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Two Sections
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the NOVI NEWS

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Dining A SPECIAL LOOK AT SPECIAL SAUCES / 1B

Sports A LOOK BACK AT THE WILDCATS' SEASON / 3B

City reviews plan for new parks

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The new Rotary Park should be "usable" sometime this year, Novi Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis says.

Every time you buy a ticket for the annual raffle of a vintage car at the Michigan '50s Festival, the Novi Rotary will be that much further along in its goal of raising \$100,000 for the park over the next three to four years.

As the first step toward "usability," \$75,000 worth of trails and a parking area are expected to be built at Rotary Park in 1993.

In 1994, \$150,000 could be spent to put up two picnic shelters, playground equipment and two tennis courts there. This project, like several others, will rely in part on the city's ability to win grants.

"I have serious reservations about the city getting involved in the golf business."

Tim Pope
Council member

It's also anticipated that volunteers will turn out to help build Rotary Park.

Novi's recreation programs are growing at an average rate of 10 to 15 percent each year.

To help anticipate future needs, on March 15, the parks and recreation commission's annual update of its five-year master plan won Novi City Council approval, with some reservations. The

document is submitted to government agencies as part of grant applications.

Several city council members questioned the lack of soccer and other playing fields in the master plan's wish list, while an 18-hole golf course is included as a municipal need.

At the request of Nancy Cassis, softball and soccer fields were added to the list. Council Member Joseph Toth, who spoke out against the golf course, didn't support the master plan.

"I have serious reservations about the city getting involved in the golf business," Council Member Tim Pope also said.

Several recreation proposals are expected to come up for discussion again this spring.

In April, a citizens committee exploring the possibility of an indoor and an outdoor municipal

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Novi Community Schools TEACHER SALARIES

The Novi school district's new three-year contract with its teaching staff includes a 3.75-percent pay raise in the 1993-94 school year, 3.9-percent in 1994-95 and 4-percent in 1995-96. These amounts are over and above salary increases teachers will receive as they gain seniority and additional graduate education. Those increases are spelled out below:

- BA = bachelor's degree
- BA&15 = bachelor's plus 15 hours of graduate credit
- MA = master's degree
- MA&15 = master's plus 15 hours of graduate credit
- MA&30 = master's plus 30 hours of graduate credit

Teachers receive an automatic increase every year they work in the district, from their first year to their eleventh. After their eleventh year, they receive an increase in years 13, 18 and 23. These figures do not include compensation received for extra-curricular duties, such as driver education or coaching.

CURRENT (1992-93) SALARY SCHEDULE

YEAR	BA	BA&15	MA	MA&15	MA&30
1	27,352	28,508	29,960	30,901	31,840
2	29,066	30,222	31,932	32,863	33,840
3	30,677	32,034	34,040	34,954	35,968
4	32,488	33,955	36,283	37,173	38,234
5	34,400	35,993	38,678	39,542	40,640
6	36,430	38,154	41,228	42,054	43,192
7	38,583	40,444	43,943	44,729	45,910
8	40,853	42,872	46,844	47,576	48,799
9	43,268	45,439	49,933	50,601	51,869
10	45,821	48,168	53,230	53,818	55,131
11	48,541	51,085	56,735	57,239	58,579

1993-94 SALARY SCHEDULE

YEAR	BA	BA&15	MA	MA&15	MA&30
1	27,352	28,508	30,044	30,901	31,840
2	30,156	31,355	33,129	34,095	35,109
3	31,827	33,235	35,317	36,265	37,317
4	33,706	35,228	37,644	38,567	39,668
5	35,690	37,343	40,128	41,025	42,164
6	37,796	39,585	42,774	43,631	44,812
7	40,030	41,961	45,591	46,406	47,632
8	42,385	44,480	48,601	49,360	50,629
9	44,891	47,143	51,805	52,499	53,814
10	47,539	49,974	55,226	55,838	57,198
11	50,361	53,001	58,863	59,385	60,776

(NOTE: During the first year of the contract, the first step will remain frozen at the current (1992-93) level.)

