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THURSDAY
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the **NOVI NEWS**

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City will take no move on Lake public access

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

No action is the best action, the Novi City Council decided Monday after hearing both sides of the story on a presumed public access to Walled Lake via West Lake Road.

Months ago, Matthew Lester, who lives next to the vacant lot at 1418 West Lake Road, asked the city to do something.

Lester says he is tired of what he describes as loud partying, abandoned campfires, unauthorized boat dockings and unsupervised children romping over the mini-beach. He suggested that the city sell the land and get it back on the tax rolls.

"That access lot is in my backyard . . . I've got a problem if at midnight people are

coming in to dock their boats when they shouldn't be there in the first place," he said.

Residents of the John Hawthorne subdivision on the other hand, say they have been using the lot for 20 years as a neighborhood beach and that nothing goes on there but "family fun." Novi should either leave the land as a park or sell it to the subdivision, according to a petition circulated there.

"I believe the land belongs to the neighborhood . . . We cleared the land. We maintained the land for the last 20 years and rightfully the land belongs to the neighborhood," Gary Bennett, a spokesman for 15 families in the sub said.

"Mr. Lester was aware of the neighborhood beach when he purchased his

home." Lester had also proposed that the city vacate its ownership of the lot. In that case, the land would be divided between Lester and another adjacent property owner. Lester says he's willing to pay "fair market value" for the land.

One hitch in the whole story is that it isn't precisely clear who actually owns the land. A title search showed that John Hawthorne platted the lot in his first 1909 subdivision and then platted it into a 1914 subdivision, dedicating it as a city street.

If it was valid to include a previously platted lot in the 1914 subdivision, then the land is Novi's, City Attorney David Fried said. If not, the title would belong to Hawthorne's heirs.

"As it stands now, the city has the only

claim to a title that has been asserted. The city claims an interest and we'll defend that claim," Fried said.

Novi's best chance at defending the title is to keep the land as part of a public street, he advised. The route to doing that, Council Member Tim Pope suggested, is for the city to do nothing.

"My motion is to take no action. The implied part of my motion is the city would maintain it as it has in the past," Pope said.

"It's fun when government doesn't do something to solve a problem." According to the residents, the city doesn't do much of anything to maintain the parcel. The subdivision homeowners trucked in sand to create a beach on the land.

A proposal to lease the beach to the sub-

division was dismissed. Fried said a public street can't be leased.

Lester asked that the council revisit the issue next year, adding that he'd prove that the public would prefer to see the site on the city's tax rolls.

Saying he was "a little bit disappointed and angry," Lester asked the council for reassurance that the area would be policed.

While a report from the police department showed that they were rarely called to the site, the surveillance there will be increased, city officials said.

"We'll treat that as city property with all ordinances enforced," Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford said.



Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

A record number of cars lined up on Grand River and Meadowbrook roads Sunday for the '50s Festival Cruise.

Backers call '50s fest big success

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

The numbers aren't in yet, but the organizers of 1993's sixth annual Michigan Fifties Festival are pronouncing it a record success.

Though no official attendance estimates were yet available Tuesday, said organizer Rhonda Gage, "Our Thursday night crowd looked like last year's Friday night crowd and our Friday looked like last year's Saturday."

Even a thunderstorm that caused a temporary loss of electricity Sunday afternoon wasn't enough to dampen the festivities. Festival-goers were moved away from aluminum tent poles and herded into the craft tent, where the poles were wooden, until the air cleared and the power was restored.

In the Family Tent, a performer named Zemo the Yo-Yo Man entertained for nearly an hour, without the need for electricity, during the storm.

"He stood there and performed for a long time till we could get the electricity back on," Gage said. Many people were moved into the craft tent to wait out the storm and,



Dave Parker of Rocky & The Rollers gets in his licks.

to Gage's surprise, they really did wait it out.

"They waited it out," she said. "They didn't mind. When the storm was over, there were still as many people as before."

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said there were relatively few police incidents during this year's festival. Officers were called to the scene Saturday night after a report that an unknown suspect had pulled a gun

during an argument. However, police found nothing when they arrived within 30 seconds.

Several warnings and a few tickets were issued to classic car drivers for speeding or burn-outs. Shaeffer said most drivers only received warnings. A sign was also posted this year to warn motorists in advance that such driving would be ticketed.

The festival was a fundraising bonanza for many local nonprofit organizations that volunteered in the beer tent. A percentage of the profits from the tent are divided up and given to the groups that serve beer and otherwise volunteer.

"It all goes back into the community through these groups," Gage explained.

Working the tent on Wednesday were the Novi Choralaires. On Thursday, the Sixth Gate Cloggers poured the brew and on Friday the Novi Chamber of Commerce took over. The Novi Lions Club worked Saturday afternoon and the Novi Newcomers and Neighbors worked the evening shift. The Novi Ambassadors worked on Sunday.

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Sub wetlands are a point of controversy

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

As Briarwood residents see it, their property values are sinking while finger-pointing over the watery destruction of their wooded conservancies continues between the developer, the City of Novi and city consultants.

"What we have in our subdivision, the city was intimately involved in from Day One. None of the design professionals from the city to developer have appeared to take responsibility," said Steve Ermenecker of the Briarwood Homes Steering Committee.

"We are sitting on a potential timebomb of tremendous liability."

Monday, the council agreed to a series of actions to help improve the situation, including clearing out two deeply blocked culverts underneath Bramblewood Drive. The city engineers have been asked to report back in August on the costs of draining out the water from the woodlands and storing it in a man-made basin, as well as the price of extensive tree removals and replanting. Preliminary estimates are in the \$200,000 range.

Who would pick up this tab is not clear at this point.

The city attorney has been asked to investigate who can be held accountable for the damage: developer Lee Walter, the city, or the city consultants who approved the plan.

"Maybe it has taken us a little bit longer to get our act together on this, but I see a little more clearly where we're going," Council Member Nancy Cassis admitted.

"This won't happen in the future."

"Maybe it has taken us a little bit longer to get our act together on this, but I see a little more clearly where we're going"

Nancy Cassis
City Council Member

Woodland ordinances will be revised so this kind of seepage into wooded wetlands won't occur and trees will be removed before homes are sold.

"It's really making the best of a real sad situation."

Residents say the dead and falling trees, besides being unsightly, pose a safety hazard. Parents in the development also worry about their small children falling into the deceptively deep floodwaters.

Attempting to better the existing situation in Briarwood may not be enough, several residents said. They remain skeptical of the city's award-winning 1983 Stormwater Master Plan, which was designed by consulting engineers JCK & Associates. The plan allows for water retention in natural wetlands and depressions.

The hitch is, some of the wetlands are wooded. Most of these wooded wetlands, left undisturbed, do not remain underwater year-round. But that may happen if they are used as stormwater detention basins, in which case the roots suffocate and the trees wither and die.

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Lawyer: City unaware of gag order

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

An order of silence imposed on Novi police officer Deanna Hall and her attorney over the settlement of her discrimination and sexual harassment lawsuit was done without the Novi City Council's knowledge, city attorney David Fried said.

The gag requirement was requested by lawyers for Novi's insurance firm, Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, Fried added. The company has since been advised that city legal settlements may not be kept confidential.

The lawsuit was ended on July 14, when Hall agreed to accept \$25,000 rather than take the case to trial. Two days earlier, the council in a public meeting had agreed to the sum.

Hall's attorney Jamil Akhtar said subse-

quently he could not discuss the amount of the settlement due to the confidentiality agreement.

"The city arrives at settlements in open meetings. I sent a letter to Risk Management that they can make no settlement with confidentiality," Fried told the council.

The insurer's attorneys will be asked to file an amendment to the settlement, waiving the confidentiality agreement.

"This really wasn't debated in executive session," Council Member Tim Pope said. "Council may have been criticized for something that we weren't aware was going to be filed. In the future, we will ask for a written statement."

The Novi City Council earlier in the meeting discussed with representatives of Municipal Risk Management a request that the city use its own attorney for lawsuits. The issue was put on hold until Fried had time to review information

provided by the insurers.

The insurance firm gets involved with legal cases when the city faces the possible payment of monetary damages.

In a June 1 letter to the council, Fried indicated that the agreement gives the insurer the right to select an attorney.

Pope said the council's consultant review committee had suggested that Fried take the lead in these lawsuits not just "because we trust him and he's a good attorney, but it's a potential cost savings to the city."

The Authority's policy is that a city can use its own attorney in a lawsuit if it agrees to pay up to \$150,000 per occurrence. Novi currently pays up to \$75,000.

Community Calendar

To get your organization's activities, regular meetings or special events listed in the Community Calendar, send information to Community Calendar, The Nov News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

Saturday, July 31

Friends of the Homeless: Active Friends of the Homeless monthly meeting is at Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 4440 W. Ten Mile Rd., from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, call Lois Clonck at 256-2547 or Cindy Majjyka at 421-8690. New members are welcome.

Bingo and Barbecue: The Novi Jaycees are holding a charity bingo and barbecue at the Tollgate Center on the northwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook Rds. Dinner and hayrides from 5-7 p.m., cost \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for kids under 13; bingo and children's activities 7-12 p.m. Bring the whole family, babysitting available. For dinner ticket information call 347-3860 ext. 217.

Monday, August 2

City Council: The Novi City Council is scheduled to meet in regular session at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center.

Health tests: Community EMS will sponsor blood pressure testing and cholesterol testing in the Novi Civic Center from 7:30-9 p.m. in conjunction with the Novi City Council meeting.

Village Oaks PTO (VOICE): The will meet 7:30 p.m. in the Village Oaks School Library on Willowbrook Road.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly for all ages meets at 7 p.m. at Novi High School, Room 109. For more information, call 348-9691.

