

the NOVI NEWS

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50 CENTS

Meadowbrook Road: lots of land for sale

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Meadowbrook Road between Twelve and Eleven Mile roads is primarily a street of comfortable homes set in lush, rolling green lawns — today.

In front of at least five of these lawns are parked "For Sale" signs. House after house is on the market, especially on the east side of the road. Other homes have found purchasers in 1988 and 1989.

Potential buyers won't care if the residence has two or three baths, a full basement or central air. It's the land that investors and developers have been eyeing.

Currently, the area is staked out for residential and agricultural uses, but the master plan calls for office zoning. With designs in the hopper for Twelve Oaks Mall to expand to the east and for the Haggerty Road Connector (M-9) to realign the area to the north, it's only a matter of time before the houses on

Meadowbrook are bulldozed to make way for new construction.

"They're getting some real good prices in there," said City Assessor James Klausmeyer. "With the mall and with Sandstone happening to the north, the building going on up in the Maples — I think speculators are going to buy that stuff out. Now's probably a pretty good time to take your cut and run."

The Maples — at Decker Road and Fourteen Mile, and Sandstone — south of 13 Mile, between Novi

and Meadowbrook roads are massive planned urban developments. Homes are already for sale at first, the second is in the planning stages.

On Meadowbrook Road, Klausmeyer said land was averaging \$40,000 an acre or higher.

But the properties aren't selling fast enough, says homeowner Arthur Maxwell. Maxwell has had two homes with nine acres of land up for grabs since 1985 and has listed the property with two real estate

brokers.

"It's worth quite a bit but we can't get a buyer. They seem to be waiting for M-9. When they get M-9, we're going to go pretty good," he said.

"It's too large to be viable to stay here, with what's going on. It looks like it's not going to be an area for houses. We've got acres in back, we'd rather sell it. . . You just sit and wait and hope for a buyer."

He and his wife, Mina, have lived in their home for 30 years, and raised two sons there. Now, Ander-

son is retired and plans to move out further west along I-96.

One of his neighbors on the west side of Meadowbrook will be heading in the same direction in October, into a new home in South Lyon. Louis Chismark sold his home on five acres in January.

"It was just too much for us. We were here 22 years," he said. "I don't know why they're selling, but I guess everybody wants to move out."

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Lights go out in Novi

By SHEILA PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Lightning isn't supposed to strike twice, but it struck Novi approximately six times during Thursday night's storm.

Still, the electrical blows did not result in a single fire.

One of the more notable bolts hit the steeple of the Methodist Church on Grand River, which is over 100 years old.

"It (the bolt) hit the steeple and slid down through the drain pipe and lifted some of the shingles on the roof like a mole lifts up dirt," one firefighter commented.

Firefighters originally responded to a lightning call at the neighboring Mobil Station on Grand River, but apparently the bolt missed the gas station and hit the church. Chief Art Lenaghan said.

"It was a busy night," the chief said with regard to Thursday's thunderfest, which turned numerous Novi streets into small rivers. "At one point, we had all the equipment and units we have in use."

Novi, however, weathered the storm better than neighboring communities because most power lines are underground. In fact, only one line was reported down — in Novi's north end — at presstime.

Nevertheless, the fire department was unable to escape the heavenly wrath, as the Grand River station was left without power, and was forced to operate on emergency generator power.

"It never fails, the power always seems to go out at this station," Lenaghan commented. "We seem to be the only place out of power on Grand River because we are on a separate line — all the traffic lights around Grand River are on."



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Natural farmers

Kindergarten and first-grade pupils at Village Oaks Elementary School planted seeds at the end of the 1989-90 school year with plans to report on the growth progress at the start of this school year. Nick Slovan (left) grew from

seed the sweet corn that has since far exceeded his height. Also examining a husk is Nick's brother Vince, who grew peppers for his plant project.

Aide charged with neglect in patient death

By SHEILA PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Oakland County prosecutors issued a single "harmful neglect" warrant Thursday for the nurse's aide who spoon-fed a 70-year-old Novi Care Center resident who choked to death on her evening meal.

It took the prosecutor's office over a month to review the case and issue the single misdemeanor warrant in connection with the July 9 death of Esther Tauren. Formal charges are to be brought in an arraignment scheduled for today.

"This isn't something the prosecutor's office deals with everyday," said Lt. Robert Starnes, who spearheaded the investigation. "They had to talk to 20-some people and read through a very thick report — that's the reason it took so long."

Starnes said he is content with the single warrant. "I think this is the proper charge — this is the warrant we anticipated," he said.

