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MONDAY
February 3, 1992

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One Section
10 Pages plus Supplements

the NEWS

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Dining WISHES OF FORTUNE
FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR / 6A

Update SUBDIVISION PLANS
TABLED OVER CONCERNS / 2A

Injuries minor in Austin St. house fire

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

The Mochmann family lost everything in an early-morning blaze that gutted their rented home at 2219 Austin Friday — but they are also lucky.

Both parents and their small child escaped with only some minor injuries.

Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said the fire department responded to the scene shortly before 4:30 a.m. Friday. Three fire engines, a tanker truck and two squad cars were not enough to save the blazing home, which Lenaghan described as "a total loss."

"When we got there, flames were coming out the front door, the front windows, and part of the roof at the front of the house," Lenaghan said.

The fire, which started near the front of the house, is believed to have been caused by a faulty woodstove.

He said the fire was under control by 6:15 a.m., but by then the roof had caved in.

Lenaghan said Scott Mochmann may have sustained second-degree burns to his shoulder while rescuing his child from a bedroom in the house. He said the child had a first or second degree burn to the hand.

He said Mochmann's wife discovered the fire when she woke up and "smelled smoke and felt the heat." Mochmann reportedly grabbed a fire extinguisher but before he could reach the fire, flames were already up the walls and on the ceiling.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department arson investigation team investigated the scene because of the extent of the damage, Lenaghan said.

"Chances are the fire had started quite some time before they woke up."



Firefighters take a break during the cleanup after a fire destroyed a house on Austin Street.

M-5 support overwhelms opponents

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

More than 100 people gathered Jan. 28 in the Novi Civic Center just to say yes to M-5 and scoop up 65 blank petitions awaiting signatures.

"They wiped us out . . . The response was overwhelming," planning commissioner Ernest Aruffo, one of the founding members of the newly-created support group, Citizens in Favor of the Haggerty Connector.

The organization was a speedy reaction to a draft resolution to withdraw Novi's support of the Connector, circulated by city council members Robert Schmid and Joseph Toth. Without the city's approval, the Haggerty Connector is a dead issue.

Novi, Commerce and MDOT officials met last week to discuss a new plan for mitigating wetlands that would be disrupted by the M-5/Connector project. Now under consideration is a plan for 16 acres of new wetlands in Novi. The story is on page 4.

But Schmid says he will not introduce the resolution because city council support for it is not there at this time.

"I'm not going to introduce a re-

Continued on 2

New day care idea provides for elderly

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

West Bloomfield resident Helen Girardot "works" in Novi. Her task is to enjoy herself during the day at the Whitehall Home on Grand River Avenue, until her daughter-in-law comes to take her home.

"I love it. Everybody's very nice to me. I've got a lot of friends. I think it's wonderful. My son does, too, and so does my daughter-in-law," the 83-year-old woman said.

Adult day care is a fairly new concept. Children who fear to leave their live-in elderly parents alone during the day can drop them off at

places like Whitehall, while they continue on to work. This way, the parent returns to the comfort of home and family at night.

Whitehall has been offering adult day care since January 1991, to supplement their live-in services. Within a week, they had their first day care resident. Now six come to the 1868-era home, usually arriving weekdays around 7 a.m. and leaving after 5 p.m.

It seemed like a good idea, said Mary Lou Eckert, who manages the senior citizen residence.

"We only did it because we felt

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Woman attacks police officers

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

A 29-year-old Hartland woman was arrested outside Twelve Oaks Mall Jan. 25 after the woman allegedly slapped, kicked and threatened to kill two Novi police officers.

Police said the woman, whose blood-alcohol level was tested at .20, also became violent and injured herself during the arrest.

Novi officers Kenneth Meier and Louis Bigliardi responded to a call to assist security officers at the

mall, who were trying to keep the apparently intoxicated woman from driving away.

Police said the woman, a Hudson's employee, had arrived for work and was told by supervisors to go home.

When police came to the scene, she was sitting in the driver's seat of her vehicle with the engine running. Meier said he attempted to talk to the woman, but she cursed at him and told him to leave her alone. He said she refused to identify herself and said there was no

reason for them to stop her.

The woman then reportedly pushed open her car door, forcing it open against Meier. Meier said he put his hand on top of the car door, preventing her from closing it, so she slapped his hand off the door and continued shouting at them to leave her alone.

The woman was arrested at that point for resisting and obstructing police officers and assault and battery to a police officer. Meier reported that she "had to be forcefully handcuffed" and placed in a patrol car.

Once inside the patrol car, the woman allegedly began banging her head against the plexiglass shield, cutting her forehead several times, while shouting and bleeding. Police removed her from the car and tried to put cuffs on her feet, but the cuffs broke.

While the officers were putting her back in the car, the woman allegedly kicked at Bigliardi twice, then threatened to kill him.

Police found several empty whiskey bottles and one half-full whiskey bottle under the driver's seat of the woman's vehicle.

Firm accuses man of embezzling \$47,000

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

Novi police are investigating a \$47,000 embezzlement case involving an ex-employee of Mr. Bracket, a former Novi company now located in Farmington Hills.

The ex-employee, Franklin Purther, is currently facing embezzlement charges on the same incident due to Farmington Hills police investigation of the case. He is scheduled for a Feb. 13 pre-trial before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John O'Brien.

