



Cutting edge

The special ribbon-cutting scissors for Novi's road projects got their first use recently. Present for the opening of Eleven Mile Road were (front, l-r) City Manager Ed Kriewall, Angelo Evangelista, Mayor Matt Quinn, Frank Palise, (back, l-r) City Clerk Gerry Stipp, Joe Kapelczak, Lori Kapelczak, Keith Vullman, Ralph Livingston and Carl Evangelista.

Community Education

Registration for summer programming through the Community Education Department of Novi Schools is now under way. Registrations for individual classes will be accepted until the class is full.

To register by mail, send a registration form — with check, money order or credit card authorization attached — to Novi Community Education, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374. To register by phone with Visa or MasterCard, call 344-8330, Ext. 73.

Requests for refunds should be made five days before the class. A \$5 service fee will be charged. Full refunds will be given if a class is full before your registration is received.

Piano lessons: This class is designed for the young child with very little or no experience playing the piano. A keyboard or piano to practice on at home will be helpful.

Classes are 30 minutes long and held between 10 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Individual class times can only be given in person or by phone. Do not mail a registration form until you have called first. Class times will change to afternoon and evening hours Sept. 1 and 2. Students ages 7 and up will be in the Parkview Music Room and run for six weeks. Session two begins July 28 and will run until September 2. The fee is \$52.

WL moves to outlaw smoking in schools

Teachers and other employees of Walled Lake Consolidated Schools who happen to smoke have until next June to enjoy their cigarettes. During school hours, that is.

The school board last Thursday voted unanimously to OK a policy banning smoking within all district buildings and grounds, effective July 1, 1993, said district spokeswoman Lois Lange.

"This has been the topic of discussion at board meetings during the past year or so," Lange said Monday. "This (smoking ban) is the result of those discussions" and findings of a recent district-wide employee survey.

In the survey, 72 percent of 761 respondents — including both smokers and non-smokers — stated they would like the district to enforce a smoke-free environment, Lange said.

The decision to implement the ban fully next July was made by the school board "so contractual ramifications could be worked out."

"What we're trying to do is spend the next year trying to implement this plan," said trustee Marc Belsky. "But we have to work through the teachers."

Belsky said the current contract with the Walled Lake Education Association, set to expire in February, includes a clause requiring all buildings have a designated lounge. The next contract, he continued, would clearly state that smoking not be allowed, either in buildings or on the surrounding grounds and parking lots.

Michigan Education Association's Karen Murray, who represents both the Walled Lake and West Bloomfield teachers, said the Walled Lake smoking ban would be contingent on future negotiations for the teachers' next contract.

"But it's safe to say it's a fair projection that (no smoking policy) is something we'd be negotiating," Murray said. "I know that's going to be an issue."

Murray said she didn't know whether any other districts have been successful in deleting contract language about permitting employees to smoke in a lounge or designated area.

Such areas would be totally eliminated under the Walled Lake plan. The main reasons, Belsky said, are health and image.

"First of all, we feel we'd have a healthier working environment (with the ban)," Belsky said. "And secondly, we have extensive (curriculum) programs in all levels on health education."

"One of the things we stress is not to smoke. We want to be consistent with the role models."

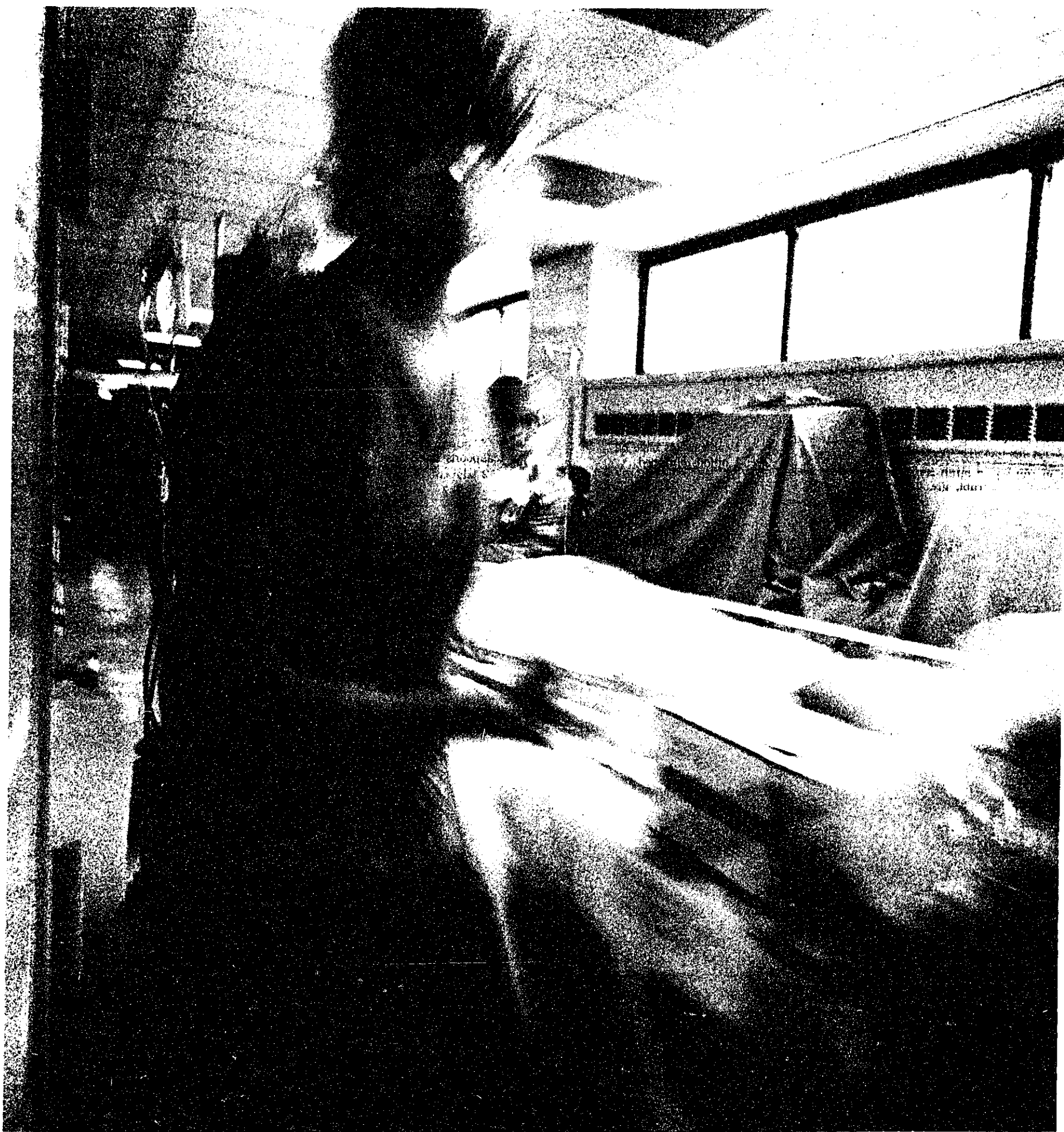
The trustee emphasized there will be an attempt to help those employees who smoke to get over the hump, Belsky said. A possibility is for a team of teachers and administrators to work together on helping smokers make the transition.

"We want to make sure we're not going to distress any of our employees. Those who smoke, we need to get them the training and education to help them stop within the next year to make this work."

Lange was unable to supply statistics about how many employees in the district currently smoke.

But Belsky estimated smokers as "a small proportion . . . it seemed most employees are in favor of this."

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