

# MONDAY

## the NOVI NEWS

PLEMENTS

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Photo By/KAREN LANGER

### Summer's here!

Summer officially arrived in Novi in grand style on Thursday, with warm weather and clear skies. Lakeshore Park was a popular place for enjoying the weather. Shown here making the

most of it are, from left, Brianne Messisco, Brandon Messisco and Jessica Moore.

## Planners deny unrestricted MRF zoning

By SHEILA PHILLIPS  
Staff Writer

An new amendment to allow materials recovery facilities (MRFs) and solid waste transfer stations in any zoning district — which was handed to both press and planning commissioners the night of a June 20 vote — died for lack of support. The amendment's death leaves the recycling operation proposed for Haggerty Road just south of I-96 in question. The Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of South-west Oakland County (RRRASOC), which serves seven communities including Novi, hopes to have the facility operational by 1993 to handle solid waste.

Prior to the June 20 meeting, a portion of the planning commission and numerous MRF proponents mistakenly believed that the amendment up for discussion would mandate an I-1 (light industrial) or I-2 (heavy industrial) zoning to site a MRF.

But instead, proposed wording also allowed such facilities in residential and commercial districts, resulting in the amendment's downfall.

"The way this text is, it would allow a MRF in any zoning district," commented commissioner Gary Phillips. "I can't support putting that in the ordinance, even though I

support having a MRF."

RRRASOC Director Lenora Jadun said that her group did not anticipate the "open" wording and did not request it. "The wording came as a complete surprise to us — I don't know why the 'any zoning district' wording was used," she told the Novi News. "I would support not having a MRF in residential or commercial, but not limiting it to I-2 zoning only."

RRRASOC hopes to build its \$27-million MRF and solid-waste transfer facility on I-1 land on Haggerty Road, where the group has already purchased a \$40,000 option.

Without amendment, however, Novi zoning text would limit the MRF to I-2 zoning because it is legally a junkyard, said Assistant City Attorney Dennis Watson.

"Although the MRF people don't agree with us, and it isn't what we typically view as a junkyard, the city's zoning ordinance has a broad definition of a junkyard and that is what we feel the facility falls under," he said. "Therefore, it would probably be limited to I-2 zoning unless changes are made in the text."

This interpretation would require the authority to choose an alternate I-2 site, petition to rezone the Haggerty property or ask for a zoning variance.

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## 'Violent' Walled Lake swans stir controversy

By JAN JEFFREYS  
Staff Writer

Are "killer swans" on Walled Lake threatening the safety of the people who live on and use Novi's largest body of water?

Ask some residents that question and the first response may be a laugh. Then they'll suggest that the biggest menace is people and boats endangering the waterfowl.

Ask Franklin resident Caren Nederlander, who keeps a summer home in Novi on Walled Lake, and she'll describe two frightening incidents last summer when she was attacked by a swan while out on her jet ski.

Reports of swans assaulting boaters and jet skiers on Oakland County Lakes has the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

(DNR) contemplating live-trapping the birds and shipping them to Oregon. (DNR officials did not return phone calls.) It has the national media like the Cable News Network (CNN) swooping down for a dramatic story.

"What's next, killer muskrats?" wondered Sarah Phelps, president of the Lakes Area Residents Association (LARA).

"There are no killer swans. What are just ignorant people... There the problem is, is we have people who want to use the lake any way they want and have no respect for the wildlife habitat."

Not so, Nederlander says. Last summer, she bought a red jet ski. The first attack was near her cottage when she was about a quarter-mile from the swan, she said.

"It came out like they wanted to attack, only I managed to get away from it. The swan was relentless; he kept after me for the longest time," she said.

"He was making this hissing noise and flying his wings up and down and it was extremely frightening... I understand that swans can bite your finger off."

The second time Nederlander was set upon by a swan was when she was riding her jet ski away from Key Largo restaurant.

"I got so afraid to go out that I never go out alone anymore. It's getting to the point where I feel I need someone to go with me," she said.

Nederlander said she had no problems with the swans until she started jet skiing. But she doesn't want the birds removed from the

lake. "I think the swans are very beautiful and I get a thrill out of watching them. I'm a real nature lover. I'd just like to know how to protect myself."

To Lorna Penn, Nederlander's next-door neighbor, feeding the beautiful creatures is one of the luxuries of living along the water. From the pier jutting out into Walled Lake from her backyard, Penn dally calls one family of swans over for a healthy treat of oat or wheat bran bread. White bread clogs up the swans' digestive tracks, she said.

The birds' natural predators are snapping turtles, owls and raccoons. But some lakes area residents frequently find themselves taking care of the damage caused by reckless boaters and jet skiers, as well as fishers who cast their

rods and hit the animals with the fishing hooks, Phelps said. Last summer, Penn fed an injured male swan — called a cob — veterinarian-prescribed antibiotics four times a day.

