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**MONDAY**  
**JANUARY 11, 1993**

Volume 37  
 Number 73  
 Two Sections  
 12 Pages plus Supplements

the NOVI NEWS

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**Opinions** HOW NOVI COUNCIL SCORED IN 1992 / 5A

**Dining** DESSERTS TO GO BANANAS OVER / 1B

**Sports** CATS FALL TO CENTRAL RUN-AND-GUN / 3B



Parks and Recreation employee Steve Tillman strikes a woodsman pose at the Novi Tree Farm. Photo by HAL GOULD

## Fuerst panel taking shape

By RANDY COBLE  
 Staff Writer

Members of the new Fuerst Family Farm Advisory Committee will soon roll up their sleeves and get to work — as soon as the Novi schools Board of Education irons out a detail or two.

The board received a list of the names of 12 prospective appointees to the committee at its Jan. 7 meeting, but three remaining seats have yet to be filled.

At issue is the fate of the Iva and Ruby Fuerst homestead, located at the intersection of Ten Mile and Taft roads. The sisters kept a life interest in their house after they sold the property to the school district.

The district's ownership of the land is not part of the current legal battle raging between a former Fuerst caregiver and the city of Novi.

The advisory committee will develop recommendations to the board about what it should do with the property. The notion for a special panel was Trustee Robert Schram's. The board took his suggestion, passing a resolution to form the committee last month and requesting volunteers.

On the site, which lies next to Novi High School and the Novi Public Library, stands the Fuerst home, barn and outlying buildings. Those interested have proposed a variety of ideas for the homestead,

from turning it into a historically significant site to building a senior housing complex.

The committee's goal is to gather information and input on the various options, research them and present their findings — along with its three preferred alternatives — to the board by May 31.

The board resolution called for the committee to take into account the old Novi City Hall sitting next to the site, the effect on Novi High School and the recognition of the contributions to the community of Iva and Ruby Fuerst.

Board members said they wanted to get community-wide input on what should be done with the Fuerst property, which Board Vice-President Stephen Hitchcock called "a community asset."

The committee's membership, therefore, will be broad-based. Members will include one representative of the the City Council, Novi Planning Commission, Novi Youth Assistance, Novi Historical Society, Novi Educational Foundation, Novi Parks and Recreation Department, Novi Arts Council and Novi Community Education.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Emmett Lippe will designate his representative. The committee will also have two citizens who have lived in Novi more than 15 years.

Continued on 6

## What will park bond bring to Novi?

By JAN JEFFRES  
 Staff Writer

### City of Novi Proposed Park Land

Break away from the steady stream of traffic on Novi Road and head west on Twelve-And-A-Half Mile Road and you're almost in another world.

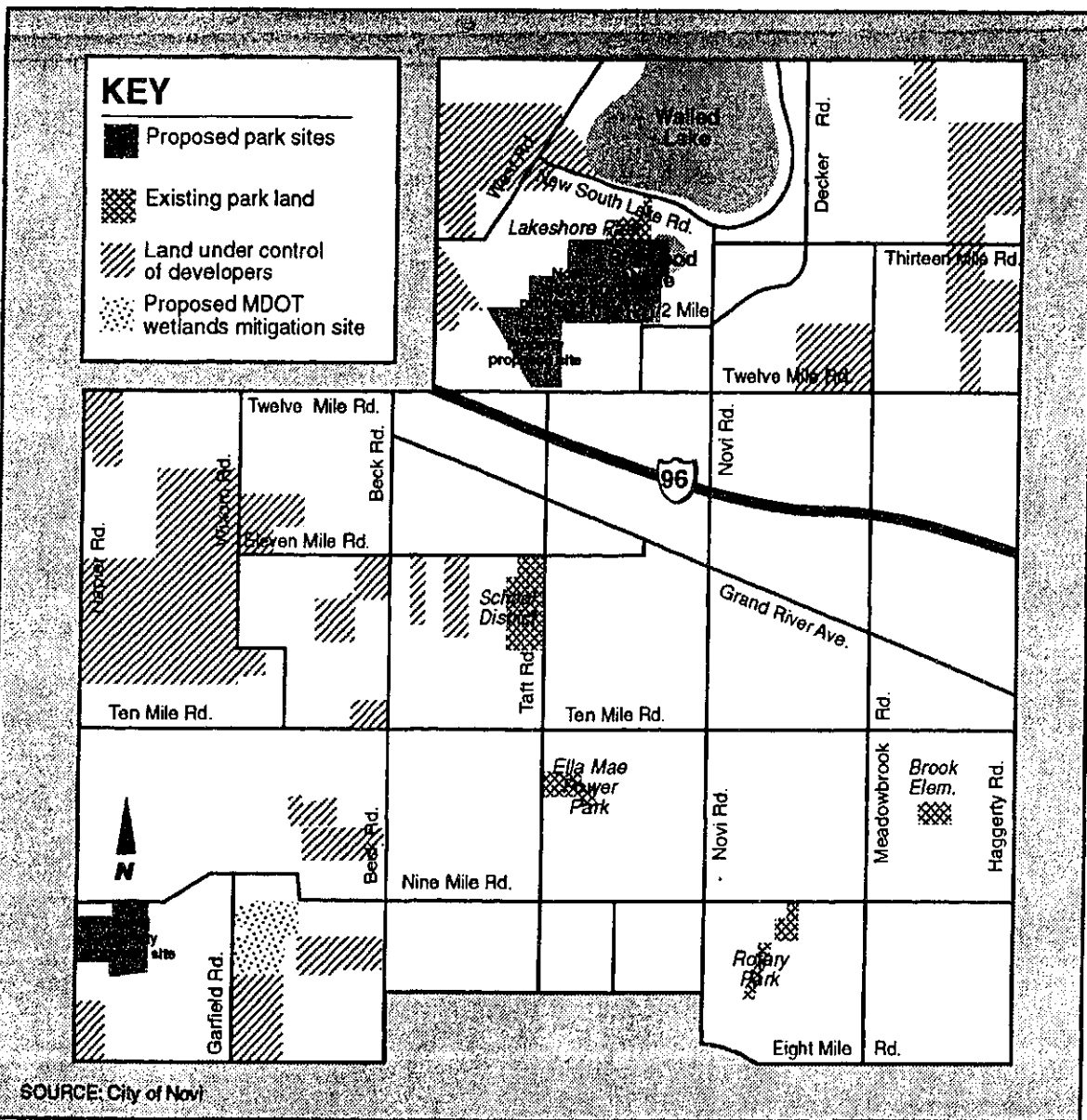
The narrow dirt road leads past a handful of homes in one of the City of Novi's increasingly rare pockets of rural living.

