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the NOVI NEWS

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MDOT to meet with Novi in public session

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

As Novi City Council requested, two Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials will finally meet in public with the full house tonight as the city reviews a wetlands mitigation project contract for the Haggerty Connector.

The proposed agreement also includes a noise reduction and visual screening plan for residents in the immediate M-5 area.

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notified MDOT on July 31 of its approval of a preliminary mitigation plan calling for 35 acres of new wetlands in west Novi. The go-ahead was also given to begin building the stretch of M-5 south of Twelve Mile Road.

The property proposed for the wetlands mitigation is at Garfield Road between Nine Mile and Eight Mile roads. The DNR says the site must be protected under a conservation easement from future development. It may not be subject to what the DNR terms as the "degradation" of being used as a stormwater detention system.

Approval of the roadwork north of Twelve Mile remains contingent upon the DNR and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's okay of the final wetlands mitigation plan, to be submitted for review by August 31.

In the proposed contract, MDOT must also construct 15 acres of wetlands within the connector right-of-way, to function as a stormwater storage system.

CSX Railroad plans to tear up and replace several railroad crossings in Novi in the near future, rerouting traffic on major local streets; but the dates have not yet been finalized. The Oakland County Road Commission already gave the nod July 29 for the shut-down of Ten Mile, Novi and Twelve Mile roads this week — but all that changed when the railroad was unable to get the construction equipment in time. The story is on page 6A.

In addition, the department will build 12.8 acres of wetlands "potholes" at St. Johns Marsh near Algonac. MDOT earlier planned to mitigate all 44.4 acres of local wetlands at St. Johns Marsh.

This earlier scheme was denounced by the Novi City Council in June.

Following a controversial closed negotiating session in July with Mayor Matthew Quinn, Council Member Robert Schmid, MDOT officials and city engineers, the state said it was prepared to mitigate 30 acres of wetlands in west Novi, 26

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Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

Here comes the sun

So far, summer has produced little but rain and cold. But last week, things began to warm up a bit around Novi. That of course meant it was time to get to the beach. Above, Ryan David, age 2, did a little digging on the beach at Lakeshore Park on Walled Lake Thursday afternoon. At left, youngsters attending Camp Lakeshore put the finishing touches on their sand castle. The builders of this sand masterpiece include (left to right) Kevin Mulvaney, age 9; Garet Malott, 8; Travis Malott, 10; and Ross Hughes, 9.



Novi cop uncovers Detroit chop shop

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

A stolen truck from the Novi Tile company on Grand River was returned to its owners last week after Novi Detective Ron Roy of the Oakland County Auto Theft Unit went undercover.

The 1984 GMC pickup truck disappeared Aug. 3 from its parking place behind the business. The owner's son told police he had been under the impression that his father was using the truck.

That impression changed when he received a phone call Monday from a man who said he knew who stole the truck, and said he was willing to finger the culprit in exchange for some cash.

The son stalled the caller by telling him he had to talk it over with his father. He hung up the phone and called the Novi Police Department.

The next day, following Roy's in-

structions, the son called the man back and agreed to meet with him. But instead of giving his own description and vehicle description, he gave Roy's.

Roy then drove to an area on Detroit's east side — "a very bad area," he said — and met with the informant.

"We ran into an impasse right away, because he wanted me to trust him," Roy said. "He wanted me to just give him the money first, and trust that he would show me where the truck was."

He said he finally identified himself and "convinced" the informant to show him where the truck was.

"I told him he could either be arrested for extortion, or he could cooperate and be a good citizen, and maybe even gain some reward money," he said. The Oakland County Auto Theft Unit has a reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of auto thieves.

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'Take us to court,' township says

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The spokesperson for a group of Novi Township homeowners says that if the City of Novi wants stormwater management easements on their backyards, it will have to wrest the property along Miller Creek from them in court.

Novi City Council is scheduled to decide tonight if they will proceed in an attempt to condemn their neighbors' land. They could authorize City Manager Edward Kriewall to enter into a "declaration of taking" — leading to a lawsuit.

Novi Township Supervisor Ray Schovers, who is one of the 13 Miller Creek property owners, said Thursday he'd like the entire city council to tour the site and re-consider alternative proposals suggested by the township's consultants. These were earlier rejected by the city engineers.

"Our front door and our back door are open," he said.