Possible multiple warrants were ruled out after a toxicology report was completed. The Oakland County Medical Examiner had mistakenly reported at the time of her death that Tauren was dehydrated. The toxicology report indicated that she was not.

Tauren had been treated for dehydration at Providence Hospital less than a week before her death. At that time, doctors at Providence said she should be on a blender-only diet, but a Care Center doctor later changed that order, police said.

Harmful neglect, which carries a one-year maximum jail term and/or a fine between \$1,000 and \$10,000, is charged when a caregiver physically or emotionally abuses or neglects a patient.

"This isn't something the prosecutor's office deals with everyday. They had to talk to 20-some people and read through a very thick report — that's the reason it took so long."

Lt. Robert Starnes
Novi Police

The aide in the Tauren case was unable to recognize that the 70-year-old Alzheimer patient was choking, even though she was shaking and tears were rolling down her cheek, according to the Department of Health investigation.

State health officials imposed an admissions ban on Novi Care Center, which is located on Meadowbrook Road, until the facility beefs up employee training and the general quality of care. This corrective action, which was issued Aug. 17, resulted from death investigation results and the department's annual review of the facility.

Care Center Administrator James Tiffin, said that the entire staff is already being retrained and a consulting firm has been called in to make care improvement recommendations.

Meanwhile, a pretrial for ex-Novu Care aide Susan Brown, who is charged with patient abuse for kneeling a 75-year-old patient in the buttocks, will be held Sept. 18 in front of 52nd District Court, Division 1, Judge Michael Batchuk.

Inside

INCLUDED IN today's paper is "Suburban Cable Weekly," your guide to television in Novi. The listings are keyed to the actual channels on the MetroVision cable system.



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Novi Briefs

Bloodmobile coming: An American Red Cross Bloodmobile is scheduled to stop in Novi on Tuesday, Sept. 18.

The unit will be at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call Novi City Clerk Gerry Stipp at 347-0456.

Novi Players auditions: The Novi Players will audition for Noel Coward's classic "Blithe Spirit" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10 and Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Novi Civic Center, on Ten Mile east of Taft.

The script calls for two men and five women. Anyone interested is invited.

Open House for Open Housing volunteers: On Thursday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Oakland County Center for Open Housing invites potential volunteers to drop in and learn about the organization's programs.

The center, which is dedicated to promoting integration in the suburbs, is located at 37953 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call 489-1750. Volunteers will work from their home, the field, or the center to welcome families to Oakland County.

Seminar for seniors: A seminar on "Living Trust vs. Living Wills" is slated for 10 a.m. to noon tomorrow, Sept. 11, at the Novi Senior Center, inside the Novi Civic Center at 45175 W. Ten Mile.

Topics include how to avoid probate, how to reduce taxes to your heirs, advantages of a living trust, the living will, and a question-and-answer session. The discussion is presented by financial expert Paul Leduc.

The seminar is sponsored by the Novi Senior Citizens and is free of charge. For more information call 347-0414.

Program on anger: The Novi Public Library is planning nine adult programs for fall through spring, 1990-91.

To start off the series, Sandy Baumann will present "Making Anger my Friend" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20. Baumann is program coordinator for ElderMed, a free senior membership program at Botsford Hospital for people 50 and older, and is also a wellness instructor in the Continuing Education Department at Madonna College.

In this program Baumann will describe the physical symptoms of anger and its causes. She discusses the styles of managing anger and constructive ways to use the energy that anger generates.

To register for this free program, call the library at 349-0720.

Fundraiser for handicapped kids: The Tollgate 4-H Educational

Center will host the first "Family Fun Country Picnic" from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15.

The event is intended to raise money for Tollgate's "Exceptional Equestrians," a horseback riding program for children with disabilities. Those scheduled to attend the event include Honorary Chairperson Janet Blanchard, Gov. James Blanchard, and John Kelly and Marilyn Turner, hosts of TV's "Kelly and Company."

Guests will enjoy hayrides, dancing, hot-air balloon rides, and food, while exploring the new Tollgate Center. The center is a facility where people can learn about science, technology, the environment and the arts in a peaceful country setting.

Tickets are \$75 per person and \$150 per family. Call 347-3860 for more information.



Novi will host another blood drive this month

Sports Briefs

Wildcat Update: The Novi football team was soundly trounced by non-conference foe Clarkston 24-6 Friday night. . . . The Novi golfers opened their conference schedule on Sept. 4 with a key 178-186 road victory over Lakeland, but then came home to Pebble Creek two days later and fell to Hartland 219-220. The Wildcats are now 2-1 overall. . . . The Novi girls basketball squad dropped another non-conference game on Sept. 6, 68-47 at Walled Lake Western. . . . The Wildcat tennis squad fell to Brighton 6-1 on Sept. 4 but bounced back to beat Milford 6-0 two days later.