It curves past vast vacant tracts which Novi officials are hoping voters will agree Tuesday to add to the city's current inventory of 150 acres of park land — the 171-acre Novi Tree Farm and the 115-acre of woods owned by the Sterling Heights-based corporation Resco/Novi Venture Inc.

As rustic as the environment yet remains, many fear it will fall to the relentless bulldozers of development. Thirteen acres at Twelve-And-A-Half Mile fronting Novi Road are already offered for sale for multiple-housing.

If residents flash the green light, the city would sell at interest rates no greater than ten percent \$8.8 million for park land acquisition and \$1.1 million to build recreational facilities such as ballfields. The city has also targeted 105 acres at the southeast corner of Napier Road and Nine Mile for parkland if the ballot issue succeeds — rounding the total of optioned land to 391 acres — but the future acquisition could include as many as 500 acres.

Novi City Forester Chris Pargoff has spent several Saturdays trying to win support for the parks bond from Novi residents showing up at the tree farm.



Continued on 6

Map by JUANITA LITTLE

## Plan paints vision of new Grand River

By RANDY COBLE  
 Staff Writer

Some Novi organizers got a plan to improve Grand River Avenue the road Thursday night.

"Grand River is the 'Main Street' of Novi," said local businessman Victor Cassis, chairman of the Grand River Avenue Corridor Committee.

"The goal (of a newly-released plan) is give a coherent feeling as you drive along the street," he said. "When you come in, you'll know you're in Novi."

The committee has met for over a year, putting together a conceptual design plan for the thoroughfare — a new look for the multi-mile stretch that cuts a path through Novi. Cassis, owner of Victor's restaurant, said that the group was trying to be proactive.

"Other cities are trying to recapture their main roads," said Cassis. "We here in Novi have a golden opportunity to set some standards before there is much development of and along Grand River."

The committee, created by the City Council in 1991, completed its first phase report and held the Jan. 7 meeting at the Novi Civic Center to present it to the public. The plan details a series of short-range and

long-range improvements that aim to transform the somewhat dour Grand River. About 75 to 80 people, most of them Grand River business owners, attended the meeting, Cassis estimated.

Various city officials, city staffers and private citizens gave generously of their time to complete the report, Cassis said.

"In the short term," Cassis said as he explained the report, "we want to take care of what we have now with some simple steps, such as planting trees."

"Right now, what we can do is plant a few trees, for example," the restaurateur continued, "before the street is widened. In the future, the plan envisions Grand River with five lanes, sidewalks, bike paths, good lighting, nice landscaping — all the amenities."

Other notions to promote the new Grand River include cooperative spring cleanups of businesses along the avenue, and something like a sidewalk sale to show off the area. The group is in contact with Novi historical organizations, and discussing markers pointing out historic buildings and sites along the avenue.

The question is how to take that

Continued on 6

## City incentive plan deep-sixed

By JAN JEFFRES  
 Staff Writer

A proposed cost-cutting plan which would have given all full-time city employees a percentage share of the money saved has been scrapped, but an alternative program with individual rewards is now in the hopper.

"You don't say whatever is saved by another is shared by the rest," Council Member Tim Pope said at a Wednesday special meeting.

"I wouldn't feel comfortable with a major contribution of money."

Pope added that a proposal submitted last fall by City Manager Edward Kriewall, which as an example suggested anywhere from 50 to 100 percent of the total money saved in the cost-cutting be shared with the staff of 184, did not promote individual incentive.

City administrators and council members, confronted with leaner budgets now and in the near future, are looking for ways to pare back. The city faces \$300,000 in paybacks over the

next three years to property owners who successfully appealed their taxes at the state Tax Tribunal.

Council Member Nancy Cassis, agreeing with Pope, suggested that the original plan sounded like "socialism."

City administrators also must work out the dilemma of being fair to all employees when some departments have greater opportunities of cutting back their expenditures, Assistant City Manager Craig Klaver explained.

"How do you treat everybody on an equal basis when there's not an equal opportunity?" he said, adding that the potential lack of parity might stir up staff resentment.

Council Member Joseph Toth had a couple of suggestions, including setting aside a given sum, such as \$3,000 to award idea-generating staff members and stop the programs when the money is used up. He's also suggested a sliding scale of awards, ranging on the low end to ball point pens and tote bags all the way up to a

weekend in Las Vegas or Super Bowl Tickets.

"You might be surprised if you canvassed the staff, they might be happy with two tickets to the theater or a dinner," Cassis said.

"I'd rather give them \$100 and let them buy their own tickets," Klaver responded.

A team of representatives from each city department, as suggested by Kriewall, may be set up to evaluate each cost-saving proposal.

Kriewall suggests that a program could be put in place by Feb. 1 which would offer a sliding scale of monetary awards. For example, he wrote in a memo, a staff member who finds a way to save \$5,000 could pocket \$200 and another who found a way to cut back \$100,000 in expenditures might merit a \$500 award.

Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford pointed out that the city might concentrate on the goal of providing a better service to the public.