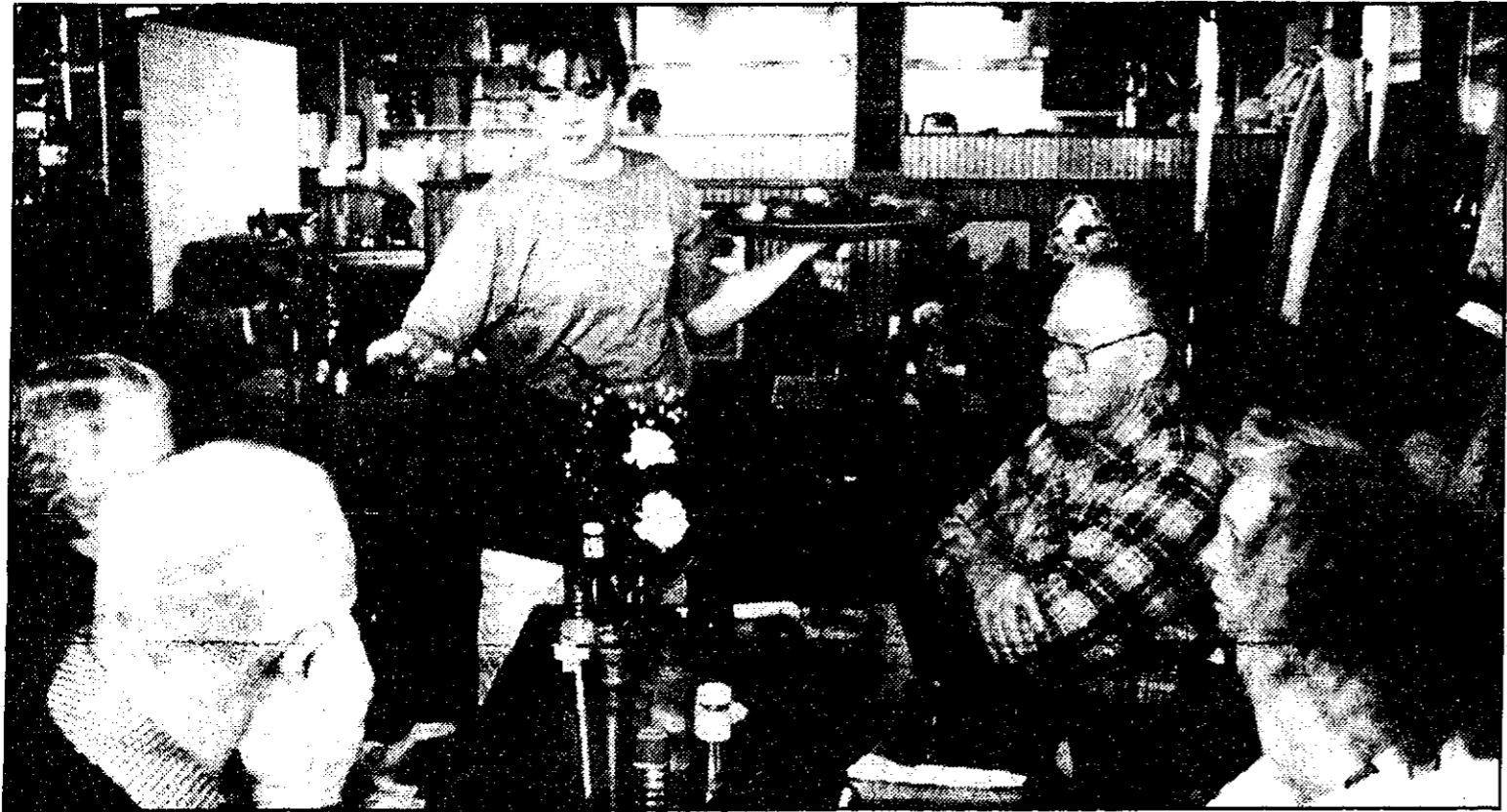
1994-95 SALARY SCHEDULE

YEAR	BA	BA&15	MA	MA&15	MA&30
1	28,419	29,620	31,216	32,106	33,082
2	31,332	32,578	34,421	35,425	36,478
3	33,068	34,531	36,694	37,679	38,772
4	35,021	36,602	39,112	40,071	41,215
5	37,082	38,799	41,693	42,625	43,808
6	39,270	41,129	44,442	45,333	46,560
7	41,591	43,597	47,369	48,216	49,490
8	44,038	46,215	50,496	51,285	52,604
9	46,642	48,982	53,825	54,546	55,913
10	49,393	51,923	57,380	58,014	59,429
11	52,325	55,068	61,159	61,701	63,146