The group did not respond to a formal city bid in July to buy the land. Schovers said they found the offer to be "ridiculous."

The City of Novi estimates the total cost of the land on Miller Creek — which its engineers say is needed for flood control purposes — to be \$52,000. The individual property-owners would be paid anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000, depending on the size of the easements sought.

For the township, the money is not the issue so much as the fear that their property will be devalued, and that their septic systems and wells will be damaged by standing water the detention basin in their yards will hold.

The dam on Miller Creek is part of the city's stormwater management plan. Schovers argues

that the City of Novi should solve its "overdevelopment" problems within its own boundaries.

Novi's Assistant City Attorney Dennis Watson said that with council approval, the intent is to file one condemnation case, with all the property-owners as defendants, at the Oakland County Circuit Court.

The city delayed the project over a year ago to give city engineers time to look at Novi Township's suggestions.

Novi Director of Public Services Anthony Nowicki said the extensive proposals were rejected for a variety of reasons, including hydraulics.

Schovers remains unconvinced. He says a contract proposed by the landowners to allow a reduced amount of detention on their land was not given enough consideration by the city.

Planners back away from rezoning

By SUZANNE HOLLYER
Staff Writer

Home and business owners came out Wednesday night to protest a proposed change in zoning for land north of Twelve-and-a-Half Mile and south of Austin on Novi Road.

The Novi Planning Commission heard and sympathized with their plight before voting to recommend that City Council keep the property zoned for business usage.

The city-initiated rezoning was shot down by area residents and business owners who claimed they would sue the city if the land was rezoned.

Property zoned for business is worth more to a developer and is taxed higher than property

zoned for residential. The city proposed to change the properties' zonings to bring the land into compliance with the master plan. Although the land is zoned for business, it is shown on the city master plan as residential.

Those who spoke at Wednesday's public hearing and wrote to the commission on the issue had many, varied reasons for opposing the rezoning, which the commission ultimately supported.

Property owner William Lucas told the city he bought his land on Novi Road as an investment. He said he would sue the city if the land was rezoned.

Virgil Jackson, who owns a Novi Road radiator shop, said city officials wanted 10 years ago to rezone the property for office use. He called the

proposed residential rezoning "arbitrary."

"I have a strange feeling my property is getting stolen out from under me," Jackson said.

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Laverne Reinke joined the ranks of several residents who argued the rezoning did not make sense because business zoning further north on Novi Road would be left intact. In fact, several houses currently sit as non-conforming uses on the business-zoned property that was not proposed for a rezoning. Reinke suggested the commission examine the entire area if it feels a change is appropriate.

One of the saddest stories came from Marge Bolton who said she is in the midst of a land con-