Purther is charged with using a company credit card to obtain over \$47,000, mostly in cash withdraw-

als from the Manufacturer's Bank on Haggerty Road.

According to Novi police reports, Purther was hired in 1988 when the current owner of Mr. Bracket first purchased the company. He worked as an accountant and general manager, and was also employed by that company before it changed hands.

The Novi News obtained Purther's name through the Farmington Hills police department. Novi police would not release that information.

Around April 1989, police said, Purther was given a company-

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Field of 15 vie for ZBA positions

By SUZANNE HOLLYER
Staff Writer

When 15 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hopefuls turned out for interviews with the Novi City Council Wednesday, each candidate was quizzed about the role the ZBA played in two controversial decisions last year.

The council is expected to fill empty seats on several city advisory boards, including three ZBA openings, at its Feb. 10 meeting.

The Wednesday interviews followed a Jan. 6 joint council and ZBA meeting where the ZBA was criticized by council members for an April decision to grant a series of hardship variances to the Southern Michigan Oil Company (SOMOCO). The city was involved in a lawsuit brought by SOMOCO at the time of the ZBA decision, and council members argued that the ZBA decision gutted their legal defense.

ZBA members also were criticized by the council at the early January meeting for an October decision to give zoning ordinance variances to Big Al's Novi Quick Oil Change on Novi Road. Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford backed the ZBA's right to make its own decisions at the Jan. 6 meeting, but added that he disagreed with the board's decisions.

Wednesday, Crawford asked each ZBA candi-

"I'm not willing to get rid of him because he has been around 12 years or because I disagree with his philosophy."

Hugh Crawford referring to Brent Canup

date if the ZBA should be a "rubber stamp" for council decisions.

Crawford asked incumbent ZBA Chair G. Brent Canup and 10-year ZBA member Wayne Bullen if they felt intimidated by council.

Bullen said the council has input into ZBA decisions, but he does not believe the ZBA must automatically approve all council decisions.

Bullen added the ZBA was treated poorly by the council following its two controversial decisions.

"I feel the ZBA was threatened and chastized in so many words," Bullen said.

Canup, a 12-year ZBA veteran, defended the ZBA's decisions.

"As far as I'm concerned, the City Council

opened up the door for the ZBA to save the taxpayers a tremendous amount in litigation," he said.

Council Members Tim Pope and Nancy Cassis told Canup they would not support his reappointment. Cassis said she also would not support the reappointment of Bullen.

Pope said he respects Canup, but acknowledged "philosophical differences exist between Pope and Canup. Cassis said she wants to give new people an opportunity to sit on the ZBA, adding she never intended for the ZBA to be a "rubber stamp" on council decisions.

But Crawford said he would support Canup's reappointment.

"I'm not willing to get rid of him because he has been around 12 years or because I disagree with his philosophy," Crawford said.

Council Member Robert Schmid said he thinks the ZBA recently has been moving beyond its charge into the realm of debating policy.

Bullen said the minutes of ZBA meetings are not always reflective of what actually occurs at meetings. He said ZBA discussions of city policy occur, but no more so than in past years.

Among candidates for the ZBA are Board of Review member James McLennan, defeated

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Community Calendar

Today, February 3
TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly, a weight loss program for all ages, meets every Monday in room 109 of the Novi High School at 7 p.m. For more information, call 624-5293.

Tuesday, February 4
Seniors meet: The general meeting of the Novi Center Seniors is scheduled for 11 a.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Board of Appeals: The Novi Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Jaycees meet: The Jaycees membership meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 5
Athletic Boosters: The Novi High School Athletic Boosters meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in room 107 of the high school.

Planning: The Novi city Planning Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers of the Novi Civic Center.

Saturday, February 8
Cabaret: The Novi Arts Council has scheduled its annual Cabaret show for 7 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. The event is a fund-raiser for the Arts Council. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and food will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$3 per person or \$10 for family of five, plus \$2 for each additional family member. Reserved table of eight is \$24. Tickets are available from the Novi Parks and Recreation office or members of performing groups. Call 347-0400.

Sunday, February 9
DARE to Care: The Optimist Club and the Novi Council on Substance Abuse will present "DARE to Care," the third annual DARE dinner, at 6 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center Community Center. The cost will be \$25 per person and all donations will support the DARE program. The evening will include socializing, a buffet dinner, entertainment and door prizes. Tickets are available at Novi Parks and Recreation, the Novi Police Department, and Phyl's Barber Styling, 41370 Ten Mile Road, Judy Maxwell, 348-8585, and Pat Gilberg, 349-7053, will deliver tickets anywhere in the city. Make checks payable to the Novi Council on Substance Abuse. The purpose of DARE is to equip youngsters with the skills needed to resist peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol.

Monday, February 10
Arts Council: The Executive Board of the Novi Arts Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Library board: The Novi Public Library Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Public Library building.

City Council: Novi City Council meets in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11
Camera Club: The Novi Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Wednesday, February 12
Youth baseball: The Novi Youth Baseball League's Board of Directors schedules its meetings for 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Novi Civic Center. The meetings are open to the public.

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Two plans delayed by residents

By SUZANNE HOLLYER
 Staff Writer

Plans to develop two new subdivisions were tabled Jan. 22 after Planning Commissioners and a group of Novi residents questioned the proposal. Neighbors of the proposed Lone Tree and Country View subdivisions said the two developments would increase traffic to a dangerous level on the unpaved Joseph and Brenda roads.