Blood Pressure Screening: Family Home Care, Inc. in conjunction with Novi Drugs, offers free blood pressure screening at Novi Drugs, 24045 Meadowbrook Rd., from 3-7 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3

Seniors meeting: The Novi Center Seniors will hold their general meeting at 11 a.m. in the Community Center of the Novi Civic Center.

Board of Appeals: The Novi Board of Appeals will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Band rehearsal: The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.

Chess Club: The Novi Chess Club will meet from 7-10 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. There is no charge to attend and all players are welcome. For more information, call Tim Sawmiller, 344-9833 evenings after 6 p.m.

Amateur Radio Club: The Novi Amateur Radio Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. Any individuals interested in any aspect of amateur radio two-way communication are invited to attend.

Menopause Support Group: Providence Medical Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., hosts a monthly menopause support group from 7:30-9 p.m. for women with concerns about menopause. Call 380-4115 for more information.

Jaycees: The Novi Jaycees will hold a general membership meeting at 8 p.m. at the Jaycee House on Sixthgate.

Wednesday, August 4

Athletic Boosters: The Novi High School Athletic Boosters Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in room 107 of the high school.

Depression Support Group: A support group for manic-depressive and depressive people will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room B of Providence Medical Center, 47601 Grand River. For more information, call Bill Foreman, (313) 386-3825.

Planning Commission: The Novi Planning Commission will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center.

Thursday, August 5

Novi schools: The Novi schools Board of Education will meet in regular session in the Educational Services Building.

NHS alumna an Annapolis grad

By JENNY BEVERSDORF
Special Writer

"I'm not a stud," says Kendra Kewack, with a laugh.

The 1989 Novi High School valedictorian was commenting on the difficulty of completing four years of school at the U.S. Naval Academy. While she says she "wouldn't trade the experience for anything," the 21-year-old recent Annapolis graduate is quick to acknowledge that she probably does not fit the stereotype of the tough, aggressive woman out to get an example in an institution not known for heralding "A Few Good Women."

"I'm very petite... and it was very demanding," she says, of the physical demands of four years at the Academy. "They tell you when to get up, when to go out, when to do everything. I am very glad to be done."

"I'm very petite... and it was very demanding. They tell you when to get up, when to go out, when to do everything. I am very glad to be done."



Kendra Kewack
Naval Academy graduate

Naval Air Station just outside of Philadelphia.

Like a true flak, she gives what she calls her "standard" answer when asked her opinion on President Clinton's policy on gays in the military and recent base closure announcements.

"I fully support our commander in chief and any policy which he implements," she laughs. "Sorry, but that's all you're going to get."

Kendra, who majored in oceanography, says she would like to eventually get involved in her field of study, maybe go to graduate school, maybe stay more than the required five year commitment with the mili-

tary. Right now she is just enjoying her relative independence and freedom from the rigors of the Academy.

Unlike a civilian college, students at the Naval Academy are required, in addition to maintaining a full course load of studies, to participate in a variety of intramural sport year round, and everyone must take a physical education class each semester.

In addition to the athletic requirements, the military academies differ from most other colleges, says Kendra, in that students also do not have their summers free for jobs or

relaxation. Kewack went out on cruises for four weeks at a time on three different ships during her summers. She also learned flight training, damage control and navigation of ships and submarines while most other college students were enjoying their "off time," she says.

Such rigors and expectations were not a surprise for Kewack, though, as she has served in the military in some capacity, she was well acquainted with the requirements of military service, and the special expectations for those attending the military academies. Her older brother, in fact, attended West Point at the same time she studied at Annapolis.

In addition to being a Novi High School valedictorian, Kendra was a cheerleader, on the debate team and involved with National Honor Society in high school — "your basic nerd," is how she describes her pre-Annapolis self.

Among the many photos of her in her parents' Novi home is one showing a woman in dress whites looking out at the horizon off the bow of a ship. She looks confident, proud and dignified. Not the least bit nerdy.

In fact, one might describe her as a stud. Regardless of what she says about herself.

Community Education

The following classes are upcoming at Novi Community Education:

Youth fitness sessions: The second session of American Youth Fitness, for kids ages 7-10 involves enjoying physical activities and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

A variety of activities will be combined with sports such as basketball, kickball, volleyball and home run derby.

The class runs from July 27 through Aug. 12 and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Parkview Gym. There is a \$38 registration fee.

All Sports Camp: This camp, for kids ages 6-14 is run by staff from G.V.P. Sports Network and involves an exciting, fun-filled week of sports. Basketball, baseball, soccer and lacrosse skills will be taught daily as players rotate through each sport. Each day concludes with optional swim time. Participants should bring indoor and outdoor shoes, baseball glove, and swimsuit and towel. We encourage you to bring personal items in a duffel bag and have everything marked clearly with your name.

Lacrosse equipment will be provided. All students will receive a T-shirt. A pizza lunch with beverage may be purchased for \$3 per day, payable to the instructor the first day of camp, or you may bring your own lunch and beverage.

This class takes place in the Novi High School gym starting Aug. 2. It is one week and meets from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is a \$119 fee.

Buyers Guide to Computers: This adult class is an informative discussion about the things you need to know before buying computer equipment and software. Being more knowledgeable about the equipment and options available to meet your personal computer needs will make your purchase decisions easier and help you spend your money wisely.

The second session is on Aug. 17 in Room 106 of the High School. It is on Tuesday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. There is a \$7 fee.

Nature Walk: There will be a nature walk on Saturday, July 31 from 11 a.m. to noon. Individuals will be grouped to accommodate fast and slow walkers. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Participants should meet at the Maybury State Park concession stand.

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the NOVI NEWS

City offers carrot, carries big stick

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

The city council agreed Monday to make a "good faith" offer on 40 acres south of the Novi Tree Farm, with the understanding that if the owners decline to sell, Novi might go to court to have the property condemned.

Based on its own appraisal, the city is offering to pay \$598,919 for the wooded land, which is north of Twelve Mile Road. The property would be purchased with sums from the voter-approved \$9.9 million park bond sale.

City Attorney David Fried noted in a letter to City Manager Edward Kriewall that the good faith offer is

"the preliminary step in the possible condemnation of the land for park usage."

Kriewall said Novi has negotiated with the owner, Paul Mitchell, since the bond issue passed in January and was unable to reach an agreement.

"This is something we've discussed at length in executive session, so we're not dealing with a minor issue," City Council Member Tim Pope explained.

At the Aug. 16 council meeting, a decision could be made on the purchase of yet another site needed for youth baseball, soccer and softball fields, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis said Tuesday.

"We're in the process of putting together a purchase offer," he added.

Meanwhile, Saturday is Novi Youth Baseball's last day at the privately-owned Bosco Field. The event will feature All-Star games for each division.

Davis said he expects this week to finalize negotiations with the Novi school district for use of its fields for Novi Youth Baseball's 1994 season. A tentative schedule, including city and school ball fields, could eliminate one adult softball game time, at 6:20 p.m., at Power Park to make way for the kids.

"It's going to be a squeeze. There's no question about it. There will be youth baseball next year," he added.

The Mitchell land now being eyed in the north end would round out the 325 acres the city already purchased for \$3.44 million this winter for parks — the Resco property and the Novi Tree Farm. It would likely be used for a passive recreation area, rather than ball fields.

If the city seeks condemnation of the Twelve Mile land in Oakland County Circuit Court, the first step would be for the court to agree that the city should acquire the land for the public good. The second step would be a court determination on how much the property is worth.

The same method was used by the state of Michigan to acquire land needed for the Haggerty Connector.

Library Notes

A Whale of a Program: The Novi Public Library announced that it has reached its goal of adopting 18 whales this summer as part of the 1993 Summer Reading Program.

For every 25 children who read 10 books, the Novi Jaycees generously adopted a whale in the library's name.

The Whale Adoption Project is in conjunction with the International Wildlife Coalition of N. Fairmount, Mass. Adopting the whales contributes to research and environmental concerns for the giant mammals.

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Volunteer Notes

S.P.A.R.K.: The Society for the Preservation of American Racing Knowledge, or SPARK, is the volunteer group that supports the Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame of America in the Novi Expo Center. SPARK needs volunteers to participate in ongoing building projects at the Museum and Hall of Fame, work at the Museum gift shop, lead tours, help with publicity and public relations, and to coordinate various aspects of the Museum's big events.

Volunteers are asked to commit 20 hours of their time per year (though many do that much in a month), and become members of the Museum for the discounted rate of \$15 per year. Volunteer members receive a Novot Special pin, membership card, quarterly newsletter, annual induction yearbook, Museum poster and a 10-percent discount at the gift shop.

To volunteer, call 349-RACE.

Providence Hospital: The American Red Cross and the Our Lady of Providence League (OLPL), dedicated groups of women and men who voluntarily serve Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, are in need of additional volunteers to serve in a number of exciting and rewarding areas. Some of the potential assignments include: assisting in clinical and patient care areas, gift shop sales associates, messengers and information services.

A volunteer must commit to a minimum of four hours per week and provide their own transportation. Weekday, evening and weekend shifts are available at a number of locations.

The volunteers at Providence have provided invaluable service to the hospital during the past 28 years with volunteers giving more than 1,750,000 hours of service and \$2.4 million in contributions.

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Sub fills in Beck/Nine Mile area

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

Divel Divel
Why?
There's a sub coming.

Members of the Novi Planning Commission gave thumbs up for a new subdivision of single-family homes at their July 21 meeting.

