 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
(Nursery Provided) Pastor Charles Fox

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
790 Thayer, Northville
WEEKEND LITURGIES
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30, 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Church 348-2821, School 348-3810
Religious Education 348-2959

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
High & Elm Streets, Northville
C. Boeger, Pastor
T. Lubeck, Pastor
Church & School 348-3140
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Saturday Vespers: 6:00 P.M.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
12 Mile East of Haggerty
Farmington Hills
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
V. H. Menninghof, Pastor
Phone: 553-7170

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
9 Mile & Tall Pines
Rev. Eric Hammar, Minister
Worship Services 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Church School, Nursery thru Adult 9:30 a.m.
Nursery thru 8th Grade 11 a.m.

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
430 E. Nichollet
Walled Lake 62626
Phone: 624-3817
Services: 10:00 a.m.
Church School, 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Leslie Harding

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
41671 W. Ten Mile-Meadowbrook
348-2622 (2 hrs.)
Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Church School 8:15 a.m.
Nursery Care Available
Charles R. Jacobs, Kearney Kirby, Pastors

ORCHARD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
23455 Novi Rd. (between 9-10 Mile)
Bible Study For All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Worship Services 10:30 a.m. & 8 p.m.
Wed., Mid-Week Prayer Serv., 7 p.m.
348-5685

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL
10 Mile between Tall & Beck, Novi
Phone 348-1175
Services: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Worship & School
The Rev. Leslie F. Harding

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Wacoanin Ev. Lutheran Synod
Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 11:15
Gene E. Jahnke, Pastor-348-0663

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NOVI
45201 11 Mile at Tall Rd.
Home of Novi Christian School (K-12)
Sun. School, 9:45 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wed., 7:30 p.m.
Richard Burgess, Pastor
348-3477 Ivan E. Spolight, Asst. 348-3647

FAITH COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 Novi Rd., Northville
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
Worship & School, 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
P. O. # 13 474-5168
Richard J. Henderson, Pastor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
217N. Wing
Dr. James H. Luther, Pastor
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Wed., 7:30 AWANA, 7:30 Prayer Service
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WIXOM & WIXOM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (K-6)
Wixom & W. Maple Rds.
Family Bible School, 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship, 10:45 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Family Night Program (Wed.), 7:00 p.m.
Robert V. Warren, Pastor
624-3862 (Awarana's Pro-Testers) 624-5434

Sports

Part of the team

Schrot helps Michigan drive for No. 1

By NEIL GEOGHEGAN
staff writer

ANN ARBOR—He shakes the hands of Roy Tarpley and Gary Grant before the game.

He jokes around with Antoine Joubert and Garde Thompson during practices and before games.

Bill Frierer is always asking him for a favor or advice.

No, he's not University of Michigan Athletic Director Don Canham. He's area resident Christopher Schrot.

As the senior student manager for the Wolverine basketball team, Schrot is as much a part of the team as Richard Redford or Bats Wade.

Schrot puts in just as much time as many of the players, and keeps things running smoothly for coach Frierer — it's his job.

"Frierer is a hard worker and it carries over to everybody," Schrot said before Michigan's December 14 clash with Western Michigan.

He knows how things work. Sometimes it gets hard to juggle classes, studying and work at the same time, but Schrot's love of basketball and the University of Michigan make the job a lot easier to handle.

I really like basketball a lot and I've been a Michigan fan for as long as I can remember," he said. "Most of the time it's fun. It's a good way for me to get

away from things.

"But there's times when I get tired of it, too. We go from September to late March and it's a long season. There are definitely days when I would like to miss practice and relax — but I don't."

As a senior manager, Schrot is expected to attend every practice and is one of two managers who travel with the team. Is it fun going to places like Hawaii and California with the team?

