

35¢
THURSDAY
April 2, 1987

Volume 31
Number 49
Three Sections
plus Supplements

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the NOVI NEWS

also serving Wixom and Walled Lake

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Opinions NEW SUPER SEWER
A SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS/14A

High demand boosts prices of Novi homes

By CHRISTOPHER J. KOZLOWSKI
staff writer

Homes in the \$60,000 to \$130,000 price range are scarce in the Novi/Northville area. And, according to one area Realtor, a current imbalance of supply and demand is causing an "unhealthy" housing market.

Carol Mason of Carol Mason Realty in Novi said home buyers are paying substantially more this year for the same home than they would have last year because housing in the \$60,000-\$100,000 price range is in high demand. She said an area home which sold for \$80,000 in 1986 could easily sell for \$95,000 this year.

"There are many more buyers than sellers, especially under \$150,000," said Annie Nichols of Nichols Realty in Northville. She added that when homes become available on the market, they sell very quickly.

According to Conrad Jakubowski of ERA Rymal Symes in Novi, the area's housing shortage is directly attributable to the 1981-82 housing market slump. He said because land developers were reluctant to develop land in the area, after suffering losses in '81, the area is underdeveloped to meet today's needs.

According to the Metro Multi-list, a listing of real estate activity in the

Mason: 'It is a false, pumped-up economy. I like it when there is enough supply to meet demand.'

Metro Detroit area, there was a 29 percent drop in home listings in the Novi area from January/February 1986 to January/February 1987. Jakubowski said that decrease resulted in a 21 percent drop in unit sales because there were "insufficient products on the market to sell."

Reflecting how developers have begun to meet area needs, a recent market survey of the 60 largest metropolitan city areas ranked Metro Detroit housing development second behind New York City, according to Jakubowski. The Detroit area showed a 15.4 percent increase in activity over a year ago, according to the survey. New York activity increased 17.1 percent.

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No petitions filed in school election

If the petition count for this year's school board race is any indication, voters will have few candidates to choose from on the June 8 ballot.

A year after one of the most contested and costly school board elections in recent history, not a single petition has been filed with the superintendent's office. Deadline for filing petitions is 4 p.m. Monday, April 6.

Candidates for the two existing vacancies on the school board must be 18 years old, registered Novi voters, U.S. citizens, residents of Michigan at least 30 days and residents of the school district on or before the 30th day prior to the annual school election.

Nominating petitions are available at the Administration Building, 25575 Taft Road, and must be signed by at least 20 registered Novi voters. Residents who file petitions have until Thursday, April 9, to withdraw their candidacies.