The vote was 7-2 to recommend that the City Council approve the preliminary plat plan for Arden Glen, a 25-lot development to be located on 25.4 acres east of Beck Road and north of Nine Mile Road.

The subdivision will sit between two others, Meadow Park and Royal Crown Estates, and north of Thornton Creek Elementary school. Arden Glen's main road will be an extension of existing White Pine Drive, linking all three developments. Three cul-de-sacs will branch off White Pine in Arden Glen.

This piece represents the final piece of the puzzle for Nine Mile and Beck," project manager Brian Devlin said. Devlin was representing Farmington Hills property owner Betzak Associates.

After the recommendation vote, the commission unanimously approved woodlands and wetlands permits for the subdivision.

Arden Glen incorporates the now-defunct adjusted-lot size option. Since the development received conceptual approval before it was replaced by the city's new "preservation" ordinance, the older rule applies.

The adjusted lot size option was intended to be a trade-off. It says that the city can allow a developer to build a subdivision with home lots that are smaller than ordinance normally permits. The plan to do that, however, has to better protect environmentally sensitive land on the site than would a development of conventional-size lots.

The original conventional plan for Arden Glen called for 21 lots, four less than the approved lot size plan. City consultants said that the lot size plan does better protect woodlands and wetlands there.

Some 4.75 acres of regulated woodlands lie on the site. Woodlands specialist Linda Lemke told the commission. Arden Glen will impact only the edge of the tree belt, causing 13 trees to be removed. They'll be replaced elsewhere on the site, she added.

Her report on the subject, Lemke said, notes several issues which she wants more information on, and conditions applicable for a woodlands permit. Because of the missing information, Lemke said she could not offer a recommendation for approval or disapproval yet.

"However, our stipulations are minor ones," Lemke told the commission. "We feel they can be addressed."

Lemke said she would be prepared to recommend approval after those issues were taken care of.

Water Resources Specialist Susan Tepati indicated that Arden Glen's main impact on site wetlands will come from the White Pine Drive ex-

ension. The roadway will cross a 10-foot wetland swale, Tepati said. She recommended approval of the wetlands permit request for the development, subject to several conditions outlined in her report and submission of further information on a stormwater outfall and a proposed sewer crossing.

Commissioner Robert Mitzel asked if Arden Glen's developers could work with the Northville school district on a walkway system between the subdivision and Thornton Creek Elementary. Mitzel said he would like to see the entire length of the walkway between the sub and the school be completed together.

"It's an important amenity," Mitzel said. "The kids in that subdivision will use the school and the playgrounds."

The commission agreed, making the request to work on the issue part of their recommendation to the council. The entire matter now moves into that body's court, which will have the final say.

WE WANT YOUR HELP

Your Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County wants you to help decide on the

1994 BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

1994 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County invites all interested citizens and interested agencies to present comments prior to adoption of the 1994 Budget and 1994 Road Improvement Program. For this purpose, we have scheduled a Public Hearing.

Date: Wednesday, August 18, 1993
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Oakland County Auditorium, Oakland County Service Center, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0413

WHAT THE BUDGET IS

The proposed Budget sets forth the revenue anticipated to be available to the Road Commission and the sources of revenue. The budget also designates the proposed use of these funds, including the Operating Expenses of the Road Commission and the proposed Road Improvement Program.

ADVANCE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE

Copies of the proposed 1994 Budget and related information will be available one (1) week prior to the Public Hearing. They may be obtained by contacting the Finance Department of the Road Commission for Oakland County, 31001 Lahser Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48305 (Telephone 645-2000, ext. 2237).

Copies of the proposed 1994 Road Improvement Program will be available one (1) week prior to the Public Hearing. They may be obtained by contacting the Engineering Department of the Road Commission for Oakland County, 31001 Lahser Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48305 (Telephone 645-2000, ext. 2255).

WE HOPE YOU WILL PRESENT COMMENTS

The Board Meeting and Public Meeting are held in accordance with the provisions of PA 1963 2d Ex-Sess 43, as amended, (MCL 141.111 et seq) and 1976 PA 267, as amended (MCL 15.281 et seq).

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN
BY: BRENT O. SAIR, MANAGING DIRECTOR

(7-29-93 NR, NN)