Currently, two pair of nesting mute swans are raising their broods of cygnets on Walled Lake. The pair Penn feeds nest in the area by South Lake and West Lake drives. A second male — which may attack jet skis — and its family live at the point of the lake by Pontiac Trill and West Lake Drive. A cygnet from this swan family was run over by a jet ski and had to be destroyed, Penn said. Several swans also make their home on neighboring Shaws Lake.

Penn said several jet skiers have

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Photos By/KAREN LANGER

A Walled Lake swan: friend or foe?

### Inside



**INSIDE TODAY:** Joseph DiRado, owner of Brickscape Inc. on Old Novi Road, has been named entrepreneur of the year. See page 7.

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### News Briefs

**This old house:** The first meeting of the Friends of the Sally Thornton House will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. Anyone interested in historic preservation, especially of the circa-1838 Novi pioneer homestead, is encouraged to attend. The new group is a pet personal project of Kathy Mutch, who is also president of the Novi Historical Society.

The clock is ticking for the Thornton house, which will be destroyed if it is not moved from its home behind Home Sweet Home restaurant. Mutch hopes that with the help of a few "friends" a new site for the building can be found.

**Police fund-raiser:** Representatives of the Novi Police Officers Association will be soliciting donations over the next five weeks in order to fund various community projects, including support of area group homes, aid to senior citizens, a \$1,000 scholarship and aid to needy families. This group is entirely local and funds only local projects. This is not part of a national fund-raising organization as previously stated in the Novi News. If residents encounter any problems or have any questions contact the police department at 248-7100.

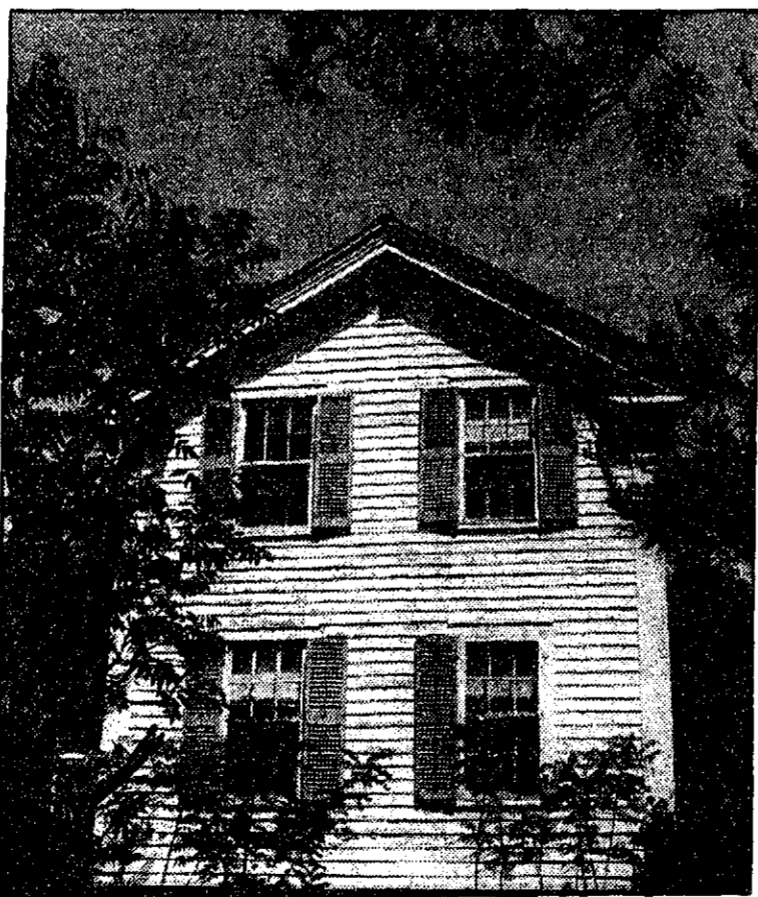


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

The Friends of the Thornton House meet Thursday

**Bereavement group:** The bereavement support group meeting conducted by Michael Meyer, D. Min., will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. tonight, Monday, June 25 at the Novi Civic Center,

45175 W. Ten Mile.

The topic is "Solving Practical Problems on the Journey through Grief." Rev. Charles Jacobs of Novi United Methodist Church will offer prayerful reflection.

There is no fee for the meeting; all are welcome.

**Engler at the chamber:** The Novi Chamber of Commerce and six other chambers will sponsor a breakfast meeting with gubernatorial candidate John Engler on Tuesday, July 10 at the Novi Hilton.

The cost is \$13; the chamber also requests a \$5 donation to the Novi Business Political Action Committee.

Tickets are available at the Novi chamber office at Novi Road and Grand River, or by calling 349-3743.

**Bed race:** The annual Bed Race through the streets of downtown Northville, part of the annual Fourth of July festivities, desperately needs entrants.

Dundalk Lane/Dundalk Court of Northville Commons subdivision has already "threpeated" the event. The champs want to take on all comers.