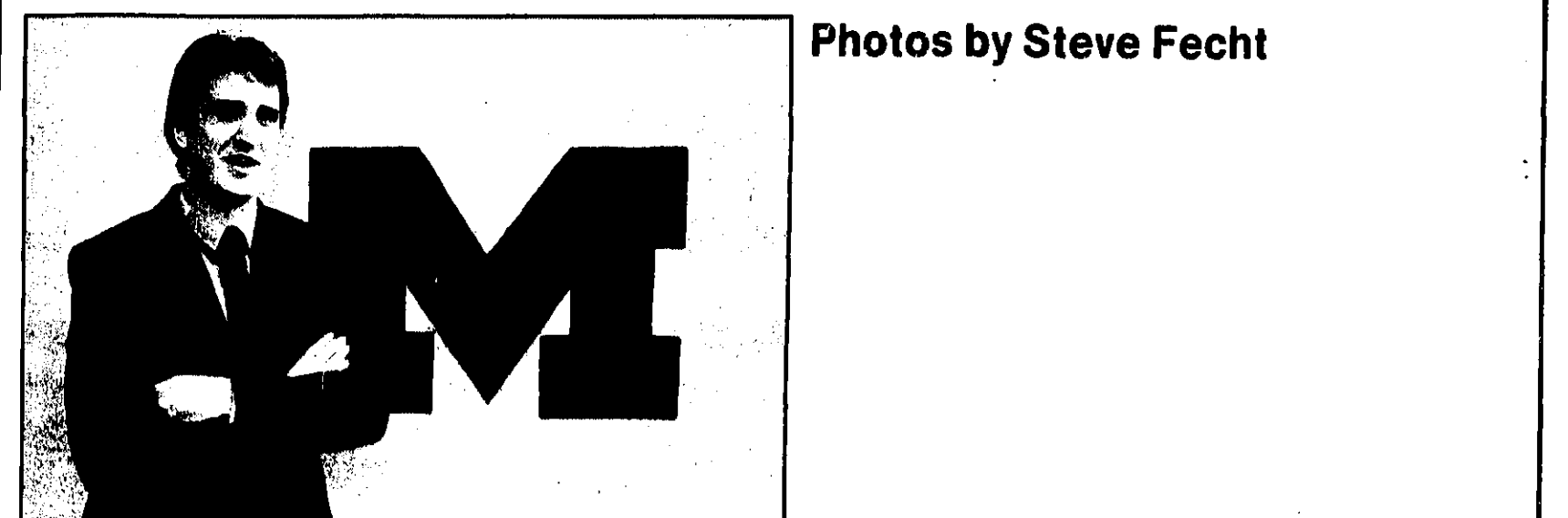
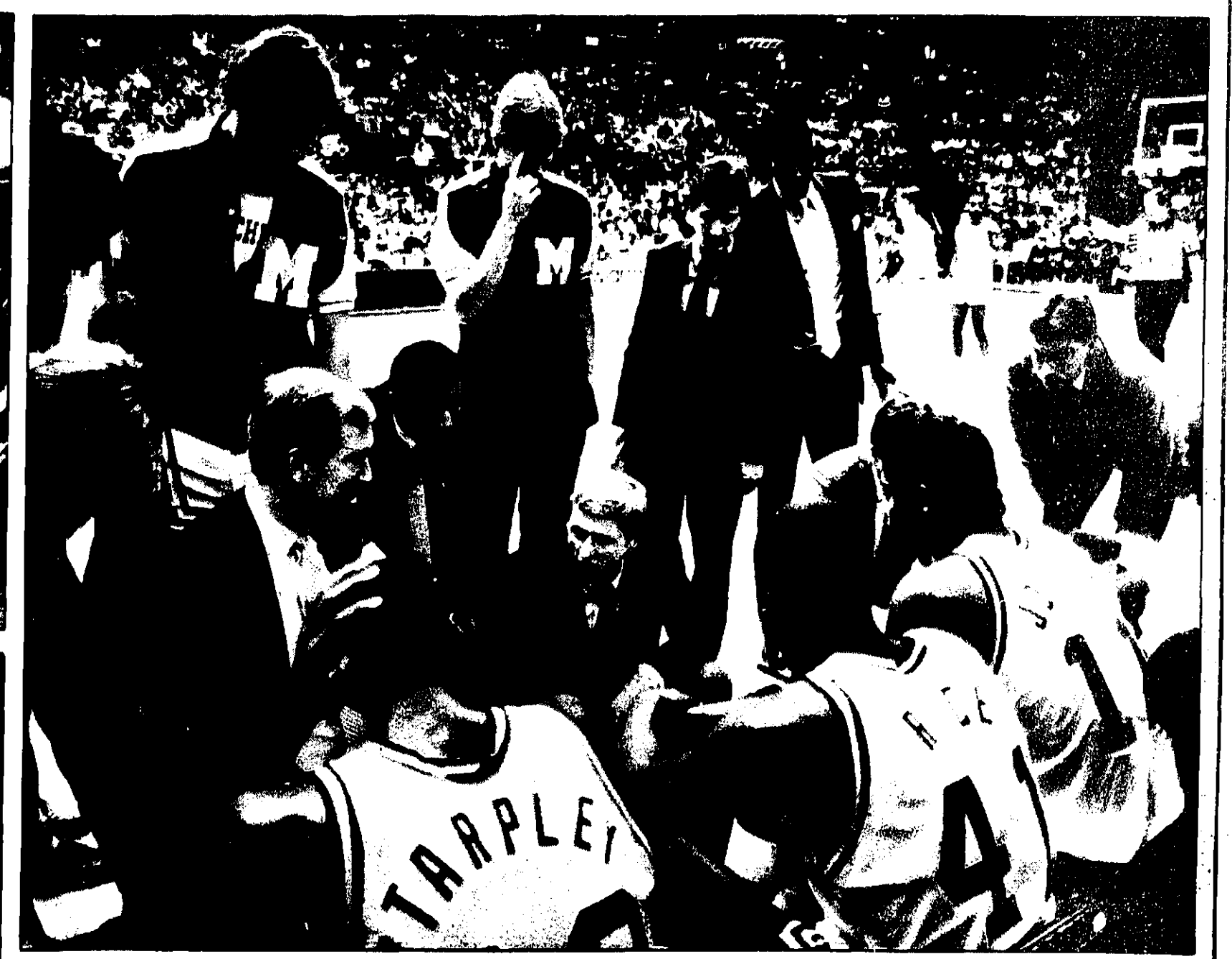
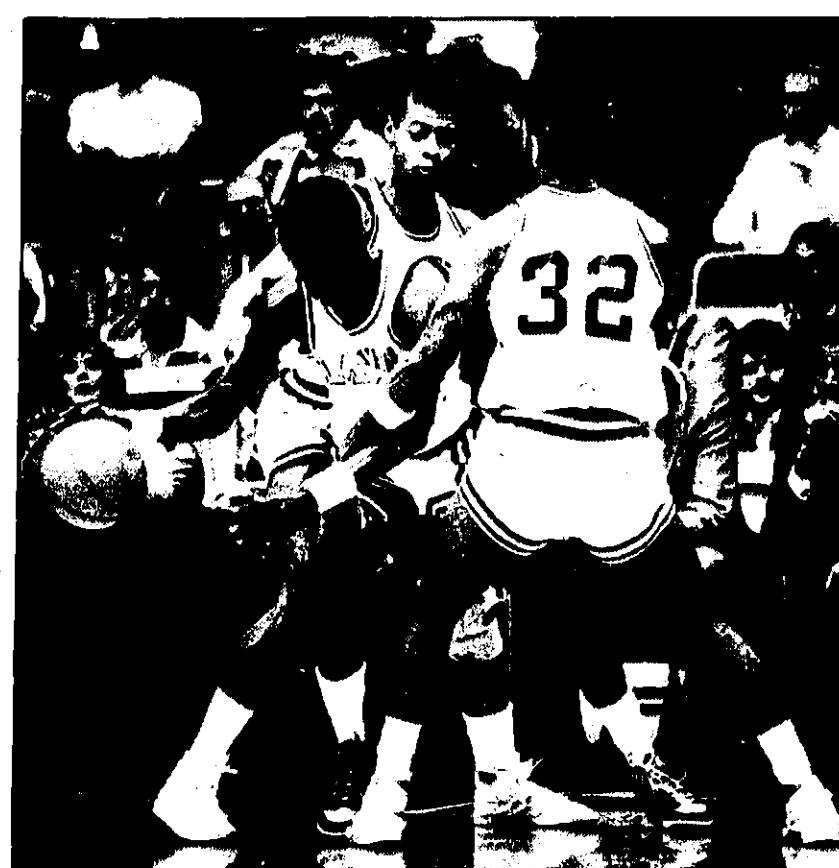
"Traveling and being with the team isn't that bad, but the games are the best — that's what it's all about," Schrot explained. "When I was a freshman, traveling was really exciting, but now it's not all that big a deal."

