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# the NOVI NEWS

Volume 37  
Number 80  
Five Sections  
50 Pages plus Supplements

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A GOOD ORDINANCE? / 16A

Living CHILDBIRTH CLASSES  
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Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

Union picketers try to get workers not to enter the Novi Expo Center Tuesday morning.

## Picketers march at Expo Center

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

A group representing several metro-area unions has been picketing the Novi Expo Center since Monday, and they say they're not leaving until they get what they want.

The head of the center, however, says that they're targeting the wrong folks—and that their tactics are denying people the right to do business.

Perhaps Novi's biggest economic development of the past two years, the facility is located on Novi Road south of I-96, across from the Novi Town Center shopping complex. It hosts conventions and merchandise shows.

Those on the picket line said they were protesting the fact that non-union labor was being used to for show set-up work at the complex, including a home and garden show that begins today (Feb. 4).

Blair Bowman, president of the company which owns the center, said that it is an "open-

city" where organizations putting on individual shows decide who they want to perform the set-up work.

Union members began the picket line on Monday across the service road that connects the Expo Center to Novi Road. The groups represented included Riggers Local 575, Carpenters Local 118, Teamsters Local 614, the Electricians' union and other trades that are often employed for show work.

"What we've got is non-union scab labor in there taking jobs, taking money away from our families and ourselves," said picketer Michael Petsch, a member of Teamsters Local 299.

The Southeast Michigan Builders' Association, which is putting on the Feb. 4-7 home and garden show, hired the Lansing-based firm of Aircraft to perform the set-up work. The firm employs non-union workers.

Bowman said that the Expo Center has nothing to do with that. He said that whomever put on a show made those decisions.

"It's their absolute prerogative to choose

whomever they want to perform the work," Bowman said. "Some set it up themselves, some use union and some use non-union. We're really just bystanders."

That argument was unacceptable to the picketers.

"We want union people to know that they're using non-union labor, and don't spend your union dollars there," Petsch said, pointing to Expo Center.

Bowman said that he had dealt with unions' objections in the past, but that this was the first time the facility had been picketed. The tactic was not an appropriate one, he added.

"This harms our business," he said, "and we'll have to make some determination about what to do about it. It's not fair."

He had talked to union officials, Bowman said, but couldn't say what was next.

"We'll have 500, 600 guys out here (for the start of the show)," responded one picketer to the same question. "And we'll stay out here until this is resolved."

## Commission takes lead on park plan

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Council Member Joseph Toth's proposal to create a citizens' committee to work out the future of Novi's soon-to-be purchased parks brought down the wrath of the parks and recreation commission on his head.

"My basic concern is that this will take a long-range and independent study. We have an area approximately the size of the Sandstone property," Toth said at Monday's City Council meeting.

"This does not mean that the parks and recreation commission will not have a final say... This really needs as much citizen input as we can get in here. We're talking \$10 million that voters approved." Several commissioners suggested that the proposal for a 15-member committee would usurp their role. The city council majority agreed and declined to back Toth.

"Establishing this committee would be in direct conflict with the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission," commission chair Phil Konedda told the council.

"This commission has always operated openly... seeking citizen input."

Konedda said that city ordinances give the commission the charge to plan the development of Novi's parks, which includes their annual updates of the parks master plan.

"I have to urge you to allow your parks and recreation commission to do the job they were appointed to do. This is completely unnecessary..."

Gerald Shulman  
Former Parks Commissioner

In addition, a 1988 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Committee, which included citizen volunteers, has already mapped out the route for the new property, he added.

Commissioners David Ruyle and Robert Pfeiffer, as well as former commissioner Gerald Shulman, backed Konedda.

"Let the commission get on with its job," Ruyle said.

The parks and recreation commission will seek public input as they move ahead on making plans for the over 400 acres. The two new parks will then go through the site plan process before the planning commission and city council.

Toth explained that the proposed committee would be similar to those that worked to develop the Novi Civic Center and the Town

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## Picketers say driver aimed gun at them

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

Novi police arrested a man Tuesday for allegedly using a pellet gun to threaten two men that are part of a union group picketing the Novi Expo Center.

Captain Al Rasmussen said Tuesday that the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office was reviewing the case. Until it issues a warrant, he said, the man's name would not be released.

The two men who called police were among those picketing the Expo Center since Monday. About 8 a.m. Tuesday morning, Rasmussen said, the two men called police.

The facility is located on Novi Road south of I-96, across from the Novi Town Center shopping complex. It hosts conventions and merchandise shows.

"They said that a white male driving a red Ford Mustang sped past their (picket) line on the shoulder of the road," Rasmussen said. "As he passed, they said, he held a hand-



Union member Harvey Cooper, of the Carpenters' Local 118, protests the use of non-union labor in the Expo Center.

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## Chamber hands top honor to Bauman

By CRISTINA FERRIER  
Staff Writer

The lights have been shining on Paul Bauman a lot lately.

Bauman, owner of the Reid Lighting store on Grand River in the Novi Town Center, was in the news last month after he helped pull a drowning man from Walled Lake during an ice fishing excursion.

And last Friday, he was named Small Business Owner of the Year by the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber president Connie Mallett said there were four main reasons for honoring Bauman, one of which was the rescue.



PAUL BAUMAN

Other factors, she said, were his youth, his strong support of the chamber and the positive atmosphere he provides for his employees.

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## Novi hashes out lot-size rules

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

City Council members took turns Monday spelling out exactly what they want and do not want in a proposed revision of the adjusted lot size ordinance.

Opponents of the regulation as it now stands say it threatens the city's longtime vision for its as yet largely undeveloped west side.

But the original intent of the adjusted lot size was positive. Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford said, to save trees and work within the framework of Novi's woodlands ordinance.

Now, Council Member Nancy Cassis describes the ordinance as a way to circumvent the

city's goal of large-lot subdivisions west of Beck Road. Developers contend that homes on one acre or greater are not easy to market.

Cassis disagrees. "I think there is a market for this kind of designation, one acre. The people who are looking at it are skipping over Novi because it's not here. They're going out to Brighton or Millford," Cassis said.

To pull those buyers back east, city officials are now considering a new zoning category for estates of two acres or more.

The adjusted lot size ordinance will jump out of the frying pan and into the fire on Feb. 23 when it comes up for a grilling in a joint city council/planning commission meeting.

The regulation as it stands allows lot sizes to be reduced if the protection of regulated woodlands and wetlands would not permit a feasible subdivision layout. It's a trade-off. The option is supposed to result in a better preservation of these sensitive lands than a conventional site plan, thereby preventing the loss of a natural habitat, noise buffer and windbreak.

Developers in some cases then get to build more homes.

In judging the proposed preservation, property, ecological, historical and aesthetic values may be taken into consideration.

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# Community journalism is the hardest kind, says SCC pres

Community newspapers "are about knowing who does what in the community with a sense of caring and admiration, and nuance. They have to do with the history of shared roots together. And they have to do with the notion that a newspaper is not something outside and apart from the community, but is an integral part of the business, and social, and educational, and human fabric of places that real people live in communities today," says Phil Power, Power chairman of the Suburban Communications Corporation, made those comments as a part of his keynote speech to the Novi Chamber of Commerce during its Installation Dinner for new board members Friday, Jan. 29, in the Novi Hilton.

HomeTown Newspapers, which owns this newspaper, is a subsidiary of SCC.

"I basically want to suggest that there are two different kinds of journalism about in the world today," Power said. "One is called community journalism, which is the stuff that we try to do. And the other is a kind that would call 'vulture journalism.' That's the journalism that is prac-

ticed by the big city papers in Detroit, by the television stations, or the radio stations, or the national newspapers, or the national networks.

"And my thesis is very, very simple — that while community journalists are obliged by our trade to function with the same respect for accuracy, fairness and tough-mindedness that any journalist has, at the end of the day, a community journalist is part of the community that he or she covers. And therefore a community journalist has not only an obligation to truth, accuracy, a good story, so on and so forth, but also has an obligation to take responsibility to the community for the consequences of the news story that (he or she) was involved in," he said.

"I used to be a vulture journalist," Power said, "so I know how it works. Let me tell you what happens. Something bizarre, or corrupt, or sensational, or life-threatening, or funny, or embarrassing happens somewhere. And you swoop up to where- ever it happens from your office downtown. And you rush in and you get the facts, or the sound bite, or the film. And then the story runs, prefer-

rably with your byline on it. And then you leave. And that's all.

