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12 Pages plus Supplements

# the NOVI NEWS

**Dining** PROGRESSIVE DINNER  
SPOTLIGHTS LOCAL COOKS / 1B

**Update** CANDIDATES WILL  
KEEP THE RACE CLEAN / 4A

**Column** A LOT CAN HAPPEN  
AROUND HERE IN A WEEK / 5A

## City may mandate sidewalks

By SUZANNE HOLLYER  
Staff Writer

Proposed changes in the Novi sidewalk ordinance were demonstrated to the Planning Commission Wednesday in a video showing cluster projects and site condominiums lacking paved walkways.

Following the video presentation, the changes sailed through the commission with a unanimous recommendation that the City Council adopt the plan. Additional changes in the ordinance may lie ahead.

"The purpose is to make it clear that some developments must have sidewalks where it wasn't expressly provided before," said assistant city attorney Dennis Watson.

The new ordinance language expressly requires 5-foot wide sidewalks along both sides of all public and private roads for residential unit developments, two-family residential developments and cluster developments.

Commissioner Ernest Aruffo said the ordinance change is a direct result of a joint commission and City Council meeting where both groups agreed they want to see walkways within city developments.

Future ordinance revisions will look at sidewalks in larger subdivisions.

At the joint meeting, commissioners and council members discussed requiring sidewalks in subdivisions with large lots.

Council Member Nancy Cassis said at the Feb. 26 meeting that a lack of sidewalks has come to represent a country atmosphere to suburban dwellers. But Cassis added that safety, and changing needs might prompt a need for sidewalks in larger subdivisions.

Planning Commissioner Judith Johnson said at the February meeting that no magic number exists on lot size where pedestrians in the street suddenly become safe because the lots are larger. Johnson said sidewalks are a safety issue, adding that many communities are realizing that the move away from sidewalks was a mistake.

Cassis said some options should be available for residents who do not want sidewalks, but those sidewalk-bare homes should be found only in areas with lot sizes over one acre.

At the same meeting Council Member Carol Mason argued that Orchard Ridge and Connemara subdivisions do not have sidewalks or ditches. Those subdivisions have a country atmosphere, Mason said.

City Manager Edward Kriewall said at the February meeting that some residents of Connemara, Echo Valley and Meadowbrook Lake subdivisions appreciated the lack of sidewalks.



Photo by HAL GOULD

The well produces a ball of flame as it is being tested. SOMOCO officials believe it should produce oil for five to 15 years.

## Well will last 5-15 years

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Testing on Novi's newest oil well showed that more oil than gas is trapped in a fossil coral reef beneath the ground near Echo Valley Estates subdivision.

Southern Michigan Oil Company (SOMOCO) vice president Gary Gottschalk said Friday that state department of natural resources tests show that the well will produce about 250 barrels of Texas tea — or better yet, Novi Nehi — per day.

"There's a limited amount of gas, right about 100,000 cubic feet of gas. It's primarily an oil reservoir," he said.

"It will produce for several years. More than five. More than likely less than 15."

Eighteen months to two years of production will enable the company to predict more accurately how long the well is likely to be operational, Gottschalk said earlier.

Gas prices are at an industry low but oil is in the \$19 per barrel range, he said.

The company "bubbled off" solution gas last week.

A 90-foot deposit of petroleum has been found in the 300-foot Niagara reef. The firm was hoping to find a 200-foot deposit.

Late this spring or early this summer, a pipeline will be laid along Detroit Edison easements to take the oil from the Ten Mile Road site to SOMOCO's production facility at Eleven Mile and Wixom roads. It will take about three weeks to install the pipeline, Gottschalk said.

## Shaeffer wants the money to upgrade police

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer's proposals to modernize the department are bucking the city trend to cut this year's budget to the quick.

Among the items Shaeffer is requesting are a special response team (see related article), a switch-over to semi-automatic weapons, two more police officers, a clerk and a computer systems manager. He also asked the city council April 1 for a commitment to push the department up to national accreditation standards.