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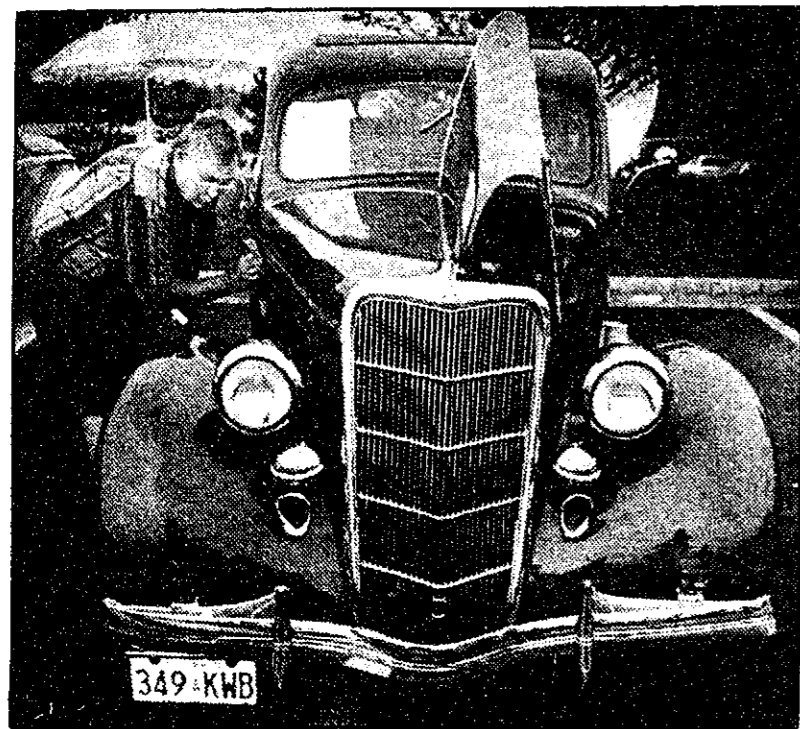
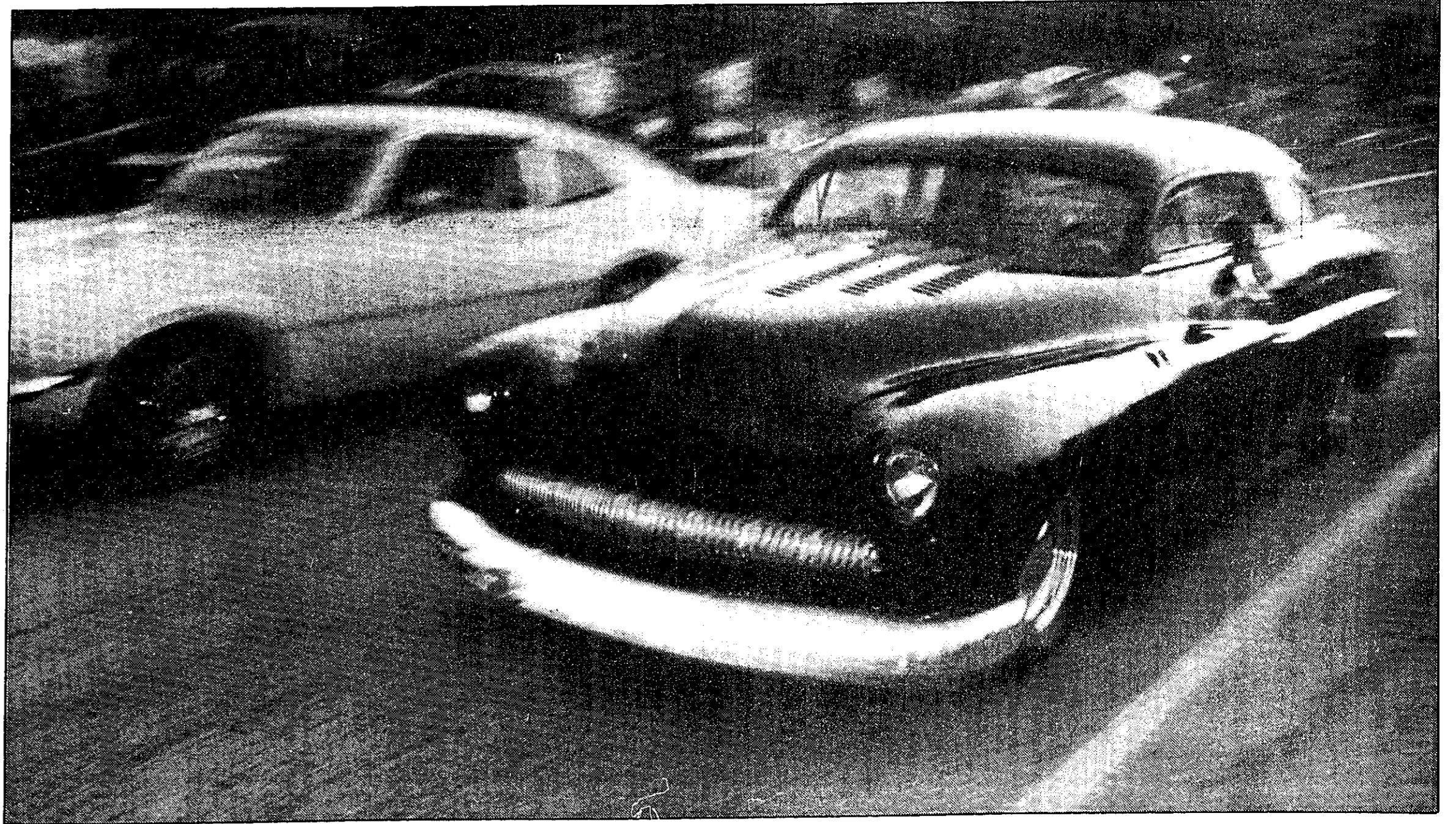
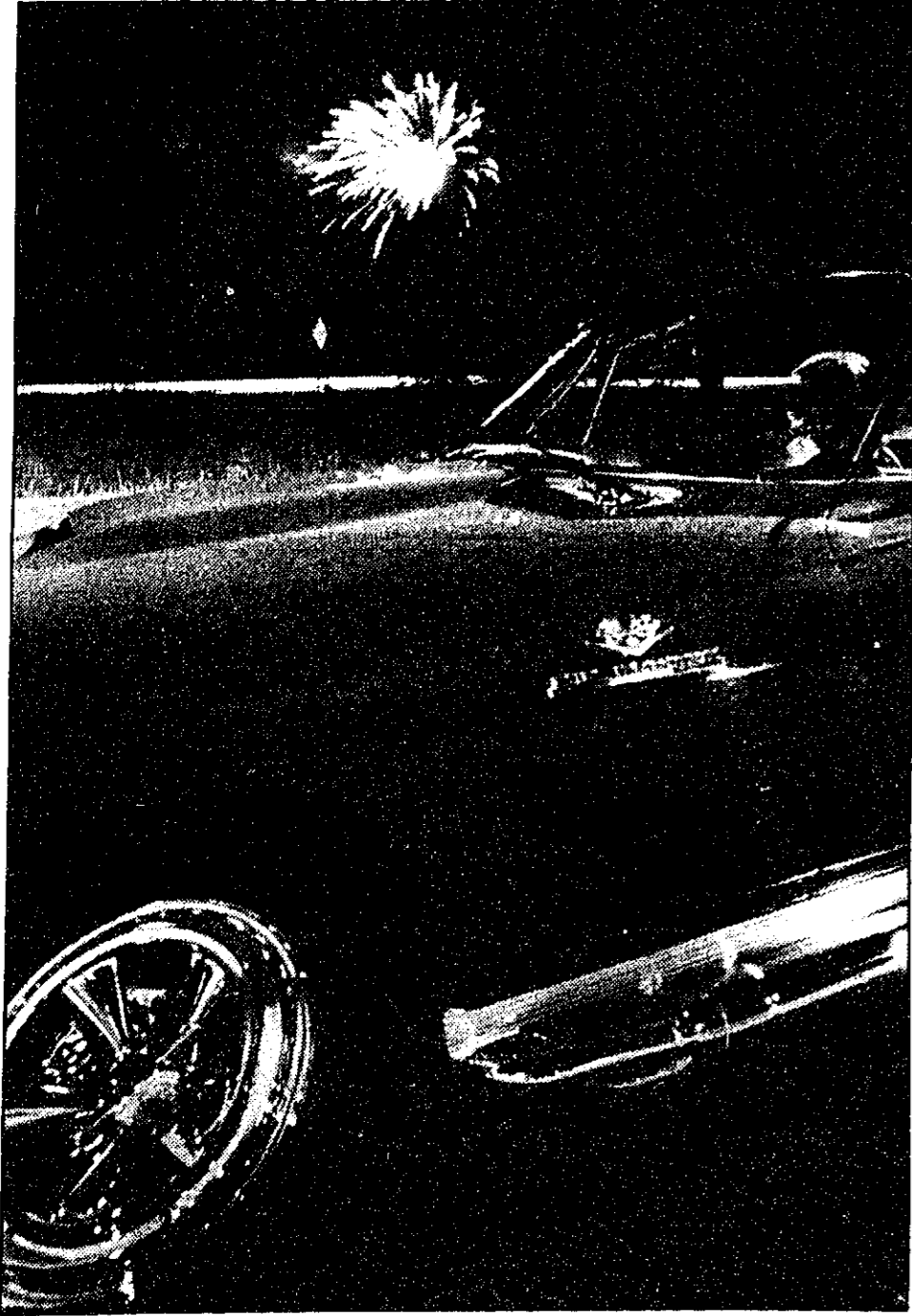
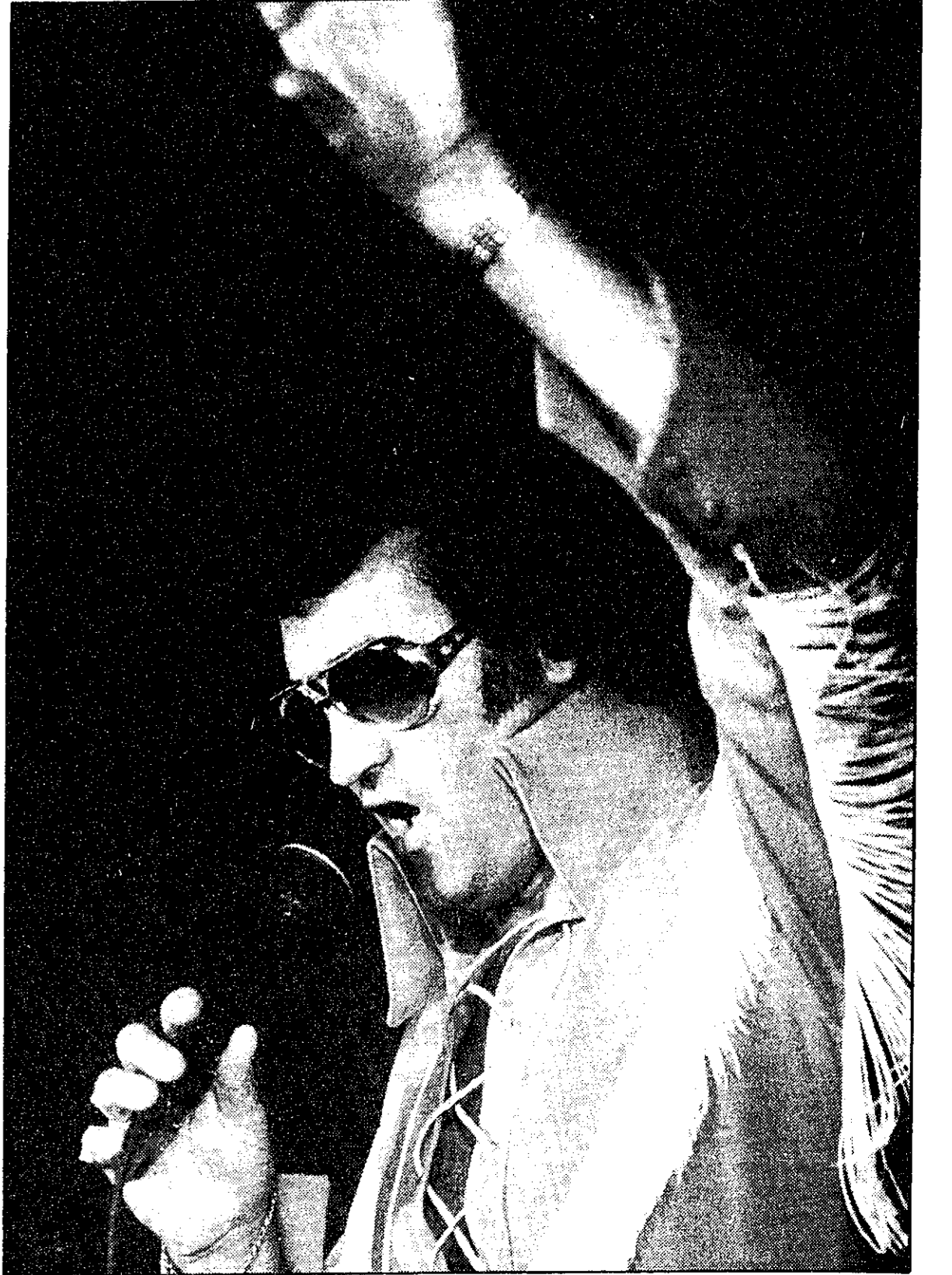


Rain didn't dampen anyone's spirits at the Michigan '50s Festival. In fact, Charles Hutchison (left) just wiped the rain away from his 1968 Catalina in Sunday's car show. Bill Tone's '63 Corvette (middle left) was a great place to watch the fireworks from on Saturday. Bass player Corby Anderson of Rocky & The Rollers (middle below) kept the Entertainment Tent rocking. Krysta Cicaca, 3 1/2 just came for the ice cream.