"You don't want to get in to everybody looking into every nickel and dime, that should not be the principal goal of a program," he added.

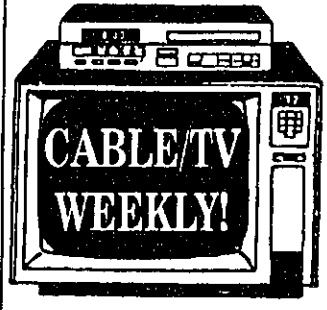
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## WHAT'S INSIDE?



## Community Calendar

**Today, January 11**  
**Senior Party:** The Novi High School Senior All Night Party parent information night will be held at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Video viewing and ticket sales available.  
**City Council:** The Novi City Council will meet at 8 p.m. in the council chambers of the Novi Civic Center.  
**Library Board:** The Novi Library Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi library building.  
**Health tests:** Community EMS will sponsor blood pressure testing and cholesterol testing in the Novi Civic Center from 7:30-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Novi City Council meeting.

**Tuesday, January 12**  
**Living Trusts Seminar:** John C. Rexford, attorney, will conduct a seminar regarding the use of living trusts as estate planning tools. The seminar will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 135 of the Crystal Glen Office Center located behind the Novi Hilton Hotel. Admission is free but seating is limited. Call 349-5797 to register.  
**Band rehearsal:** The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.  
**Camera Club:** The Novi Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call Hugh Crawford at 349-5079.

**Wednesday, January 13**  
**Lions Club:** The Novi Lions Club will meet at Kim's Gardens at 6:30 p.m. for dinner followed by a meeting.  
**Seniors potluck:** The Novi Senior Citizens will gather at noon in the Novi Civic Center for their monthly potluck luncheon.  
**SPARK:** The Society for the Preservation of American Racing Knowledge, the all-volunteer support organization for the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, meets at 7 p.m. at the Novi Expo Center. The meeting is open to anyone interested in supporting the Hall of Fame and Museum.

**Thursday, January 14**  
**Parks meeting:** The Novi Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.  
**Novi High School:** There will be no school today.  
**Novi schools:** The Novi schools Board of Education will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Educational Services Building.  
**Friday, January 22**  
**Novi High School:** There will be no school today.  
**Monday, January 25**  
**City Council:** The Novi City Council is scheduled to meet in regular session at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center.  
**Health tests:** Community EMS will sponsor blood pressure testing and cholesterol testing in the Novi Civic Center from 7:30-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Novi City Council meeting.  
**Band Boosters:** The board of the Novi High School Band Boosters will meet from 7-9:15 p.m. in the high school band room.  
**Tuesday, January 26**  
**Chamber Luncheon:** The Novi Chamber of Commerce general membership luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Oaks Hotel on Sheraton Drive at noon. Mayor Matthew C. Quinn will present the annual State of the City address. The cost is \$13 for members and \$17 for non-members.  
**Novi High School:** Dismissal will be at 10:55 a.m.  
**Garden Club:** The Novi Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.  
**Band rehearsal:** The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.  
**Wednesday, January 27**  
**Lions Club:** The Novi Lions Club will meet at Kim's Gardens at 6:30 p.m. for dinner followed by a meeting.  
**Seniors business:** The Novi Senior Citizens Club will meet at 1 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center for its regular monthly business meeting.  
**Friday, January 29**  
**Chamber Banquet:** The Novi Chamber of Commerce 5th Annual Installation Banquet will be held at the Novi Hilton Hotel. Phil Power, Chairman of Suburban Communications which owns the Novi News, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are \$25.



**Turn the radio down!**  
 Actually, Novi resident Jim Trainor, manager of public affairs for Ford Motor Company trucks, shows off FoMoCo's finest at the Detroit North American International Auto Show last Wednesday. The automotive extravaganza is going on at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

## Hints again of condo wars in lakes area

**By CRISTINA FERRIER**  
 Staff Writer

A break-in of the Windward Bay condominium complex garage has led to speculation that the old, alleged "condo wars" have reappeared in Novi's north end.

Several Windward Bay residents reopened discussion with police last week over what they perceive to be a serious crime problem in their area.

However, Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said he doesn't believe the recent incident at Windward Bay means anyone is specifically targeting residents there.

Last June, Windward Bay resident Carol Rice wrote an angry letter to the Novi City Council, charging that she and her fellow condo dwellers were being victimized, on a regular basis, by groups of north end juveniles.

In the letter she wrote that the juveniles terrorized Windward Bay residents with theft, vandalism, trespassing and harassment.

"The groups, when we approach them, tell me that they don't want us living there, that they can do whatever they want to us, and that their parents are all for them terrorizing our complex," she wrote.

Many north end residents had opposed the construction of Windward Bay condominiums for environmental reasons.

The letter led to a meeting in August with representatives of the Lakes Area Residents Association (LARA), several condominium residents, and Novi Crime Prevention Officer Karen Koester. During the meeting, residents hashed out various misunderstandings and came to agreements that promised a more peaceful existence in the north end.

LARA representatives could not be reached for comment at press time. Koester is currently on leave from the department and will not be back until later this month.

On Dec. 30, a Windward Bay resident reportedly left the door open to a community-type garage shared by all of the condominium owners. That night, police say, someone entered the garage and broke into several cars, stole wheels off at least one car, stole a truck that was later recovered, and stole two jet skis and an ATV as well as their trailers.

Shaeffer said that the incident, although very unfortunate, was not unusual "especially with unsecured property. Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to cast blame on the property owners," he said. "But I don't see this as an indication of a strong crime problem there."

Shaeffer said, however, that he believes it is important that residents feel safe in their homes so he has ordered some increased patrol for Windward Bay.

"I feel very strongly about people feeling comfortable, so I have instructed officers to pay special attention there," he said.