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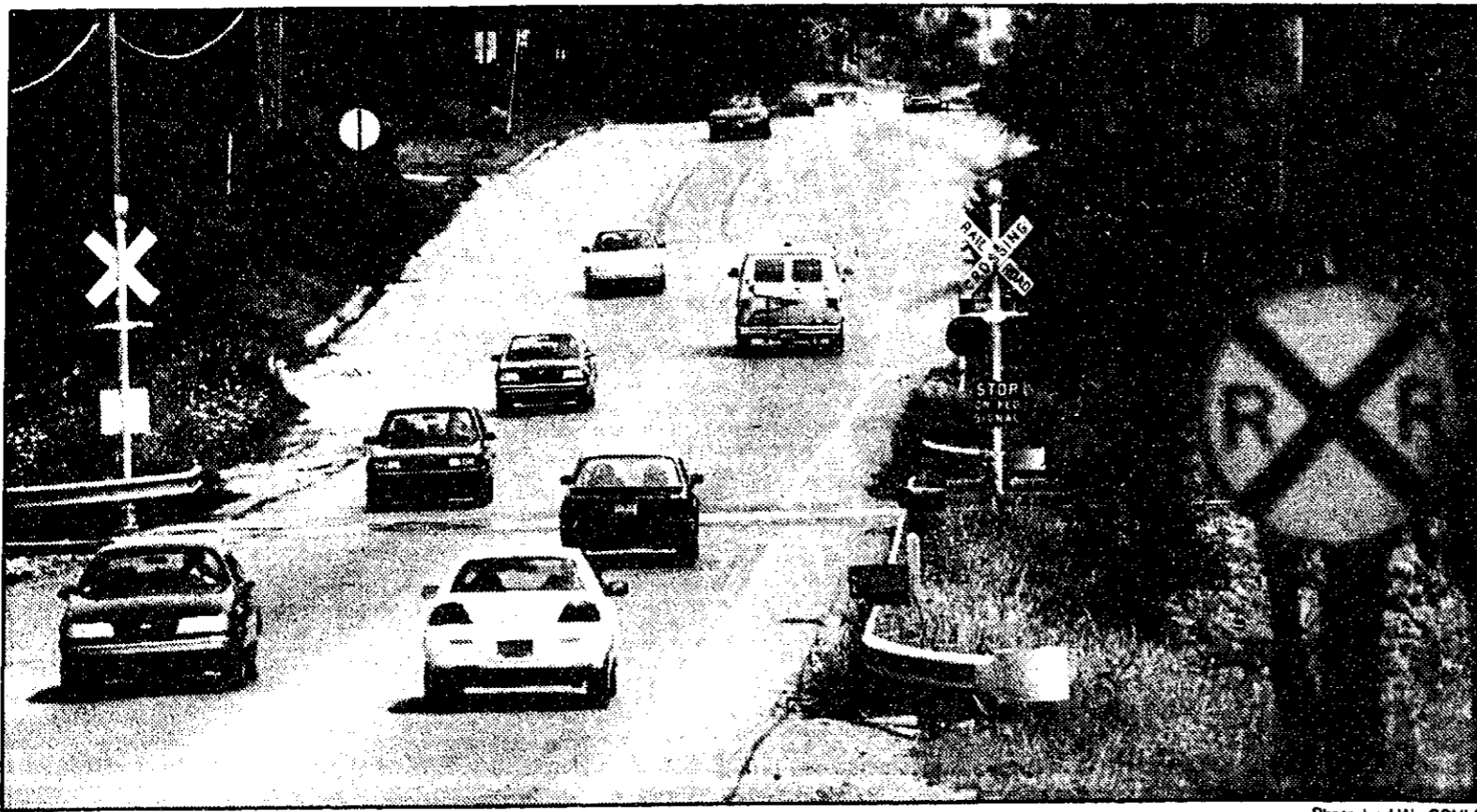


Photo by HAL GOULD

Roads will have to be closed for replacement of CSX Railroad crossings, but the work at each crossing is expected to be completed in a single day.

Crossing repairs delayed by CSX

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The CSX Railroad plans to tear up and replace several railroad crossings in Novi within the near future, rerouting traffic on major local streets; but the dates have not yet been finalized.

The Oakland County Road Commission already gave the nod July 29 for the shut-down of Ten Mile, Novi and Twelve Mile roads this week — but all that changed when the railroad was unable to get the construction equipment in time. Only one

crossing would be rebuilt per day, with rerouting signs provided by the Oakland County Road Commission.

"The crossings are going to be worked on in the very near future. A surfacing gang is moving through the area," CSX spokesperson Jay Westbrook said.

"They will adjust the elevations on the left and right rails to give the trains a safe and smooth ride through your town."

In town, repair work is eyed for the crossings at Ten Mile Road between Novi Road and Meadowbrook Road;

Novi Road between Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road; and Twelve Mile Road at Taft Road.

Detour routes will be set up while the work is on.

Nearby, the railroad crossing at Pontiac Trail between Beck Road and Wixom Road in Wixom will come under construction. Tracks in Milford and Highland townships will also be upgraded.

"We want the best equipment available to perform the work so we can get in and out of there quickly," Westbrook said.

No plans have been made to install

warning systems with gates at the local crossings, he added from the railroad's Jacksonville, Fla., headquarters.

CSX does not yet have approval from the Oakland County Road Commission for the changed dates, road commission spokesperson John Joy said.

Each crossing will likely be closed for less than a full day.

"Normally, the work doesn't take more than four hours. They tend to do it during the peak hours," Joy said.

Novi Twp. election is 'social event'

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

These days, the way they do things in Novi Township might be many voters' fantasy of how politics would work in a civilized world.

No signs cluttering up lawns. No flyers on paper that killed more trees. No boasts. No empty promises. No campaign workers buzzing like gadflies at the polls.

And absolutely no slinging of that liquified dirt substance.

It helped that burning issues and a full slate of choices for the Novi Township offices were also lacking. The incumbents ran unchallenged for the part-time jobs.