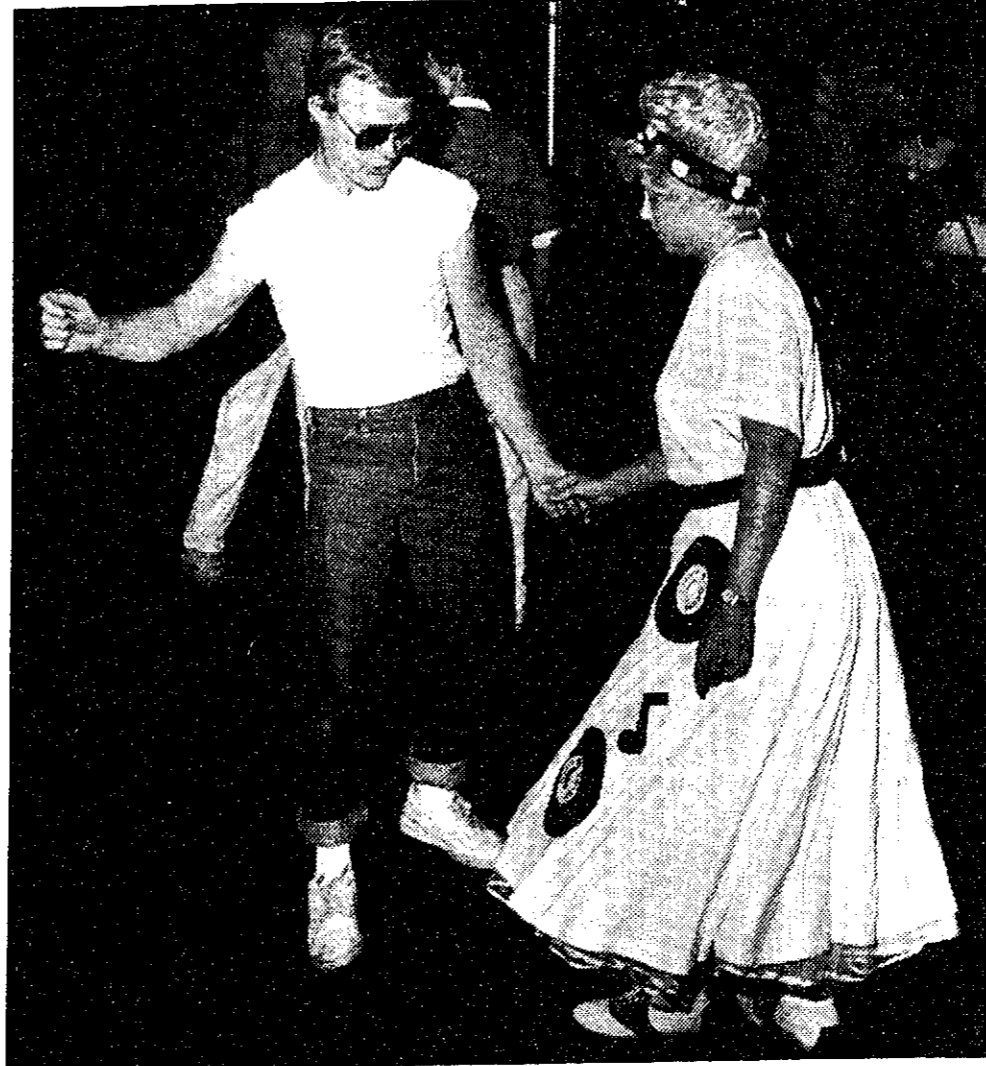


LOST IN THE FIFTIES

PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL & HAL GOULD



(Above) Joe Robinson put a final shine on his 1935 Ford sedan at the car show Sunday. The Saxophones jammed well into the night with some of their hot numbers.



The Michigan '50s Festival definitely was no place to sit still. (Clockwise from left) Some folks, like Cruiser Cindy Kopczynski, clapped their hands to the music. Others, like Al and Sonia Arnst did some fancy stepping. The cruise saw the street machines looking good. The food vendors added to the action, too. And if it was hipshake you wanted, there's was Danny Vann's Elvis show.

Sizzle over north end bonfires cools down

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

A series of disagreements between some north end neighbors that cropped up earlier this summer probably could have been avoided with a better understanding of Novi's fire code, said Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan.

The disputes, which have since died down, had to do with complaints about open burning and fires in the area. One person would call to complain about another person's fire and, depending upon whether the fire was put out by firefighters or allowed to keep burning, someone would end up unhappy.

Such calls require an exercise of judgment by firefighters at the scene. Many variables come into play as firefighters note whether there is a permit for the fire, if it is truly "recreational," or if it is disturbing someone else in the area.

"Obviously you have to use your head" to make these decisions, Lenaghan said. "I've gone through this with all of the supervisors

and I have every confidence that the people we're sending out on these runs are doing it in that manner."

When the firefighter is called to a fire because there is a conflict between neighbors, "a decision has to be made," he added. "And when there's a conflict, then one person is not going to be satisfied."

In other words, there's no room for compromise. Either the fire keeps burning or it's put out.

"Over the year we've gone out and put them out, or let them burn, whatever the case may be. People have always been very cooperative. This year was the first time we had problems in the 15 years the fire code has been in effect."

There are basically three types of open fires permitted in Novi. Two of them require a permit and a third, recreational fire does not. But the rules are fairly strict when it comes to recreational fires.

Fire permits do not cost anything. They can be obtained any day of the week between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Fire Station One on Grand River east of Novi Road. But you must

live in an area where your fire can burn at least 50 feet away from your or your neighbor's house.

There are specific areas where the neighborhood associations have requested that no fire permits be issued. Among them are the Carriage Hills subdivision and the Chateau Estates mobile home park.

"And most subdivisions can't get a permit anyway because the homes are too close together," Lenaghan added.

The most common permit is issued for the burning of lawn waste such as leaves or shrubbery.

"Most of our permits are for open burning," he said. "That's when someone's just cleaning up a lot or property. It requires a permit, and the permit is good for up to 10 days."

The permit allows for the burning of lawn and garden trimmings only. "Really, that's all we can issue a permit for burning," he said. "There is no burning of household refuse, tires, or construction materials."

That's because such items release toxins into the air and emit a heavy, black smoke.

Even lumber is off-limits because it is often treated with chemicals or painted, or something may have been glued to it.

The department also issues occasional permits for bonfires. A bonfire is described as a large fire, approximately five square feet in size, that is comprised of dry, seasoned wood. It is generally for "ceremonial purposes," Lenaghan said, and cannot be used for food preparation.

The third type of fire, which is classed as a "recreational fire," does not require a permit. Recreational fires are generally small campfires used for food preparation.

"They are considerably smaller than a bonfire," Lenaghan said.

Burners are restricted to property that they own or lease, and must set their fires on days when the wind will not carry smoke into their neighbors' homes.

"And regardless of what type of fire it is, with a permit or not, the person setting the fire — and whose property it is on — is responsible for it and liable for any damages that may result from the fire," Lenaghan said.

And all fires must be supervised.

"Occasionally we have a person who sets a fire then just walks away when he's done with it," he said. "But people in this community have been very responsible about this. There have been no major problems to speak of."

Novi is one of a dwindling number of area communities that allow open burning at all. Livonia, for example, allows no open burning whatsoever except for small fires in special containers at public parks.

"But here, we have the recreational area around Walled Lake and we still have zoned agricultural areas," Lenaghan said.

The fire department does reserve the right to put out a fire even if the burner has a permit and is following all of the rules. Normally it would be because a person with asthma or respiratory problems is disturbed by the burning in the vicinity of their home.

"Everybody has rights," Lenaghan said. "If it's blowing in your living room, we'll put it out."

Benefits for jobless will be cut in half

A drop in the nation's average unemployment rate for the past two months will mean a cut in emergency federal jobless benefits in Michigan and nationwide beginning this week, F. Robert Edwards, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC), announced recently.

According to federal law when the country's two-month average seasonal unemployment rate drops below 7.0 percent, as it did for May and June, then the number of weeks payable through the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program must be reduced.

"The drop in the nation's unemployment rate will result in a 50 percent cut in the amount of EUC benefits payable in Michigan, reducing the maximum benefit from 20 to 10 weeks," Edwards explained. "The reduction, however, will affect only those who filed EUC claims after Sunday, July 11."

Those with existing EUC claims, established at the higher 20-week maximum level, will not be affected by the decrease in benefit duration. They may continue to draw out the remaining federal benefits they were originally entitled to receive.

The EUC program provides federal jobless benefits to workers who exhaust their state benefits. Through EUC, claimants receive one week of federal benefits for each week of state jobless benefits they collected, up to the allowable federal maximum. MESC will continue accepting new EUC claims through Oct. 2, 1993, and make payments through Jan. 15, 1994.

The national and state unemployment rates determine the maximum number of weeks that can be paid in a state. The maximums are dropping from 26 to 15 weeks in high unemployment states or from 20 to 10 in all other states.

Originally, Michigan qualified to pay 26 weeks of EUC benefits, but the maximum fell to 20 weeks last October when Michigan's improving economy dropped the state's six-month average unemployment rate below 9.0 percent.

Since the program's start in November, 1991, MESC has issued \$1.1 billion in EUC benefits to some 310,700 unemployed workers. The average EUC benefit in Michigan is \$202.68 per week.

Currently, MESC receives about 2,500 new EUC claims each week.



Wild eyes
Are those wild eyes a symptom of rockin' pneumonia or the boogie-woogie flu? Actually, they're the usual on-stage expression of Garry Seader, drummer for Rocky & The Rollers, a perennial Michigan '50s Festival favorite. Rocky & The Rollers performed several times at last week's festival.

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Our Special Thanks to more than 60 volunteers, many dressed in yellow t-shirts, with the ice cream cone logo, who really made it successful.

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SPRO/7/93-Adm

Bill aims for pension reform

A Republican measure aimed at retiring Michigan's current public pension system for one that gives more control to employees has been introduced in the house, said an area lawmaker.

The greatest advantage of a defined contribution plan will be to the worker who would have increased control of retirement savings and the flexibility to change careers as needed without losing any benefits," state Rep. Bill Bullard said.

Under the traditional defined benefit system, only public employees who have worked a specified amount of time, between five and ten years, can claim pension benefits. Only about 30 percent of our current state workers are eligible to collect what they've earned. Almost 70 percent change jobs before they're vested and never realize a penny.

"State employees also find themselves shackled by a set of golden handcuffs with the current plan. Those who are vested in the system and yet want to change jobs hesitate because of the reduction in benefits. Their retirement package essentially dic-

ates their career decisions."