The subdivision sits in a land-locked parcel to the south of Grand River Avenue and east of Meadowbrook Road. Residents of Joseph and Brenda roads feel the developers are planning to use their roads to access the proposed subdivisions.

And combined with the proposed Camborn Road in the new subdivisions, residents feel drivers will use the roads as a shortcut to get from Grand River to Meadowbrook.

Joseph road residents said they would fight approval of the subdivisions in court, saying the new development would lower their property values by increasing traffic on their roads.

Planning Commissioner Judith Johnson agreed that the new subdivision could create a shortcut for rush hour drivers traveling in the Meadowbrook and Grand River areas.

"I think there is a real possibility there will be a cut through," Johnson said.

And the existing Joseph and Brenda roads may not be up to par for heavy traffic, residents said.

Commissioner Ernest Aruffo said the dirt roads likely will see 155 more cars per day if the new subdivisions are built.

The commission asked traffic consultant Rodney Arroyo to investigate the possibility of improved maintenance or possibly paving Joseph and Brenda roads. Discussion of both subdivisions was tabled until Arroyo completes his study and maps the proposed road layout of the new subdivisions.

State to pay for roads with bonds

By TIM RICHARD
 Staff Writer

The Engler administration plans to sell bonds rather than raise fuel taxes to meet the state's share of road construction costs in the next six years.

"Now is a very good time for bonding. Interest rates are at an all-time low," said Patrick M. Nowak, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Nowak told a home-town audience in the Farmington Republican Club Thursday that his administration had saved a total of \$150 million in cost from a \$1.2 billion budget.

"We're going to plug the leaks before we turn on the faucet," he said. "But it doesn't mean we'll never have an increase in fuel revenue."

Gov. John Engler disappointed many Oakland and outstate officials in his Jan. 21 state-of-the-state address when he said "now is not the time" to raise fuel taxes. Michigan's tax was raised to 15 cents in 1983.

Engler left unanswered how the state will meet its 20 percent match of \$3.1 billion in new federal revenue over six years from a 5-cents extension of the fuel tax. State revenues have been flat and even declining for several years due to fuel efficiency.

Nowak, a former Oakland County commissioner and deputy county executive, declined to be specific about a bond issue, promising Engler himself would unveil the plan "in the next few weeks."

Nowak promised a total state-local construction program next year of \$490 million. "After that we'll see a 20 percent increase. The governor is determined to match every dollar," Nowak said.

Unlike past generations when Michigan got back 85 cents of every \$1 in fuel taxes it sent to Washington, now the state will get 90 cents and probably more, thanks to bipartisan work by its congressional delegation, he said.

Some "leaks" Nowak said he has plugged:

- One-fifth of all management positions. Previously, MDOT had one supervisor for every two workers. "A span of control should be much broader," he said, using an industry analogy.
- New management systems for pavement and bridges.
- New computer systems. "When I got to Lansing, I asked my computer some questions, and it gave me obsolete information."
- \$1 million in savings through more efficient salt delivery. "We went around the trucking regulations."
- \$20 million in new revenues by catching truckers who were evading taxes.

In answer to earlier questions, Nowak said:

- Amtrak, the federal rail company, is planning a depot in Detroit's New Center area. "With Amtrak over-nighting its trains in Pontiac, there's a good possibility of commuter service. I was surprised to find Amtrak expects to be breaking a profit by the turn of the century."
- Besides 9,850 miles of interstate highways and state trunklines, Nowak's department is responsible for the International, Mackinac Straits and Blue Water bridges, airport finance and many abandoned railroad lines.

Firm accuses man of embezzling \$47,000

Continued from Page 1

owned VISA card with the owner's name on it, for one-time use at a business event. For reasons unknown, Purther did not return the card.

Purther reportedly began to use the card for purchases as well as cash withdrawals around September, 1989. All of the cash withdrawals were from the Novi Manufacturers' Bank.

The owner of Mr. Bracket reportedly told police that he was unaware until last June that Purther was continuing to use the card because the bills were being spread out in such a way that he did not notice the extent of the charges.

The charges on the credit card date from September, 1989 to June, 1991. Mr. Bracket moved to Farmington Hills in March, 1991.

Supporters block M-5 opposition

Continued from Page 1

without support in the community. Summit Court resident Chris Syfert—who will not be losing her property to the project—told the Novi News Tuesday she backed the anti-connecticut resolution all the way. She says the Connector is an "ulterior motive" for a road stretching to M-59, an extension already referred to as M-9 by the Federal Highway Administration and MDOT.

Schmid is doing exactly what we went to the polls for last year," she said. "The design is a ridiculous design. They have red lights and surface crossings... Anybody who thinks they can get through the latest district with a superhighway is out of their minds."

Opponents to the plan may have a tougher battle ahead than supporters. Only a state construction permit for wetlands disruption is pending, as well as local wetlands and wetlands permits. Beyond that, the project has every other necessary approval.

But Elizabeth Harris, executive director of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAAC) said the group plans to discuss at its Feb. 11 meeting whether or not to pursue a lawsuit in an attempt to stop M-5. If Novi does vote on the issue, EMEAAC—which is opposed to the project based on environmental concerns—is expected to have a spokesperson there. Both EMEAAC and Schmid caution that the Connector will cause a major upswing in urban sprawl.