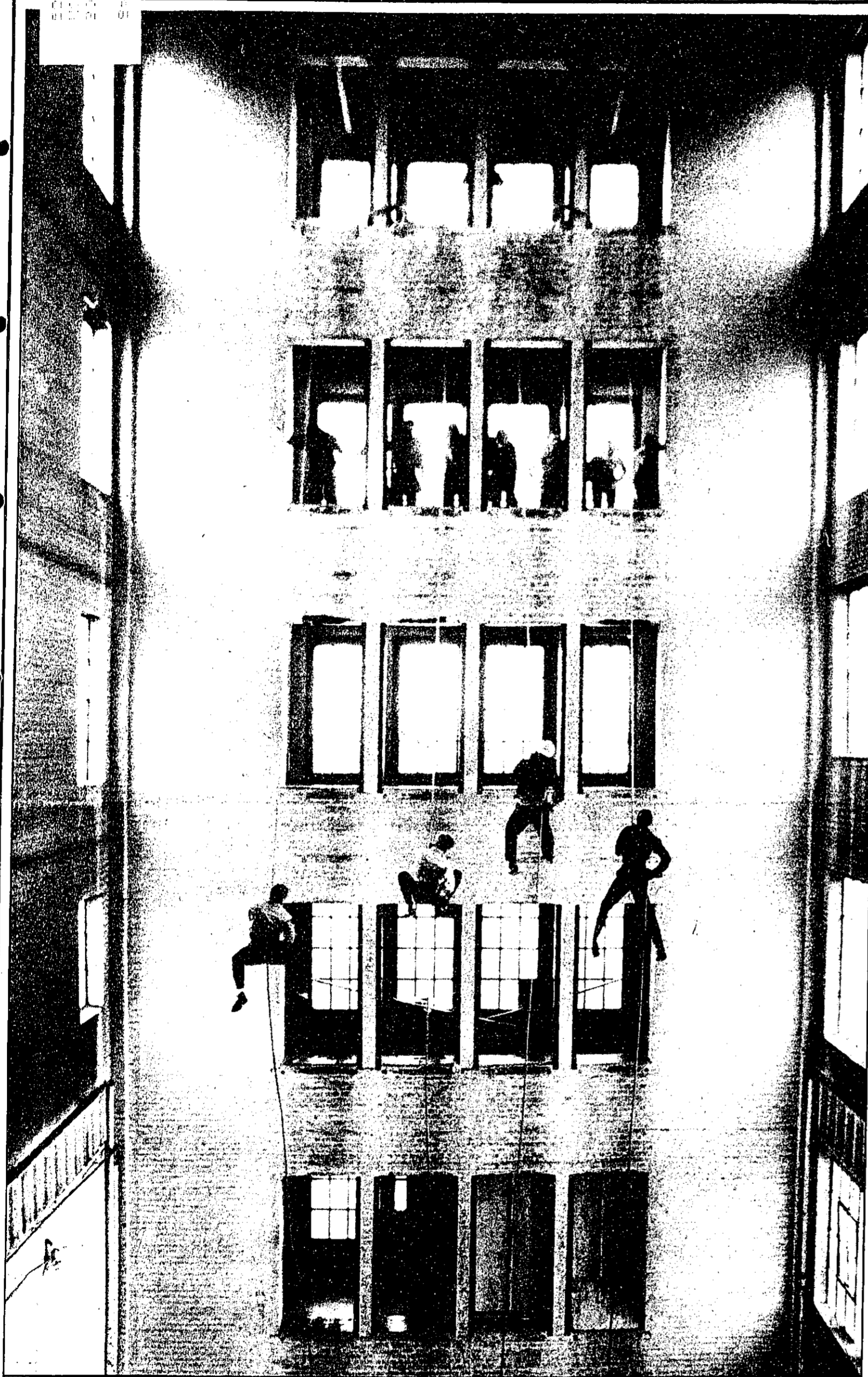
Sandy Lemon, secretary to Superintendent Robert Piwko, said board incumbents Michael Meyer and Stephen Hitchcock are the only two residents to pull petitions for the board seats. Meyer and Hitchcock announced last month they would seek election to retain their posts.

Last year, five first-time candidates challenged school board incumbents Robert Schram, Raymond Byers and Stephen Hitchcock in their bids for three posts.

Approximately 7 percent of Novi's voters turned out at the polls last year to retain the three incumbents. The voter turnout in the 1986 race was unusually high compared with the previous year's totals. In 1985, less than one percent of the voters turned out to retain incumbents Joan Daley and Sharon Pelchat.

It is likely that this year's election will generate even more voter interest — with or without school board challengers. Also included on the June 8 ballot will be a \$6.25 million bond issue to finance a six-project school package.

The ballot request marks the first bond issue the district has sought since 1973. Projects included on the ballot are additions to Orchard Hills and Village Oaks elementary schools, revisions to Novi Upper Elementary school, construction of a new administration building and maintenance/warehouse facility, and development and improvement of existing school sites.



Novi Fire Protection Officer Gordon Poyhonen (second from left) repels down the wall of the Detroit Fire Academy

Novi News/CHRIS BOYD

Hitting the wall

Local firefighters learn basics at academy

By ANN E. WILLIS
staff writer

A young man with blonde hair peers out of the window of the fourth story of a tall brick tower. A heavy rope swings close by and, with a wave of his hand, 25-year-old Gordon Poyhonen swings out of the building onto the rope and begins his repel to the trampoline far below.

Across the room Gordon's counterpart, 23-year-old Daniel Dye, is up in the air as well. Dye is carefully walking across a ladder hung horizontally from a fire escape to a make-shift roof. He, too, is connected to a rope for protection in case his firefighter's boots slip off the edge of the ladder.

Both young men successfully completed the training exercises that were part of the Monday morning activities at the Metro class of the Detroit Fire Academy. Poyhonen and Dye are two of the four full-time Fire Protection Officers hired by the City of Novi. The two are completing 240 hours of training at the academy. When they finish, Dan

Ray and Don Christensen will begin their sessions. This is only the second session that the Detroit Academy has held for members of suburban fire departments. Chief Robert Koster, superintendent of training for the Detroit Academy and a 36-year veteran of the department, said that in the past suburban firefighters were offered occasional spaces in classes unfilled by Detroit recruits. There are 19 people from eight different suburban communities in Dye and Poyhonen's class.