SOURCE: Novi Community Schools

1995-96 SALARY SCHEDULE

YEAR	BA	BA&15	MA	MA&15	MA&30
1	29,556	30,805	32,465	33,390	34,405
2	32,585	33,881	35,798	36,842	37,937
3	34,391	35,912	38,162	39,186	40,323
4	36,422	38,066	40,676	41,674	42,964
5	38,565	40,351	43,361	44,330	45,660
6	40,841	42,774	46,220	47,146	48,422
7	43,255	45,341	49,264	50,145	51,470
8	45,800	48,064	52,516	53,336	54,708
9	48,508	50,941	55,978	56,728	58,150
10	51,369	54,000	59,675	60,335	61,806
11	54,418	57,271	63,605	64,169	65,672



Photos by JON FREILICH

A lucky day

For the past four years, Gary Kosch, owner of Kosch's Deli in the Novi Town Center, has been serving up free meals to local senior citizens on St. Patrick's Day. This year was no exception. Some 35 seniors participated in the dinner of

corned beef and cabbage hosted by the restaurant. Above, Sarah Winquist serves up the Irish specialties for the seniors.

Harassment policy goes to board

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

It would appear that the Novi Community School District will soon cover all bases with respect to sexual harassment.

The Board of Education got its first look at a proposed policy to protect students from sexual harassment, both from other students and from district employees, at its March 18 meeting. The board approved a similar policy earlier this year which covered sexual harassment among district employees only.

The board reviewed the new proposed policy, which outlines the district's definition of sexual harassment, the steps that officials will take in investigating a charge of improper behavior and the possible penalties for such activity.

The policy states that "students are entitled to enjoy a school environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual insult, intimidation or harassment."

Sexual harassment can include, the policy continues, unwelcome sexual advances or a request for sexual favors. It also includes pressuring a student to submit to such

conduct and linking his or her submission or rejection of those requests to educational development, rights, opportunities and decisions.

Sexual harassment of a student, the policy continues, has the effect of "unreasonably interfering with a student's educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment."

Examples of sexual harassment may include, the policy says:

- unwelcome teasing, jokes, remarks and questions;
- deliberate touching, grabbing, brushing against the body, con-

stant leering or ogling, fondling, patting and pinching, kissing, exposing oneself, whistling or touching oneself sexually;

- letters, telephone calls, or materials of a sexual nature, graffiti or indecent propositions;
- pressure and/or requests for sexual favors;
- sexual assault and rape.

The policy also notes that some acts of sexual harassment may violate state laws prohibiting child abuse as well.

If a student believes he or she has

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LARA to pay for for mini-station

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Volunteers from the Lakes Area Residents Association are ready to start painting and carpeting to convert a room in a Lakeshore Park building to a police mini-station, if the Novi City Council gives the go-ahead.

All money for the renovations will be privately-donated. LARA has agreed to give \$300 to the cause. LARA's president Harry Avagian is tossing in \$300 from his own pocket and an equal sum will come from the ambulance company Community Emergency Medical Services.

"I told them I'd match anything they set up," Avagian said.

"Why do we want this mini-station? LARA has had a long-

standing concern with public safety issues. . . This is basically a place to do paperwork, use the facilities and perhaps above all the creation of this mini-station is compliant with the concept of community policing."

The police department backs the idea, Lt. Gerald Burnham said.

"It's just a convenience to the citizen; it's just something close to them," Burnham said. "We're 100 percent behind it."

The Novi Police Department's first foray into community-based policing, which assigns officers to a permanent "beat," began in the lakes area.