McGrew update: Novi's Mark McGrew, the 14-year-old tennis phenom, was seeded No. 1 and wound up winning the Western Racquet Club Junior Open in Elm Grove, Wis. in late August.

McGrew turned back Jeff Malik, the No. 2 seed from Wisconsin, 6-3, 6-2 in the finals. Malik was a strong serve and volley player.

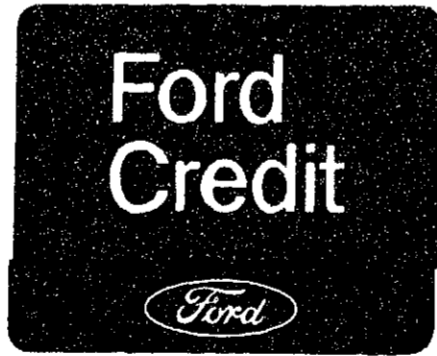
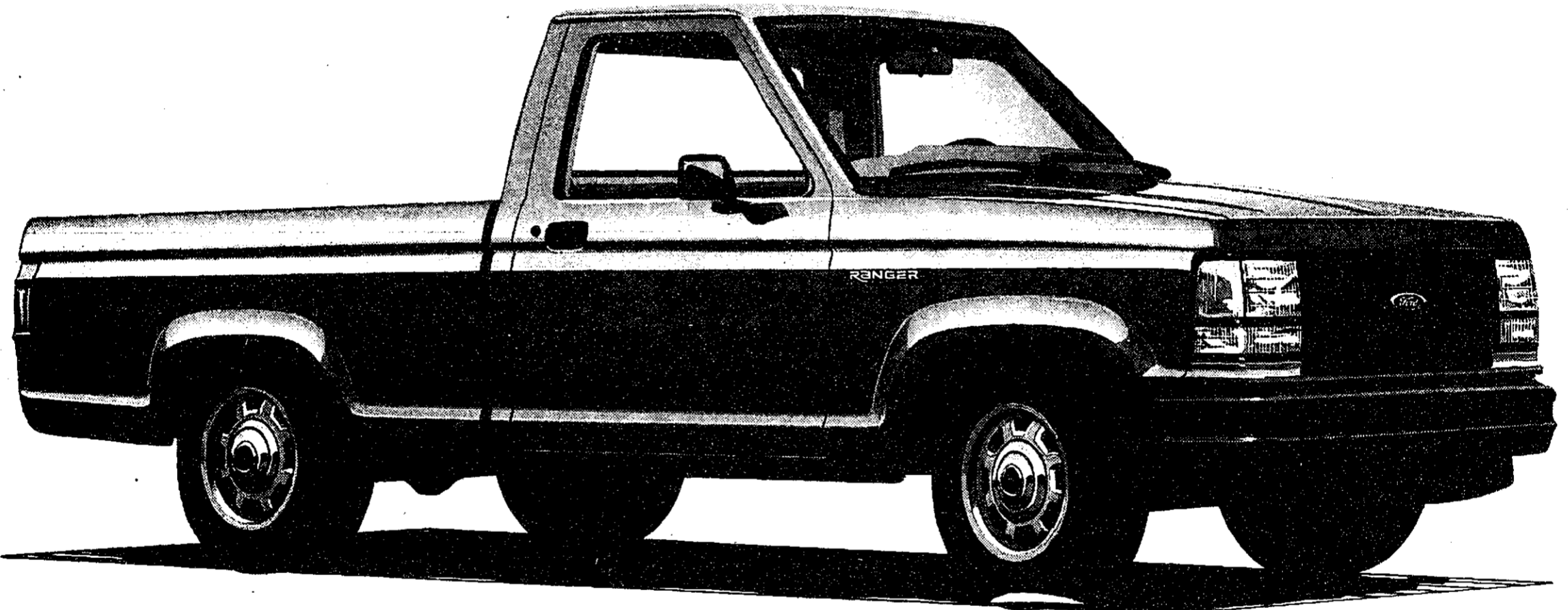
Free swim clinic: Join the Livonia-Novu Spartans Swim Club for a free competitive swim clinic for the novice swimmer from today (Sept. 10) through Sept. 14. The clinic will run from 5-6:15 p.m. all week.

For more information, call Karen Kelly at 349-3429 before 6 p.m.

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