Falling interest rates and funding uncertainties led to the proposed overhaul of the state's current retirement system, the Milford Republican explained. With investment revenue well below what the system requires, taxpayers would end up paying more to keep the system afloat. Implementation of a defined contribution plan would save the state about \$60 million in the first year alone.

Advantages of the defined contributions package include:

- Greater flexibility for personal, financial, tax and estate planning.
- A vesting period is not required, retirement funds begin accruing from the first day of work.
- Employees are free to take money with them as they change jobs.
- Possible lump sum distribution at time of retirement. This may be used to purchase annuity like a current state plan.
- "It is critical for everyone to understand that a defined contribution will affect only those workers

hired after Jan. 1, 1994," Bullard said. "All future state employees will be included—public school staff, the governor, legislators, judges and local government workers."

In addition to co-sponsoring the 14-bill reform package, Bullard has also introduced a 5-bill package which removes the tax exemption for state pensions.

"Michigan has taken an innovative step in transforming a state retirement system that rewards only the long-term worker," he said. "This momentum for equitable change also needs to be directed at our uneven system for taxing private and public pensions. There is no reason why state workers should not be paying tax on their pension, the same as private sector workers."

Current retirees and workers would not be subject to the new tax, according to Bullard. Just as with defined contribution, only new hires after Jan. 1, 1994 will be affected.

Whole lotta shaking went on at '50s fest

Bingo, which Gage said was an increasingly popular event this year, also benefited local organizations that worked the event. They were the Novi Senior Center, St. James Catholic Church and the Novi School Band Boosters.

A pancake breakfast promoted as part of the Fifties Festival was organized, executed and entirely profitable for the Novi Optimist Club and the Novi Firefighters.

Gage said the softball tournament and MetroVision Run also enjoyed good participation this year.

She partly credited the good attendance to "really tremendous promotion" from WOMC radio as well as live broadcasts from WHND "Honey Radio," which set up operation on private property across the street from the festival.

WHND, which was forced out of the festival due to hot competition over festival promotion, set up on private property with a large bal-

con and a vintage car show. Dance companies from around the area participated in the Family Tent this year, bringing in young dance groups. The performances, organized by Sheryl's School of Dance, also included dancers from Novi's Performing Arts Academy, Gayle's Dance Place, Dance Dynamics, Eileen's Dance Electric and Dance House.

"All of the entertainment provided at the family tent, other than Danny Vann and the Moonwalk—for which there was a \$3 fee—was free of charge" and sponsored by the festival, Gage commented.

All in all, Gage said, it was "an awesome festival."

"Everyone was so involved, and everyone helped out so much," she said, adding her appreciation to the Novi Police and Fire departments, the Department of Public Works, and the Community EMS and Dotsford Hospital volunteers who ran the shuttle service.

Fewer die on county roads

The number of people killed in traffic accidents in Oakland County in 1992 is the lowest number reported since 1946, the earliest year for which records on traffic fatalities in the county are available.

There were 85 traffic deaths reported in the county last year according to the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County (TIA). The previous low number was 86, reported in 1949. Last year's fatalities represent a 23 percent decrease from the 110 deaths reported in 1991.

In addition to the decreased traffic deaths in 1992, traffic crashes decreased to 36,048 since 1970. "These reductions in 1992 are all the more remarkable when we consider that traffic volumes, the most accurate barometer of exposure, have continued to increase—more than 100 percent in the past 30 years alone," Cardimen said.

In the state, 1,292 lives were lost in traffic fatalities, a 9.3 percent reduction from the 1,425 reported in 1991.

Nationally, 1992 traffic crashes reported a reduction of 9.2 percent from 1991. Traffic deaths were reduced from 41,462 to 40,180, continuing a downward trend since 1968.

TIA cites a number of reasons for the reduction in traffic crashes and deaths in Oakland County.

"During the past 25 years, there have been remarkable improvements in all three of the basic accident prevention categories—the vehicle, the roadway and the driver," Cardimen said.

A sizeable number of improvements by the automakers in vehicle engineering, such as air bags and other passive occupant restraints, increased safety belt use, more "forgiving" vehicle interiors, better braking systems, greater visibility and other advances were cited by TIA as some of the reasons for the reduction in traffic losses.

"There are also visible indications of traffic engineering improvements on our road network—signs, signals and pavement markings—which help keep drivers from making fatal mistakes," Cardimen added.

Efforts by the Road Commission for Oakland County, through its risk management program, to identify and eliminate the causative factors in fatal and injury-producing crashes, were given as an example of unusually progressive accident prevention work.

"Local communities have also done a remarkable job of setting sensible priorities and implementing programs for correcting hazardous conditions," Cardimen said.

Stronger, more effective traffic law enforcement, selectively applied to specific, contributing accident circumstances, has brought about a noticeable improvement in driver obedience to traffic laws, reducing the human factor in accident causation, according to TIA.

TIA cites the excellent work of the county's alcohol enforcement teams, widespread police alcohol training with subsequent increases in drunk driving citations, combined with public awareness campaigns by organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

"We'd also like to believe that TIA has played a key role over the past 26 years in helping to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities," Cardimen said. "We work closely with 41 local police agencies and 20 other communities in Oakland County in areas of traffic engineering, education and enforcement," Cardimen added.

Although the trend-line is down, early 1993 data on traffic crashes and fatalities indicate a slight increase.

"We cannot understand why this increase is occurring; however, the 1992 traffic crash data was generated with a new UD-10 traffic crash form and the reporting process underwent dramatic changes. The good news is that the 1992 data is available seven months earlier than any previous year, but some inaccuracies may have occurred in the transition period of this major statewide undertaking," Cardimen said.

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Briarwood demands aid for dying trees

That's what's happening now in the woods of Briarwood.

Roma Ridge resident Glen Bonaventura, now a planning commissioner, first brought the dying trees issue to the city's attention several years ago.

"This is a critical problem. It's a citywide problem. I think it's bad policy to flood wooded wetlands," Bonaventura said, adding that he hopes the solution to Briarwood will help the city create a different policy for new subdivisions in west Novi.

City engineers say the stormwater system is otherwise performing according to plan in Briarwood.

The state department of natural resources may be unwilling to let Novi drain the conservancies, now that they've become wetlands, Joseph Kapelczak president of JCK & Associates, warned.

"Just tell us, can you solve the problem, and then we'll figure out how much our wallets will have to pay," Council Member Tim Pope urged.

The Briarwood residents, who live in condominiums, site condominiums and single-family houses, remain reluctant to take over the conservancies from the developer, and thereby assume financial responsibility for the cutting down of perhaps hundreds of trees.

Briarwood was built under a residential unit development agreement between the city and Walter. The situation also impacts the adjacent Roma Ridge subdivision. In addition, when Lochmoor Village is developed to the north, its runoff waters will head toward the Briarwood conservancies, Cassin said.

Briarwood single family homeowners were about to work out a tree replacement plan with the city, but put the brakes on after learning that Briarwood Condominiums was also experiencing tree die-off.

The two groups have presented an \$11,000 package to the city calling for the removal of two trees in the



Rockin' the night away
Rocky & The Rollers, a big favorite at the Michigan '50s Festival, are known for long shows and a danceable playlist. For bassist Corby Anderson, it's just a good rockin' time to play well into the night.

condominium conservancies, the removal of seven trees in the single family subdivision conservancies, as well as 40 replacement trees and plantings along a Ten Mile Road berm there.

They are asking that Novi tap into its stormwater management funds to do the work.

However, in a letter to the council, City Attorney David Fried noted that the city does not own the stormwater basins and is only required to do routine maintenance such as clearing drains. The city is not obligated to pay for tree removal and replacement, Fried advised.

Kapelczak said the water level in the conservancies could be lowered about six inches if a ridge of dirt in the wetlands areas north of Bramblewood Drive were excavated and the two culverts were cleared. He reported this to the city in February. A permit from the state department of natural resources (DNR) would be needed to do this work.

Meanwhile, frustrated Briarwood residents have been talking to lawyers, the DNR and State Rep. Willis Bullard, R-Milford.

To Briarwood resident Luke Ananian, Novi is tangled up in "the most bureaucracy and red tape I've ever seen from a city government."

"I think city government is here to provide leadership for a city. You folks haven't provided leadership. The plan to put water into a woodlands is unconscionable," Ananian said.

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THE LAW AND YOU

by Richard J. Corraiveau & Mary Ann Corraiveau
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A DEFENDANT'S CONCERNS

For every plaintiff in a civil negligence suit, there is a defendant whose concerns are that those of his or her adversary. The law is never more evident than in the case where an insured denies coverage to a policyholder who is being sued. Under such circumstances, the policyholder is advised to insist in writing that the insurer defend his or her case. It may be that the insurer does not wish to admit that its coverage does indeed extend to the policyholder in this instance, but if they agree to defend him or her as a precaution anyway. Later on, the insurer will allow the question of its liability to be decided by a court. When the insurer chooses to follow this course of action and says as much in writing, it is known as its "reservation of rights."

HINT: A defendant may ask his or her lawyer to sue an insurance company for its policy coverage.

It can be helpful to have an experienced lawyer on one's side when it comes time to do battle against a powerful insurance company. If you have further questions, or a legal matter which needs attention, RICHARD J. CORRAIVEAU & ASSOCIATES P.C. are now welcoming new clients. We charge no fee for the initial consultation, and we handle a wide variety of legal matters, including medical malpractice, divorce and family law, criminal law, civil rights, and license restoration. You'll find our office at 42627 Ford St. (300-8900), and we see clients weekdays 9-5, other hours by appointment.

