

# MONDAY

## the NOVI NEWS

SUPPLEMENTS

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### OK WHOS READING ON THE POLAR EXPRESS



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

#### A cool summer

The Novi Library has sponsored a host of activities for summer readers and the Polar Express board at the library lists the names of many who are participating in the special program.

Above, some readers look for their names on the reading wall of honor.

## Response times are under fire

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

In calculating ambulance response times, the private carrier Community Emergency Medical Service (CEMS) and the Novi Fire Department are not of one mind.

In March — the only month used in Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan's recent study — CEMS indicated the company exceeded 10 minutes in 2.5 emergency runs. Fire department officials found the company's ambulances arrived on the scene 12 minutes or later 10 times — about 20 percent of the calls for that time span. The delayed responses, he said, occurred at locations throughout the city.

"We found that it may be necessary to question the validity of the information they were providing us," Lenaghan said. "The range was as high as 23 minutes in one case. That's not acceptable. They

should be able to meet the criteria."

Novi follows state department of public health regulations which specify that an ambulance service should have response times of 10 minutes or less on 90 percent of its emergency runs.

The fire department has been independently monitoring CEMS response times since last Dec. 1, following several allegedly delayed answers to emergency calls. Firefighters on an emergency call are asked to fill out reports indicating when an ambulance arrives on the scene and the quality of service. Lenaghan said the city attorney is currently polishing up a private ambulance service guideline for Novi which CEMS will be expected to follow.

CEMS president Greg Beauchemin questions how the fire department arrives at its figures.

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## Police expand investigation

By SHEILA PHILLIPS  
Staff Writer

A police investigation into the wrongful death of a 70-year-old Novi Care Center resident, which was expected to wrap up last week, still continues.

"This investigation is just mushrooming," commented Lt. Robert Starnes, who is spearheading the inquiry into the death of Esther Tauren. "There is a lot more involved than what we first thought."

The investigation began July 9, when Tauren, a former Farmington Hills resident, died while being fed her evening meal.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner listed aspiration of food as the official cause of death. Police say the coroner found Tauren's airway completely blocked by

food. The 70-year-old, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, was also dehydrated at the time of death, police said.

Because of her condition, Tauren could not ask or reach for water and relied solely on the facility to provide for her needs, according to family.

She had been treated for dehydration at Providence Hospital in Southfield and released July 5 — four days prior to her death — according to her family and police sources.

Starnes recently alerted the attorney general's health care fraud division about the case and said the department may ask for assistance. The Michigan Department of Public Health is already involved in the case.

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## School starts this year on Aug. 28

By MAUREEN NASZRADI  
Staff Writer

School bells will ring a week earlier this year — Aug. 28 for most students in the Novi Community School District.

Students in grades 1-12 will attend a half-day that Tuesday, then start their regular schedule Wednesday. Kindergarten and preprimary impaired students will begin classes Wednesday, Aug. 29.

In addition to the earlier starting date, the schedule for the 1990-91 school year features a longer winter recess — the break begins at the end of the day Dec. 21 and classes resume Jan. 7.

In an effort to make parents aware of the schedule changes, district officials are mailing a "Back to School" newsletter to all Novi district homes, in-

serting the newsletter in a Novi News issue and listing the calendar changes on the local community access channel.

Some parents already are aware of the calendar changes. Wayne Vicklund, whose son is an eighth grader, said he is unhappy the school now will start before Labor Day.

"I don't think (district officials) considered that moving the starting date could have an impact on a large number of people," Vicklund said.

As a single divorced parent, Vicklund said he, like a growing percentage of the population, had a closely detailed settlement for custody during the summer and holidays. Because enclosing another holiday in the school year cut into his visitation privileges, Vicklund said he renegotiated the settlement with his ex-wife.

John Swallow, assistant superintendent in charge of human resources, said the revised calendar brings the Novi district in line with other schools in Oakland County.

The calendars for the 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 school years are spelled out in the contracts negotiated by the district and Novi Education Association.

The Board of Education and the teachers' union last month formally extended and modified several aspects of the contracts, including the calendars.

"The administration didn't feel (the calendar) was an issue," Swallow said.

The calendars planned for the next three years are very similar to what the district had prior to the 1988 school year.

### Inside

Look for the newest in cable listings — Suburban Cable Weekly, a guide with the exact listings for the Novi area, including local access programming.



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### News Briefs

**New planning commission officers:** The planning commission elected new officers July 18. The previous vice-chairperson, Ed Kramer was named this year's chair, and Kathleen McLallen was elected to fill his vice-chair post. John Bagnagna will retain his secretary spot.

Prior chairperson Charles Kureth served two consecutive years in that capacity and by commission by-laws could not serve a third term.

**Nighty-night mares:** Donna Frizell is getting embarrassed. Twice over the past three weeks, Novi police have paid her a call, investigating citizen complaints about "dead" horses on her farm at the northwest corner of Nine Mile and Meadowbrook Road.

While Frizell has nothing but praise for the officers, she wishes the city slickers would wise up about animal lifestyles.

"They lay down and take a nap like people do, but these city people don't understand that horses do that kind of thing. Sometimes, they like to take a sun bath," she said. "They'll eat awhile and then they lay down and sleep awhile."

The thoroughbreds have earned their rest, Frizell ex-

plained, after a night out racing at Northville Downs or Ladbrooke DRC.

**Still counting:** Although Census Day, April 1, has passed, the Census Bureau has initiated a follow-up procedure to ensure an accurate and complete count called the "Were you Counted?" campaign. This campaign marks the last opportunity for households and individuals missed in the count to participate in the census. The bureau will make available a one-page, abbreviated census form. Anyone missed in the census should complete and return the shortened questionnaire to the address indicated on the form. Call toll-free to answer the census: 1-800-999-1990; or for the hearing impaired, 1-800-777-0978.

**Victorian Festival:** The Second Annual Victorian Festival invites non-profit groups in the Northville area to join the fun and raise money for their organizations by participating in this year's festival Sept. 14-16. Groups interested in operating a booth should contact Sarah Minor, 348-8596 or Judy Dore, 349-1052 or 349-4550 (office).



### Elvis lives!

At least in Novi, at least next week. It's '50s Festival time in Novi July 25-29 and plenty of people will be going back in time to relive the rock 'n roll age. The Festival is packed with events for everyone — look for information here on Thursday and head out to the Town Center.

### Sports Briefs

**Yankowski is an All-Star:** Novi's Mike Yankowski and Milford's Darrell Davis will play in the 10th annual Michigan High School East-West All-Star Football Game July 28 at Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

Both players will compete for the East squad, comprised of 1990 graduates from schools in Oakland, Wayne, Monroe, St. Clair, Lapeer, Sanilac, Macomb, Huron and Tuscola counties.

**Novi vs. Walled Lake:** The best of Novi softball will take on the best of Walled Lake on July 27. That's the date of the annual Novi-Walled Lake All-Star Game at Power Park (behind the Novi Civic Center).

The women's all-star game will be held at 6:45 p.m. with the men's game following at 8:45 p.m.

**Golf classic results:** The sixth annual Ameritech PagesPlus Celebrity Golf Classic for Alzheimer's drew 320 participants earlier this summer at Meadowbrook Contry Club.

The first place team in the mens division included Gary Shifflett, Archie Shifflett, Doug Hickman and Mike Humenik.