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We apologize to our customers for the inconvenience caused by a recent fire at our Twelve Oaks Mall location. Fortunately, all repairs have been made and...

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# Ruby Tuesday

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

# the NOVI NEWS

## It's hello, Ruby Tuesday

**By RANDY COBLE**  
 Staff Writer

Goodbye Ruby Tuesday? Not a chance.

Ruby Tuesday, the Twelve Oaks Mall restaurant which closed after a fire on Jan. 3, will soon be serving customers again.

"We hope to see them open tonight," said Twelve Oaks General Manager Phillip Morosco on Friday. "The repairs have gone smoothly."

City officials were less optimistic than that, but predicted that Ruby Tuesday would be back on track very quickly.

Donald Saven heads Novi's Building and Safety Department, responsible for inspecting the restaurant and issuing its new operating permits once repairs are complete. He said that the reopening date for Ruby Tuesday was uncertain.

"There's no set time frame," Saven said Friday. "I have some of my people going out there today. The time it takes really goes by the extent of the damage."

Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan on Monday said that a ballpark estimate of the damage to the restaurant was \$10,000. Saven said Friday that he had not received a formal estimate of the cost of the blaze.

Restaurant employees told firefighters that grease on the restaurant's grill ignited shortly after closing last Sunday evening. The fire damaged Ruby Tuesday's kitchen, shot up the grill's exhaust vent and burned surrounding roofing material.

Three people received treatment at the scene for minor smoke inhalation. There were no other injuries. Fire officials evacuated Twelve Oaks — most of which was closed — as a safety measure.

Now officials wait to see how long it will be before it's time to say "Hello, Ruby Tuesday."

"The restaurant and the city have to go through an inspection process before it can open — just like it was a brand new place," said Morosco.

"That process is 'progressing,'" said Saven. "They're moving along very quickly with it. The restaurant wants to get back to business."

Novi residents and officials have worked hard and fought hard to build a quality community here, one that is more to its residents than just an investment in the value of a home. Novi has fought to build a community that residents will want to live in for years to come, one that is enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing, one that residents hope their children will want to reside in."

Novi News (Jan. 7, 1993)

Engler's choice is Novi man

Brian Fannon of Novi has been reappointed by Gov. John Engler to the Michigan Manufactured Housing Commission.

Fannon has been a member of the commission since it was formed in 1977. He is president of Quality Homes in Farmington Hills.

The Manufactured Housing Commission is a state agency and part of the Michigan Department of Commerce.

Fannon resides in Novi with his wife, Janet, and three children.

# NOTICE

## VOTE YES FOR PARKS

The following concerned residents support the Novi Parks & Recreation Bond Proposal which will ask voters to approve the sale of \$9.9 million in city bonds to:

- ★ PURCHASE OF 500 ACRES OF PARKLAND
- ★ DEVELOPMENT OF 12 BASEBALL FIELDS
- ★ DEVELOPMENT OF 6 SOCCER FIELDS

Former Mayor Patricia Karevich  
 Councilman Tim Pope  
 Councilman Joseph Toth  
 Phil Koneda  
 Ernie Aruffo  
 Larry Christoff  
 Mike Gabriel  
 Sara Phelps  
 Robert Gatt  
 Edward Kriewall  
 Alice Palumbo  
 Davis Joseph  
 Linda Racey  
 Angela Jean  
 Art Cervi  
 Father James Cronk  
 Rev. T.A. Scherger  
 Father Leslie Harding

Former Mayor Gilbert Henderson  
 Councilman Hugh Crawford  
 Mayor Matthew C. Quinn  
 Tim May  
 Tom O'Branovic  
 J.R. Aiyeh  
 Nick Valenti  
 Jim Utley  
 Skip Phelps  
 Kathy Crawford  
 Daniel Davis  
 David Ruyle  
 Gary Skodack  
 John Balagna  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fair  
 Rev. Chuck Jacobs  
 Bruce Dayton  
 Pastor Gene Jahnke  
 Rev. E. Neil Hunt

Former Councilman Edward Leininger  
 Councilman Robert Schmid  
 Robert Shaw  
 Fred Finzer  
 Kathy Mutch  
 Angelo Carcone  
 Robert Pfeiffer  
 Harry Avagian  
 John Goodman  
 Mary Jane Leininger  
 Pamela Balagna  
 Rob Mitzel  
 Dennis Colligan  
 Len Karevich  
 Lisa Nicol  
 John Duneske  
 Elinor Holland

"The big deal is that if Novi misses this chance, it will be doomed to adding to its parks inventory with only postage stamp parcels...or making no additions to its parks inventory at all. And that's a quality of life issue."  
 Novi News (Jan. 7, 1993)

"For Novi Youth Baseball, the failure of the ballot issue could be even worse. It could mean the end of youth baseball!"  
 John Goodman, President, Novi Youth Baseball

"Novi residents and officials have worked hard and fought hard to build a quality community here, one that is more to its residents than just an investment in the value of a home. Novi has fought to build a community that residents will want to live in for years to come, one that is enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing, one that residents hope their children will want to reside in."  
 Novi News (Jan. 7, 1993)

"If the city doesn't have voter approval to buy more park land, the impact on youth soccer will be devastating."  
 Marilyn Hart, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach

"This appears to be a good deal indeed for voters...they won't get a better proposal, if they could get another proposal at all. We say YES to the Novi parks bond question. And we urge voters to say "yes" too."  
 Novi News (Jan. 7, 1993)

**THE PARKS & RECREATION BOND PROPOSAL HAS ALSO BEEN ENDORSED BY:**

- ★ Lakes Area Residents Association
- ★ Novi Youth Baseball League
- ★ Novi News
- ★ Novi Lions Club
- ★ Novi Teen Center Committee
- ★ Novi Youth Soccer Association
- ★ Novi Arts Council
- ★ Novi Parks & Recreation Commission
- ★ Coldwell Banker
- ★ Novi High School Athletic Boosters
- ★ Novi Spartan Aquatic Club
- ★ Novi Garden Club
- ★ Novi Camera Club
- ★ Novi Cub Scouts
- ★ Novi Boy Scouts
- ★ Novi Chamber of Commerce

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE YES FOR PARKS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 12**

Paid for by PARKS FOR KIDS COMMITTEE ★ 24706 GLENDA ★ NOVI, MI 48375



# Park backers aim to preserve natural Novi

Continued from Page 1

While Pargoff says the north end land is not precisely in a pristine state — 20 acres there have been used as a cut-your-own Christmas tree nursery since 1952 — it has some notable features.