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Health Notes

Alzheimer's Support Group: The Alzheimer's Association Family Support Group meets Aug. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Botsford Hospital's Continuing Health Center. Monthly meetings are held free of charge to provide an opportunity for those with a loved one affected by Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders to discuss mutual problems, share ideas and receive information regarding caregiving options. Group meets in Main Dining Room at BHC. Call Barb Jablonski at 477-7400 for more information.

Botsford's Community Council: Botsford Hospital's Continuing Health Center Community Council meets Aug. 5 at BHC at 5 p.m. The Community Council at BHC invites community members to participate in planning activities and fundraising events to enhance the lives of BHC residents. August meeting will focus on fall event planning. For more information call Judy King at 615-8226.

Hearing Impaired Support Group: Botsford Hospital Continuing Health Center hosts a hearing impaired support group at 3:15 p.m. Aug. 12. The support group addresses problems associated with impairment of hearing. Topics include hearing aids, lip reading, speech therapy and funding options. Group meets at BHC on the 2nd floor. Call Kayn Katz at 477-7400 for more information.

ElderMed Meeting: On Aug. 31, Botsford Hospital Continuing Health Center hosts an ElderMed Coffee Series: "Coffee on Diabetes." A Botsford endocrinologist will discuss the risk factors for diabetes, the latest research on its treatment and the possible complications. This lecture may be of special interest to persons with a family history of diabetes. The discussion is scheduled from 2-4 p.m. Pre-registration required. Lecture will be held in the courtyard, under the large tent. For more information call 477-7400.

Intro to Providence Birth Center: The Family Birthing Center of Providence Hospital is offering prospective parents a two-hour introduction to its Family Birthing Center. The free class is being offered from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the following dates: Aug. 5 and 24. To register or for further information, call 424-3919.

Cancer support group: Providence Hospital is pleased to offer "Share and Care," a support group for people affected by cancer, for those who have the disease as well as family and friends who are close to them.

Cancer is a complex disease affecting the physical and mental well-being of everyone it touches. That is why Providence Hospital specifically designed this program to offer support and education about the disease process.

Share and Care is different from other cancer support groups in that two professional facilitators, a nurse and a social worker are on hand to guide the discussion and provide information as patients, families and friends learn from and help each other.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4-6 p.m. in the Providence Cancer Center library (located at 22301 Foster Winter Drive, just south of Nine Mile and west of Greenfield). For additional information, call 424-3241.

6-week baby classes: Livonia Childbirth Education Association presently offers a six-week class for new parents, the choice of a two or four week class for refresher, and a monthly breast-feeding class. Weekday classes are from 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday classes are from 9-11:30 a.m.

Classes offer information about pregnancy, labor and delivery. Classes are presently held in the cities of Livonia, Garden City, Redford and Novi to serve all the surrounding communities.

To sign up for the class or to obtain any additional information call the registrar at 937-0665.

Arthritis assistance: Not too long ago, individuals suffering from crippling arthritis in the hip or knee wouldn't have much choice other than learning to live with pain and loss of mobility. Today, hip and knee replacement have become almost common solutions for many patients with chronic pain.

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers in Southfield takes a unique approach to preparing patients and their support persons for joint replacement surgery with a new pre-operative program that begins even before patients enter the hospital. And, according to Dr. Sidney Goldman, chief of the section of Orthopaedics at Providence, the hospital's pre-operative program is unique to the area.

"The month before surgery is a busy one," he says. "Patients and their support persons attend two one-hour sessions in which they learn about our facilities and meet staff members from many disciplines who will care for them during their hospitalization."

Patients are also taught individualized exercises and how to use walkers, crutches and other assistive devices that may aid in their recovery.

Another important aspect of this approach is that patients' living arrangements are assessed and plans are made well in advance for any homemaking assistance, skilled nursing care or physical/occupational therapy services that might be needed.

Once their surgery is completed, patients begin utilizing the hospital's inpatient rehabilitation unit where they can focus on the occupational and physical therapy aspects of their recovery.

"Our approach to every phase of care for joint replacement patients has resulted in a real coordination of efforts which allows us to react in a very timely manner to each patient's needs," says Dr. Goldman.

For more information about the orthopaedics program at Providence or for information about a Providence orthopaedic surgeon, call the Providence Physician Referral Service at 1-800-968-5595.

Water exercise for pregnant women: Prenatal and postnatal water exercise programs are offered at the TRACC facility at Botsford's Center for Health Improvement. For more information and registration call 473-5600.



Chow line
With Car Show entrants rolling in at 7 a.m., you had to get up pretty early in the morning to be first in line at the Michigan '50s Festival Pancake Breakfast Sunday. Here, Karl Kozeniowski and other members of the Novi Fire Department cook up some hot cakes and sausage for the festival's early risers.

Cancer hits a lot of men below the belt.

One in ten men will develop prostate cancer.

If you're a man, you're at risk for prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and the second leading cause of cancer death in men. This disease hits an estimated 165,000 men annually and takes around 35,000 lives each year. About 80 percent of these deaths may be preventable with early detection.

Screening exams are able to detect prostate cancer when it's the most treatable. An annual exam can detect an enlarged prostate, one of the symptoms of prostate cancer. Health Development Network at Botsford Center for Health Improvement offers a yearly prostate screening and other programs for men over forty.

A prostate screening could save your life. If you would like more information, call Health Development Network at (313) 477-6100. If you would like a physician referral, please call Health Match at 442-7900.

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Rain or not, Bluegrass Festival was a hoot

By STEVE KELLMAN
Staff Writer

Not even thunderstorms could deter a hard-core cadre of bluegrass fans from the start of this year's 17th Annual Folk & Bluegrass Festival.

The rain may have limited the audience but it did nothing to dispel the enthusiasm of those who showed or the performers they heard.

Festival organizer Tom Rice said several fans were already sitting in front of the main stage on Ford Field when the heavens first parted Sunday afternoon.

"We got a major downpour just as we were ready to start," he said. "There were about 20 people sitting in front of the stage, the same 20 people who show up every year. . . We sat there and kind of laughed it off. What can you do?"

"They were just sitting there with their little umbrellas and having a great time." The storm pushed the performances back about 45 minutes but the show went on.

The storm pushed the performances back about 45 minutes but the show went on. The storm pushed the performances back about 45 minutes but the show went on.

Joel Mabus took the stage after Division Street and blew everybody away like I knew he would," Rice said. "He owns the guitar."

One of Mabus' biggest crowd pleasers was Sunday's rendition of his song Duet Tape Blues.

Songwriter Michael Smith and Anne Hills, who recently recorded an entire album of Smith's tunes, followed Mabus with a sterling performance of their own. Rice said: "You didn't want to miss a single lyric."

Hills remained on stage for the next set with contemporary folk artist David Roth, and the two performed a song they co-wrote following the Los Angeles police brutality case about how good can come out of bad.

Michigan's headed by Northville resident Bobby Lewis, lent his four-part harmony to a variety of bluegrass tunes during its hour-long stint.

"A lot of people have told me that this was their favorite set of the day because of the four-part harmony," Rice said. "That has a lot of power to it."

Michigan instrumentalist Michael Irish stuck around to play with stringed instrument virtuoso Neil Woodward, who "did his average spectacular set." Rice deadpanned.

Woodward, a perennial crowd pleaser on a range of instruments including guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, autoharp, dulcimer and harmonica, has appeared at all 17 festivals.

The children's stage returned this year after last year's debut, with performances by folk musician Hayden Carruth, ventriloquist Virgil Norrgren, and storytellers Craig Rooney and Rice said.

"He engages you with everything he says," Rice said. "You know what he's talking about."

Paxton even got the crowd to sing along on a tune about former President Jimmy Carter's infamous run-in with a "killer rabbit," or as it's referred to in Paxton's version of the story, the "bunny wurmy" that went for the president's throat.

Better weather may have meant a bigger turnout, but the rain did not keep diehard folk and bluegrass fans away. Rice said, "It would have been a bigger festival but there still would have been those 700 people sitting there listening to the music, and the rest of them would have been wandering around and using it as background. . . Those 700 people came because they knew that this was a good festival and a dynamic lineup."

Besides, he said, since this year's festival sponsors were so generous with their donations, all ticket sales went directly to Huntington's disease research. Donations from sponsors like the University of Michigan Health Centers, WDCT-FM, Papa Romano's and The Chiffdler, Rice's music store, combined with advertising revenue from the Northville Record's special pull-out guide, covered all the festival's expenses.

"We raised more money this year and we had half as big a crowd," Rice noted. "We were in the black before the first person showed up."

The winner of this year's guitar raffle was Katie Reed, a regular at the annual festival. Reed, who sat through the early afternoon downpour, left Ford Field just before the drawing so Rice presented her with her new guitar after the festival.

"You've never seen a smile any bigger than this," he said, describing the moment he gave her the handmade \$1,100 Taylor guitar. Reed promptly named her six-string Ellie and signed up for lessons. Rice said, "I taught her an E-minor chord and set her on her way."

Tuneful teens tour

Two high school students will be part of the cast when the Oakland County Parks' Traveling Music Show performs around the area this summer.

The traveling stage show provides family entertainment for group functions including block parties, reunions, company picnics and promotional events.

New this year is All Need Is A Hug, a musical look at children. Featured tunes include "Desperate For A Dog," "Show and Tell," "Pols and Fans Klub," "Rhythm Band" and other heartwarming songs.

Also available is "A Yankee Doodle Medley," a collection of tunes by George M. Cohan, including "Give My Regards," "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "Harrigan" and "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Performances can be scheduled through Aug. 6. The cost is \$75 per performance or \$275 with Showmobile rental. A flat surface is required for the show.