While some chamber members have suggested that Schmid, a Summit Drive homeowner, has a "conflict of interest," Aruffo said Thursday the focus of the group will be on the issue and not "personalities."

"The chamber backs us because of their customers. They have to fight the traffic that is going by to get to their drives. It's economic on their sides and you can understand why," he explained.

"The traffic that is on the road is not the local people. It's the people trying to get to the expressway," Schmid said he was puzzled by the Novi Chamber of Commerce involvement in the support group.

"I think that the chamber is absolutely wrong in being involved in this," Schmid said.

"I'm not too worried about the chamber. The chamber has 300 members but Novi has 1,500 businesses."

CITY OF NOVI
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Woodlands Review Board, of the City of Novi will hold a meeting on Thursday, February 6, 1992 at 3:30 PM in the Community Development Department, Novi City Offices, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan to review the Woodlands Permit Application for a single family residence located at 28610 Summit Court, Section 12.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend. Any written comments may be sent to the Department of Planning & Community Development, Attn: Gerrie Dent, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48075, until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 5, 1992.

GERRIE DENT, PLANNING AIDE
 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT ORDINANCE NO. 92-40-02

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 92-40-02, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 26 of the Novi Code of Ordinances to amend the regulation of Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants within the City of Novi.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after adoption. The Ordinance was adopted on January 27, 1992 and the effective date is February 11, 1992. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

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West Bloomfield resident Helen Girardot, above left, "works" in Novi. The 83-year-old, pictured with 84-year-old Edna Szymanski, has the job of enjoying herself during the day at the Whitehall Home on Grand River Avenue, until her daughter-in-law comes to take her home. She participates in the new program of adult day care. At left is 69-year-old Frank Stroth, also a day care client.

New concept: day care for seniors

Continued from Page 1

There would be a need for it in Novi," she said.

The program is only offered for active clients who are not candidates for a full-time nursing home.

At present, Novi does not have an ordinance on adult day care. The city attorney has advised that the service may be "grandfathered" in at existing senior centers and nursing homes, staff planner Mike Caspo said. These congregate care facilities are permitted in office and non-center commercial zoning districts.

Novi does permit a wider range of territory for children's day care businesses, including business, office and all residential districts.

Caspo says he has fielded many calls from people interested in going into the adult day care business here and some have suggested that the zoning differences for the two day care categories may be discriminatory.

"We had people who want to do a little bit (for adult day care) in their home or actually hope to build new construction and have an adult day care center," he said.

"The people I'm talking about it say it would be very akin to a child day care center. They would drop them off in the morning and pick them up in the evening."

Whitehall is the only adult day care center in Novi he is aware of, Caspo says.

He has suggested that the city council and planning commission address the issue in their next joint meeting.

"As baby boomers get older, more and more we're going to see elderly adults who can't necessarily take care of themselves and require supervision. Traditionally, there are a lot of services provided for children with the increase of the two-income family. But there's not a lot available for elderly parents," he added.

Whitehall charges \$4 an hour, with a minimum charge of \$16. This includes meals, supervision and in-house activities.

While at Whitehall, Girardot has a chance to socialize with her peer group, sit in on high school classes and other programs offered by the Novi Community school district and enjoy field trips to places like the Detroit Historical Museum, Greektown and Renaissance Center.

"This is your job. It enables them to work and you get out, too," Eckert told Girardot.

"Eckert said she doesn't want to take more than three day care clients per day. I have other residents that I'm obligated to, also."

But Whitehall will accept adults for the week-end or several weeks at a time if their family is going on vacation.

"It enables them to continue to have a personal life, too," she said.

In the case of Novi Realtor and resident Monica Stroth, the adult day care center is a god-send. Her husband, Frank, 69, has Alzheimer's disease and she takes him to Whitehall three days a week. He enjoys coming home each evening, Stroth said.

"This releases her so she can do things," Eckert said. "She's very active. This helps her get a break once in awhile. She's a saint, actually."

Stroth, who belongs to three Alzheimer's disease support groups, said adult day care is more affordable, compared to the \$3,000 per month a nursing home might charge for a full-time resident.

"Many people could be impoverished by that. It's not covered by insurance," she said. "It is extremely difficult to handle a mentally-impaired person. It's a 24-hour a day job. You have to have some kind of relief."

"There's a great need for this. The caregiver needs to stay healthy."

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Reservations 1-800-783-1118

He allegedly sold goods, kept money

An employee at the Oaktree men's clothing store at Twelve Oaks Mall may face embezzlement charges after selling clothing to friends and keeping the money.

Police News

Police said a manager at the store became suspicious after finding a three-page letter in the trash, which was allegedly written by the suspect to his girlfriend.

The letter included the sentence "All of our past — all of our plans for the future — trashed because I gave some clothes away."

LARCENY: A 1991 Ford Aerostar parked in the Novi Hilton was reported broken into Jan. 28.

LARCENY: A resident on Brookforest reported Jan. 28 that her son's cornet and bookbag were stolen outside the Village Oaks elementary school.

MDOF: Novi police were called to Tweek Oaks Mall Jan. 25 because a group of teenagers were allegedly painting on the interior walls of a corridor in the building.