The program the suburban firefighters participate in is much the same as the program taken by Detroit recruits. The state dictates much of what is required at the academy, and 240 hours of training is mandatory for certification. Koster noted that although suburban communities are not required by law to undergo the training, the state legislature is in the process of introducing such a bill.

The Detroit Fire Academy is in an old brick building on the corner of Warren and Lawton in Detroit. The building has been used as a working

fire station and a training building for firefighters more than 50 years. As trainees drive to the building, they pass the burned-out warehouse structure where three firefighters were killed last month.

The fire academy structure is huge; big enough for a repelling training wall some five stories high, and fire escapes both inside and out. Firefighters slide down poles for a quick route to the vending machines on the ground floor.

Dye and Poyhonen have spent their time at the academy in class and in drills. Koster said most of the trainees who enter the academy are in excellent physical shape and few have trouble with the rigorous activities. Although there are calisthenics and trainees run about a mile-and-a-half each morning, most of the physical activity takes place on the ropes or the ladders.

Koster said the program offers basic training in firefighting, but the emphasis is on building confidence and instilling practical methods of approaching firefighting.

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1C

THURSDAY
April 2,
1987



19th century vegetables take root

By Michele M. Fecht

For our 19th century ancestors, Boston Marrow, Early Jersey Wakefield and Red Wethersfield were common fare on the American dinner table.

While the names may be unfamiliar to most modern cooks, these varieties of squash, cabbage and onion could be found in virtually any 19th century garden.

Though vegetables such as Egyptian beets (introduced from Europe around 1865) and Hollow Crown parsnips (a variety grown before 1850) cannot be found in the produce section of today's market, these antique varieties are making a comeback in heirloom gardens.

Alongside the zucchini, beefsteak tomatoes and acorn squash, more and more modern gardeners are planting seeds of 19th century vegetable varieties. While many old fruits and vegetables are lost forever — there are few seeds remaining for old pea, cucumber or muskmelon varieties — heirloom seeds and plantings are cropping up in today's gardens.

"The idea of heirloom gardening appealed to me because of its history," explains Margaret Schmidt, Novi 4-H leader and avid gardener. "It really put new life into my garden."

Schmidt tried her hand at heirloom gardening last year on her five-acre homestead off Wixom Road. Among the varieties she sampled were Yellow Plum tomatoes (better for preserving than eating raw), Boston Marrow squash ("It's the best squash we've ever eaten") and Scarlet Runner beans (distinguished by their bright red blossoms).

In addition, Schmidt planted Egyptian beets and Green Boston lettuce (also called Tennis Ball).

With seeds purchased from the Cornell University Heirloom Vegetable Garden Project, Schmidt says she hopes to duplicate the success she had with her first heirloom crops when planting begins this month for her new garden.

She notes that some of her ideas for her garden came from Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va. Jefferson is said to have grown some 250 varieties of vegetables.

"I would never want to grow a whole heirloom garden," Schmidt explains, noting that some heirloom varieties are not to her liking. She also notes she's partial to certain modern varieties such as her Illinois extra sweet corn.

She explains that many gardeners will try companion planting, although the results may be unexpected. "I crossed Green Hubbard squash with Connecticut Field pumpkin," Schmidt notes, "and got orange-green Hubbard squash."

The varieties of heirloom vegetables are limited, explains Gail Johnson, a former 4-H agent for Livingston County who now is working with Michigan 4-H.

She says that many old varieties fell out of favor and eventually became extinct with the introduction of improved, higher quality varieties. (Some 19th century crops such as sea kale, cardoon and burnet have been preserved because of their uniqueness.)

Johnson says that because many old varieties of common vegetable types have been replaced by heirloom varieties, gardeners should not expect the same yield from heirloom vegetables.

Gardeners also should realize that modern vegetable varieties have the advantages of hybrid seeds, Johnson explains. Heirloom seeds — authentic in their antiquity — may need special care and attention and are susceptible to plant disease. For instance, some seeds

publication available on heritage gardening.