The Wolverine's opened the 1985-86 season in Hawaii for the Siversword Classic back in November. Even Schrot admits it was much more exciting than traveling to Iowa City or Columbus.

"I got to go golfing in Hawaii, and it was the highlight for me," he laughed. "Trying to describe exactly what Schrot does isn't very easy because he does so many different things. No two days are ever alike.

During home game days, he is usually in the arena two hours before tip-off. You can find him taking care of tickets requests for the players, getting the players stretch, putting up signs to motivate the team, working on a scout board along with the graduate assistant or a hundred other things.

During the game, he keeps stats that Frierer and his staff often want to refer to during time-outs and at halftime. On the road, he usually takes video tapes of the action so the team can study the films later. In all it's



Photos by Steve Fecht

TOUGH START:
Don't count Wildcats out of KVC cage race/12A

FLOOR HOCKEY:
Deadline nearing for Parks & Rec program/12A

SNOW SCULPTURE:
Snow sculpture contest slated for January 25/12A

FIGURE EIGHTS:
Ice skating rink open near city hall/12A

ON THE FRONT LINE...
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CITY OF NOVI 1986 REGULAR MEETINGS SCHEDULE
CITY COUNCIL — Regular Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 8:00 P.M., Local Time, with the following exceptions:
January — 1st and 4th Monday
May — 1st and 2nd Monday
September — 2nd and 4th Monday
PLANNING BOARD — Regular Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 P.M., Local Time.
BOARD OF APPEALS — Regular Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M., Local Time.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION — Regular Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 A.M., Local Time.
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION — Regular Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., Local Time.
HISTORICAL COMMISSION — Regular Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M., Local Time, at the City Offices Lobby, 45225 W. Ten Mile Road.
LIBRARY BOARD — Regular Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M., Local Time.
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GERALDINE STIPP, CITY CLERK (1-1 & 1-86 NR, NN)

PREGNANCY PRIMER
Avoid alcohol, drugs, smoking, infection.
Boost your intake of nutritious food. (eat a variety)
Care about yourself and your unborn baby.

Future Farmers of America

Wildcat cage team fights off adversity

By J. Geoghegan



Neil Geoghegan

For all those who have already buried the Novi basketball team, how about putting the shovels away? At least for a few more weeks.

On the surface things look pretty bleak for Coach John Cicchelli and the Wildcats. So far, it's been a season every coach dreads, a "Murphy's Law" season. You know, if anything can go wrong, it will type of season.

Here's a run down of the problems Cicchelli has had to face after less than two weeks of action.

Just two starters returned from last year's 10-1 team.

Before the season-opening contest, projected starting guard Jeff Tanderys suffered a fracture on a finger of his shooting hand and has yet to see a second of playing time.

Following the first game, starting center Brett Gillick aggravated an injury to a finger he sustained during the football campaign and missed the game and still isn't 100 percent.

Promising sophomore guard Craig Cowden also missed the first two outings recovering from a broken finger.

Top scorer Joe Miskovich missed two of Novi's first five games because of a death in the family.

By the season's fifth game, two guards — spot starter Gregg Giorgio and reserve Mike Ladd — had quit the team.

For the Wildcats' last contest before the holiday break, Cicchelli had just eight players dressed for the game, including just two backcourt players.

Kinda sounds like a soap opera.

When a team has to overcome so many adversities, it usually means a very poor season. Very few athletic programs have the talent and depth to rise above crisis like these, and Novi is no exception.

But there is some good news.

The fact that the Wildcats pulled out a win in the first five games is quite an accomplishment in itself. Even more encouraging is that Novi is just 0-1 in the Kensington Valley Conference so far. Not a good start but certainly not an insurmountable deficit.

The point is, it's still very early in the 1985-86 campaign, and despite some untimely problems, a successful season is not out of reach. And who knows, with a few breaks, the Wildcats might even give the other KVC leaders a run for the title.

Well, admittedly it would be a long shot, but if the team experiences as much good fortune the rest of the way, as it did bad fortune in the early going, the sky is the limit.

And it's not implying that luck alone can help the Wildcats get by. If Cicchelli can get everyone back in the line-up, Novi can be a good basketball team.

"If we ever get everybody back, we'll have a different look and we'll be a lot stronger overall," Cicchelli admitted.

The three week break we've come at a better time either. It gives all the other nagging injuries a chance to heal.

Tanderys is expected back in action for Novi's January 7 clash with Dearborn Edsel Ford. His return should stabilize the Wildcat backcourt and give Miskovich some help scoring and bringing the ball up court.

If Gillick can return to form at the pivot, Novi's rebounding liabilities will improve. He can also provide some valuable inside work, another weak link so far.

If there was a bright spot in the first five games, it was the play of the forwards, an area Cicchelli was concerned about prior to the season. Senior Ray Samolin and junior Matt Kamish have picked up the slack and helped keep the Wildcats competitive.

In the last three games, Kamish has poured in an average of 20 points, while Ray Samolin has added 16.3. For the year, Samolin has been held below double figures in scoring just once and is contributing nearly 14 points a outing. Kamish wasn't even a starter until the Brighton game.

If these two can continue to contribute consistently and if Tanderys and Gillick can rebound from the injuries, a quick turn around may be on the horizon. Sure, there are still a lot of "ifs," but they are not unreasonable "ifs."

To his credit, Cicchelli never once used all the misfortunes as an excuse. It is such an easy thing to do, and who could blame him if he did? The bottom line is that Cicchelli hasn't given up on the season and with the exception of Giorgio and Ladd, neither have the players. The KVC race is just one game old and anything can happen.