However, he says he's not sure why everyone is calling the place the Novi Tree Farm (it's actually listed in the telephone book as the Novi Tree Garden.) The formal name of the site is the "Peat Humous Farm," based on its rich soil, he said. The property was at one time the bottom land of a pre-historic lake.

"It's pretty rich soil out there. It's got quite a few little valleys. It's an interesting piece, if you're into geology," Pargoff said.

"It'd create a corridor of natural area all the way from Lakeshore Park down to Twelve Mile."

Along with racoons and opossum, Pargoff says there's plenty of evidence on the tree farm of red fox and deer, animals which are especially shy of people.

Along with wooded wetlands, the tree farm has upland woodlands with beech, maple and oak trees. The Resco site contains even more pristine, older woodlands, according to Pargoff.

Evidence of an older human way of life can also be found on the Christmas tree farm. Original carriage paths exist there, as well as an abandoned, half-buried, old-time buckboard wagon. Before white settlers came to this stretch of the Michigan wilderness, the Walled Lake area was a home base for Native American tribes.

The Lakes Area Residents Association (LARA) has come out staunchly in favor of the bond issue.

There's a number of reasons why north end residents like the idea of a park in their backyards. LARA member Ed Phelps, who is on a committee to support the parks proposal.

A park on the two tracts instead of residential development is seen as less of a traffic-generator for the already over-burdened Novi Road/Twelve Mile Road/Thirteen Mile Road area.

LARA homeowners also see a park as less threatening to the water quality of the area. Silt and lawn fertilizer on the Novi Tree Farm would likely drain into tiny Shawood Lake, which feeds into Walled Lake. The Resco land drains into the Rouge River, which could impact downstream on Meadowbrook Lake, Phelps suggests.

"Realistically, anytime a person develops in a wetlands area, it's detrimental to the wetlands, even if they mitigate it. The wetlands ecology has been interrupted," Phelps said.

The homeowners association would also like the land to remain as a wildlife habitat. Phelps says he's seen evidence of opossum, racoons, squirrels, grouse, pheasants, deer, swan, pillated woodpeckers and skunks at the tree farm. Swans nest on Shawood Lake and loons, wood-ducks and one heron rookery have been spotted there.

"LARA has always been concerned about the quality of life. We know that as a city we don't have enough park land for people to get out and stretch their legs, to breath fresh air," Phelps

said. "If we could walk a developer out and purchase the property before he does and preserve a park, why not? There's so much potential there, doing a minimal amount of damage."

The parks and recreation commission and city council have considered a full slate of developments for the park land, including the possibility of a \$3.5 million swimming pool complex and a joint private sector/city two-rink ice arena. Other ideas that have been thrown out are a historic park to preserve notable Novi buildings and a recreational vehicle storage facility to be used by residents.

In addition, Pargoff says the city might be able to continue the Christmas tree sales for several years: "I don't know if we could make a lot of money but we could make some to defray the costs of the land."

About half of Shawood Lake would be included in the city land purchase.

Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis said that years ago residents could fish in the lake. The lake is too overgrown today. If the city buys it, the bottom might be dredged and fishing could be reintroduced there.

For Rob Mitzel, 22, going to the Novi Tree Farm at holiday-time to get a Christmas tree has been a family tradition. Another member of the committee supporting the \$9.9 bond issue, he served four years ago on the park and recreation commission's needs and assessment committee, which found that Novi was short by a long shot of the recommended national standards for park land.

Mitzel says it's a quality-of-life issue.

"I just think it would be a very good addition to Novi to have some open space preserved, now and in the future to have an area like that to enjoy," he said.

"I like the rolling terrain (of the tree farm) and some of the open space and Shawood Lake over on the northeast side and the wetlands. It's a nice place to hike around. It's very scenic up there. . . . When we were up there hiking a few weeks ago, we saw some deer tracks."

Phelps and Ernest Aruffo belong to the city's Natural Resources Design Plan Committee, which is planning a 33-mile series of hiking trails in Novi. Both say the parks will provide ideal nature trails.

"We'd be able to sustain the life of the woods, rather than abandon it to development, which is inevitable. It provides a form of recreation that is vibrant and living," said Aruffo, a former planning commissioner.

Yet Novi residents are not sequestered away from other parks systems. Within a short driving distance are regional parks such as Kensington Meiro Park, Maybury State Park and Proud Lake Recreation Area.

Davis says these sites don't necessarily meet Novi needs.

"The parks out there cater to a more regional clientele. What you'll find is more of the offerings they do are more large-scale, special events," he said.

"A city park facility will cater towards the City of Novi residents. We can focus our attention on what the City of Novi residents want. They'll have more of an individual impact what happens."



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

John Goodman stands behind the sluggers of Novi Youth Baseball in backing the parks bond proposal.

# Parks and ballfields in bond plan

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Here's what your money will buy if you vote yes on the \$9.9 million parks bond issue tomorrow.

The bulk of the funds, \$8.8 million will be set aside to buy as much as 500 acres of vacant land, to be converted both to "active" parks — ballfields, soccer fields, etc. and as "passive" recreation areas — picnic grounds, hiking and nature trails.