MARIJUANA POSSESSION: A 19-year-old Howell man was arrested Jan. 24 after police discovered he was driving on a suspended license.

LARCENY: An employee at the Perry Drug store reported Jan. 28 that her purse was taken from an employee locker room near the rear of the store.

Novi Briefs

Correction: An article in the Jan. 30 edition of the Novi News listed an incorrect date for the Novi Community School District Kindergarten Roundup.

Correct Kindergarten Roundup dates are as follows:
■ Novi Woods, Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m. 344-8355.
■ Orchard Hills, Monday, March 16, 7 p.m. 344-8332.

MISSING GUN: A .22 caliber rifle was reported missing from K mart in the West Oaks plaza Jan. 23.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Officials rethink M-5 mitigation

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) met with Novi and Commerce Township officials last week for some heavy-duty negotiations over M-5 wetlands mitigation.

It's possible a city-owned property may be found for the wetlands replacement, rather than the original plan to compensate in St. Clair County for 46 acres of marshlands lost here.

High land costs in Novi made buying property here unfeasible. MDOT officials have maintained, while the proposal to do the work on state-owned lands in St. Clair would cost a relatively low

\$750,000. But it's possible now that new wetlands could be dug out on city-owned land. Alber said, thereby cutting costs for mitigation.

There are some things in Novi that we've been checking out but we aren't ready to go public yet. We also looking at alternate sites in Commerce Township," Alber said.

What's being looked at is a cooperative effort with us and the city. There would be dollars put up by us and dollars put up by the city.

He declined to give details, referring further questions to City Manager Edward Kriewall. Kriewall was unavailable for comment by press-time.

In addition, a recent threat to M-5 has been a draft resolution proposed by City Council Members Joseph Toth and Robert Schmid to retract

Novi's support of the road. "It boils down to one way or another we have to consider all the communities. There's an obligation there to respect their wishes on the project. We're not Big Brother in Lansing," Alber said.

He added that the DNR is seeking a response from MDOT to questions about the St. Clair mitigation plan raised at a public hearing in December. The DNR, with strong influence to be wielded by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, is expected to reach a decision in March on a construction permit and wetlands mitigation permit for the project.

Alber said he expects to receive the DNR questions soon.

Novi has already suggested a list of sites for possible wetlands mitigation.

In addition, the city is now negotiating a purchase of additional land, to be used for a park on the west side of Novi.

Fifteen vie for seats on Novi zoning board

Continued from Page 1

candidates in the November City Council election Kevin Crain and Gerald Shulman, and several local attorneys.

Mayor Matthew Quinn said the city is blessed to have so many residents interested in volunteering on

advisory boards. The council will fill three ZBA seats from its field of 15 candidates. But the ZBA is not the only city review board with more candidates than openings.

Six people interviewed to fill three seats on the Construction Board of Appeals. The Library Board has two

Novi Jaycee DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Name of Nominee _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Occupation _____ Employer _____
How long has nominee lived in Novi? _____

1991 COMMUNITY SERVICE RECORD

List any organization that the nominee is a member of, any office held and any contribution made to that organization within 1991.

Name of Organization _____ Office held _____
Contributions made _____

Name of Organization _____ Office held _____
Contributions made _____

List any additional activities the nominee is involved in, but does not hold office in (sports, PTOs, Jaycees, Rotary church, etc.) _____

What civic contributions has the nominee made during 1991? (City, State, National) _____

Why do you, the nominator, feel that the nominee is deserving of the 1991 distinguished service award? _____

Is the nominee aware of this nomination? Yes _____ No _____

The breakfast honoring all nominees and announcing the honorees will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1992 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Novi, beginning at 9 a.m. Nominees and their spouse will receive a complimentary breakfast. All other reservations are \$7.00.

Would you, the nominator, like to make a reservation for the breakfast? Yes _____ No _____

Name of Nominator _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Nominator's signature _____ Date _____

Completed forms must be returned by Tuesday, February 25, 1992 to:
DSA Committee
Novi Jaycees
P.O. Box 249
Novi, MI 48376

Please direct any questions to the Jaycees at 313-348-3121
NOTE: One additional sheet of paper will be accepted to substantiate your submission.

CALL US! 349-1700

We want to hear about any news or feature ideas you have.

Opinions

RICHARD PERLBERG
General Manager
PHIL JEROME
Executive Editor
MIKE MALOTT
Managing Editor
BOB NEEDHAM
City Editor
SHARON CONDRON
Staff Reporter
JAN JEFFRES
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Associate Sales Manager
SANDY MITCHELL
Sales Representative
KROTH HALL
Sales Representative

5A
MONDAY
February 3,
1992

As We See It

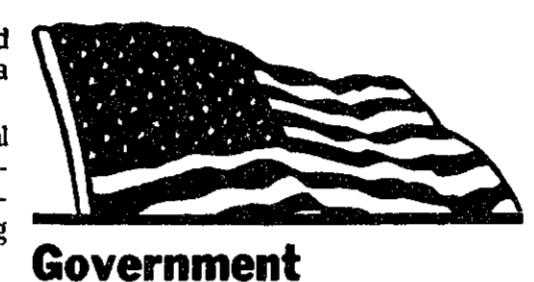
City shouldn't be a savings institution

Gee, wouldn't it be nice if you could set aside a quarter of your income for a rainy day.