Rec Briefs

FLOOR HOCKEY SIGN-UP: Registration deadline is Tuesday, January 7, for boys and girls in grades 3-8 who want to participate in the Floor Hockey program sponsored by the Novi Parks and Recreation Department.

Floor hockey is a non-contact sport which stresses physical fitness, team work and fair play. Games are played on Saturdays inside a gymnasium so youngsters do not need to be able to skate to participate.

Registration fee is \$15 per person. Call Novi Parks and Rec at 349-1976 to register or for more information.

SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST: Novi Parks and Recreation will sponsor "Winter Fantasy III" — the annual snow sculpture contest on Saturday, January 26, at Lakeshore Park at 1 p.m.

The contest offers an opportunity to service groups, school classes, homeowners' association and individuals to have fun in the snow.

There's no entry fee and pre-registrations can be made by calling Parks and Rec offices at 349-1976. Awards will be given in several different categories and refreshments will be available.

SKATING RINK OPEN: The community skating rink located behind the tennis courts next to Novi City Hall on Ten Mile is now open. Skating is at your own risk.

Novi Parks and Recreation offers a Recreation Hotline at 349-3904 which can be called for daily reports on ice conditions.

LAKESHORE PARK: Novi's Lakeshore Park on Walled Lake is now open for sledding and cross-country skiing daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. Activities are at your own risk.

Snowmobiles are prohibited in the park.

SOCGER SIGN-UP: The Novi Parks and Recreation Department is taking registrations for the 1986 spring youth soccer program from boys and girls born from 1969 to 1980.

Games will be played on Saturdays and Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There's a registration fee of \$13 which includes shirt, shorts and socks for each player. Registration deadline is March 7.

OPEN GYM: Novi residents may participate in the open gym program offered every Monday and Wednesday at the high school by the Community Education Department.

To accommodate the growing number of people using the high school gym the following changes will be effective January 6. The gym will be open from 7-9 p.m. and 9-10:15 p.m.

Registration is required for the 7-9 p.m. period. Novi school district residents will have priority and many registers begin December 16. Non-residents may register beginning December 16. A maximum of 32 people will be allowed.

Passes will be issued to those who register, and only those with passes will be allowed to participate. Rules and regulations will include only one full-court game, a limit of 11 points per game, and both winners and losers must vacate the fullcourt after each game.

The 7-9 p.m. session will begin January 6 and end May 7. Fees are \$30 for residents and \$32 for non-residents. No one under seventh grade will be allowed to register.

The 9-10:15 p.m. period will be open gym for anyone who wants to participate. The fee will be \$1 per evening. For more information call the Community Education Department at 348-1200.

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RACKET BAGS 20% OFF

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FOOTWEAR 20% TO 40% OFF

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RACKET BAGS 20% OFF

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Section B

Wednesday, January 1, 1986

Business Briefs



NOVI HILTON EMPLOYEES are learning valuable lessons in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and fire prevention in classes geared to educate them about hotel safety. The classes are being offered by trained professionals from the Woodland Medical Center and the Novi Fire Department.

The Novi Hilton requires that all security officers be certified in CPR, fire prevention and first aid. In addition, the Novi Hilton has worked with the National Fire and Protection Association to produce a 22-minute film entitled "Hotel Fire Alert." The film is reviewed by Hilton employees annually as a refresher course in safety procedures.

The Novi Hilton opened in August and is located on Haggerty Road at I-275.

PAUL G. SZILAGYI of Northville has been promoted to a managerial position at the Detroit Region offices of Touche Ross. The appointment was announced by Daniel J. Kelly, partner in charge of Michigan/Northern Ohio operations and vice chairman of the international public accounting and management consulting firm.

Szilagy was named a manager in accounting and auditing. A CPA, Szilagy received his bachelors degree in business administration from Western Michigan University before joining Touche Ross in Detroit in 1978. He is a specialist in the health care industry. Szilagy is chairman of the Chapter Delegates Committee of the Health Care Financial Management Association, Eastern Michigan Chapter.

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Want Ads
INSIDE

It's last chance to save on '85 taxes

Year-end tax planning takes on particular importance this year in view of the possibility of reductions in the tax rate in 1986 under the Reagan or alternative tax proposals, according to Dominic V. Palazzo, Partner in charge of Tax, Detroit office Peat Marwick, the international accounting firm.

Palazzo lists six areas which merit attention before the end of the year — state and local tax payments, sales of property, tax shelter investments, charitable contributions, interest payments and contributions to IRA, Keogh and 401(k) plans.