"Heirloom gardening is definitely something that is catching on," she says.

Aside from the actual growing process, the history and folklore behind the heirloom varieties enhance the experience, Johnson says.

She notes, for instance, that tomatoes once were regarded as poisonous and only used for ornamental purposes (Thomas Jefferson grew tomatoes in 1781). By the mid-19th century they were quite common. Among the heirloom tomato varieties currently available are the Ponderosa (introduced in 1891), the Red Pear (grown before 1850 by the Indians of Mexico and Central America) and the Yellow Plum (circa 1855).

Johnson explains that cooking with heirloom vegetables is no different from cooking with any other vegetable. While the texture and taste of heirloom vegetables may differ slightly from the modern varieties, their uses are the same.

Schmidt notes that the heirloom vegetables in her garden are similar enough to modern varieties that she has had no trouble cooking with them.

"Basically, vegetables are vegetables," she says.

Information available on heirloom gardening includes:

□ "The Heirloom Vegetable Garden: Gardening in the 19th Century," Bulletin No. 177, Cornell University. Copies of the booklet are available for \$3 each. Write to Roger A. Kline, Senior Extension Associate, Heirloom Vegetable Garden Project, Department of Vegetable Crops, Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853-0227.

□ "Heritage Gardening," 4-H 1278, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and Michigan 4-H Youth Programs. Copies are available for \$1.50 each. Contact the MSU Cooperative Extension Service, East Lansing, Mich. 48824.

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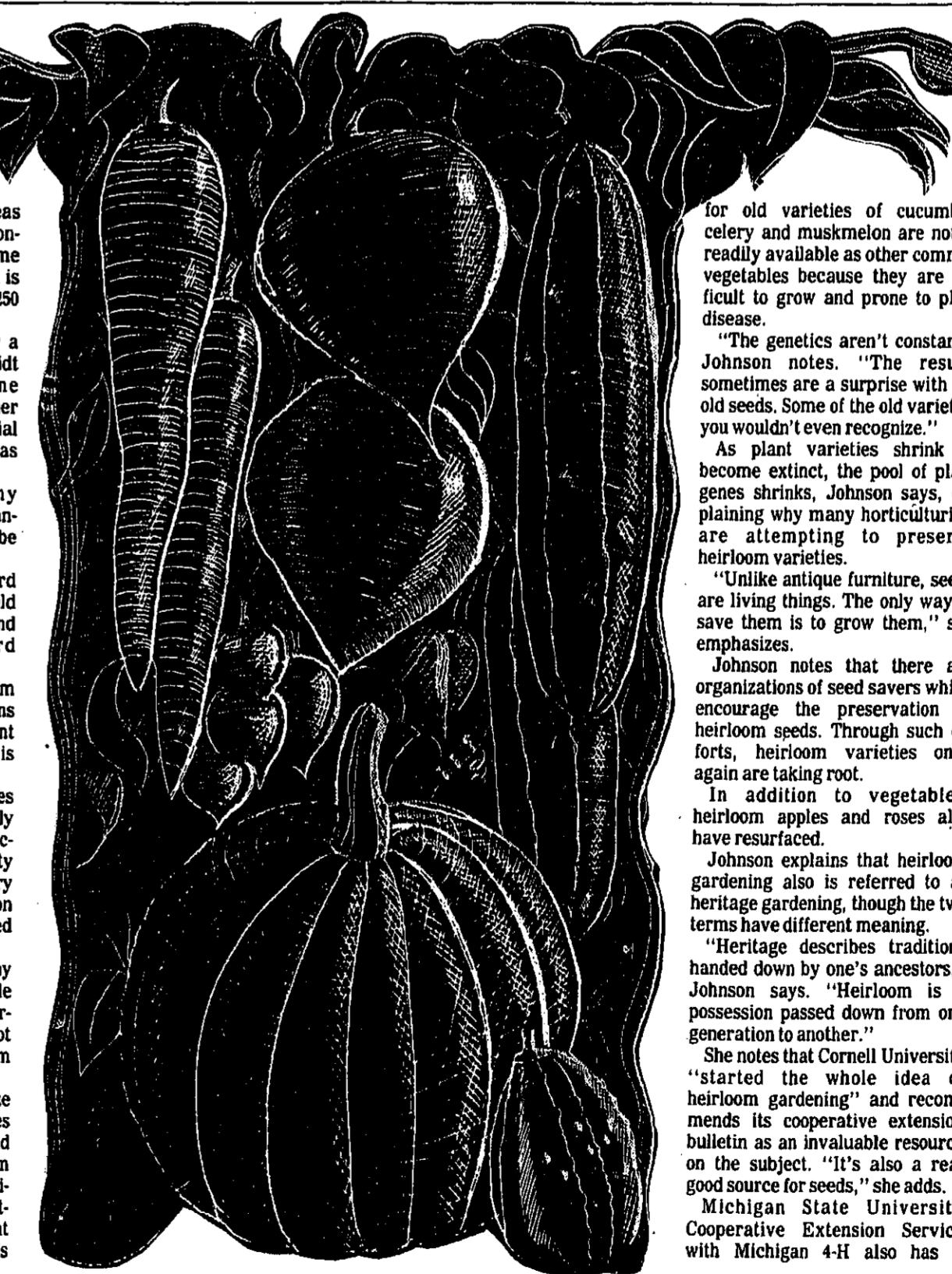
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NYA set to host bowlathon