Well, perhaps you could if the local governments to which you pay taxes weren't also trying to bank that kind of money, tucking you for it and then depositing it themselves.

Plante & Moran recently wrapped up its audit of the accounts of the City of Novi and concluded that the municipality is in pretty good financial health. With an overall budget of \$18.9 million, the city is on pretty solid fiscal ground. So while you like further information, can contact Superintendent William Barr, 344-8330, Ext. 22.

Both meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road. Anyone who cannot attend the meeting, but who would like further information, can contact Superintendent William Barr, 344-8330, Ext. 22.



Phil Jerome

Government

Nonetheless, we object to oversized fund balances. Certainly, 25 percent, suggested by Plante & Moran, would count as too large. Nineteen percent, the amount the city now has, likewise is much too big for our tastes.

In general, we like to see those fund balances kept as low as reasonably possible. It's a matter of principle. We'd prefer to see that money stay in the pocket of taxpayers, rather than be stockpiled by the government. An excessive fund balance indicates excessive taxation.

Now, one of the primary reasons most often cited as a need for large fund balances is that the money is used as a contingency, should an emergency crop up or if revenue does not come in to the city as expected. And that is a legitimate concern.

But it is hard to imagine circumstances in which a quarter of the city's budget would be needed. Think about it. That much money would allow the city to continue to operate for three months without any income, and we can't conceive of that happening. Maybe a month's worth of funds is necessary in case the city's revenue sources are totally cut off, but that would require only 8 percent. And keep in mind that the city does carry insurance for cases in which the emergency is exceptionally urgent.

In the end, we think it is clear a fund balance that large is just plain excessive. And the goal of government is not to save up money. The city should ask its residents to pay taxes when the money is needed, and not before. Let the residents keep it as long as possible and let them earn the interest on it.

Now, there are some very legitimate reasons for having some fund balance. Between \$300,000 and \$400,000 of that amount counts as money the city has been saving for the future purchase of fire trucks and fire equipment.

There have also been indications that the coming fiscal year will be an unusually tight one. With changes at the state level, including an assessment freeze, revenue also will likely be tight in the year to come. Some estimates said \$700,000 will be needed from that fund balance to balance next year's overall budget.

Regardless of whether you are for or against the construction of the M-5/Haggerty Connector project, you have to regard the news coming out of Novi city hall that progress is being made on the environmental front as being very positive.

Word this week was that officials of the City of Novi, Commerce Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation met to discuss the wetlands mitigation plan for the highway. And what is being considered now is the creation of 16 acres of new wetlands here in the city to replace those which would be destroyed or disrupted due to the highway's construction.

That's a vast improvement over the old plans which called for mitigation of those wetlands somewhere along the coast of Lake Huron in St. Clair County.

Originally, state officials had said the cost of land acquisition for wetlands mitigation here in the city was too high.

Now there is apparently some rethinking.

And while full details are not yet available — the city is keeping things hush-hush because it is a land purchase issue — the development is positive indeed.

What is known is that the officials are looking at putting the wetlands on city land to cut the cost of acquisition and that Novi has already offered the MDOT a list of possible locations.

And state officials have said that the reconsideration of the plan is due in large part to a city council resolution, which asked them to do just what they are now trying to achieve.

Those who are pro-Connector surely aren't insensitive to the environmental concerns. This development will surely come as good news to them. Those who are against the project might just find this makes it a bit more palatable.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

STATE SENATE Jack Faxon (D) 28444 Davern Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48018 398-7888	OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSION Kay Schmiel (R) 28105 Summit Novi, MI 48077 348-0099
U.S. HOUSE William Broomfield (R) 371 N. Main Milford, MI 48042 685-2540	STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES William Bullard, Jr. (R) 1181 N. Milford Rd. Milford, MI 48381 887-4045
U.S. SENATE Carl Levin (D) 1860 McNamara Bldg. 477 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48226 226-8021	U.S. SENATE Donald Riegle (D) 1850 McNamara Bldg. 477 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48226 226-3188

Honest, folks, I love children



Phil Jerome

Somebody out there told me where to get off last week. I don't know who it was because they didn't sign the letter, but the gist of the message was that I was a cold-hearted snake who doesn't appreciate the joys of children or family.

This all goes back to the column I wrote before Christmas about the problems of being a DINK (Double Income, No Kids). Remember? In a nutshell, it was about how us DINKS lose some of the financial advantages of DINK-dom by having to buy myriads of birthday and Christmas presents for all our nieces and nephews.

The column prompted some response. Several people called, and one (Marilyn Iskra) even wrote a letter, explaining that she, too, is a DINK and could relate to what I was talking about.

And so, because I truly enjoy getting letters from readers and try to encourage them by using 'em in my column whenever I get them. And, because Marilyn had several funny lines that I wished I had thought up to use in my original column. I wrote a second column about DINKS, utilizing portions of Marilyn's letter as a basis.

Unfortunately, those two columns also prompted that aforementioned letter from the anonymous person who suggested I was not a nice person.

Having explained all that, let me now offer one more suggestion. Lighten up, okay? It was just a joke. I love my nieces and nephews. They're great kids.

I'm sure Marilyn Iskra and all the other DINKS love their nieces and nephews, too.