Novi officials already have in mind three sites which would, if purchased, take up \$4.19 million of these funds.

The remainder, \$1.1 million will be used for building at least eight ballfields for Novi Youth Baseball, four fields for the city's own softball teams, six soccer fields, restrooms and a concession stand.

If the bond issue passes, public hearings will be held to help determine how the parks would be developed.

City Clerk Gerry Stupp said that as of Thursday, 105 voters had already voted on absentee ballots, about par for the course on a city special election.

While the city has an option to purchase three properties, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis says Novi is eyeing other land which could be acquired if the bond issue passes.

The city already owns 150 acres of

PARKS BOND MILLAGE			
Annual Cost Based Upon Home Value			
Market Value of Home	SEV	Additional Cost per Year	Additional Cost per Month
75,000	37,500	29.25	2.44
100,000	50,000	39.00	3.25
125,000	62,500	48.75	4.06
150,000	75,000	58.50	4.88
175,000	87,500	68.25	5.69
200,000	100,000	78.00	6.50

parks. Based on national standards, that figure would ideally be over 300 acres now and as much as 700 acres in the next century if Novi reaches its estimated population level of 70,000.

Already under option or almost under option are:

- The Novi Tree Farm — 171 acres on Twelve-And-A-Half Mile Road, adjacent to the city's Lakeshore Park. The site comes with a \$2.3 million price tag. The city paid \$60,000 for the option, of which \$25,000 is non-refundable.
- The Resco/Novi Venture Inc. Property — These 115 acres are just south of the tree farm and next to the CSX railroad tracks, with a sale price of

\$1.145 million. The city paid a non-refundable \$10,000 for the option.

- The Peter Stanaj Property — 105 acres of former farmland at the southeast corner of Nine Mile and Napier roads. Novi is scheduled to pay a \$1 option to purchase the land for \$745,000.

The Novi City Council as one of its last actions in December agreed to an option to purchase the Stanaj land. The property owners had not yet formally agreed as of last week, but Davis said he anticipated no problems.

Around this site has focused the main controversy to swirl — publicly at any rate — around the bond issue.

In December, Council Member

Carol Mason, while saying she favored buying more parkland, objected to the price tag on the Stanaj land. Mason pointed out that based on the city's assessed market value of it, the land would be worth about significantly less than the sales figure.

Based on the 1991 assessment, the market value of the land would be \$218,000.

The council hired an independent real estate assessor, who came up with the figure of \$615,000 after evaluating the acreage.

Novi City Assessor James Klausmeyer said late last year that all farm land, or vacant tracts of 13 acres or more, would see "substantial" assessment increases, perhaps as high as 50 percent throughout the city.

"We are redoing all the land. It was a big jump," Klausmeyer said. He explained that the last time the farm property in Novi had been reviewed was five years ago. Since then, the assessments have been based on the annual Oakland County equalization factor.

This change is shown at the Stanaj property. Following the 1992 tax freeze, the tentative market value of the property given by the assessor's office is \$755,800.

Vacant land where the site is located in Sect. 81 was given an assessed value of \$8,000 per acre for "good" land and \$2,000 an acre for wetlands, Klausmeyer said.

# New group's got miles of goals

Continued from Page 1

vision from the pages of the report and superimpose it on the street. The answer may be the stepchild of the committee, the Grand River Avenue Association.

The association, which was Cassis' idea, will take over where the committee, scheduled to disband this November, takes off.

"It will be composed of people who own property along Grand River Avenue, and even business operators and the general public," Cassis said.

"It will carry on with the recommendations of the committee, which are approved by the City Council, and

see them to fruition."

All that good stuff costs money, of course, but Cassis argued that the squared-away organized community wins the battle for county, state and federal funding.

"They listen to those who are organized now. There's money in the pipeline. If we get organized now — the county and state are more apt to listen to people with definite plans, and funds can come forward."

It's the community nature of the association that Cassis thinks will be its strong point.

"We're bringing in the private sector and saying, 'Here's the plan, you're charged with running the

ship, within the guidelines of the city. It's good for you and it's good for Novi."

"It's a grassroots situation," he continued. "People determine their own destiny."

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the project, contact Victor Cassis at 349-1438 or Michael Csapo in the city's Planning and

Community Development department at 347-0475.

The committee will next meet on Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, located on Ten Mile Road between Taft and Novi roads. The public is welcome.

"It's an association I'm excited about," said Cassis, "because it's for the people and from the people."

# Fuerst farm group to harvest ideas

Continued from Page 1

two who have lived here 10-15 years and two of 5-10 years' residence.

Those who submitted their names for appointment from that cornucopia of organizations include: Joseph Toth; Lodia Richards; JoAnne Killeen; JoMarie Soszynski; David Ruyle; Robert Pfeiffer; William O'Brien; Mary

Jane Brugeman; Beck Staab; Kathy Mutch; Curt Perry; and Shiela Henderson.

Three potential members, however, have not yet sent the board a response to its written request for their service on the committee. The board will decide how to proceed at its next meeting on Jan. 21.

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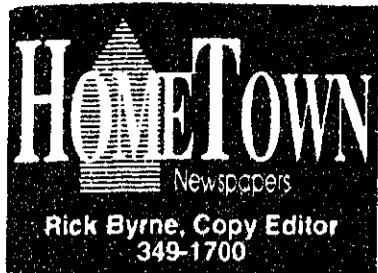
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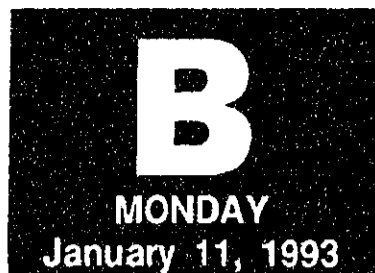
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## Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

### Easy to please wine lovers by tailoring gifts

The holiday season — its glittering ornaments and lights, a cozy fireplace, family, friends and in the evening, while enjoying it all, a taste of fine cognac.