"You never have to deal with your news sources again. You never have to walk down the street and face a person whose reputation you tore up," Power said.

He said community journalism is "journalism that tries to walk the hard track between being tough and caring, between being aggressive and understanding, between caring about truth and caring about the people who live in the community simultaneously."

"We do struggle," Power continued, "because our sense of community journalism is that it is the hardest sort. We have to combine these professional issues of accuracy and tough-mindedness and compassionate issues that have to do with what the consequences (are) in the community. How can we be good citizens of this community, which is what we want to be, and simultaneously be good newspaper people?"

Power said SCC struggles to resolve those "tensions and contradictions in every community where we have a newspaper."



Photo by JON FREILICH

Suburban Communications Corporation Chairman Phil Power as he speaks to the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

## Chamber installs officers, board

The torch was passed Friday night.

Outgoing members of the Novi Chamber of Commerce were honored while incoming members took their new positions during the annual installation dinner Friday, Jan. 29 in the Novi Hilton hotel.

Outgoing president Ray Davits, of Executive Printing Service, passed the responsibility to J.R. Attyeh, of Financial Planning in Northville, who will serve as the chairman of the board for 1993. Chairman-elect Victor Cassis, of Victor's Motel Inn, was also installed. He'll bear the burden in 1994.

Pat Webb, of Novi Family Dental,

was installed as vice chairman, and Marilynna Klocke, of Michigan National Bank, took over the post of treasurer.

Davits will continue to serve on the chamber board as Immediate Past President.

Taking new terms on the chamber board of directors were Blair Bowman, Novi Expo Center; Shirley Cash, Realty World; Mike Malot, Novi News; Steve Myers, Suzuki/Myers; Diane Risko, Matt Brady's Tavern; and Joanne Zimmerman, Highland Hills Estates.

Directors who are serving on-going terms on the Chamber board of directors include George Andrews,

TRACC; Peg Campbell, University of Michigan Health Centers; Kevin Crain, Crain Chiropractic; Mike Gabriel, State Farm Insurance; Dan Grady, Comerica; and Phil Morosco, Twelve Oaks Mall.

# District starts crystal ball gazing

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

Sometimes it's wise to take a moment and see where you're headed. The Novi school district is doing just that with a new long-range planning body.

A committee, the brainchild of Superintendent of Schools Emmett Lippe, had its first meeting on Tuesday. It will put together a five-year plan that will identify what goals the district should set for itself and how to achieve them. The group will evaluate both existing and proposed programs to see how they will fit into a 21st-century Novi school district.

"This process will set the tone for a five-year period," said Lippe. "It's going to chart a framework for future action as we improve the Novi school district."

The committee — 45 people in all — includes teachers, administrators, students, parents and community members. It will issue a series of recommendations to the board and Lippe on the long-term planning process, probably in June.

Lippe will report the group's progress to the board regularly, and that body will have the final say on what the district will adopt. Whatever plan is adopted, district officials expect to review it yearly to see if and where it needs to be updated.

Long-range planning, the proposal for the committee says, "deals with growth and change; is concerned with the whole system; and is driven by the vision of staff and community members. It results in a common purpose, a common sense of di-

rection, priorities for change and a framework for action."

The committee will study trends affecting education today, and see what could be useful to improve the school district. One major focus will be refining student "outcomes" — the skills students should have after completing curriculum programs. These are what will "prepare students for the 21st century," the report said.

Another example of what the committee will consider is providing a technology support system that enhances learning opportunities for students. "Still other potential moves include such things as longer school days and a longer school year."

A diverse group makes up the committee's membership. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Rita Traylor will chair the panel. Two additional assistant superintendents will represent the board. Eight district teachers from grades K-12 and three Novi High School students will be members.

Four school building administrators, as well as four support personnel and a media/technology specialist will be on the committee. Also included are a guidance counselor, the directors of the district's special education and community education programs and one retired district resident.

Nine parents will be part of the action, and six non-parents from business, government, the clergy and the arts/humanities.

Getting parents and taxpayers involved in the activities of the committee was an important goal, Lippe said.

"It makes sense to me to seek input from those you're serving," he said. The high school's athletic director and Lippe himself round out the bunch.

The idea for the long-range planning work was Lippe's. Board members said his record on such matters contributed to their decision to hire him as Novi's superintendent in July of last year, and they voiced support for the committee's work.

"We haven't improved (educationally) in America in general," said Trustee Robert Schram. "When our kids get out, we have to make sure they have the tools they need."

Long-range planning as a method of improving educational methods was one way to get there, he added.

Board President Raymond Byers agreed with Schram.

"Globally, the U.S. hasn't moved one iota in 12 years," he said, referring to the scores American students get on comparable math and science tests as compared with the rest of the world.

Byers said the U.S. ranked in the bottom third of the scoring both then and now.

"We're looking at policy decisions well into the future (with this committee)," Byers said. "That's what a board of education should be doing."

"I view this as one of the most important things we do," added Schram. "Let's be sure to do it right."

# Health Notes

**Respiratory ailments:** Spring and summer are associated with a variety of respiratory ailments which affect millions of American yearly. If you or a loved one suffer from asthma or allergies, this series is for you. "All About Asthma — From A to Wheeze," is the topic for the Wednesday evening, Feb. 17 lecture and "Rhinitis — Another Runny Nose or Allergy," will be discussed Wednesday evening, Feb. 24.

The two-hour lectures are going to be held at the new Providence Medical Center-Providence Park Conference Center in Novi at the corner of Grand River and Beck Road beginning at 7:30 p.m. The lecture series is free of charge, but seating is limited and registration is required.

To register for one or both of the lectures, please call Community Health Education at 424-3068.

**Know your rights:** Providence Hospital and Medical Centers encourages you to know your rights regarding medical decisions and invites you to attend the "Durable Power of Attorney for Medical Decisions" program.

You will have an opportunity to review sample medical decision documents and learn how to designate a Patient Advocate who can act on your behalf should you become incapacitated and unable to make healthcare decisions. Questions are welcome.

The program is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Providence Medical Center-Providence Conference Center, at Grand River and Beck Road in Novi.

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# Council rejects LARA nominee

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

The Lakes Area Residents Association won't play ball with Novi because its designated team member was benched Monday night.

LARA at its Jan. 26 meeting "overwhelmingly" voted Walled Lake resident Stephen Cipelewski as their representative to the city's Lake Property Study Committee. The group of citizens and officials will plot out the future of the old Walled Lake Casino site at Thirteen Mile Road and East Lake Drive.

Mayor Matthew Quinn said that as soon as he learned that a non-Nov resident was appointed to the committee, "my hair stood on end."

"This is taxpayers' land and taxpayers' money in Novi. I certainly thought there was an understanding

that it would be a resident of Novi," Quinn explained Monday.

The property was once Dubford Landing, until 1989 when Milford businessman Jay Eldridge and the city council failed to see eye-to-eye on how the marina complex would be developed. Eldridge sued the city, hoping to keep the land. In a court settlement last year Novi paid \$70,000 for clear title to the lake-side field.

The mayor suggested that the city council either pull the position from LARA altogether or ask the north end homeowners group to come back with a new nominee with a Novi address.

The city council agreed unanimously to ask that an in-town LARA member get the job.

However, LARA activist Ed Phelps said that in a conversation with the

group's President Harry Agagian, who's out-of-town, it was agreed that the association would totally pull out of the committee if Cipelewski were not accepted.

That wasn't the result council members said they were looking for. "I don't want to be in confrontation with LARA," Council Member Tim Pope said.

Phelps explained after the meeting that it wasn't as if Cipelewski was unaware of the property; he lives on East Lake Drive.

"He would be directly affected by it. He isn't involved with the politics in Novi," Phelps said.

"The lake started coming hot and heavy on this from Ed Kriewal on LARA has never been a one-community group, from its very founding . . . We didn't question

# Volunteer Notes

**Hospice volunteers:** Hospice of Southeastern Michigan is looking for volunteers interested in helping terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteers perform a variety of tasks as they are needed. Patient care volunteers help patients and their families by running errands and lending support. With additional training, volunteers may perform simple health care tasks such as giving baths, transferring patients and changing linen.

Volunteers may also train to participate in the Hospice bereavement program, making calls and visits to families after a patient's death and helping with bereavement support groups.