Most of his add-ons, like those of other department heads, are among the \$1.2 million the city administration already pared from the budget to keep it at truth-in-taxation levels.

Truth-in-taxation is a state law requiring a local government to hold public hearings on restoring tax rates if the city's revenue has already been increased by a larger tax base that year.

"If council has the political will to

"Do you want the computer system or do you want the people? I'm not sure we can do all these other requests if we go with the computer system."

Tim Pope  
Novi Council Member

go above truth-in-taxation, these are the things that are needed. They're tough decisions," Council Member Tim Pope said.

Over the next few weeks, the council will choose what — if anything — it will put back into the books.

The police department, financed in part by a special police and fire millage, typically takes up the biggest chunk of the city's funds.

Continued on 3

## Chief finds Novi lacks hostage plan

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Novi at present has no police officers trained to deal with a hostage-taking criminal, a barricaded gunman or with terrorists, Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer said.

Shaeffer has submitted a \$53,000 funding request to the city council to pay for a five- or six-member special response team. He is also working with police departments in Wixom, Walled Lake and South Lyon to see if they'd be interested in chipping in funds and officers to create a regional response team.

The proposal is under evaluation as part of the fiscal year 1992-1993 budget.

"The reality is you don't know when you'll need this," he said. "It could be a father taking a child hostage. A police officer could interrupt an armed robbery in progress and the gunman could use a hostage to escape. That can happen in any community."

"That was one concern I had when I came here. I immediately set out to identify those types of resources that are available."

In the past, Novi has relied on the Michigan State Police in Lansing to provide this back-up. But they have a three- to four-hour response time and the 30 minutes in a hostage cri-



DOUGLAS SHAEFFER

sis are crucial and volatile, Shaeffer said.

At present, the 16-member Northville Township-based Western Wayne Special Operations Team has agreed to cover for Novi should the need arise. The consortium includes police departments from Northville, Canton, Van Buren and Plymouth townships, as well as the city of Plymouth.

Continued on 3

## Communities kill joint park plan

By LAURIE O'DELL  
Staff Writer

Representatives from Novi, Lyon Township and South Lyon agreed recently that the time isn't right to form a three-community consortium to jointly purchase land and develop a park.

But community representatives did decide March 25 they'll keep the lines of communication open by meeting every three months to share ideas.

In addition, they'll urge Oakland County to continue its plans to build a county park at a blue heron rookery in Lyon Township.

Sue Massuch, director of South Lyon's Parks and Recreation Commission, said her board thought it was too soon to consider funding a three-community land purchase and park development.

Novi's Director of Parks and Recreation Dan Davis voiced similar thoughts at the meeting in South Lyon.

"We didn't want to jump too far ahead of ourselves," he said.

Novi Parks and Recreation Commission Member Jerry Shulman agreed.

"We didn't see that much of a benefit," he said. "In the future there might be. But I think it's important to keep a dialogue open."

"We didn't see that much of a benefit. In the future there might be. But I think it's important to keep a dialogue open."

Jerry Shulman  
Parks Commissioner

Although Shulman said his board did not favor the proposed land purchase, he suggested the three communities might pursue trail linkages between Novi and South Lyon. Each municipality has biking/jogging trails, which could possibly be linked in some form of a network.

He also suggested coordinating a program to ensure that recreational services are not duplicated in the three communities. Shulman pointed out that the needs of the three communities are entirely different.

"Lyon has plenty of land," he explained. "South Lyon relies on the schools for its recreational programming."

Novi doesn't have the land needed to develop a park, but has the staff in the parks and recreation program to handle an additional park. Like Novi, South Lyon has little, if any, land to develop a park.

"A big purchase would be required to accommodate the needs of all three communities," said Shulman.

South Lyon Mayor Jeffrey Potter, who originally proposed the consortium, said that although a large land purchase might be necessary, grant agencies give preferential treatment to multi-community projects.