Wine enthusiasts have been smitten by the taste of premium spirits, cognac in particular. If you've not yet become a fan, we're certain you've heard of the "big four" — Courvoisier, Hennessy, Martell and Remy Martin. These houses blanket the world with their product. It can be purchased everywhere. It's good, quite good, but it's only part of the cognac story.

In the Charente region of western France, the cradle of cognac, rests the peaceful town of Jarnac on the banks of the Charente river. Here, life follows the river's nonchalant pace and the rhythm of the vines producing the fruit converted to cognac in the town's cellars.

One dedicated French family has been living in Jarnac and producing cognac before the French Revolution. Cognac A. de Fussigny results from the cognac passion of two people, Alain-Louis and Anne-Marie Royer.

If you know prominent wine industry names such as Italy's Angelo Gaja, Burgundy's house of Faiveley, Champagne Pol Roger, the Rhone firm of Jaboulet and the Trimbach family from Alsace, you should now include the Royer's and their company A. de Fussigny. The world's best importers and marketers of fine wine and spirits carry these products in their portfolio.

About one-third of the de Fussigny cognacs are sold in North America. Another third is exported to Asia. The fraction rounding out the production is sold in Europe.

"The best cognacs come from the best wine," Alain Royer contends. "In the cognac region, grapegrowing is as important as distillation techniques." Perhaps Royer's attitude is the reason behind his unique cognac packaging.

"I wanted to have a wine approach," he said. "The label indicates this and the use of the wooden-based cork conveys quality. The A. de Fussigny bottle has no modern imitation. It is a replica of an ancient hand-blown vessel I found in my cellars."

In our opinion, consumers claiming to be connoisseurs, place too much emphasis on cognacs produced from the Grande Champagne and Petite Champagne growing areas. (If you're just beginning to understand cognacs, don't confuse the cognac use of champagne with the sparkling beverage of the same name.) Cognacs blended with large percentages from these regions require years of barrel aging to produce a round, smooth, rich cognac, robust in character yet full of finesse. Understandably, these cognacs are higher priced.

In his entry product labeled Stars Cognac Reserve (\$51.68), he blends 70 percent Petite Champagne and 30 percent Fin Bois cognacs. The average age of the blending elements is eight to 10 years.

A. de Fussigny XO (\$75.96) is a blend of three cognacs: 10 percent Grande Champagne averaging 14 years; 60 percent Petite Champagne averaging 20 years, and 30 percent Fin Bois with an average age of 15 years.

"XO quality is a benchmark in the eye of the consumer," Royer said. That said, you have to taste it to experience the elegant rounded palate expression with floral and violet accents. The smooth finish is unparalleled.

Several other cognacs round out the A. de Fussigny portfolio: Fine Champagne Vieille Reserve (\$106.45) is pure finesse with a dramatic and exciting vanilla character. Heritage (\$151.38) is complex and may be compared to Hennessy Paradis, but with a more evolved aroma.

Tres Vieille Champagne (\$208.51), is a single cask, 1937 vintage. Normally, to be most interesting, cognacs need to be blended. This is an exception.



The famous Bananas Foster from Brennan's Restaurant in New Orleans.

## Go bananas

### This versatile fruit adds to desserts, breakfasts

By Kathi Diamant

In the early 1950s, the late famed restaurateur Owen Brennan Sr. was creating his dream of the quintessential New Orleans breakfast establishment.

According to his son Jimmy Brennan, who continues with his famous family restaurant in the French Quarter, New Orleans was the major port of entry for bananas shipped from Central and South America, and Brennan Sr. wanted to find a new way to use bananas. Dessert history was made.

Now appearing on international menus from Paris to New Orleans, Bananas Foster was created in the kitchen of Brennan's restaurant patron. Last year, Brennan's served 35,000 pounds of bananas in its famous Banana Foster dish alone.

Chef Mike Roussel has cooked Banana Foster in Russia, Italy, England and Japan, as well as on more than 40 television stations.

His advice is, "Don't be afraid to attempt the dish in your own kitchen. Just remember to wait until the rum gets hot so you'll get a good flame when it's ignited. The dish can be prepared over a regular stove burner and then brought to the dinner table to be flamed."

#### Brennan's Famous Bananas Foster

4 lbs. butter (¼ stick)  
1 cup brown sugar  
¼ tsp. cinnamon  
4 Tbs. banana liqueur  
4 bananas, cut in half, lengthwise, then halved.  
¼ cup of rum  
4 scoops of vanilla ice cream  
Yields 4 servings.

Melt butter over alcohol burner or stove in flammable pan. Add sugar, cinnamon, banana liqueur and stir to mix. Heat for a few minutes, then place halved bananas in sauce and saute until soft and slightly browned. Add rum and allow to heat well, then tip pan so that flame from burner causes sauce to light. Allow sauce to flame until it dies out, tipping pan with a circular motion to prolong flaming.

Serve over vanilla ice cream, then spoon hot sauce from pan over top.

While Bananas Foster is one of New Orleans' most famous (and delicious) creations, Bella Luna's Banana

Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce was spoons-up favorite at the very successful first annual New Orleans Wine and Food Experience, which featured a unique opportunity to sample favorite menu items from the best of New Orleans' finest dining establishments. The wines were pretty excellent, too.

Bella Luna opened in October, 1991 in the historic French Market and features an Italian twist to the Cajun and Creole menu, with a growing reputation as a world-class romantic setting. *Glamour* magazine named Bella Luna as one of America's best "Places to Kiss."

This bread and pudding met my lips more than once!