"Our call" volunteers offer to be called whenever a patient or family needs their services. Services include driving, barbering and hairdressing, lawn care, snow shoveling, and simple home maintenance.

Office volunteers provide clerical support. Volunteers with computer operation skills who are available three to four hours per week are in great demand.

Speakers Bureau volunteers can provide information about Hospice to various groups in the community.

Anyone over 16 years of age is welcome to volunteer. Many assignments are for evenings and weekends, so students and people who work during the day shouldn't hesitate to volunteer.

Volunteers are asked to work at least two to four hours per week and commit to working for a year. For more information about Hospice volunteers, contact David Turner, south Oakland volunteer coordinator at 559-9209 or Mary Kay Galvin, North Oakland volunteer coordinator at 253-2580.

Hospice of Southeastern Michigan is dedicated to helping people live their final days in comfort and dignity. The organization provides care for patients with terminal illnesses and offers support for their families. Hospice of Southeastern Michigan serves residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Founded in 1980, it is the oldest and largest hospice in Michigan and leader in the national hospice movement.

# Greenwood denial makes developer see red

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

The Novi City Council's denial of the adjusted lot size option for Greenwood Oaks Number Four left developer Michael Horowitz charging that the issue is "now playing to a 1993 election crowd."

The council in a four-to-three vote Monday squashed an attempt to reduce the 46 lots from an area of 22,000 square feet and a width of 120 feet (half-acre lots) to an area size of 15,000 square feet and a lot width of 96 feet. Following this decision, the council members of the ordinance were debated (see related story).

A majority said the Greenwood Oaks rejection was based on preserving the character of the existing, earlier phases of the subdivision, as well

as the value of the houses already built on half-acre lots.

Under the option, an additional three acres of high-quality, regulated woodlands would have been rescued and the developer would have saved money by building shorter streets within the subdivision.

Residents of Greenwood Oaks would or would not be appropriate. To Council Member Carol Mason, a real estate broker, some of her colleagues may be overstepping their bounds in their insistence on one-acre lots. She suggests that the taxpayers money may be squandered in legal fees if the city's insistence on large lots leads to a series of lawsuits brought by developers.

But Council Member Robert Schmidt says he disagrees with the

half-acre lots. The developer should be held to the pattern of the same standard he has set."

Tim Pope Council Member

Number One protested the downsizing.

Council Member Tim Pope contended it was a matter of breaking the trust of these first homeowners in the new development.

"Someone in Subdivision One buys a half-acre lot and they expect their neighbors around them will

be fashionable, we had to do it and now it isn't. It was you that broke the trust of these people. It was you that mandated adjusted lots for phase two and three," the developer said.

"I've never been more frustrated in my entire life. I don't know how to be a responsible developer in this community because the rules are always changing."

Mayor Matthew Quinn and Council Members Carol Mason and Joseph Toth supported the adjusted lot sizes.

"It's really not just a matter of tree here or a tree there. It's a matter of a perfect forest. A real habitat is being preserved here. It's doing exactly what the ordinance was intended to do," Quinn said.

The planning commission in Ja-

nuary recommended the adjusted lot size option to the council, as did city planning consultants.

But Council Member Robert Schmidt, one of the most outspoken opponents of the option, pointed out that of the 46 lots, six would be half-acre or R-1 zoning, while the remainder would be lowered to the R-2 and R-3 categories.

"This evening, the first time in a subdivision, we're having buffers to lot sizes. Subdivision Number Three is a buffer to Subdivision Number Four. We're creating buffers inside of subdivisions to separate lot sizes. It's a bunch of baloney in my opinion," Schmidt said.

"It's too much of an asset to the developer and not to the city saving the woodlands and wetlands."

# Home Show's in bloom at Expo

The first annual Spring Home and Garden Show opens today, Feb. 4 at the Novi Expo Center and will run through the weekend.

"The Spring Home and Garden Show offers homeowners a one-stop shopping opportunity for their home and garden with over 150 exhibitors," said Fred I. Capaldi, president of the non-profit Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM) and vice president of Capaldi Building Company in Rochester Hills.

More than 40 retailers from Twelve Oaks Mall are participating in eight designer decorated rooms that will be on display during the show. Homeowners will be able to see home furnishings and accessories available at Twelve Oaks Mall in actual room settings.

BASM is the sponsor of the event and also conducts the International Builders Home, Flower, Furniture

show, now in its 75th year, the Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center. That show will open March 20 and run through March 28, 1993.

The Novi Spring Home and Garden Show will offer contests, entertainment and demonstrations. Many exhibitors will have show specials for the homeowner. The exhibits include the latest technologies, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, yard and garden, electronics, remodeling, decorative accessories, heating, cooling and appliances.

The show will run through Feb. 7 at the Novi Expo Center, located at I-96 and Novi Road. Hours are 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Box office admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children six to twelve, and free for children under six. For more information, call 252-2200 or 252-7347.

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SEATBELTS

# Wide open west Novi, adjusted lots in conflict

Continued from Page 1

Downsizing in individual lots may be up to the percentage of preserved wetlands and woodlands in the total area, but the reduction in area size may not be more than 35 percent and in lot widths may not be more than 20 percent.

The council is considering reducing that 35 percent figure to 25 percent.

Another proposed revision would remove state and city regulated wetlands from the credit for preserved lands granted to the developers—because these areas could not be built upon anyway.

Staff planner Mike Csapo has proposed that the community development department and the city's planning consultants review city zoning districts calling for one-acre lots and create an overlay to designate where the adjusted lot size

"I think there is a market for this kind of designation, one acre. The people who are looking at it are skipping over Novi because it's not here. They're going out to Brighton or Milford."

Nancy Cassis Council member

would or would not be appropriate. To Council Member Carol Mason, a real estate broker, some of her colleagues may be overstepping their bounds in their insistence on one-acre lots. She suggests that the taxpayers money may be squandered in legal fees if the city's insistence on large lots leads to a series of lawsuits brought by developers.

But Council Member Robert Schmidt says he disagrees with the

"real estate lady" Novi already has a track of housing types, but he contends that a homeowner doesn't pay for all the city services he or she uses until the property is in the \$300,000 range.

"I don't care if they sell today or tomorrow, they will sell. Milford has proven it," Schmidt said.

"If there's a few, that's enough for me. They can build up Novi. I hope they're \$1.5 million homes."

Schmidt called for a careful field study of west Novi—so we're not sitting here a year from now and everybody's downsized. If that's the case, we should move them all up one (zoning) size, so we get them where we want them to be."

Cassis compares the debate in Greenwood Oaks, where developer Mike Horowitz sought to build smaller lot homes near half-acre lots to a controversy here during the height of the recession of the early

1980s. At that time, builders wanted to put up relatively cheaper homes next to expensive ones, until the city regulated against it.

Novi has never planned to extend sewer and water lines beyond Beck Road. Greenwood Oaks resident Dennis Ringelski cautioned that if smaller lots are allowed to the west "I'll go down a path you won't be able to get changed."

Homes on larger lots may not have the space for wells and septic systems and will require the extension of the infrastructure.

"I think people west of Beck Road bought out there because they thought the city would have larger lots," Ringelski said.

If Novi keeps the ordinance, Council Member Tim Pope is calling for more specific guidelines within it. If not, he says it should be repealed altogether.

"The way the policy decisions are

made is wrong. It's arbitrary. I don't want it to be arbitrary. I want it to be specific," he said.

"We go through this policy debate where neither side understands what we're looking for. We have to spell that out very, very carefully."

Planning Commissioner Laura Lorenzo told the council that the lack of these specific guidelines made it a frustrating ordinance to work with.

However, Caspo and City Attorney David Fried warned that if everything were spelled out too carefully, the council would lose the ability to deny a development that did not meet the city's goals—if it met the letter of the local law.

Pope said that in "limited circumstances" he favored the adjusted lot size option: "I hope this council will limit these to very legitimate and minor cases and not the substantial rezoning of the city."

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# Oakland County says it's shorted

By TIM RICHARD Staff Writer

For years the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments avoided the issue — "one person, one vote." It was just a planning agency; it didn't have governmental powers, everyone said. But on its 25th anniversary, SEMCOG finds the federal government has thrust governmental powers on it — allocating transportation funds.

In January, the old system of "one government, one vote" — with a few extra votes for Detroit and the counties — was challenged in a SEMCOG meeting.