"It's very peaceful, more people should try it," re-elected Township Supervisor Ray Schovers said. "If people all settle back and try a little to get along instead of mud-slinging, they'd be a little better off."

Novi Township encompasses the 49-home Brookland Farm subdivision, on Novi Road just west of Nine Mile Road, which refused to join the rest of Novi when it incorporated as a city.

Voters — all 27 of them — cast their ballots Aug. 4 in Mark Zabicki's living room. Zabicki is the township clerk, when he's not at his regular job as a Blue Cross/Blue Shield analyst in the regulatory and governmental affairs division.

"When everybody walks in you know them by name and face. There's none of this 'are you a registered voter?' It's more like a social event than a political event," Zabicki said.

He stores the metal frame and canvas voting booths in his garage when they're not in use.

Elected to a four-year term along with Zabicki and Schovers, who each won 23 votes, was Treasurer Pat McGuire by 23. McGuire had recently been appointed to the job by the township board.

Township Trustee Ernest Bacsanyni won 20 votes and Township Trustee Jerry Prichard, 19.

For their efforts, the supervisor and the clerk each earn \$1,200 per year and the trustees take home \$608 apiece.

"I guess we don't belong to any party. We don't collect any funds. We're all independents, I guess," Schovers said.

"It's very peaceful, more people should try it. If people all settle back and try a little to get along instead of mud-slinging, they'd be a little better off."

Ray Schovers
Novi Township Supervisor

"They know when they have a problem they can come to the township meeting. Some people come anyways, to say 'hi.'"

In the races for federal, state and county office, township voters showed a decidedly Republican bent.

The voter turn-out was 28.13 percent, according to the county's elections division, these days a healthy figure. The total number of registered voters is 98.

"It was higher than the whole county. The county was 23.6 percent. They did good," an Oakland County elections worker said.

Election inspectors kept the political process moving while Zabicki took time out to go to work.

Voting is not exactly a time-consuming process. Zabicki says the busiest time he can remember is the last presidential election: "We had people who had to wait a whole minute."

Tallying up the votes take about a half-hour, he said.

The township concerns these days are light. The roads there were resurfaced two years ago. They contract for police service and use the Northville library. The transition to recycling is one concern.

"We're in a situation that's off the beaten path. You don't know it's here. It's like driving into a park. Our taxes are low. We don't offer a lot of the amenities your big cities do," Zabicki said.

The real burning issue there has been foisted on the tiny township from the outside — the City of Novi plans to seek condemnation on 13 township backyards to build a dam on Miller Creek. (See related story.)

Fried says meeting didn't break rule

By SUZANNE HOLLYER
Staff Writer

The Open Meetings Act was not violated when Novi Planning Commissioners were contacted in non-quorum discussions about concerns with the city's planning department, city attorneys ruled last month.

A letter from attorneys David Fried and Dennis Watson was written in response to a letter by Council Member Joseph Toth. Toth alleged that small discussions held by commission members prior to a public discussion about Planning Director

James Wahl may have violated the Open Meetings Act.

The issue arose when Commissioner Judith Johnson submitted a letter to the commission detailing more than 20 problems she felt existed in the planning department.

The letter was obtained by the Novi News and former commission Chair Edward Kramer said he was forced to discuss the issues publicly.

Prior to a commission meeting where members voted on each perceived problem, Kramer met with commissioners individually or in

small groups. Toth charged the meetings were in violation of the state Open Meetings Act.

Fried and Watson found the meetings would have violated the act if they were held to reach a collective majority decision.

However, it is not clear that that occurred. "It is our understanding that the purpose of Chairman Kramer's discussions with individual commissioners was to see if there were additional concerns of others to be addressed," the letter said.

"To the extent the discussions with the six commissioners were made to

deliberate toward an actual commission decision, they were contrary to the Act."

But any violation was remedied when Kramer put the issue before the full commission at a June meeting, the letter said.

At the June meeting, the commission voted to recommend city planning department action on four of the perceived problems.

A copy of the attorneys' letter was sent to the commission and city staff for information regarding the limits imposed by state statute.

MDOT to meet with city in open session

Continued from Page 1

acres within the road rights-of-way and 29 at St. Johns Marsh.

The DNR has now approved a preliminary plan to purchase at least 100 acres of the Garfield Road Land. The 35 acres of wetlands to be built there will include 12 acres of forested wetlands and 23 acres of emergent and scrub/shrub areas with some open water.