An earlier proposal for a mini-station called for a city-owned

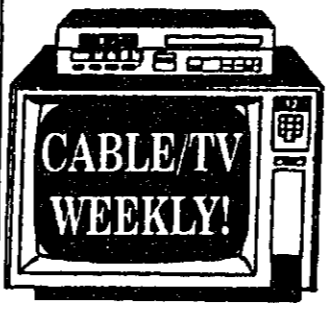
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WHAT'S INSIDE?



Details of contract released by board

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

Many teachers in the Novi Community School District will receive substantial pay raises over and above the yearly increases that are part of their new three-year contract.

Just how much the increases will be and which teachers will be eligible for them is explained in the contract, which includes a "salary matrix" for each of the coming three years, the wording of which was released to The Novi News last week by the district.

The Novi Board of Education approved the new contract, along with agreements for two other union groups, by a 6-1 vote at its Feb. 25 meeting. The contracts call for teachers to receive a 3.75 percent increase next year, a 3.9 percent increase in 1995-96 and a 4 percent increase in 1996-97.

Those figures, however, do not

include increases teachers will receive for additional seniority and education. Those are covered by an 11-step scale. Salaries increase each year a teacher remains within the district, from first to eleventh. Teachers receive increases beyond that for further graduate education, as well.

Nonetheless, the cost to the budget for the new contract will represent an increase of only 5.47 percent, according to Novi's finance manager James Koster.

About 55.5 percent of the teaching staff in the district are still on the 11-year scale. The remaining 44.5 percent receive longevity pay of an additional 3 percent raise in their thirteenth year, 6 percent in year 18 and 9 percent in year 23. Teachers beyond their eleventh year and not in year 13, 18 or 23 receive only the new 3.75-, 3.9- and 4-percent increases of the contract.

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3-22-93

Novi residents doing more reading

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

If you're a typical Novi resident, you checked out 6.46 books from your community library last year and will likely take out 7.44 this year.

Okay, nobody carries home less than half a book, or even a half book, but statistics are statistics and the Novi library is full of them.

What it all stacks up to is that residents of this city are readers, at least compared to the national per-capita average of 3.5 library books checked out.

Whether or not those books are actually read cover-to-cover isn't the kind of stuff the library tracks.

What the board does know is that use of Novi's favorite city service is growing. The book collection in 1991 numbered 62,800 and was expanded in 1992 to 67,000.

"Our library is a fine community library becoming a great community library," board member Jim Evenhuts said.

"Our money is being better and better used by our citizens."

The library's annual circulation has jumped 15 percent to 245,516.

"As long as I've been sitting here those figures have sky-rocketed. It shows the level of education and reading interest," Mayor Matthew Quinn said.

"We're making a concentrated effort to get books into the hands of people who can't go out and get them."

Paul Black
Library Board Chairperson

Novi's library board is hoping readers here will race ahead of users of the Farmington system, which boasts two branches, and a per capita average of eight books.

"We have a competition going on that we're going to overtake our neighbors to the east," Library Board Chairperson Paul Black said recently.

Not that the Novi library is only aiming to set a regional example.

In an April 1992 reader survey in *The Novi News*, the library was voted the number one community service. This rating was picked up and published in national library board journals and library hotlines, Black said.

"The library got calls and letters from people all over the country saying 'how did you do that?'" he added.

The library board explained a bit of that "how" in their annual meeting with the Novi City Council on March

15. An immediate crowdpleaser was the library's Local Area Network system, with its vast volume of knowledge available on compact discs. Now, the goal is to increase the number of work stations and add some to the children's section as well. Four stations are already up and a fifth will soon be in place.

Eyed for acquisition is a children's compact disc program which will enable youngsters to write in their reading level and interests and get a recommended book list in return.

Since the compact disc system was put into place, users have printed out 33,000 pages, the equivalent of 1,000 books.

Facts placed at their fingertips include reader's guides, newspaper and magazine articles and Moody's Corporate Directory.

"You can go in these days and everybody's at the work stations

punching away," Black said, adding that high school students flock to the system.