"By any rational criteria, Oakland County is underrepresented," said John Grubba, the new deputy county executive representing L. Brooks Patterson on the SEMCOG executive committee.

"When SEMCOG was exclusively a planning agency, the problem of votes was less than now, when it's a (money) dispensing agency. The federal government seems bent on giving governmental powers that previously were exercised by state and local government."

Millon Mack, the Wayne County probate judge who chairs SEMCOG's bylaws committee, provided the numbers that made Oakland County and Detroit sit up and take notice. He said SEMCOG has operated with a "loosely proportional" voting system — for example, Oakland with a population of 1.1 million gets four votes; Detroit three.

Dividing population by the number of SEMCOG executive committee votes, Mack showed bigger units are being shorted:

- Livingston County — 28,911 persons per executive committee vote
- Monroe County — 33,400 persons per vote
- St. Clair County — 36,402 per vote
- Washtenaw County — 70,734 per vote
- Macomb County — 119,567 per vote
- Suburban Wayne County — 135,464 per vote
- Oakland County — 180,599 per vote
- City of Detroit — 342,658

Mack, a former suburban Wayne County commissioner, said staff is studying a two-tiered voting plan used in Phoenix and Denver. Under it:

- All voting would be conducted under the existing system.
- A second system of voting in proportion to population would be used either on certain issues, such as road money, or whenever a governmental unit demanded it.

Denver has had it since 1968, but no one has ever called for a second vote," Mack said. He gave SEMCOG members background on a dozen other regional organizations around the country.

Without debate, SEMCOG's executive committee approved its long-discussed plan, required under the federal Clean Air Act, to reduce air emissions 15 percent by 1996.

The plan calls for 1) vapor recovery devices on fuel pumps, 2) enhanced vehicle inspections by centralized contractors, and 3) use of reformulated fuels.

SEMCOG's plan will require state legislation and environmental rule-making. It goes to Lansing for action.

# Community Education

**Tip Top Tots:** Tip Top Tots provides equipment to encourage large musical play and exercise for flexibility and strength. Small muscles are used in fingerplays and songs. This class is helpful for children with special needs. Each child must have an adult accompany them at all age levels listed.

Classes will meet Mondays from Feb. 8-April 5 in the Novi Woods gym. Students 3-12 months old will have class from 2:30-3:15 p.m.; 12-29 months old, 10:15-11 a.m., 11-11:45 a.m., 5:15-6 p.m., and 6-6:45 p.m.; 30-41 months 9:30-10:15 a.m., 11:45-12:30 p.m., and 6:45-7:30 p.m.; 3 1/2 to 5 years 1:15-2:15 p.m. There is a \$37 fee for one child, \$22 for the second child.

**Valentine Cookie Decorating:** Valentine's Day will be extra special this year! Each student will decorate and take home a large chocolate chip cookie shaped like a heart. Bring \$3 to the instructor for materials.

This class will be held at Novi Woods' art room on Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 3:20-4:20 p.m. There is a \$6 fee.

**Babysitting Clinic (Grade 5-8):** For boys only! Receive instruction in basic babysitting skills, including safety, first aid, infant and child care and more. All students will take a written test and receive a certificate after successful completion of the course requirements. The boys only session will be at Novi Meadows Media Center, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 24 and 25. Classes will run from 3:45-5:15 p.m. There is a \$10 fee.

A class for both boys and girls will be held March 17 and 18 from 3:45-5:15 p.m. at Novi Meadows Media Center from 3:45-5:15.

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The Board of Education of Novi Community Schools is soliciting proposals from qualified companies for the following construction related project: Orchard Hills Elementary School; Exterior Window Replacement and Hollow Metal Doors/Frames. Interested companies can obtain bid documents at the office of the Construction Manager, on or after February 2, 1993.  
Barton Malow Company, 27777 Franklin Road, Suite 800, Southfield, Michigan 48034  
All proposals must be submitted on or before 2:00 p.m., local time, February 19, 1993, on the approved bid proposal forms to:  
James Koster, Associate Superintendent of Business/Operations, 25345 Taft Road, Novi, Michigan 48074  
The Board of Education reserves the right to accept any or reject all bid proposals, as they judge to be in the best interest of the Novi Community Schools.  
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# Kiss a soldier, free of charge

In preparation for Valentine's Day, Mail Boxes Etc. of Novi has launched Operation S.W.A.K. (Sealed With A Kiss) which provides free, first class postage for Valentine cards and letters sent to U.S. military men and women stationed abroad.

From Feb. 1 through 17, Mail Boxes Etc. will provide free postage for 1 oz. Valentine's Day cards and letters sent to an APO or FPO address to troops assigned to military posts outside the U.S., according to owner Les Beare.

According to Beare, Operation S.W.A.K. was designed to boost the morale of U.S. troops stationed at various military installations and on ships around the world this Valentine's Day.

"We wanted to show our appreciation and concern of our nation's military personnel who are away from their loved ones this Valentine's Day," he said.

"We know that mail from home can be a morale booster to troops away from home," he said. Currently there are nearly 450,000 troops stationed around the world and on military ships.

Well wishers who don't personally know a military serviceman or woman may address a letter or card to "Any Serviceman or Servicewoman" and it will be delivered to a member of our Armed Forces stationed in Europe, East Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Near East and the Western Hemisphere. Previously, "Any Serviceman Mail" programs, such as the highly successful ones publicized by "Dear Abby" have helped increase public awareness of Americans serving overseas.

Mail Boxes Etc. is located at 43422 West Oaks Drive in West Oaks II Shopping Center. For more information, call 347-9850.



**Take a deep breath**  
Open swim at Novi High School can be a special time for the family. At left, 3-year-old Kelsey Haeing enjoys swimming with her mom, Mary Carole. Above, Scott Nimer, 9, takes the opportunity to do a little underwater diving. The Novi High School pool is open to the public for swimming each Tuesday and Thursday, from 7-8:30 p.m., through the district's Community Education department. The cost for swimming is \$1 per person.

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# Lansing GOPs say they've got an edge in power split

By TIM RICHARD  
Staff Writer

Despite a 55 to 55 House deadlock, Republicans may be right when they say they're the winners in the "shared power" deal.

On paper, it looks like an even split. Republican Speaker Paul Hille-gonds of Holland and Democratic committee chairs rule in January, March and May. Democratic leader Curtis Hertel is speaker in February, April and June while Republicans hold committee chairs.

But look beyond numbers and your high school civics lessons.

In the past, Democrats had not only a 60 to 50 majority; they used the power of committee chairs to bottle up legislation that the full House was likely to pass. Examples: ■ House Judiciary Chair Perry Bul-lard, D-Ann Arbor, would sit on abortion restriction bills.

■ House Judiciary subcommittee Chair Lyn Jondahl sat on bills to out-law assisted suicide.

■ Speaker Lew Dodak, D-Birch Run, used a fast gavel adjournment in the middle of a roll call to prevent an auto insurance reform bill from becoming law.

■ Appropriations chair Dominic

("Godfather") Jacobetti, D-Negaunee, used both political and personal prejudices in parceling out pork, programs and patronage. Now that Jacobetti's 18-year tenure is under fire over staff spending, even Democrats are admitting he was a problem.

Many Republicans say they have a "philosophical majority." But it's more than a philosophical majority on policy matters that Republicans and conservative Democrats enjoy. It's the opportunity this year to bring pet measures to the floor without a procedural donnybrook.

The fine type in the "shared power"

agreement spells out still another advantage for Republicans. Republican leader Hille-gonds gets to refer "all Republican sponsored bills and joint resolutions to committee." Hille-gonds also gets to make the committee assignment for Senate-passed bills sponsored by Republican senators. Democratic leader Curtis Hertel has the same power over Democratic bills and resolutions.

In the past, Democratic Speaker Dodak, who was defeated for reelection, assigned all bills to committees. Certain committees became known as burial grounds for bills that Dodak or his predecessors —

Gary Owen, Bobby Crim and Bill Ryan — didn't like.

Suppose a bill is locked up in committee because five Republicans support it and five Democrats are opposed, leaving no majority to report it out. Well, 12 times a year, a co-speaker may cast an "extraordinary vote" to bring the bill to the full House floor.

In short, Republicans figure they benefit from bringing up more bills for floor votes.