Novi Director of Public Services, Anthony Nowicki, said the city is in the preliminary stages of discussion with MDOT over including its own wetlands mitigation program at the Garfield Road site. The city will need to replace wetlands lost to the voter-approved road improvement program.

Meeting with the council tonight as it mulls the contract provisions will be MDOT Deputy Director Robert Adams and project engineer Hank Lotoszinski.

To lessen noise pollution and provide screening, MDOT will construct berms on private land abutting the western right-of-way of the new boulevard — if the agreement is signed. The city is to notify the state of its requirements for the earthwork by Oct. 1. Novi would also be responsible for acquiring the needed rights-of-way.

MDOT will not have to build the berms if the city does not gain the rights-of-way by the time the road is advertised for construction.

Novi is also being asked to exempt the M-5 project from the provisions of the city's woodlands protection ordinance.

An earlier negotiating session with MDOT leaders, Mayor Matthew Guinn and Council Member Robert Schmid and city engineers brought down the wrath of some council members, who said the meeting should have been open with all members in attendance.

Let zoning stay as is, residents say

Continued from Page 1

tract with a Novi Road realtor. Bolton said the realtor still owes her a balloon payment on the property, but the large, final payment would be greater than the worth of the property if it were zoned for residential use. Bolton said she and her husband planned to use money from the sale for their retirement.

Six out of seven commissioners at the meeting voted on the side of the residents and property owners. Member Eric Schaefer suggested

the city re-examine the master plan rather than the zoning map.

But claims that investments in Novi land would be lost fell on deaf ears with some commissioners.

Commissioner Richard Clark said land ownership — like any investment — is risky.

"It's like any investment. It may go up, it may go down," he said.

But Clark added that the change would simply add more businesses to the list of non-conforming uses in Novi.

Commissioner Judith Johnson

said the city was motivated by a desire to bring the zoning map up-to-date with the master plan. She said the land was shown in the master plan as residential because nearby land is used as residential. Typically, industrial uses do not make good neighbors for residential land owners, she said.

But Johnson was convinced to oppose the rezoning by several nearby residents who testified that the radiator shop and other businesses on Novi Road were good neighbors for their nearby homeowners.

City council could still change the zoning when the issue comes to the group for debate. But commissioner John Balagna, who was the lone commissioner supporting the rezoning, suggested those landowners opposed to the rezoning should submit a petition stating their position.

Council rules require that five council members support a zoning change if there has been written, public opposition to the plan. Normally, only four council members must support such a change for it to pass.

Novi cop uncovers auto theft ring

Continued from Page 1

The informant took Roy to where the truck was supposed to be, but it wasn't there. "So it's a good thing I didn't trust him," he said. But he then led him to another location where they found the truck. The Novi Tle logo on the side had been painted over, but Roy matched the license plate number to that of the missing

vehicle.

"It was a really bad area down there," he said. "We didn't know if it was going to be an armed-robbery situation, or if he simply planned to act as an informant." To be safe, he said, he had a backup of seven or eight officers throughout the entire operation.

The informant was apparently angry with the man who stole the truck

because he somehow swindled some money from him, Roy said.

Roy said the truck has been recovered with only minor damage, but no warrants have yet been issued for the parties involved in the theft.

"We know who did it, but right now we can't prove it," he explained. "Knowing who did it is one thing; pro-

ving it is another."

However, he said, the undercover operation and recovery of the truck has led to a side investigation by the Michigan State Police into what is apparently an auto-theft "chop shop" in east Detroit.

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Pine Ridge's consistency is no snow job

"The first time I tasted wine was 1967, at a banquet during the pre-Olympic ski trials in Europe," said Pine Ridge's owner and former U.S. ski team member Gary Andrus. "I didn't know anything about wine because I was raised as a Mormon and being a top-flight skier was more important to me than anything else at that time. I was completely amazed that wine was so commonplace at the European dinner table."

Now you know the genesis of Andrus' love affair with wine. Curiosity elevated quickly to the passionate level, and by harvest time, Andrus was in Europe working as a grape picker for several Bordeaux chateaux including the renowned Ducru-Beaucallou and Lynch-Bages.