#### Bella Luna's Banana Bread Pudding

12 ounces stale French bread, thinly sliced  
½ cup cinnamon sugar (1/3 cup sugar, 1 Tbs. cinnamon)

¼ cup raisins  
3 bananas (slice 1, puree the remaining 2)  
1 ounce plus 2 Tbs. butter  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 cup milk  
½ cup vanilla bean  
3 eggs  
Rum sauce (recipe follows)  
Yields 6 servings.

Butter and lightly sugar 10-inch cake pan (bottom and sides). Evenly distribute French bread, ¼ cup of cinnamon sugar, raisins, sliced banana and butter (cut into small cubes) around pan and set aside.

Heat heavy cream and milk over moderate flame. Scrape out the insides of vanilla bean, adding both shell and meat to milk/cream mixture. In separate bowl, lightly beat eggs and other ¼ cup cinnamon sugar together. Add banana puree and cream/milk mixture (remove vanilla bean).

Pour custard over bread mixture, making sure all bread is well saturated; sprinkle rest of the cinnamon sugar over top.

To ensure proper baking, place pan containing bread pudding in larger pan filled with water. Bake at 325 F for about an hour, or until firm to touch and lightly browned top.

Serve with rum sauce.

Rum Sauce  
1 cup butter  
3 eggs  
4 ounces water

1 Tbs. Karo syrup  
4 ounces rum  
Yields 6 servings.

Melt butter and mix with eggs. Boil water, sugar and Karo syrup until golden brown. Take off flame and add rum. Pour rum mixture into butter and egg mixture and mix well. Serve warm over Banana Bread Pudding.

Even though it doesn't have any bananas in it, some of the participants at the New Orleans' Wine and Food Experience felt that this bread pudding from the Palace Cafe on Canal Street was the best dessert selection. To be completely fair, here's that recipe, too. By the way, the Palace Cafe is brought to you by the finest folks of the more famous Commander's Palace, yet another branch of the Brennan family.

#### Palace Cafe's White Chocolate Bread Pudding

Bread Pudding  
3 cups whipping cream  
10 ounces white chocolate  
1 cup milk  
½ cup sugar  
2 eggs  
8 egg yolks  
1 loaf French Bread (sliced into ¼-inch pieces and dried in oven)

2 lbs. chocolate shavings (for garnish)  
Sauce  
8 ounces melted white chocolate  
3 ounces heavy cream  
Yields 6 servings.

Heat whipping cream and add white chocolate. When chocolate is melted, remove from heat. In double boiler heat milk, sugar, eggs and yolks until warm. Blend egg mixture into cream-and-chocolate mixture.

Place bread slices in baking pan. Put ½ mixture over bread and let settle. When bread has soaked up mixture, top with rest. Cover with foil and bake 1 hour at 275 F. Remove foil and bake 15 minutes until top is golden brown.

To serve, spoon hot out of pan. Or let cool to room temperature and place in refrigerator for about 45 minutes, then cut into squares or triangles.

To make sauce, melt white chocolate in double boiler, remove from heat and mix in heavy cream. Spoon over bread pudding and sprinkle with chocolate shavings. Note: May be kept at room temperature.

## Chef Mary Brady



We recently held the first annual Brady employee Christmas party. It was a blast!

Around Thanksgiving time we posted a note listing the date and time of the affair. Nothing else was said. As the day got closer the questions began. What were we going to do? Why were employees invited at twelve and guests at three?

Rumors started to fly. The best speculation was that we were going on a hay ride. No! No! No! And no way were Tom and I go-

ing to let the secret, even though some were just short of begging to find out. I can liken the feeling to a group of kids that can hardly wait for Christmas to open the presents. Excitement began to build.

At noon on Sunday everyone arrived and we "brunched" on cheese strata and mimosas. The curiosity was at fever pitch. Let's get going! I must admit that I was as excited as the rest.

We handed out the sheets explaining the day's activities. They were going to play a "game." Each employee received a sealed envelope containing cash. The amounts varied depending on the length of service.

The game was a shopping spree. The rules simple: buy only for yourself, not for mothers, fathers, husbands, wives or kids. The money was for the most important person in the world, them.

All receipts were to be turned in, no ex-

changes possible. The bills to be spent on something that they would not normally buy for themselves. A treat. Any change had to be returned to us, so we strongly urged everyone to spend all of their money. The person coming the closest to depleting their total amount without going over would win. And finally, at 2 o'clock was the deadline.

Yells and shouts of joy riveted throughout the room as people teamed up to drive together to Twelve Oaks. And they were off. Tom and I were on pins waiting. The first returned at 1:15 p.m. after walking to Mervin's. The second at 1:20 p.m.

They shopped from noon until five to two. Each turned in receipts and change upon entering. The enthusiasm level was incredible. For the next hour we showed each other the purchases.

Each and every person truly bought

gifts for themselves, ranging from practical to outrageous. Winter coats, complete outfits, earrings, necklaces, shoes, silk boxers, expensive coffees and bath soaps, music, headphones, wine racks, measuring cups and wine glasses headed the list. It was great.

Our plan of rewarding a job well done was a success. Then came our surprise. First, a poem:

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the joint  
Not a soup pot was stirring, but let's get to the point  
The lights were hung in the store with care  
Not a bar stool was creaking, 'cuz no one was there.  
Not a peep from the kitchen, not even a cook's yells.  
Tom in his cool shirt, and Mary in her chef's

hat.  
Had invited the staff to the joint for a chat.  
The surprise had been killing us.  
But now the tables have turned, we've a secret you haven't learned  
So now without further ado — here's our Christmas present to you.

Signed, "The Brady Bunch"

The gift from the staff was as perfect as ours to them. A stay at the Wickwood Inn in Sagatuck, one of our favorite retreats. The Inn is owned by cookbook author Julie Russo and her husband. Her books are some of my favorites. One that I'm always reaching for. Needless to say we are looking forward to this adventure.

A superb party. Thanks everyone. The only problem is how to top something this great next year.

## Only problem now? How to top party next year