Finally, both parties will have equal numbers of committee staff, caucus staff and personal staff. Do-

dak had used his power to strip Republicans he particularly disliked — such as Margaret O'Connor of Saline — of even office staff.

So even without a majority, Republicans come up with some big advantages.

Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, is offering a plan to prevent future ties in the House and Senate. His proposed constitutional amendment calls for a 37-member Senate and a 111-member House.

If passed, it would take effect with reapportionment after the year 2000 census.

## Council vetos parks committee

Continued from Page 1

Center Steering Committee. He called for a mix of city officials and staff, residents and representatives of the business community.

"This community has had a history of doing advance planning through use of our city volunteers," he said.

"You will not fully develop this property in a single decade."

This would delay the development process, Shulman warned. Once the \$9.9 million in city bonds are sold, state law requires that the money be spent within three years.

"I have to urge you to allow your parks and recreation commission to do the job they were appointed to do. This is completely unnecessary and it will only add time it will need to take to develop the youth parkland facility. The parks and recreation commissioners are citizens," Shulman said.

"A new committee will need to be educated. Many who come will come with personal wishes for recreational facilities and not with an eye for the entire community's needs."

Citizens committees are still pondering the possibility of building either a two rink-ice arena or a swimming pool, or both, in town.

"There is a time when you empower the individuals who have been given the power," Council Member Tim Pope said, adding that the commission is composed of citizens who have the "dedication and skills."

They have a big job ahead of them, Mayor Matthew Quinn predicted.

"I expect your meetings will quadruple as you get into this," Quinn said.

## Victory's sweet and oh so 'fragrant'

Amerman Elementary held its annual spelling bee for third through fifth grades on Wednesday, Jan. 20. Judges for the contest were Mary Mattis, PTA co-president; Melissa Ziegler, media specialist; and Steve Anderson, principal.

The fifth grade winner, who will represent the Northville school district's Amerman Elementary at the Lawrence Tech-Detroit Free Press regional competition, was Jenny Buetter who correctly spelled the word "fragrant." The runner-up for fifth grade was Annahita Amireskandari.

The fourth grade winner was Julie Kritch who took top honors by correctly spelling the word "suffixes." The runner-up was Tiffany Hare.

The following are students who were successful and served as representatives for their classrooms:

**Third grade** — Derek Comal, James Martin and Suzy Taepke of Ms. McKee's class; Michelle Alder, Mike Davis and Michael O'Rourke from Mrs. Thompson's class; Brandon Scott, Kati Pryce and Jesse Myers of Mr. Babich's class; Caitlin Barry, Mickey O'Brien and Brian Hawthorne from Mrs. Anderson's class.

**Fourth grade** — Aditya Prasad, Adam Hasler and Tiffany Hare, all of Mr. Rickett's class; Phil Gutowski, Brooke Stein and Ann Reister of Mrs. Akin's class; Chris Azanger, Danny Arnold and Jessica De Los Santos of Mr. Babich's classroom; Julie Kritch from Mrs. Henderson's class; Ryan Kelly from Mrs. Schmelter's classroom; Katie Denton, Darell Adkins and Alison Gillette of Mr. Whalen's class.

**Fifth grade** — Annahita Amireskandari and Steve Yutzky of Mrs. Henderson's class; Eric Connell and Waleed Nassar of Mrs. Schmelter's class; Sabrina Hovious, Tina Lopez and Jenna McClure of Mrs. Holmberg's class; Nicole D'Aluto, Heather Qualman and Leslie Molnar from Mr. Lightfoot's class; and Jenny Buetter, Susan Cain and Brian Tran, all of Mr. Wicken's class.

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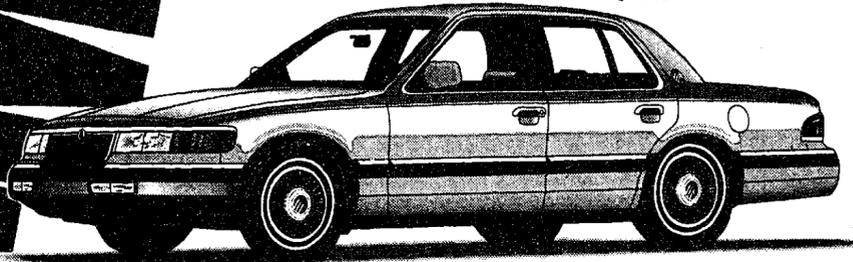
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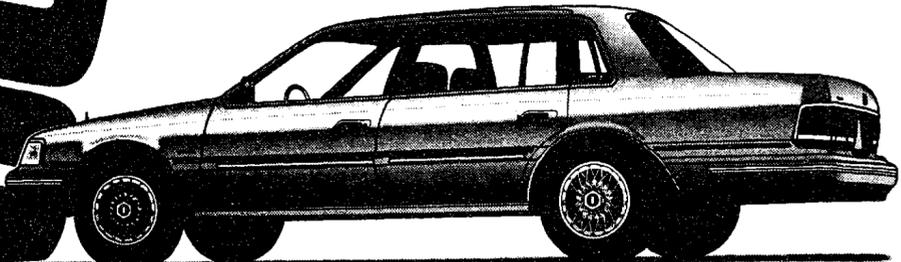


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**NOVI HIGHLIGHTS:**  
Senior citizens choose new name for social club/2B

**CABIN FEVER CURE:**  
Library activities have the answer for mid-winter boredom blues/4B

**NEW OFFICERS:**  
Novi group chooses new leadership for a new year/3B

**POSTPONED:**  
New date is chosen for what may become an annual event/4B



Above, Masatoshi Agata holds one of the instruction dolls during class. He is trying to think of a way to persuade a baby to stop crying. Below, instructor Judy Beyersdorf sits in the background and explains a filmstrip series that demonstrates the birth process. Watching the film are (left to right)

## F A R F R O M H O M E

By CRISTINA FERRIER  
Staff Writer

They're thousands of miles from home. In a land where few people speak their language. And — while they struggle to learn the language and strange customs of this new place — they're also preparing for the birth of a child.

They are among the many Japanese couples who move here for just a few years at a time to work for Japanese-owned companies. Luckily, they've found a childbirth class that fits their needs.

Botsford Hospital has set up a unique childbirth education program which meets at Health Development Network on Grand River in Novi. The class is taught by Northville resident Judy Beyersdorf, and translated by Matsuyo Nishi, who holds a nursing degree from Japan.

It is very much like a regular childbirth class, "but we are a little more sensitive to the fact that they may not be able to communicate with the doctors and nurses in the hospital as well," Beyersdorf said.

Indeed, a topic of discussion at the Jan. 26 class was how to communicate with the hospital personnel. One of the fathers-to-be said he feels more comfortable with written English than spoken English, so Beyersdorf suggested he bring a slate or pad of paper

with him to the hospital, so he can communicate in writing.

"And you might want to write some things down before you go into the hospital," she suggested. "Remember the handout with various terms and terminology? You might want to bring that so you can just point."

Nishi said she believes that, although being in a foreign hospital may be unnerving for the new Japanese parents, they will probably be more informed than they would have been in Japan.

"They will have more understanding about the process of labor and delivery than in Japan," she said, explaining that birth can be more of a mystery for women there. In addition, she said, young fathers are far less likely there than here to accompany their wives into the delivery room.

These classes include more hands-on practice in changing diapers and other day-to-day baby care. The couples practice using life size dolls.

The reason for the additional practice, Beyersdorf said, is the lack of extended family local Japanese couples have. While others may take it for granted that they can seek advice from a parent or friend, most Japanese couples know few other people here.

Beyersdorf said the class began when one father called for a childbirth class, and said his wife spoke no English. The hospital hired Nishi to help with the language barrier, but found it nearly impossible to find written materials in Japanese.

When a search that involved calling all over the country found nothing, they made their own. Nishi translated many of the handouts used in the regular childbirth classes. Later, they ordered books from Japan.

Kazuaki and Masumi Ohara have been living here for about one year. Their baby is due in two months. And Masatoshi and Kazuyo Agata, who have been here for about two years, are expecting theirs in only two weeks.

The couples chatted happily in Japanese during the class, and showed various items from home that they planned to bring to the hospital. The Oharas brought bags of candy with Japanese labels, and the Agatas had a traditional cloth used for carrying things.

To add to the familiar feel, Botsford provides a traditional Japanese meal for these families when they go into the hospital.