"You've got to have statistics, especially if you're in the library business."

One of the library board's goals this year is to expand its service to shut-ins and retirees. In 1992, 2,500 books were already delivered to the Novi senior center and senior citizen homes like White Hall, Charter House and Novi Village.

"We're making a concentrated effort to get books into the hands of people who can't go out and get them," Black said.

The highlight of the library year, the board agreed, was the summer reading program "Pow Wow with Books," which brought Native Americans to town to discuss their culture with a total of 1,700 adults and children. Funds raised by this program, including additional money kicked in by the library staff, were sent to assist a Native American library in northern Michigan.

One problem at the library has been its roof, which was badly damaged during the 1990 tornado. Repair work was flawed and one section was torn out and done over.

"We hope we're done with discolored ceiling tiles and getting Johnny On The Spot to mop up the rug," Black said.

Speedier tax collection barely survives Senate

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

The Engler administration's plan to beef up sales tax collections barely survived its first hurdle last week in the state Senate on a 19-15 vote.

"It's a tax increase of \$9 million on the medium and large retailers of this state," objected Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing, a probable candidate for governor. "We are not balancing the budget without raising taxes."

Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Fowlerville, agreed and added, "It also hurts the small business of this state."

Senate Bills 437 and 438, sponsored by Sen. Robert Geake, R-Northville, move up tax collection dates and eliminate a collection fee for retailers.

Geake said they were part of Gov. John Engler's plan to balance the budget in the face of revenue shortfalls in a lackluster economy. Spending cuts also are included. The bills now go to the House.

Sens. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, whose district includes Novi, and Geake voted yes.

Voting no was David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Consumers who pay the state's 4 percent sales tax and use tax will notice no changes, but retailers will be affected.

State Treasurer Doug Roberts said the bills will:

- Improve Treasury's cash flow by \$100 million by advancing the due date for retailers to pay. "This change would apply to large taxpayers only," said Roberts. "The disadvantage to the retailer is the loss of use and sales tax collections for several days. Requiring an earlier due date does not increase the retailer's liability. . . . In real terms, improved cash flow will help to protect the state's credit rating and fiscal integrity."
- Eliminate a 0.75 percent collection fee retailers currently keep for paying their sales taxes on time. Roberts called the "discount" unfair to consumers, who receive no discounts for paying their taxes on time. Roberts said state revenue would be increased \$8 million for the rest of this fiscal year and \$20 million in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Parks master plan given to council

Continued from Page 1

pal pool is expected to submit a recommendation to the parks and recreation commission in April.

Meanwhile, Davis said a committee hoping to bring an ice arena to Novi is talking to a similar group in Farmington Hills, to make sure the two communities coordinate their efforts. To operate successfully, the proposed ice rink would need to draw users from several neighboring communities.

While the commission hasn't yet scheduled a series of public hearings to find out how residents want the city's approximately 546 new acres of parkland developed, a timetable of improvements has been set for older park sites.

The city has already rounded up 446 acres of new parks funded by this year's \$9.9 million bond issue. Negotiations continue on another 100 acres at Nine Mile and Napier roads.

Next year, at Power Park at the Novi Civic Center, a \$250,000 plan is in place for nature trails, a picnic shelter, six lighted tennis courts, playground equipment and a basketball court. Part of the funding for this comes from \$350,000 willed to the city by the late Iva Fuerst.

In 1995, the parks and recreation commission hopes to have \$25,000 in community development block grants to further expand the beach area at Lakeshore Park and construct restrooms there.

Last summer, the beach area was extended when city workers took down a 50-year-old sea wall. Davis said money was saved by using city workers rather than outside contractors. In 1992, other park improvements completed near Walled Lake included a sand volleyball court.

Plans for a teen volleyball program at Lakeshore Park may get under way this summer, Davis said.

A new picnic shelter completed at Lakeshore Park should pay for itself through rental fees, he added.

Novi's parks program loses the most money at Lakeshore Park, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Robert Pfeiffer said. A recommendation to charge residents to swim at the site could be forthcoming from the commission.