"To save the most, it's essential to act early," he explains. "The longer you wait, the fewer the options available. Income, where possible, should be deferred until 1986, and opportunities should be sought to take deductions in 1985 instead of 1986. Income deferred until 1986 may be taxed at a lower rate, while accelerating deductions into 1985 will provide greater tax benefits."

State and Local Taxes: State and local taxes are itemized deductions in the year in which they are paid and the timing of the deduction is within the control of the individual. Thus, the final installment of estimated 1985 state income tax, typically due in early 1986, can be paid before the end of 1985.

Similarly, local real estate taxes due early in 1986 also may be pre-paid, but if they are paid through a bank or other escrow agent, the deduction can be taken only in the year in which the bank or agent pays the taxes. Therefore, if you want the deduction in 1985, you must have the bank or escrow agent make the payment before year end.

Property Taxes: Because of the prospect of lower tax rates under the various tax proposals, many people are putting off a decision to sell property, particularly property which is used as a vacation home or which is held for investment purposes. Such property may, however, be sold this year and the gain put off until next year. This is accomplished by entering into a contract now, but deferring the receipt of proceeds until 1986.

The rules, of course, continue to be

different for a primary residence. As long as you buy a residence more expensive than the one you sell, there is no capital gains tax.

Tax Shelters: For those for whom it is an appropriate investment, 1985 may present several "last chance" opportunities for tax deductions through a tax shelter. "There are certain tax benefits that may well go away if any of the proposals are adopted. So a good tax shelter entered into this year could offer tax benefits which will not be available in 1986. At the same time, it could defer income until 1986 or 1987, at which time, perhaps, the tax rate may be lower."

Charitable Deductions: For those who do not itemize their deductions, there is a significant change this year. In 1985, taxpayers who don't itemize may still deduct up to 50 percent of their charitable contributions. This opens the door for more widespread participation in the tax benefits of charitable contributions.

There is also an important new requirement affecting those contributing property to charity. If the value of that property is greater than \$5,000 (\$10,000 in the case of closely held corporate stock), an appraisal made within 60 days of the gift by a qualified appraiser must be attached to the 1985 return.

The mileage allowance for the use of an automobile in charitable services has risen from 9 cents a mile in 1984 to 12 cents a mile for 1985. Taxpayers must, however, maintain an adequate record of this mileage.

Interest: An interest deduction is allowed in the year it is due and paid. Most mortgage interest is paid after it is due. Therefore, payments usually made in January of 1986 represent interest due for 1985 and may be deducted if paid prior to year end. The same concept applies to most interest payments on credit card and consumer loan balances.

IRA, Keogh, and 401(k) Plans: Look into where you can get the greatest rate of return. IRA contributions for 1985 must be made by April 15, 1986.

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South Lyon Herald (313)437-4133
Milford Times (313)685-8705
Brighton Argos (313)227-4436
Pinckney Post Shopping Guide (313)227-4437
Hartland Herald Shopping Guide (313)227-4436
Fowlerville Review Shopping Guide (517)548-2570
Livingston County Press (517)548-2570

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Sliger/Livingston Publications GREEN SHEET EAST CLASSIFIED ACTION ADS

021 House For Sale PINCKNEY area. Reduced! Corporate owned, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, new carpet, walk-out lower level, 15,000 towards closing cost. Great access to I-75, \$56,900. Call Hilda Wischer: 313-227-5005.

022 Mobile Homes For Sale BRIGHTON. Sylvan Glen Mobile Home Park. 26x30, 3 bedrooms, \$16,800. (313)229-9266.

023 Mobile Homes For Sale HOWELL. 5959 West Grand, modern interior, metal and brick overhead, paneled office and display area. Total 7,200 sq. ft. (313)265-5450.

024 Apartments For Rent HALL for rent. American Legion Post #19. Pinckney, MI. (313)287-9522.

025 Industrial Commercial For Sale HOWELL. 5959 West Grand, modern interior, metal and brick overhead, paneled office and display area. Total 7,200 sq. ft. (313)265-5450.

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027 Farms, Acreage CLYDE ROAD off Fenton Road. Beautiful rolling 8.5 acres. \$50,000. \$400 monthly. (313)227-4436.

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074 Living Rentals To Share FOWLERVILLE. Professional woman needs someone to share her country home. \$300 per month includes utilities. (313)223-3187 after 6 p.m.

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104 Household Goods SINGER zig-zag machine. CIGARETETS set, automatic dial. Makes blind, automatic dial. (313)223-3187 after 6 p.m.

105 Musical Instruments FOWLERVILLE. Professional woman needs someone to share her country home. \$300 per month includes utilities. (313)223-3187 after 6 p.m.