Both couples said they are a bit nervous about the upcoming birth experience, but that the class has helped.

"She had serious morning sickness," Kazuaki said of his wife. "And we didn't know anything about the American medical system."

Now, he said, they are excited and looking forward to it, in spite of the nerves. The Agatas agreed that they are, too.

For more information about these classes, call Health Development Network at 477-6100.

Kazuaki and Masumi Ohara, and Masatoshi and Kazuyo Agata. Below right, Kazuaki Ohara holds his wife, Masumi, during a demonstration of how to support her if she has a contraction on the way into the hospital.



PHOTOS BY  
BRYAN MITCHELL

## Volunteer



## Pets bring sunshine to senior citizens' days

Why do people have pets? A few reasons could be to relieve loneliness, boredom or depression and to provide an outlet for emotional depression.

Some people have pets all their lives, but are not allowed to keep them if they move into a nursing home.

And that's why Jill Tybinka has stepped in as a volunteer coordinator in the Pet-a-Pet Program, sponsored by the Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan.

She heads a project that brings volunteers with or without pets of their own to two Novi nursing homes — Whitehall Convalescent Center and Charter House.

For an hour or so one Saturday a month, starting at 10 a.m., volunteers from teens to senior citizens visit the residents with a variety of pets from lap dogs to a husky malamute and, of course, kittens.

"I pick up kittens, which are up for adoption, from a vet in the area," Ty-

binka said. And kittens are popular. In fact, one woman was enjoying a kitten so much that when it was time to discontinue the visit, she said, "No. This is my kitten. I don't want to give it up."

At the start of a visit at a nursing home, Tybinka said, "All of the volunteers get together and then scatter to visit in the rooms of those people who aren't mobile. Then they go to the recreation center."

"With all new volunteers I stay with them for a couple of sessions," Tybinka said.

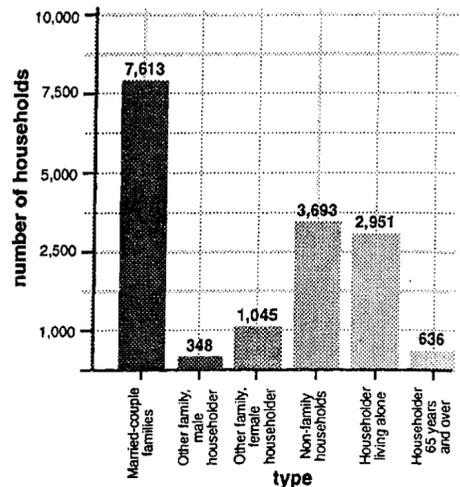
Tybinka said she got into Pet-a-Pet volunteering because "the lady I work with was in it. She helped and trained me. And I started at Whitehall because my mother is a resident there."

If you would like to volunteer in the Pet-a-Pet program, with or without a pet of your own, call Jill Tybinka at 960-1071.

## It's A Fact

### Type of household

There are 12,699 households in the City of Novi.











# Recreation

the NOVI  
NEWS

THURSDAY  
February 4,  
1993

## Softball leagues set for season of home runs

By CINDY STEWART  
Special Writer

Don't let winter get you down . . . only three more months until the Novi Parks and Recreation softball leagues get underway.

So get your bats out of the closet, clean off your cleats and get your team ready to sign-up for one of our great leagues.

When it comes to softball, Novi Parks and Rec has it all. For adults there are men's resident, men's open, women's, men's 35 and over, and co-ed leagues.

For youngsters, Novi Parks and Rec offers T-Ball, Minor, Pony, Major, and Senior leagues for both girls and boys.

The Parks and Rec staff works hard all year-round, sometimes seven days a week, to offer a wide variety of activities and events for children and adults of all ages. There are not enough hours in a day to participate in all of the fun that Parks and Rec offers. Many residents don't even realize how hard the staff works to plan and carry out all of the activities, events, classes, and leagues many of us take for granted.

Recreation coordinator Deanne Adashuk and league supervisor Dave Peterson have been hard at work getting ready for the upcoming softball season. Novi Parks and Rec offers softball leagues for the entire family. Last year, over 2,000 men, women and children played softball in 169 Novi teams.

The leagues are so popular that Novi has quickly run out of fields to accommodate all the teams. Luckily, with the recent passage of the parks millage, this won't be a problem in the future. It's just a matter of time before many new fields will be built to accommodate the growing numbers of participants.

It's only February, but plans are

well underway for the 1993 season. It takes a lot of advance work to get the dates, registration information and youth structure ready for the residents.

Finalized information will be included in the upcoming spring brochure and flyers will be sent home with the Novi students. Registrations for all leagues begins in early March with registration deadlines scheduled for April 16.

Aside from the excellent organizational planning by Adashuk and Peterson, Novi Parks and Rec laborers will spend many hours getting the fields ready for the leagues.

"One of the primary reasons our leagues are so popular is Power Park," said Peterson. "We have been told it's one of the best facilities around."

Power Park, behind the Novi Civic Center complex, has four softball diamonds with electronic scoreboards, lights and bleachers for the spectators. The concession stand has restroom facilities and the capabilities to videotape from the tower. There is also a nearby playground.

The work doesn't stop with softball leagues for men, women and children. Many softball tournaments are also offered throughout the year. Last month, the Chilly Willy Winter Festival Sno-ball Softball Tournament was a big success. Get your team ready now for the Early Bird Softball Tournament scheduled in Power Park for April 17 and 18. This is the first ASA tournament weekend in 1993, and Novi starts it off with Men's Class C and Below softball. Some 12-16 teams are expected to participate.

Next up, is the July 16 Novi-Walled Lake All Star Game, followed by the second annual Michigan '50s Festival Men's Softball Tournament. If there is an interest this year, there may be a co-ed or women's softball



It'll be time to chalk the lines for another softball season in just a few months.

tournament offered.

The Novi Parks and Rec staff works very hard to organize a well-run softball program, but they could not do it without all of the volunteers.

"Every year this program is possible thanks to all of our coaches, umpires, scorekeepers and other volun-

teers," said Adashuk. "It's the behind the scenes people, the dedicated volunteers who really make our programs the great success they are."

Cindy Stewart is the Director of Public Information for the City of Novi.

## Thyroid disease more common in women



Raymond Hobbs, M.D.

Thyroid disease is one of the more common problems seen by physicians. It is more frequently seen in women than in men and may show itself in a variety of ways.

Fortunately, the treatment is quite good and, coupled with the extremely sensitive tests available, most people respond well.

The thyroid gland sits on top of the larynx in the neck. It is easy to feel and examine. It produces thyroid hormone, an extremely important hormone used by the body to regulate itself.

The pituitary gland located in the brain controls the thyroid gland with a chemical called TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone), which the pituitary gland makes. When the TSH is high, it is a signal for the thyroid gland to work harder. When it is low, the thyroid gland works less.

In people with healthy thyroids, the amount of thyroid hormone in the blood is carefully monitored by the body so there is always the right amount. Thyroid hormone is made in the thyroid in response to the TSH and contains the element iodine.

The thyroid concentrates the amount of iodine and, in fact, contains most of the iodine in

### Health tips

a person's body.

At one time, people in Michigan had a very high occurrence of a thyroid enlargement called goiter. This was because of lack of iodine in their food. Goiter due to low iodine intake is almost never seen today because of better nutrition and the addition of iodine to table salt.

One problem with diagnosing thyroid disease in the past was measuring the extremely small amount of thyroid hormones in the blood. Fortunately, techniques to do this have become extremely successful and we can now easily and accurately measure someone's thyroid hormone levels using simple blood tests. This allows a diagnosis to be made earlier and with greater accuracy than in the past.

There are many kinds of thyroid disease, but, most fall into three categories: hyperthyroidism (high thyroid hormone levels), hypothyroidism (low thyroid hormone levels) and cancer.

Hyperthyroidism can make one lose weight, have a rapid heart weight, feel warm most of the time and can affect the eyes, skin and hair. After making the diagnosis, treatment consisting of medications, surgery, or radioactive iodine can be used. This last method works because the thyroid concentrates most of the iodine within itself. This puts the radioactivity exactly

where it is needed and can yield an excellent outcome.

Hypothyroidism can cause lethargy, confusion, feeling cold, weight gain, mental damage and other problems. It can be treated with thyroid replacement hormones taken daily as a small pill. The outcome is excellent but the medication must be taken for life.