While the department has reduced by \$8,000 its dependency on the city's general fund to balance its budget, a general fund subsidy of \$90,000 will still be needed in the next fiscal year, Davis said. Higher recreation program fees to reduce that subsidy even more could be ahead.

Sometime in 1996, the city will use \$30,000 of its own money to build a parking area and replace the playground equipment at the Spirit of '76 Park.

The following year, Brookfarm Park will gain new playground equipment and resurfaced tennis courts. Five years from now, Lakeshore Park will be in for the same treatment.

LARA will do work for police station

Continued from Page 1

house on East Lake Drive, previously rented by Community Development Director James Wahl, to be converted to a mini-station. However, that was deemed too expensive, based on the amount of construction required to make the small house accessible to the handicapped. The city council has since agreed to seek bids to demolish the building.

This revised proposal is expected to come before the city council for its approval in late April. An okay will also be needed from the parks and recreation commission.

However, the police would not be at the mini-station on a regular basis. It'll be completely "hit and miss," Burnham said, although regular hours may be considered this

summer.

"We don't have the luxury to take an officer off the road and sit them in an office," he explained.

At present, most police reports are written in the squad car, but sometimes the officer needs access to a telephone. The mini-station will provide a phone, but no computer.

Avagian said LARA also hopes the mini-station will reduce vandalism in the park during the winter months when it is not open.

"Because our district is so far removed from the Novi Police Department headquarters, it makes it imperative that the assigned officer remain in the lakes area. It will accommodate their needs when they are detached from the main station for a 12-hour shift," he noted.



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MARCH 20 - 28

COBO CONFERENCE-EXHIBITION CENTER

FOOD CREATIVE DINING

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 March 22, 1993

Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

These varietals are enjoyable and affordable

People who drink wine, as opposed to collecting it, enjoy browsing wine shops in search of that elusive bargain — a tasty, inexpensive pour.

Experience can be a tough teacher, since quality and price frequently go hand in hand. As with most things, you soon learn that you get what you pay for.

If you are open to a suggestion, remember the name Fortant de France. This brand of *vins de pays* (French country wines) is new to the Detroit metro area and includes five 100 percent varietal wines — cabernet sauvignon, merlot, syrah, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc.

The chardonnay is priced at \$7 while the others can be purchased for \$6 per bottle at most local wine retailers. Rather than using French place-names such as Corbieres or Minervois, familiar varietal (grape) names appear on the label.

All are solid, warming, generously fruity wines intended to be consumed, not aged. At these prices, it is possible to enjoy wine in the middle of the week with everyday fare of fish, chicken, beef stew, ham, sausage or hamburgers.

We were particularly impressed with the 1992 Fortant de France Sauvignon Blanc and the 1991 Merlot. The sauvignon blanc is fresh and fruity with aromas of melons and grapefruit with a delicate touch of grass, the characteristic smell of fresh sauvignon blanc grapes. The 1991 Merlot is soft and velvety with good length.

"We want our merlot to be a drinkable, approachable wine for current enjoyment," said winemaker Philippe Tolleret.

Our question for Tolleret was how can you make these wines in France, ship them to the United States and charge only \$6-\$7 per bottle? He explained that the wines of Fortant de France are grown in the Languedoc-Roussillon where the weather is warm and vineyard land is cheap.

The Languedoc-Roussillon (pronounced LON-gwah-doc-roo-see-YOHN) is 250 miles long and 60 miles wide extending along the French Mediterranean coast from the Spanish border to the Rhone River. "Within this very large region there are 800,000 potential vineyard acres, one-third of the vineyard acreage in all of France," said Tolleret. "This is five times more vineyard area than in Australia."

Within the Languedoc-Roussillon there are three major climates. The hot, humid Mediterranean zone is planted to chardonnay, merlot and cabernet sauvignon. Sauvignon blanc, syrah and grenache are planted on chalky, gravelly slopes in a cooler region that benefits from the warming influence of the sea. Other varietals are planted in the foothills of a mountain range known as the Massif Central. Here there is a warm, summer drought preceded by cold springs and followed by low autumn temperatures.