What's more, all my nieces and nephews love me. I try not to give away too many family secrets in this column, but, since my love of children and family has been questioned, I'm going to share a little family secret right now — all my nieces and nephews call me "Handsome Uncle Phil."

It's absolutely true. And if you don't believe me, I can show you thank-you notes from the little darlings that start out, "Dear Handsome Uncle Phil and Beautiful Aunt Diane."

And if you still don't believe me, ask 'em. Next time you run into Jimmy or Leah Jerome or any of my other nieces and nephews, ask 'em if they call me "Handsome Uncle Phil."

If the truth be known, it has taken awhile to get them to use the word handsome as a modifier for Uncle Phil. I launched the project about five years ago by carrying a pocketful of dimes to family get-togethers.

"Do you want to say 'Hi, Handsome Uncle Phil' and give me a big kiss?" I'd ask 'em. And when they responded as suggested, Handsome Uncle Phil would slide a bright shiny dime into the palms of their little hands.

Oh sure, there was some resistance at first. And for awhile I had to endure an occasional, "Ugly Uncle Phil."

But the smarter ones soon figured out that the only way they could increase their net worth by 10 cents was to relent and accept my preferred appellation. Which they did. And the more recalcitrant soon followed suit.

And now, I'm happy to report, "handsome" has become synonymous with Uncle Phil. It's heart-warming to walk into a room and hear the shouts of "Hi, Handsome Uncle Phil" as the little dears gather round to collect their dimes.

So there you have it. My good name has been vindicated. See I love all my nieces and nephews. And all my nieces and nephews love me. And, all things considered, it really hasn't been too expensive to obtain their undying love and affection.

Bill Wright of Northville Pharmacy holds up a list of 876 computer viruses that can infect diabetics

In passing

By Hal Gould



Bill Wright of Northville Pharmacy holds up a list of 876 computer viruses that can infect diabetics

Mr. Virus

Bill Wright of Northville Pharmacy holds up a list of 876 computer viruses that can infect diabetics

Criminals in my 'backyard'

I hope you had a chance to read the full-page feature story in last Monday's edition of this paper wherein an investigation revealed a prostitution operation in Novi.

I admired it not only because it was a good piece of journalism — and a team effort to boot. For me, it had a kind of personal significance.

The origins of this story, as the feature explained, began with an issue of the Metro Times, the alternative news magazine that you can pick up for free just about anywhere in the Detroit area. One of our reporters was casually looking through the classifieds. When he came to the ads for "massage" and "escort" services he chuckled a bit, and nudged me in the ribs (why he chose me, I can't fathom).

About the time this was starting to get annoying, his tone changed. He asked if "380" was a prefix for a Novi phone number, and I said it was. Just that easily, the newshounds were on the trail of the fox.

Since the ad said the service was looking for young, attractive girls to employ, we sent a female reporter undercover to interview for the job. When all was said and written, the owners of Jasmine's Companions learned that it doesn't always pay to advertise.

During the course of our investigation, we thought it wise to know not only who we were dealing with, but where they could be found. We traced the number to an address in Country Place condominiums, and since I lived practically right next door at Woodland Glen Apartments, I volunteered to check it out.

That night, I stepped into the cold and hiked across the berm to Country Place. I came out at the corner of Roscommon and Glen Haven Circle.

Judging from the numbers on the buildings, the address was right close by. I walked up and down pathways, jumped hedges and wound my way through the labyrinthine lots and driveways.

Finally I came to it. I double-checked the address. Yup, this was the place. The lights were on, the blinds were drawn, but there were no visible signs of activity inside.

An American flag flapped in the breeze on the porch, making for a rather perverse gateway for what may have been a house of illegal activity. The porch light was on, and I chuckled as I wondered to myself why the bulls wasn't red.

But as I turned around, an anger billowed up inside me to wipe away the smirk on my lips. From where I stood, I could see the front entrance of my own building, less than 100 yards away. My car was in plain view under the nearby carport.

As I snapped my collar up against the wind and headed for home, I came to grips with the source of my anger. I recalled reading somewhere that they think of prostitution as a "victimless" crime. Whoever they are, they probably don't have it going on in their backyard.

083 Apartments For Rent CHELSEA Village 2 br. \$565... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

087 Condominiums, Townhouses For Rent BRIGHTON... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

104 Households Goods 500 Gall. propane tank... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

113 Electronics PANASONIC stereo, dual cassette... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

117 Firewood FIREWOOD for sale... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

153 Farm Animals STILL stalling to sell 2 available... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

165 Dental DENTAL Hygienist, immediate opening... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

166 Medical CMA or LPN needed for busy Neurology practice... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

170 Help Wanted MATURE well organized person... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

FREE RENT TIL MARCH FOWLERVILLE... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

088 Mobile Home FOWLERVILLE... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

089 Mobile Home SITES... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

090 Living Quarters BRIGHTON... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

091 Industrial, Commercial For Rent BRIGHTON... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

093 Office Space For Rent BRIGHTON... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

094 Vacation Rentals DISNEY... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

084 Duplexes FOWLERVILLE... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

085 Rooms For Rent BRIGHTON... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

MILFORD AREA \$399... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

089 Mobile Home SITES... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

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170 Help Wanted General NEEDED, labored without... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