Massuch, however, questioned in what position the communities would be if they spent the time to form a consortium and seek a grant and did not receive one in the end.

Potter suggested that the communities could merge their problems and develop one solution.

"I have a mandate from my council to go forward," he said.

Potter said it would not be the consortium's intent to throw current projects, such as Lyon's park development on the BFI landfill, out the door. The idea, Potter said, would be to meet other needs together.

Continued on 4

## inside

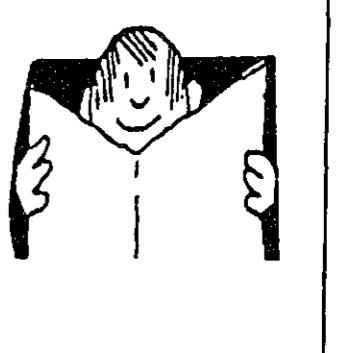
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INSIDE:  
THE  
SUBURBAN  
CABLE WEEKLY







# Providence branch to open in Northville

By STEVE KELLMAN  
Staff Writer

Like any proud parent, Providence Hospital wants to make sure its medical clinics go to good homes.

The Southfield-based hospital chain has chosen Northville's Main-Centre building as the home of its latest clinic.

Measuring a mere 4,500 square feet, the newest addition to the Providence family is scheduled to arrive July 1. A larger, 150,000-square-foot sibling is due in Novi this summer.

Assisting in the Main-Centre delivery will be Nancy McLean. The administrative director of satellite clinics in Milford, South Lyon and Southfield, McLean will serve as director of the Northville facility as well.

McLean said the new Northville satellite is designed to complement the much larger facility being built off Grand River in Novi. "That (Novi) facility is primarily a specialty referral center," she said.

The Novi site will offer 24-hour emergency medical service with a full-service lab and "multiple physician's offices," she said, including specialists in general surgery, internal medicine, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, psychiatry and substance abuse.

"But we wanted to give access to our system at the more local level," McLean said, which is where Northville enters the picture.

"(The Northville clinic is) going to be a family practice center primarily, with physicians who have board certification in family practice medicine, and our intention is to attempt to recruit an obstetrician as well," she said.

The clinic represents the medical profession's current focus on providing medical services before acute care is needed. "We're more into preventative maintenance in health care right now," McLean said.

"I'm real excited about the location and building," she added.

"I think downtown Northville is an ideal location. Its restaurants and little shops already draw a tremendous number of people to the downtown area."

The clinic will initially host a staff of seven, including physicians. "We add more as they're needed," McLean said.

Initial hours of operation — between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday — will likely expand as well.

"We'll end up doing at least one evening and probably two, but that will be determined by the physicians and patient preference," McLean said. "And we'll probably end up going to a half day on Saturdays, as business picks up."

The new facility at 134 and 138 Main-Centre will join Providence's existing medical centers in Novi, South Lyon, Milford, Livonia, Berkley and Southfield.

# Decision due soon on county incinerator plan

Oakland will likely decide the fate of its controversial Auburn Hills incinerator in mid- or late-May, according to the deputy director of the county's solid waste program.

By then local communities are expected to have informed county officials whether or not they want Oakland to continue its efforts to manage waste, Roger Smith told county commissioners on March 26.

The big question, Smith said at a meeting of the finance committee, is whether communities want: 1) a complete program with the incinerator, 2) the same program without the incinerator, and 3) no program at all, leaving solid waste to each community.

County officials sent letters, dated March 11, to the county's 61 communities — including Novi — asking for a response by May 15, Smith said. So far, no community has responded, although some may have already dis-

cussed the matter.

"I think most communities are confused," commissioner Donald W. Jensen, R-Birmingham, said following the finance committee. "I've only heard from one community (Highland Township) and they wanted more information about the costs. But we don't have cost figures."

Commissioner Donald E. Bishop, R-Rochester Hills, said he is concerned about public concerns the incinerator was a big waste of money. "People think we are wasting dollar after dollar after dollar," he said.