Get ready, bowlers. The fifth annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowlathon is coming up. The bowlathon will be held Saturday, April 11, at the Novi Bowl on Novi Road at 12:30 p.m. "Right now we're looking for people who would like to help us raise money by bowling in the annual event," said NYA Secretary Joan Morris.

Anyone willing to solicit pledges and bowl three games is asked to call NYA offices at 349-8388 for more information.

Participants must secure pledges who agree to donate a designated amount of money for each pin knocked down.

Morris said the goal of this year's bowlathon is to raise \$15,000 to support NYA activities and programs. The proceeds will be used to fund such NYA activities as the Teen Center, summer and winter camp programs and family education programs.

Paul Baker, owner of The Farm, will serve as emcee of this year's annual event.

LYS plans auditions

LIVONIA — Spring auditions for the 1987-88 season will be held by the Livonia Youth Symphony (LYS) on May 2 at the Faith Lutheran Church in Livonia beginning at 1 p.m. The church is located at 30000 Five Mile between Merriman and Middlebelt roads.

There are openings in all three orchestras. Placement will be determined by audition.

For requirements or to schedule an appointment call Susan Gardner at 349-1894.



Watching Brian Deman, 16, bowl a frame in preparation for the fifth annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowlathon are (left to right) Frank Pepp, Patti Barr, Paul Baker, Karen Bartholomew and John O'Brien

Novi choir students achieve state honors

"We had a great March."

That was the assessment of Paula Joyner after members of her Novi High School vocal program earned three "superior" ratings in the State Solo and Ensemble Music Festival sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal Association (MSVA) in Flint on March 21.

The three superior ratings at the state festival were not the only reason Joyner was pleased, however. Novi High School choir also won two of the 12 "superior" ratings handed out by judges in the MSVA District IV Choir Festival on March 5-6.

"It was definitely a great month," reported Joyner, director of the vocal music program at Novi High School. "Our students did extremely well in both the state and district festivals."

Solist Tammy Jex and the duet of Heather Rosalk and Becky Prost accounted for two of the three "superior" ratings earned by Novi students at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

The third "superior" rating was earned by the Women's Ensemble, the advanced women's group at the high school, which earned a "1" in performance and a "1" in sight-reading for an overall rating of "1" (superior). Members of the Women's Ensemble are Becky Williams, Heather Rosalk, Julie Grabowski, Janna Riegel, C.J. Blanchard, Tammy Jex, Jenny Borg, Becky Prost, Amy Davies, Stephanie Lyle and Heather Lynch.

Students must earn "superior" ratings in the district festival to be eligible for the state competition.

In addition to the three "superior" ratings at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival, Novi students also earned seven "2" (excellent) ratings. Solists earning "excellent" ratings were Janna Riegel, Amy Davies, Heather Rosalk and Angelica Alvarez. Also earning "excellent" ratings were the duet of Jenny Connelly and Hope Turner and the duet of Julie Grabowski and Jenny Borg.

The seventh "excellent" rating at the state festival was earned by the Triple Trio, a beginning women's vocal group. The rating was particularly pleasing to Joyner who noted that it was the first time in their five-year history that the Triple Trio had qualified for the state festival.