Future ski travels took Andrus to Switzerland, the Rhone Valley and Germany, where he was fascinated with the steep hillside vineyards. While his romance with wine was growing, Andrus' affection for skiing prevailed. Armed with an MBA, he opened three ski shops in California and became one of the developers of the Copper Mountain ski area in Colorado. Because of the seasonal nature of the ski industry, he spent the summers of 1975, 1976, and 1977 working in several Bordeaux wine cellars.

"My French winemaking experience taught me that you have to respect traditions," Andrus said. "All the tastings proved to me that to have consistency from vintage to vintage, it's vitally necessary to control the source of grapes. That's the greatest fault in California today. Many wineries do not have consistent grape sources to allow definition of a recognizable winery style."

"I first came to understand French wines; now it's a natural focus for me. However, after my first trip to the Napa Valley in 1969, I became aware of the potential of the region. If it weren't for the Copper Mountain project, I would have purchased some Napa Valley land in 1971. As things evolved, I had to postpone that purchase until 1978."

In addition to the initial purchase of one of the oldest chardonnay vineyards in the Napa Valley, Pine Ridge owns or manages vineyards in the Stags Leap District and the areas of Oak Knoll, Rutherford, and Diamond Mountain.

Andrus believes that the main focus of the California wine industry in the late 1970s and early 1980s was trying to figure out how to make clean, quality wine.

"Now, there's a second revolution," Andrus contends. "It's in the vineyard. Virtually every piece of Napa Valley land is planted. We're not trying to pioneer new areas and we're taking a good look at what the French are doing with chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon and merlot in their vineyards."

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WINE SELECTIONS OF THE WEEK

The 1990 Pine Ridge Chardonnay, Knollside Cuvee (\$16.50) carries a perfect balance of tropical fruit and flavor complexity derived from barrel fermentation in Burgundian-coopered French oak puncheons and barrels. A full mouth impression stems from malolactic fermentation and sur lies aging. One of the best from this winery. 1989 Pine Ridge Merlot (\$18) sports solid black cherry fruit with intriguing dusty and chalky nuances. Deepthful palate fruit is complemented by well-managed tannins. Eminently ageable wine in a Pomerol style.



Watermelon drinks turn a summer favorite into a real thirst quencher

Quench Time

The right drink beats the heat

By RICK BYRNE
Copy Editor

For out-of-doors summer dining, a refreshing drink can add the right flavor to the occasion.

A cool drink in a wet glass on a warm evening can yield some of the best feelings known to humankind. It might just quench a thirst that's been building all day long, or it could bring back memories of summers past.

Now, you could stick to the traditional favorites like iced tea and lemonade (the Simple Syrup included in this week's recipes makes a great sweetener for either), or alcoholic drinks like gin and tonics. Or you could widen your repertoire with something special.

At Mr. B's Farm in Novi, dining and socializing on the outdoor deck usually means ordering up some Grand Gold Margaritas, or better yet, an Iguana Margarita, according to manager Vickie Burks.

The Grand Gold Margarita, she says, is a high-end drink, served frozen, using premium tequila. Grand Marnier, an orange-flavored liqueur, gives it a unique twist.

The Iguana Margarita was first developed at Monterey's restaurant, which is owned by the same family as Mr. B's. It uses the same traditional tequila/triple sec/lime juice formula as an ordinary margarita, though with a premium brand of tequila. Then a splash of Midori melon liqueur is added, for a blast of color.

Continued on 2

Mix up a batch of refreshment

GRAND GOLD MARGARITA

- 1 1/2 ounces Salsa Comemorativa tequila
- 1 ounce Grand Marnier
- 1 ounce lime juice
- splash of soda

Prepare a salt-rimmed margarita glass or 10-ounce cocktail glass. In a blender, pour 1 shot tequila. Pour Grand Marnier and lime juice together, then add splash of soda. Add ice and blend until slushy. Strawberries may also be blended in for variety.

IGUANA MARGARITA

- 1 1/2 ounces Salsa Comemorativa tequila
- 1/2 ounce triple sec
- 1 ounce lime juice
- splash of Midori melon liqueur

Prepare a salt-rimmed margarita glass or 10-ounce cocktail glass. Measure tequila, triple sec and lime juice into a shaker, and shake with crushed ice. Pour into

glass and add splash of Midori.

WATERMELON SMOOTHIE

- 2 cups seeded watermelon chunks
- 1 cup cracked ice
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1 to 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Combine all ingredients in blender or food processor; process until smooth.