Besides making wine, it has been Tolleret's responsibility to encourage growers to plant new varietals and determine the adaptability of the vines to the region's varied climates and soils.

"We work with 120 growers," he said. "We tell them what grapes to plant and exactly how to grow them. We reward the growers who fol-

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WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

French wine law requires that when the grape name is printed on the label, the wine inside the bottle must be made 100 percent from that named varietal. For \$6 to \$7 a bottle, you can taste well-made cabernet sauvignon, merlot, syrah, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc from Fortant de France and experience the taste difference.



Good cooks know the secret of special dishes is spending the time required to reduce the sauce.

TAKING STOCK

Take the time to make sauce taste special

By CHARLES BRITTON
 Copley News Service

Many a cook has had a similar experience: I was having dinner in a restaurant when suddenly I thought of the pasta sauce I had been cooking at home, to be eaten on another night. I did turn it off, didn't I? Don't worry, I thought, I'm sure I turned off the flame before we left.

Back home an hour or so later, I discovered that the sauce was still cooking. A little while longer, and I would have had a burned mess on my hands.

We had returned at just the right time, quite literally so, because in its concentration of flavors, that sauce turned out to be one of the best I had ever made.

By happenstance, I had given myself a review of the hardest lesson in cooking: Sauces require strenuous reductions. You must take the time to allow excess liquids to boil away to achieve the best results.

This is the hardest lesson not because it poses a particularly difficult task. After all, reduction seldom requires more of the cook than standing there and keeping an eye on proceedings, with maybe an occasional stir. It's hard because it's so very easy to overlook or just to skip.

The cook often becomes impatient as the liquid boils and decides, "Oh, that's enough." The result is a thin and disappointing sauce. Or the cook may hold

back from sufficient reduction for fear that the sauce will burn — as, indeed, it might if you don't pay attention.

But the cook who has the patience and fortitude to let sufficient reduction take place will be rewarded with superior flavor.

Texture will benefit, too, as I learned in sampling meals by two acclaimed French chefs, Roger Verge of Mougins, near Cannes, and Alain Ducasse of Monte Carlo — Michelin three-star laureates both. One of the factors that separated their dishes from the best produced by other chefs was the rich texture of the sauces, again the result of careful reduction.

Of course, to end up with a good reduction, you have to have something worth reducing. This is particularly true for texture. Many recipes call for stock or broth, and even careful cooks often resort to canned products. I'm not pointing an accusing finger; I've done it often enough myself, begrudging the time it takes to prepare a good stock.

Canned bouillons may have an acceptable flavor, but, without exception, they have no body at all. The gelatin that meat bones give to a long-simmered stock clearly has been removed in the commercial products, presumably to be sold in some other form. This becomes obvious when you chill canned stock. Instead of jelling, it remains as watery as ever. Such an element will never reduce down to that

fine lip-sealing richness that a good meat sauce should have.

The subject of reduction offers an occasion to urge you to make your own stock. Although the process takes time, it needs very little attention for most of the duration.

Homemade Stock (General Procedure)

Quantities depend on the size of the stock pot: Use your largest pot for this. Making a lot is hardly any more trouble than preparing a little, and stock is wonderful to have on hand.

● Meat. You can use scrap chicken parts (such as backs and necks), beef bones and/or veal bones, or some of each. The most prized stock is made with veal, but the bones are hard to come by. For best results, be sure the bones have at least some meat on them.

Do not use pork, lamb, or other poultry, which will impart off-tastes to the stock (unless, of course, you have a particular need for such a flavor.)

Put bones in large baking pans and place in a 450 F oven for 30 to 40 minutes, until the meat browns. Place bones in stockpot, arranging them compactly. Discard fat in baking pans, but add any browned particles to the pot. Cover with water by one inch.

The art of making stock requires that you use no more water than necessary; even here, we do not want too much dilu-

tion. Bring to a boil and reduce to a very gentle simmer, skimming any scum that rises to the surface, for one hour or so. Then add vegetables and herbs.

● Vegetables, herbs. Vegetables add valuable flavor. Primary vegetables would be onions, carrots, and celery. Leave the brown skins on the onions, these will impart a surprising amount of color to the stock.