Triple Trio members are Lara Rosalk, Julie Grabowski, Heidi Wendi, Angelica Alvarez, Jeni Lebert, Jenny Borg, C.J. Blanchard, Julia Striegel and Jenny Erwin.

Joyner also was pleased with her students' performance in the MSVA District IV Choir Festival on March 5-6. Fifty high school choirs from Oakland and Livingston counties participated in the two-day event.

Joyner noted that Novi had two of the 12 choirs which received overall "superior" ratings and one of the five choirs which received "straight-ones" for both performance and sight-reading.

Leading the way was the Concert Choir which received "straight ones" in all categories for an overall "superior" rating.

The Women's Vocal Society also had an overall "superior" rating after earning "straight ones" in performance and a "2" in sight-reading.

As a result, both the Concert Choir and Women's Vocal Society are eligible to participate in the MSVA's state choir festival in Jackson on May 1. Joyner noted that this is the third consecutive year in which both groups have qualified for the state festival.

Novi's third group at the district choir festival, the Women's Chorus, earned "excellent" (2) ratings. The group received a "1" and a "2" for performance and a "1" in sight-reading for an overall "2" rating.

Wildflower walks set

LIVONIA — The 10th annual Wildflower Walk will be held along the nature trails of the Livonia Bicentennial Park during the period of April 9 to May 23.

Sponsored by the Schoolcraft College Biology Department, the event is open to the public free of charge.

The half-mile tours last 45 minutes and are conducted by faculty members and people who have completed a wildflower class at Schoolcraft College. This year's guides include Margaret Converse and Angella Krull of Livonia, Jane Kohring of Grosse Pointe Farms, Kay Wittliff of Farmington, Grover Neirgarth of Brighton, and Roger and Mary Sutherland of Ann Arbor.

Bicentennial Park nature trails feature more than 35 different species of wildflowers which are expected to be at their peaks of beauty and color during the period of the walks. Bicentennial Park is located on Seven Mile between Newburgh and Farmington roads.

Groups and individuals may arrange for a guided wildflower tour by calling Professor Roger Sutherland of the Schoolcraft College Biology Department at 591-6400, extension 521.

Show benefits MDA

A benefit performance of the musical "South Pacific" will be presented at the Marquis Theatre in Northville tonight (Thursday, April 2).

The event is sponsored by ERA First Federal Realty of Livonia to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

The MDA offers such programs as a worldwide research program, public and professional education, clinics and recreational programs for MD patients. All MDA programs are funded by individual donations.

The benefit performance of "South Pacific" will begin with refreshments tonight at 7:30 p.m. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$15 apiece and can be ordered by calling ERA First Federal Realty of Livonia at 478-3400.

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By working together through this program, we can continue to meet the special community development needs of Oakland County — at home, in the neighborhood and throughout the County.

Daniel T. Murphy
DANIEL T. MURPHY
County Executive

OAKLAND COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48053 • (313) 859-0493

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Prepared by the Oakland County Office of Community Development to acquaint residents with Federal Community Development funds at work in Oakland County. Kary Riech, editor, Stephen Brudzinski, writer/photographer.

Call The Oakland County Community Development Division Toll Free:
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 KING \$16.00 EA.

Shower Curtains SAVE 25%-50% Special Select Group

VINYLS FABRICS COTTONS

NOSTALGIA Cotton

Mattress Pads

- 100% Cotton Cover
- Bonded Polyester Fill
- Slightly Imperfect

TWIN	\$28.00	Compare	\$14.88
FULL	\$35.00	Compare	\$18.88
QUEEN	\$40.00	Compare	\$25.88
KING	\$48.00	Compare	\$28.88

LUCITE WALL ACCESSORIES

Clear vinyl • Styling wall accessories with chrome accents

BATH RUGS AND WALL CARPETS OVAL & OBLONG DESIGNS

SHOWER-TUB MATS -FAMOUS MAKER-

Extra thick • Super colors
 Slightly imperfect
 Great value
 Compare at \$20.00

\$8.88 EA.

Famous New Splendor 1ST. QUALITY TERRY TOWELS

BATH	\$12.00	Compare	\$8.88
HAND	\$8.00	Compare	\$5.48
WASH	\$3.50	Compare	\$2.68
FINGERTIP	\$4.00	Compare	\$2.88
TUB MAT	\$24.00	Compare	\$18.88
SHOWER TOWEL	\$30.00	Compare	\$23.88