Yields 2 to 3 servings. Note: Frozen watermelon desserts do not keep well. They are best eaten the same day they are made.

WATERMELON FROST

- 3 cups cubed watermelon
- 1/2 cup orange liqueur (see note)
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- additional watermelon cubes for garnish

In blender or food processor, process watermelon, liqueur, le-

mon juice and sugar until smooth. Sugar should completely dissolve. Pour into shallow baking dish, preferably metal, and place in freezer. Stir from time to time until firm. Garnish with with cubes of watermelon.

Note: Instead of liqueur, use orange juice and an additional tablespoon of sugar.

NASTURTIUM WINE COOLER

- 1 1/2 liters (6 cups) dry red wine, preferably of a pronounced flavor
- 12 nasturtium blossoms, well rinsed
- 1 cup Simple Syrup (recipe follows)
- 1 cup water
- juice of 1 large orange
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 4 bay leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon cracked black peppercorns

Place 1/2 liter (2 cups) of wine in large glass container. Add nastur-

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Chef Mary Brady

Alcohol class yields helpful information



Each week when I sit down to write my mind spins with ideas. It is hard to pick and choose. So today I've decided to compose a column that is "all over the place".

Now all these little tidbits that wouldn't fill a page — only together. Last week I wrote about liquor liability. Our battle cry each day has become "check LD.s." Sometimes it is amusing to those asked. The new adults that are just 21 are proud to show that they are old enough to legally imbibe. Almost boastful. And those that are "30 something" are happy to be mistaken for one much younger.

I had mentioned the class, Training for

Intervention Procedures (TIPS) by Trainers of Alcohol that we took in June. Today it was my delight to receive our "grades." We all passed.

Brought to mind were some of the points stressed. BAC, or blood alcohol content, is a direct measure of the amount of alcohol in your system. Most of the blood's content — 97 percent — is water. The remaining 3 percent includes all other necessary chemicals.

When the BAC level is .05, or one part alcohol to 2,000 parts blood, the person feels relaxed. A 150-pound man will reach this point with two drinks in an hour period. Four drinks in an hour doubles the BAC to .10 and judgment becomes impaired. Coordination begins to lapse.

This number increases proportionally with the drinks. But it is not just the number of drinks. Alcohol is unique in the sense that it can be absorbed into the bloodstream from the mouth, the stomach and the small intestine without being di-

gested first. In just a few minutes much of the alcohol in a drink will be circulating throughout the body.

A straight drink will get into the system much faster than one diluted with water. Sodas and carbonated mixers actually speed the absorption of alcohol into the blood.

The size of a person, height and weight, must also be taken into consideration. Women, because they are smaller with more body fat, will reach higher levels quicker. And food in the stomach will slow down the absorption rate.

Mood is also a factor. Stress and exhaustion will affect absorption.

And, finally, medications and booze don't mix.

Along with the above scenario comes yet another view. Americans are becoming overly concerned about drinking. For centuries other cultures have been partaking of libations with little effect, other than that they are more relaxed and suffer less illness related to stress. Now there are

medical people that advocate a daily sip. I'd agree. Food tastes better with a glass of wine and the occasional cocktail has its place. A good example was last week's beer and food pairing. It was a sell-out. It was fun.

The beers picked were done so with the type of food in mind. The Chimayo with the Caesar was wonderful, and the onion soup made with Duvel Ale rich and tasty.

The biggest hit, however, were the black velvets — half stout and half champagne. A big surprise. Not only were they light, but the Oysters Rockefeller tasted even better.

In all we sampled seven beers with a five-course meal. No one left feeling hungry or thirsty. I enjoyed it much more than a wine tasting. More relaxed and enjoyable.

A final note. Recently, I've been involved with the Tollgate Center in Novi, the big green farm located on Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook. The purpose of the prog-

ram is to provide horses and instruction for handicapped children. Next weekend they are holding their annual polo match at the Milford Polo Club. Several different types of tickets are available, as are food and beverages. This is a good cause! A fund raiser that helps keep the program going.

Consider spending the day with your family in a beautiful setting and helping others at the same time. These kids are great.

I recall a quote, "Those that bring sunshine to the lives of others can't keep it from themselves." They certainly put some sun into my life each week. And believe me, they are radiant.

For more information call the Tollgate Center at 347-3860.

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