The difficulty with thyroid disease is making a diagnosis. It's easy to make the diagnosis when the problem is obvious and the patient has numerous complaints, but it is more difficult to make when the condition is in its early stages. To further complicate matters, as people grow older, they frequently do not show the same symptoms as they do at a younger age. In these cases, measuring blood levels enables physicians to find diseases that would have been missed in the past.

The last thyroid disease to discuss is thyroid cancer. Although there are some dangerous types of thyroid cancer, 85 percent of those diagnosed have an excellent outcome and extremely long survival. It can be diagnosed by biopsy and treated in a variety of ways. It truly may have one of the best outcomes in cancer therapy today.

Raymond Hobbs, M.D., is medical director and internist at the University of Michigan Health Center in Northville. This series is coordinated by Peg Campbell of the U-M Health Center staff.

## Softball sign up slated for Feb. 25

**Adult softball:** Registration for the Novi Parks and Recreation spring softball leagues begins Feb. 10 and runs through Feb. 25. For more information call 347-0400.

**Softball tournament:** The seventh annual Mr. B's Farm, Novi Jaycees and McNish's winter softball tournament will be held Feb. 6-7. The double elimination tournament features Chicago style rules. Entry fee is \$150 for co-ed teams. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Proceeds will benefit "Reading is Fundamental" courtesy of the Novi Jaycees. For further information call Dan at 255-8770, Paul Alexander or John Halpin at 349-7038.

**Novi Youth Baseball Registration:** Registration for all levels (ages 8-16 by July 31, 1993) of Novi Youth Baseball will be held: Feb. 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 27, noon to 3 p.m., and March 3, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Novi Civic Center. Fees range from \$40 to \$50 per player, with a \$100 maximum for those families registering three or more players. Birth certificates are required. For more information call 348-9456 or 349-6983. If you would like to volunteer for Novi Youth Baseball, call 349-2543. Tryouts are April 24 at Bosco Field.

**Weight Training:** Learn how to burn fat and excess calories and receive a general knowledge of all workout machinery while firming up and improving cardiovascular fitness. Light weights are used with less resting time. Co-ed ages 16-70. The fee for the program is \$50 and re-

### Rec Briefs

gistration will be held at the Novi Parks and Recreation office. Session two deadline registration is Feb. 12. For more information call parks and recreation at 347-0400.

**Aerobic Exercise:** Designed for men and women, this aerobic exercise program stresses an individual workout at your own pace. The class, sponsored by Novi Community Education, meets at Novi Meadows Gym Monday through Thursday from 7-8 p.m. For more information, call 344-8330.

**Horseback Riding:** Learn "English Style" riding at Haverhill Farms indoor facility in Novi. Classes range from beginner to advanced. Register at Novi Parks and Recreation office. Call Haverhill Farms at 624-5554 on class availability. The fee is \$95 for residents and \$114 for non-residents. For more information call Novi Parks and Recreation at 347-0400.

**Volunteers Needed:** Novi Youth Baseball needs volunteers for

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the NOVI NEWS

**REAL ESTATE**

**Will new disclosure laws help or hurt consumers?**

By James M. Woodard  
Copley News Service

Mortgage lenders and brokers now face a new set of disclosure regulations, mandated by the Real Estate Settlement Procedure Act. The law is designed to protect borrowers (consumers), but some industry leaders say it will have a boomerang negative effect.

The new regulations require mortgage brokers and lenders to issue a "good-faith estimate" of all costs in a proposed loan within three working days of receiving an application. The disclosure information includes separate itemization of all fees paid to mortgage brokers, including rebates.

"It's another layer of paperwork that does not benefit borrowers, and costs mortgage brokers and lenders additional time and money," said Jim Thompson, president of a regional chapter of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

"These new regulations create an uneven playing field for mortgage brokers," he said. "But it's now the law, and we'll live with it."

The regulations, drafted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and enforced by the Department of Real Estate in each state, were announced Nov. 2 and went into effect one month later. In the interim, mortgage brokers and lenders had to prepare all the needed new forms and make other preparations to comply with the law, according to Thompson.

One of Thompson's objections to the new regulations involved referral fees paid to real estate brokers

who use a computerized loan origination system, where a real estate broker can access current loan information and submit a mortgage loan application for a home buyer via his own office computer.

"We expected a cap of about \$300 on referral fees to real estate brokers using these systems and a requirement that such a system must be open to multiple lenders in the area," he said.

"Just the opposite has happened. No caps on fees to real estate brokers has been stipulated, and a broker can deal with one lender exclusively if he so desires."

This could cause a revolt in the mortgage industry, Thompson said.

"Realtors may now give their CLO system business to the highest-bidding lender, without regard to the welfare of the buyer. This is not good for the mortgage banker, mortgage broker or property buyer. Only real estate brokers stand to benefit, and then in potential conflict with their duty to property buyers and sellers."

Such an arrangement will increase costs for consumers and boost the mortgage loan default rate, Thompson predicted.

"Home buyers should know that they have the right to select the mortgage broker and lender of their choice. They are not obligated to use a real estate broker's computer system to find and apply for a mortgage."

The real estate industry is divided in its response to the new RESPA regulations. The National Association of Mortgage Brokers

Continued on 3



Jim and Judith Reiter hold an old photograph of their 1872 Victorian Gothic two-story home in Milford.

Photo by HAL GOULD

By Pamela Dear

**B**uying a fixer-upper can be a challenge. Judith and James Reiter, formerly of West Bloomfield, are meeting this exciting venture.

In March of last year, they purchased an 1872 Victorian Gothic two-story home in Milford. This 3,000 square-foot farmhouse was originally built for grocer Andrew V. Austin and his wife Hattie. In 1897 the home underwent remodeling, gingerbread detailing was added, and it assumed a Queen Anne styling.

"I knew I wanted a house that needed fixing up," Judith said. "I wanted to find a home that needed to be rescued."

The Reiters began their extensive rescue mission in April of last year, and they hope to move into the home before the end of January of this year. Architects Smith and Smith of Pontiac, whose background is in historical preservation, were hired.

Besides gutting the interior down to the bare wood frame in order to revamp the entire inside, other reconstruction repairs have included a new roof, furnace, and all new plumbing. They also built a 1,600 square-foot garage.

Judith explained that this was the first home they visited while house hunting. "I liked it right away," Judith said. "I knew it had potential." Judith further commented that her husband would have preferred a home that was in move-in condition, but

**RESCUE**

**MISSION**

"I knew I wanted a house that needed fixing up, I wanted to find a home that needed to be rescued."

—Judith Reiter

he was willing to take on this project with her.

This house has also evolved into a genuine dream home for Judith. "For a number of years I had dreams, and they all were about houses that needed to be fixed up," she recalled. "I think dreaming is metaphorical. In my dreams there were these big beautiful houses but they needed so much work. I don't really have these house dreams anymore, or very rarely."

"I really think that metaphorically I needed to fix something that was old, and that I needed to make it beautiful again," Judith added.

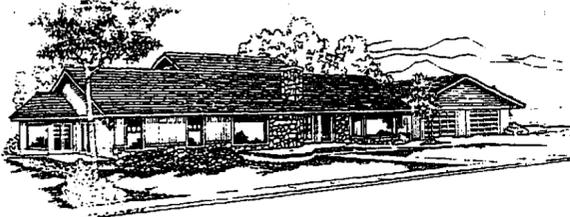
While James, an attorney, is busy at work, Judith spends many hours at the home overseeing carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. She also has had hands-on experience with chores like sanding and repainting the exterior doors, stripping the exterior, shopping for supplies like lumber, lighting fixtures, and floor molding, as well as removing and cleaning the hardware on the windows.

Judith also painted the garage. She describes the color choice as vanilla ice cream. The trim consists of six colors — coral, medium blue, light blue, dark blue, off white, and peach. These colors will be repeated on the exterior of the home. The cedar wheat siding has already been applied.

"My husband is supporting and enjoying

Continued on 2

**HOME DESIGNS**



**The Sharp is designed to be fully accessible**

By James McAlexander  
Copley News Service

The Sharp is a large home, custom designed to make life easier for individuals who rely on wheelchair for their mobility. All areas are fully accessible, with the exception of a loft and guest bedroom located on the partial second floor.