There is considerable uncertainty, Smith said. But it won't be resolved until the communities have responded and the board decides how to proceed.

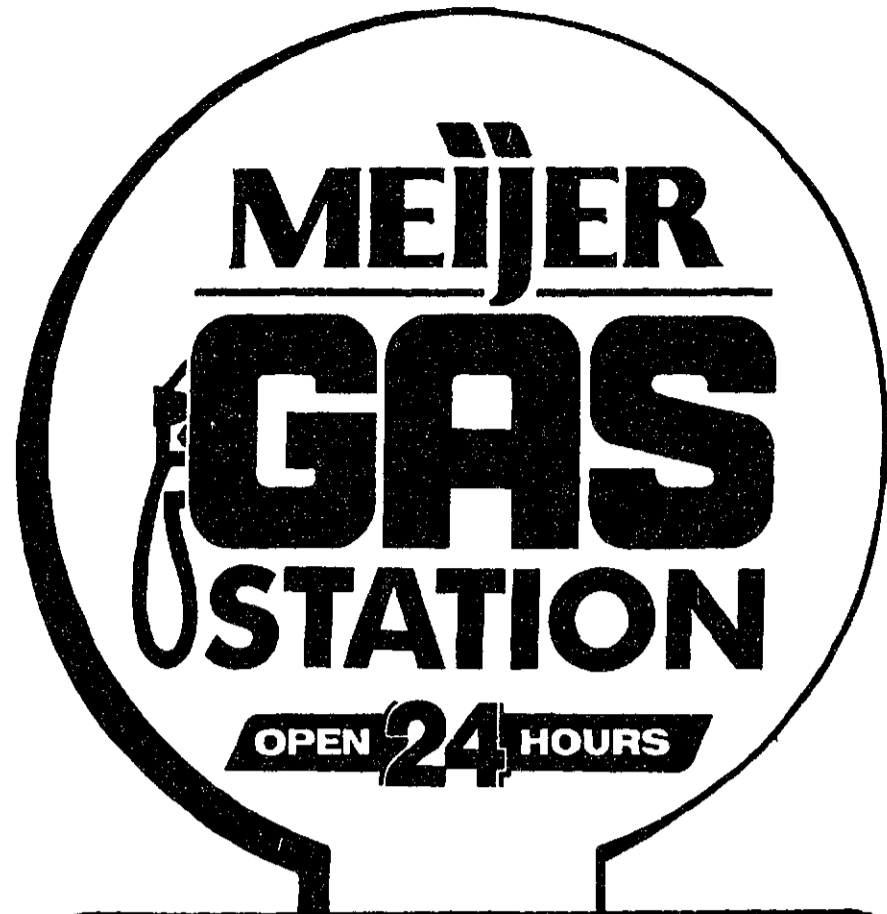
Once the decision is made, however, the county must move with dispatch, Smith said. Two contracts expire June 30, and must be renegotiated or canceled.

They are contracts for the \$30-million recycling center, also in Auburn Hills, and a landfill in Orion Township.

Each has already been extended once without penalty, he said. "If we are forced to extend them again, there may be penalties involved."

The county's proposed \$500-million solid waste program, the most expensive in Oakland history, has been in disarray since earlier this month when the Westinghouse Electric Corp. unilaterally refused to extend the \$190 million contract it had to build a 2,000-a-day waste to energy incinerator in Auburn Hills.

Smith said the county can get another company to build the incinerator. But not before Oakland communities advise officials how they want the county to proceed.



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# Let's talk about the change in your area code.

7pm, Wednesday, April 8th, Novi Civic Center—Conference Room C, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi

Due to population and business growth, a new area code will be assigned to some people who currently have the 313 area code. This change will go into effect sometime in 1994.

A Citizens Committee has been formed to recommend the best way to handle the area code split. This committee includes representatives from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and the city of Detroit.

Before making its recommendation, the Committee, along with Michigan Bell, will hold a number of public meetings this month. Come and express your opinion. We welcome your input.



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