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107 Miscellaneous CRYSTAL chandelier. Euro floor lamp. \$250 or best offer. Ask for Kurt (313)268-2831.

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112 Electrical 113 Pumps 114 Building Materials 115 Trade Or Sell 116 Christmas Trees 117 Office Supplies and Equipment 118 Wood Stores 119 Musical Instruments 120 Miscellaneous

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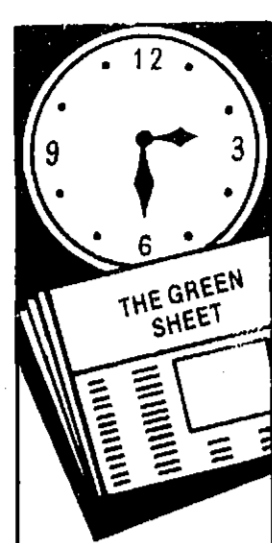
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Board to review expansion right

By B.J. MARTIN staff writer

In the tug-of-war over the right to expand commercial operations, property owners in the Novi Town Center area lost a little ground Monday night.

In a hurry-up mode to enact stricter construction standards in the Town Center zoning district, Novi City Council asked planning board members to decide tonight (Wednesday) whether to reconsider a proposed measure two officials called a "blank check" for owners of existing commercial businesses to expand.

The measure causing the controversy is one paragraph of a 12-page amendment to the Town Center ordinance, which covers the central Novi region near the Novi Road-Grand River Avenue intersection. The 12-page amendment is the result of months of intense study and some 14 major revisions.

The controversial paragraph guarantees commercial business owners the right to expand their operations as long as the expanded use is identical to the existing use.

For example, a service station in the Town Center area may expand, provided the expanded use continues to be an automobile service station in the existing structure or an enlargement of the existing structure.

Council Member Arlen Schroeder blasted the measure, put in the amendment to assure existing business owners (some of which have been located in Novi for decades) the new Town Center would not jeopardize their livelihood.

"I don't see why we should be approving something that not only allows, but encourages them to expand," Schroeder declared. "The dollars they sink into (expanding) their property are just going to freeze those uses in the Town Center."

Council Member Hugh Crawford countered that he could not support such restrictions on business owners who chose to locate in Novi. "The words in this section are fine the way they are. If the planning board is looking for direction, that's my position," said Crawford.

Council unanimously agreed to submit the proposed change to the amendment to the planning board — an action board member Judy Johnson fretted might draw fire from business owners to whom copies of the overall amendment council reviewed were distributed for reference.

"This has been handed out to a number of people," Johnson said. "We thought it was more than a working document."

The Novi Planning Board decides tonight that the paragraph should be deleted from the overall amendment.

Continued on 6

'Moto-museum' location picked

Novi officials are leaning toward the site of the former Novi Road fire station as the future location of the much-anticipated Motor Sports Museum site.

The location was one of three city-owned sites City Manager Edward Kriewall suggested for the proposed museum. "We want to be able to point to a site so we can communicate to the media and to supporters that we have a probable site in or near the Town Center area," Kriewall told city council members Monday night.

"It's our intent to put up a sign signifying this is the future Motor Sports Museum of America site for psychological purposes," he added.

Kriewall proposed that council approve either the old fire station property on Novi Road at Sixgate, or extra Department of Public Works property on Eleven Mile Road, or property west of the new Fire Station One on Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road.

Council Member Hugh Crawford suggested council examine the Eleven Mile site because of its visibility from I-96, but it was noted the Town Center zoning ordinance would restrict the size of the museum sign so it would be unrecognizable to passing motorists.

Museum plans were dealt a setback last month when state officials rejected a grant request submitted by museum backers. But Kriewall insists that planning for the museum will continue, even if funding for the museum comes entirely from private sources.

Museum backers intend to continue to seek grant money to help fund design and construction of the museum.

Mayor Patricia Karevich noted the museum could become an important drawing-card for visitors to Novi's "Town Center." "We need a public place in one of the quadrants in our Town Center and I think a location at the corner of Sixgate and Novi Road would have that kind of visibility."

Council unanimously approved the site selection.

Kriewall cautioned council that the proposed site should not be considered final, since officials may prefer to trade or renegotiate the location with private developers some time in the future.

More details on the nature and proposed location of the museum are expected to become available January 21 when city officials plan a press outing for Detroit-area media at the Novi Hilton.

Br-r-r-ink

Your tax dollars at work. Steve Tillman of the Novi Parks and Recreation Department spent the dawn shift yesterday filling and freezing the department's skating pond near Novi High School. The process took several hours in sub-freezing temperatures.