While most accessible buildings have one or two entry ramps, the Sharp has four, allowing immediate access to any part of the house, decks (front, rear and side), garage and the yard. In addition, all doors are 3 feet wide and some corners have 45-degree angles instead of the usual 90 degrees, while others are rounded.

More special adaptations are found in the kitchen, where the range-top work island and counters also have rounded ends. French doors open onto the back deck from the adjacent family room and dining room.

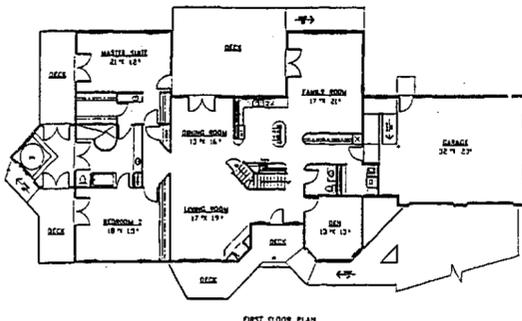
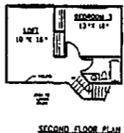
The downstairs bedrooms, each as spacious as the living room, share a specially adapted bathroom. The shower stall is

designed to accommodate a wheelchair, and placement of the tub also allows easy access. Twin vanities provide plenty of space to spread out toiletries.

French doors in the bathroom open into a fully accessible spa room, bathed in natural light from windows that fill most of two walls. French doors in each of the bedrooms also open onto private decks with spa access. The master bedroom has a huge walk-in closet and yet another vanity.

Vaulted ceilings in the living room and entry foyer create a first impression of informal openness. The den, located adjacent to the front door, could easily double as a home office. Installation of an exterior entry, from the front deck, would provide additional separation between home and office functions.

For a study plan of the design mentioned in this article, send \$7.50 to Landmark Designs, c/o HomeTown Newspapers, 323 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843. (Be sure to specify plan name and number when ordering.)



OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 117'-0" X 50'-0"  
LIVING: 3312 square feet  
GARAGE: 849 square feet

**Long-lasting cut flowers**

By C.Z. Guest  
Copley News Service

**GARDENING**

Whether you are arranging them for your house or to give to a friend, follow these tips to make cut flowers last longer and look fresher.

- Harvest either early morning or evening but never cut flowers in midday sun.

- Carry a pail with water and place each flower (especially roses) into this immediately.

- Cut stems at a slant to maximize the water-absorbing surface and to prevent a stem from resting flat against the bottom of the pail. It's usually best to cut stems a bit longer than you think will be needed.

- Back in the house, fill a clean, deep container with tepid water, recut each stem and place in the container for several hours or, even better, overnight if possible.

- Always handle flowers carefully by their stems at every stage. When you lay them out on a table, let the heads hang over the edge to prevent crushing.

- As you make arrangements, once more recut each stem on a slant to the desired length and remove all leaves that will end up below the waterline of the vase.

- Change the water every day or two, and as they fade, remove dead flowers.

**INDOOR GREENERY**

If you like indoor greenery but have little time for gardening, here's a list of the easiest indoor houseplants to grow: philodendron, spider plant, grape ivy, ferns, snake plant, wax plant and wandering Jew.

**SPRING PLANNING**

The ground is solid with frost so plan now for renovations to be made in your garden this spring. Plan also for the coming season's planting.

It is a great time for reading catalogs, order the newer introductions; supply often is limited. Examine your begonias, dahlias and gladiola for damp or rot. If dry, sprinkle lightly with water; check again in a few weeks.

Don't forget your birds; keep feeders cleaned and filled and put out pans of water

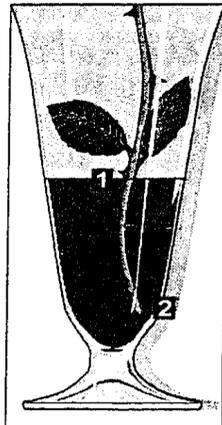
**WINTER BEES**

Keep your beehives covered until the snow has melted and it is warm enough for them to leave their hives safely.

C.Z. Guest is a gardening authority whose work appears in *House and Garden* and author of numerous books and videos, including "5 Seasons of Gardening" (Little, Brown and Co.)

**Long-lasting cut flowers**

- Harvest blooms early in the morning or in the evening.
- Immediately place cut flowers in a pail of water. Cut off any leaves below the water line (1).
- Cut stems at a slant to maximize water-absorbing surface (2).
- Leave flowers in a cool, dark place for several hours before arranging. Always handle cut flowers by their stems.



Copley News Service/Dan Clifford











Koreen Khashan is the owner of the new Star Bakery & Deli on Pontiac Trail.

## Eastern Star Bakery has young, energetic owner

By JIM TOTTON  
Staff Writer

Residents can bite into a traditional deli sandwich of turkey, ham, hard salami and cheese, or they can try some unique cultural dishes found in Palestine. This is what is being offered at the new Star Bakery and Deli in the City of South Lyon.

The business, which opened the day after Labor Day, 1992, also offers free samples to entice residents who step inside.

Although it happened quickly, owner and Northville resident Koreen Khashan, 23, is happy with her choice to own a deli/bakery.

"I've always wanted to own my own business," Khashan said. The business, which is located at 22910 Pontiac Trail north of Nine Mile Road (in King Plaza), is operated by Khashan and her mother, Basma. Khashan, who has previously worked at delis, enjoys making the cookies and decorating cakes while her mother does most of the cooking and makes the bread.

"Instead of a job, I got a business," said Khashan, who was halfway through cosmetology school when she started the business. She added that she still plans to continue going to the cosmetology school in her spare time.

She said it all started in August when she saw an advertisement in the newspaper about a bakery/deli shop for lease, and within two weeks the business opened.

"We did everything in two weeks,

but that's the way I do things," she said. A group of cousins and girlfriends came in to clean, paint and decorate the building, which was formerly a deli. She also needed to get a commercial refrigerator and freezer, soda machine, signs and tablecloths.

While cleaning up the building for opening day, Khashan admitted that she asked herself why she was starting a deli/bakery, but now is happy with her decision and plans to keep the business a long time. And if business goes well, she said opening another deli in a neighboring area is a possibility.

So far, she said her most frequent customers are senior citizens, who receive a 10 percent discount. And although most first-time customers enjoy what they eat at the deli/bakery, she has learned that the difficult part of owning a business is getting them to come back.

Her mother and family have helped tremendously with the new venture, she said.

"I wouldn't have done it if it wasn't for my mom," Khashan said. "I never realized how much she could do until we started this. I totally depend on her."

"There's no way you can run a place like this with one person." Besides her mother, she said, a girlfriend will occasionally come out and help.

South Lyon is a good place to be and a great town for a business, she said, adding that it still has a homey atmosphere but is not as commercial as Northville. When residents come in, she said they talk and are very

friendly. The deli is unique due to the Middle Eastern specialties it offers, including hummus, baba ghanoush and tabooleh. Khashan, who was born in Michigan but whose parents are Palestinian, said hummus is ground-up chick peas with garlic and tahini (paste made of sesame seeds) and is usually eaten with bread. Baba ghanoush is an eggplant dip, and tabooleh is a parsley salad made with cracked bulgar wheat, she explained.

All the dishes are made from scratch, which is the only way Khashan feels food should be made.

She said one of the most popular items is a turkey dinner of potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey and stuffing for \$3.99. The deli also serves meatloaf, stuffed green peppers, and pot pies. And for \$3.99, there are daily pasta specials such as manocotti, spaghetti, ravioli, stuffed shells, lasagna and mostaccioli, which come with salad and bread. Most sandwiches range from \$2.95-3.50 and come with chips and pickles.

"You could eat here every day and never have the same thing," she said.

The deli also serves desserts such as baklava, harresa, sour-cream coffee cakes, cookies, carrot cake and zucchini bread.

Khashan said she is always looking for ways to improve the deli/bakery and is open to suggestions from customers.

The Star Bakery & Deli is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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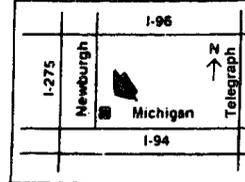
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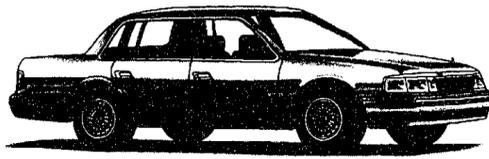
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