You also may add parsnips and well-washed leeks. A very small amount of tomato would be acceptable, but you don't want to turn it into tomato sauce. Mushroom scraps may be added.

Do not use potatoes or members of the cabbage family, such as cauliflower or brussels sprouts, or turnips.

For herbs, use thyme, parsley and bay leaves, tied in cheesecloth to facilitate later removal.

● Cooking time. Chicken requires only an hour or two of simmering, but beef and veal need at least eight hours for full extraction of flavor and body — some say 12 hours. The stock needs very little attention during this time; merely maintain a very slow simmer. You can stop and restart the cooking.

Continued on 2

Chef Mary Brady

Coming weeks pile up busy restaurant days



Another week has just blown by. Where did it go?

I've always heard that the older you get the faster time flies. It is proving true.

Although four months have passed, it seems like yesterday that Tom and I were discussing how much time we could spend celebrating my sister Isabelle's wedding. Now, in 10 days we will be on a plane to St. Petersburg,

Fla., for a weekend of merrymaking in her and her future husband's (Joe) honor.

Issy is the last of the seven to tie the knot. Sadly, my grandmother will not be present, which will be the first time that the whole family hasn't been together for such an occasion. But the rest of the siblings will gather from far and wide as will Aunt Betty and another of my mother's sisters, Aunt Dorothy from Jamestown, N.Y. They, with my parents and sister Josephine, rented a beachfront condo and have the luxury of a week-long stay.

This will be the first time that both Tom and I will be gone on weekend nights. A Friday and a Saturday off. The staff is primed to take over and anxious to carry on without their fearless leaders. We're

confident that all will run as usual.

Actually, the hardest part about going away is organizing the everyday details ahead of time — checking over schedules, special ordering, menus written and the ever-present paying of bills. I'll have to work at getting into a relaxed mode before heading to the airport.

It just so happens that a few major events are occurring right upon our return. Easter Sunday, which is a major eating-out holiday and, for us, a deviation of normal Sunday hours and menus, is a scant interval of time away. Since we will feature brunch and dinner items, much planning and preparation is required.

The increased preparation is fun and offers a deviation from the everyday routine

of "later-in-the-day" food. While developing and teaching the breakfast cookery class at Schoolcraft, I constructed a recipe book consisting of just morning and brunch foods. With hundreds of selections to choose from, it won't be easy to pick the few needed.

This is one of my favorite meals to cook. The diversity is never ending. In a later column I'll share some ideas with you just in case you're cooking at home that day.

On April 16 the Gourmet Club at Schoolcraft is hosting a dinner entitled "A Salute to Michigan's Great Women Chefs," which will fund a scholarship reservoir. I've been honored with the title of chef coordinator which means helping with or-

ganization and being the middle man between the female chefs. During our meeting last Monday, the menu evolved with everyone's input, and it is a knockout. I'll keep you posted.

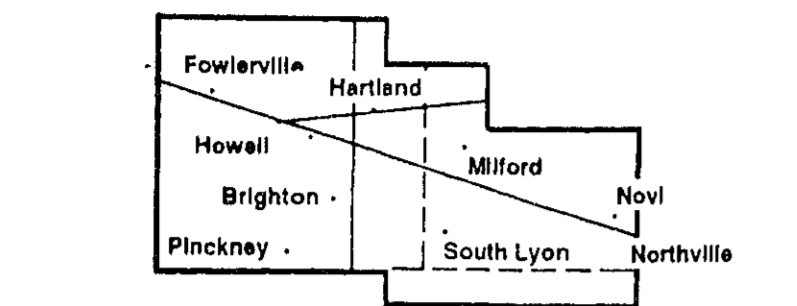
Then there's secretaries week. I know couldn't make it without Joann.

A week later, the Detroit Chefs Against Hunger will band together for an annual SOS benefit at the Rattlesnake. We'll provide a dessert item for 800 that night.

Next is Mother's Day. It's just never-ending happenings. Time doesn't fly. It's a mirage that pirouettes, fleet of feet heading long into the imminent morrow.

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