Novi News/STEVE FECHT

I-696 committee drafts proposal

By B.J. MARTIN staff writer

Novi City Council Monday endorsed a regional transportation committee proposal urging widening I-696 west of Telegraph Road and adding additional interchanges in Novi and Farmington Hills, among other improvements.

The Local Technical Advisory Group, an adjunct to the I-696 Ramp Access Study Committee appointed to study road improvement needs in the area, last month compiled a list of six specific recommendations for the use of several units of government responsible for funding and coordinating improvements.

The recommendations subsequently were approved by the I-696 Ramp Access Study Committee, a regional advisory body with representatives from local municipalities affected by highway improvements.

The recommendations specify that:

1. During the next design phase for I-696, widening to six or eight lanes should be evaluated.
2. An access ramp for Haggerty Road is needed to facilitate north-south travel in western Oakland County. Design and environmental studies should be initiated for building a connector or stub between the I-696/I-96 interchange and the Haggerty/Twelve Mile intersection. The studies should consider alternative designs using existing MDOT-owned right-of-way and existing interchanges within the interchange area. Alternative designs for intersecting with Twelve Mile and connecting with Haggerty also should be considered. Design alternatives, the study further noted, should be coordinated with the ultimate development of a north-south highway (I-275) through western Oakland County.
3. Design and environmental studies should be initiated for building an interchange west of Drake Road. The interchange is needed to improve access to the Twelve Mile Road corridor west of Orchard Lake Road.
4. A north-south highway corridor study should be initiated cooperatively between the Michigan Department of Transportation and local agencies to evaluate options for improving north-south service in western Oakland County. Included in the study should be consideration of adding additional lanes to Haggerty Road.
5. The Oakland County Road Commission and the cities of Farmington Hills and Novi should coordinate their improvement projects to coincide with providing additional access improvements to I-696. This coordinated approach, the group maintains, will assure maximum system operation between the freeway and the local road and street system. The specific improvements consist of widening Twelve Mile from Orchard Lake to Novi Road, and subsequently to Beck Road.
6. Design studies of the Beck Road/I-96 interchange currently under way should consider upgrading the interchange and providing full interchange service. MDOT will work with the City of Novi to coordinate design plans with proposed development and Twelve Mile improvement plans.

Mayoral election, term rules studied

The 1985 mayoral race could be the last to be decided in a general election as a result of action by the Novi City Council Monday night.

With little discussion and by a unanimous vote, council approved the creation of a citizens' committee to study changing two provisions of the city charter: (1) the two-year duration of the mayoral term and (2) the election of the mayor by general ballot.

The charter review committee is expected to closely study whether the mayor should be a council member elected by a majority vote of fellow council members, much as the president of the Novi School Board is appointed by a vote of fellow board members.

Farmington Hills City Council, among other local municipal governments, annually appoints its mayor this way.

Members of the seven-member committee will be appointed by council. City council members will continue to be elected by voters in a general election.

The idea of selecting the mayor by council vote rather than in a general election gained momentum after last fall's mayoral election, one of the most expensive and bitterly contested in the city's history.

Critics of the existing election system claimed a general mayoral election is too expensive and disruptive. As longtime Novi political observer Russell Buton observed last fall, the election probably cost the city a useful voice in city issues by putting incumbent mayor Robert Schmidt out of office.

Schmidt himself, however, said at that time he did not favor doing away with a general election for mayor. He claimed a mandate of voters gives the mayor office and the community more visibility and strength.

If the review committee promptly recommends changes to the city charter as expected, council will place the issue on a ballot for city voters to decide — most likely in time for the August primary election.

Liaison to city officials will be City Clerk Geraldine Stupp, who will serve as a non-voting advisory member of the committee. Heten Seward of the League of Women Voters and Planning Board Member Isabel Collins reportedly are among those interested in serving on the committee.

Applications from city residents wishing to serve on the committee currently are being accepted at the city clerk's office.

Snow job: It's better

By B.J. MARTIN staff writer

Once they shovel their way out of their driveways, Novi residents may notice it's a little easier to get around during snowfalls this year.

Thanks to the opening of the new Department of Public Works (DPW) facility on Grand River Avenue last year, city workers' ability to sweep snow off the streets has improved.

"The trucks are warm, so they can start faster. And we keep a load of salt stored in the garage so we can get out quicker," explained Novi DPW Director Edward Simaladek.

"We used to have to store the salt outside and cover it during rain and snow. Often there'd be a lot of moisture getting into the salt, making it clump."

Novi News/STEVE FECHT

inside

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