Rules and regulations are available at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main. entry deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, June 29.

**Volunteers:** On Wednesday, July 18, The Association for Retarded Citizens of Northwest Communities and Northville Schools will host a field day "To

Celebrate the Individual".

The emphasis of this special day is to provide the severely mentally impaired and the severely multiple-impaired athlete individual and competitive sport opportunities.

The field day will be held at Northville High School from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Please contact Vickie Greiner at Old Village School at 344-8460 for further information.

**History gift:** The Novi Historical Commission is accepting donations of artifacts for the city museum planned for the old Novi Township Hall.

The commission is seeking belongings of pre-1900 Novi residents, including photographs, farming and household implements, diaries and letters, as well as items documenting pre-1950 village, township and city governments and local events. This would include memorabilia of the Walled Lake Amusement Park and Casino and anything related to the REO Speedwagon fire truck, including service manuals and equipment.

In addition, the commission is also interested in talking to people who lived in Novi prior to 1950, to collect local oral histories. Contact Kathy Mutch at 349-6774.









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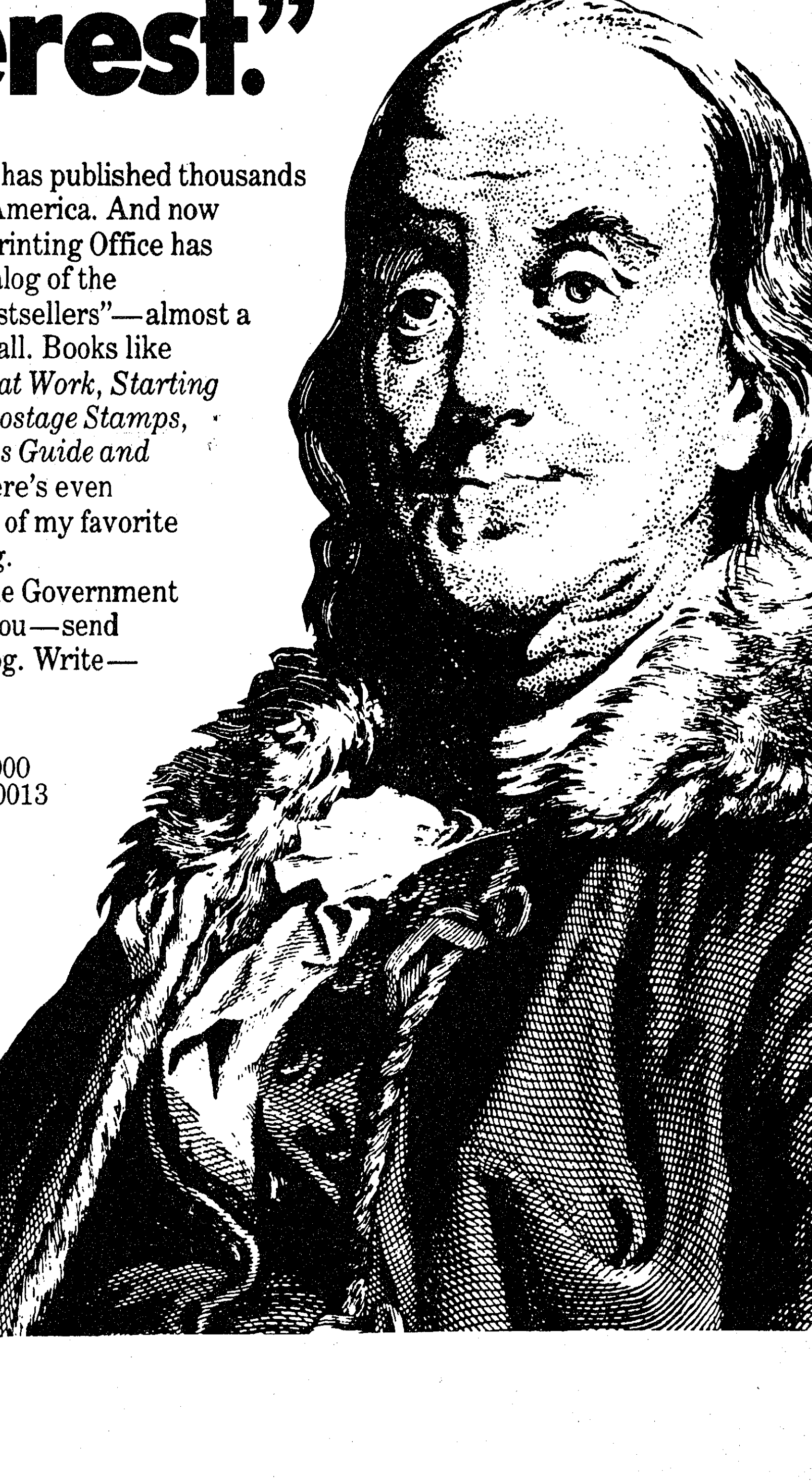
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