201 Motorcycles 1987 KAWASAKI KDX 200... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

228 Heavy Equipment 1988 F30 STAKE truck... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

205 Snowmobiles 1977 ARCTIC CAT E Tiger... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

235 Vans 1981 MAZDA B3... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

241 Automobiles 1972 COUGAR XR7... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

171 Help Wanted Sales PERSON to work with... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

229 Classic Cars 1966 MUSTANG... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

230 Trucks 1975 FORD... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

240 Automobiles Over \$1000 1991 BUICK... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

233 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles 1989 BRONCO... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

210 Boats and Equipment BOATING COURSE... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

215 Campers, Trailers, Auto Parts RUBBER molder... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

220 Auto Parts RUBBER molder... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

225 Autos Wanted 1988 FORD... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

173 Education Instruction COUNSELLORS WANTED... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

180 Situations Wanted 155 JOBS available... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

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180 Situations Wanted 155 JOBS available... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

185 Business and Professional Services TAX Preparation... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

187 Business Opportunities GIANT Lifetime opportunity... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

188 Mechanics Wanted MECHANICS WANTED... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

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McDONALD FORD "The Nice Place to Shop" Trucks & Vans 1986 FORD RANGER XLT... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

McDONALD FORD "The Nice Place to Shop" Trucks & Vans 1991 COUGAR XR7... FORTY-FIVE... FORTY-FIVE...

"I really want my mom to find me face-down in my own blood on the floor of her bathroom. The woman deserves it!" - Chris Sutfredini. Includes photo of Chris and text about his story.

Points of Light Foundation. DO SOMETHING GOOD. FEEL SOMETHING REAL. Includes logo and contact information.

March Tire Co. Preventive Maintenance TUNE-UP. FREE TIRE ROTATION WITH OIL CHANGE. Includes contact info for various locations.

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER. Need for Northville Record/Nov News Office. Includes details about the position and contact information for the advertising manager.

FEBRUARY SALE DAYS
SALE PRICES GOOD THRU
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9



For Great Savings And A Dry Baby

**Come To Perry For
 New Huggies® Baby Steps™ Diapers.
 Designed To Fit Better And Help Stop Leaks.**

\$8.69

After
Rebate



SALE PRICE \$9.69
 MAIL-IN REBATE \$1.00
YOUR CHOICE \$8.69
 AFTER MAIL-IN REBATE

- Step 1 for Him: small -- 54 ct.
- Step 2 for Him: small/medium -- 44 ct.
- Step 3 for Him: medium -- 40 ct.
- Step 4 for Him: large -- 30 ct.
- Step 5 for Him: extra-large -- 26 ct.
- Step 1 for Her: small -- 54 ct.
- Step 2 for Her: small/medium -- 44 ct.
- Step 3 for Her: medium -- 40 ct.
- Step 4 for Her: large -- 30 ct.
- Step 5 for Her: extra-large -- 26 ct.

Over 200 drugstores in Michigan.
 Perry is Michigan's largest drugstore chain. With so many convenient locations around the state there's sure to be one nearby. Now FREE blood pressure check at some stores.

MANUFACTURER'S REBATE

HUGGIES® Diapers Refund Offer #1

(Not Payable in Store)

I am enclosing my cash register receipt(s) dated between January 1, 1992 and April 30, 1992, with purchase price(s) circled and at least three KLEENEX® HUGGIES® Diapers Proof-of-Purchase Points (see term #3). Please send me (check one):

- _____ \$1.00 Cash Refund
- OR
- _____ TWO \$1.00 HUGGIES Coupons

MAIL TO:
 HUGGIES Refund Offer #1
 P.O. Box 410402
 El Paso, TX 88541-0402 **OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 30, 1992**

Please mail my Refund OR Coupons to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Youngest Baby's Birthdate _____ / _____ / _____
 Youngest Baby's Sex: Boy Girl



REFUND OFFER #1

TERMS:

1. HUGGIES Refund Offer #1 is limited to one refund (cash OR coupons) per family, group, address or organization. If you have already sent in a request for HUGGIES Refund Offer #1, your second request will not be honored.
2. Include cash register receipt(s) dated between January 1, 1992 and April 30, 1992, with price(s) circled.
3. Include at least three KLEENEX® HUGGIES® Diapers Proof-of-Purchase Points (as illustrated at left):
 Jumbo Packs = 6 points
 Convenience Packs = 3 points
 Regular Packs = 1 point
 Requests to substitute, exchange or return Proof-of-Purchase will not be acknowledged. UPC symbols will not be accepted.
4. If you do not specify cash or coupon refund at left, you will receive Two \$1.00 HUGGIES Coupons.
5. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.
6. This offer form is required, when available. Reproduction of this form is prohibited.
7. Offer good only in the 50 United States and for military personnel with PO/PO addresses. Void where prohibited by law.
8. OFFER EXPIRES APRIL 30, 1992.
9. On (date) _____, I sent three KLEENEX® HUGGIES® Diapers Proof-of-Purchase Points for my (check one):
 _____ \$1.00 Cash Refund
 OR
 _____ Two \$1.00 HUGGIES Coupons

Perry's 24-hour drugstores.

Open around the clock, day or night. Many have 24-hour pharmacies. For the 24-hour location nearest you... Call 1-800-72-PERRY.



Come Talk To Us.
 We're There When You Need Us.

PERRY DRUG STORES