The summer-long production features performers from local high schools and colleges. This year's cast includes Corey Davis and Greg Fortner, both of Novi; Adam Carey of Dearborn Heights; Andrea Howard of Clarkston; Colleen O'Shaughnessy of Ann Arbor; and Mark Young of Pontiac. Veteran Broadway performer Amy Malaney is the show's director.

The Traveling Music Show is sponsored by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Oakland County Cultural Council and the Michigan Council for the Arts.

A special performance of All Need Is A Hug will take place Wednesday, July 23, at Independence Oaks County Park's Cohn Amphitheater. The 7 p.m. program costs \$2 per person or \$8 for the immediate family. Call 858-0916 or TDD: 858-1684 for more information.

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DRUGS DON'T WORK

Don't let award-winning trails fall to vocal minority

To the Editor:
My name is Jeffrey Nichols and I live in the Royal Crown subdivision at 45741 White Pine Dr. I moved to Novi at the end of August 1992. My house does not back up to the wooded commons area that the proposed trail is to go through. My wife and I were told about a proposed trail going through the commons area before we bought our home. I have talked to other homeowners and they were aware of the trail before they bought homes in Royal Crown. My wife and I, along with other Royal Crown homeowners, support the trail. Some of the homeowners who support the trail back up to the commons area. Not all homeowners oppose the trail as you might believe.

I have attended the last two meetings that the NRDP committee has held. I discovered the first one by a chance phone call to city hall. At those meetings and in talking to my neighbors who oppose the trail, I have heard all of their objections to the trail. Most of the objections

have no basis in logic or fact. I would like to summarize and respond to the objections that have been made.

1) "The wildlife will be disturbed and go away if a trail is built!"
Royal Crown has been in the process of construction for at least three years. If in the process of all the digging, grading, laying of water, sewer, gas and power lines in addition to the construction of 150 homes the existing wildlife has not been disturbed, it is hard to fathom what a woodchip trail can do to destroy or disturb wildlife. The commons area is not a pristine, virgin wilderness untouched by man. We are talking about a swamp and trees surrounded by closely spaced houses, not Yosemite National Park.

2) "Crime will become rampant along with public drunkenness, drug use and wild sex in the commons area."

When I heard these claims, I did not know if I should laugh or cry. I suppose these claims were made in

Letters

earnest, but I seriously doubt that criminals will get a map of Novi and target subdivisions that have trails. I can't imagine having sex or getting drunk on a mosquito-infested trail, but then I am older and a lot less imaginative than I used to be.

3) "There will be a loss of privacy in my yard if people are on the trail."

When houses are less than 30 feet apart and some models have windows that are from floor to ceiling across the back of the house, I have a hard time understanding what privacy they currently enjoy. People go into the commons area all the time so I don't know why they are concerned about a trail causing a loss of privacy. It makes you wonder what is going on in their backyards that they don't

want anybody to see!

4) "I payed a \$20,000 premium and I do not want a trail in my backyard!"

The premiums charged were for trees on the lot and the fact that no houses will be built directly behind them. The trail does not encroach on any homeowners property. According to the rules of the Royal Crown subdivision association, the commons area do not belong to any one homeowner or group of homeowners. Every current and future homeowner has equal say and right of use of the commons areas. No restrictions can be enacted that would abridge the rights of any homeowner's use of a commons area. No homeowner's deed includes exclusive control of the commons area. Enough said.

5) "I was never told that a trail

would be built!"

My builder told me a trail would be built in the commons area but no house would ever be constructed there. Other homeowners were told the same thing. If information was withheld by a builder then I would think legal action could be taken against the builder. If people would take the time to see the Chase Farms trail they would realize that it is professionally designed to blend in with the woods and not be intrusive.

Those are the main points that I have heard from people who are opposed to the trail. Having a trail through commons areas is a progressive step forward for a hopefully progressive city. It would make the City of Novi known as something more than the home of Twelve Oaks Mall. I have been to the path in Chase Farms and the builders in that upscale subdivision were enthusiastic. They viewed their trail as a definite plus to the quality of life for the homeowners.

I know a petition was passed around and signed by approximately 120 people. But there are a few points to consider in relation to the petition. How valid can that petition be when most of Addington has not been built and the homeowners have not been notified of this issue? There are two phases of Royal Crown that have just had construction started and again those homeowners have not been notified. When you consider the total number of houses in Addington and Royal Crown (494) those signatures represent a small number of households. You should keep in mind that more than one person signed per household in many instances. I understand that some signatures came from Briarwood. Briarwood is a separate issue because it is not even in close physical proximity to Addington/Royal Crown. It should have its own hearing and resolution.

Jeffrey L. Nichols

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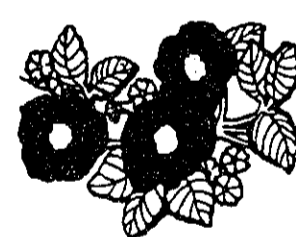
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NOVI HIGHLIGHTS:
Local families mark special events/2B

FREEDOM:
Novi High School student gets lessons of appreciation/4B

THURSDAY
July 29,
1993

FUNDRAISING:
Jaycees pull together to benefit Tollgate center/3B

LISTINGS:
Here's what's happening in and around town/5B

FESTIVE FEATS

Local festival organizers offer insight to their jobs

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

Novi has its Fifties, Northville has its Victorian era. They are moments in time that are celebrated here by lavish festivals that bring hundreds and hundreds of people into the area.

The planning is extensive. It starts when the festivals themselves have barely ended. And it amounts to thousands of hours of volunteer time for the people involved in planning and executing these events.

Is it worth it? The organizers of Novi's Fifties Festival and Northville's Victorian Festival say it's worth every minute and the investment is repaid many times over to the community.

Fifties Festival organizer Rhonda Gage, who breathed a satisfied sigh after Novi's sixth annual festival concluded last week, said Novi benefits by giving itself an identity. Also, she said, it acts as a gathering place for locals and raises funds for non-profit groups that, in turn, put the money back into the community.

"The fifties started a long time ago as a kind of local theme," Gage said. "The festival in particular has become a kind of meeting place for people who come back to Novi."

"Novi has a lot of people who come and go for various reasons," she added. "People tell me all the time they can be in Novi every day and not see anybody, but they can go to the festival and see people they haven't seen in four or five years."

Both of the festivals began as Chamber of Commerce brainchilds designed to promote the community. Novi Chamber Executive Director Connie Mallet recalled that developing a local festival was a challenge to her when she took on her position in 1986.

The Fifties theme came along almost by accident. Mallet explained that, after the original group was formed to develop a festival, they began brainstorming for ideas. They thought of a stagecoach theme, based on the story about Novi being the "Number Six" stop on the trail, and they considered a nautical theme, since the city is situated on Walled Lake. They also considered a car theme to go along with the Motorsports Hall of Fame and the Novi Special.

"Then, I think it was (City Manager) Ed Kriewall who mentioned that we'd recently had a fifties dance, or a party with a fifties theme, and that it had been really fun and successful. So we added that idea to the list."

"Then we went to a Chamber of Commerce luncheon and we had a vote. The Fifties theme was overwhelmingly the top choice. So we decided to go with that. It wasn't until later that we started realizing that the atmosphere and history of Novi worked well with the theme."

Northville Community Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Laurie Marrs said the Victorian Festival is unique in that all of the food and drink items are provided by non-profit organizations, and the money they raise goes back into the community in the form of various projects.

Groups such as the Northville High School cheerleaders, the Mothers Club, the Rotary, the Band Boosters, the Garden Club, the Historical Society, Angela Hospice and many others have been seen along the sidewalks during past Victorian Festivals hawking items from hot dogs to lemonade.

The money earned by food and drink sales goes into the coffers of these non-profit organizations and eventually benefits the community in the form of services or civic improvements.

This year's Victorian Festival will take place Sept. 17-19.

At the Fifties Festival, food is provided by professional vendors, but non-profit organizations benefit there by providing services.

For example, organizations in-

cluding the Novi Choralaires, Chamber of Commerce, Sixth Gate Cloggers, Novi Ambassadors, Lions and the Novi Newcomers and Neighbors Club all take a turn at serving beer in the beer tent. Afterwards, the beer profits are divided up and a percentage goes to the groups that worked.

Gage, who is a member of the Novi Newcomers and Neighbors, said she knows firsthand that the money they raise at the festival goes toward children's Easter baskets and back-to-school packages for needy families in Novi.

Another fund-raising activity at the Fifties Festival include Bingo, which is sponsored by the Novi Senior Center, St. James Catholic Church and the Novi High School Band Boosters. A pancake breakfast is a fund-raiser whose proceeds go completely to the Novi Optimist Club and the Novi Firefighters.

"And another thing the Fifties Festival is putting back into the community big-time is that we are putting money aside into a fund to buy a portable stage for the Parks and Recreation department, which is sorely needed," Gage added. That will amount to an estimated \$50,000 donation to the community.

The Northville Victorian Festival, in addition to benefiting non-profit organizations, is a boon to the community's image, Marrs said.

People begin to associate a community with its festival. Marrs pointed out that, while Novi's ambiance and history is appropriate to a Fifties Festival, that wouldn't work as well in Northville. Northville, she said, promotes its own heritage and style with the Victorian Festival.

"It's one thing to read or hear about how beautiful Northville is and it's another thing to actually come here and walk through the historic areas or see the Victorian architecture," Marrs said.

"People come to the festival and they discover the town. Northville is somewhat of a well-kept secret, or at least it was until recently. From the very beginning no one, even some of the residents themselves, knew we were a Victorian town with a historic heritage."

Marrs said that, after the festivals, she has received calls from realtors who say their clients decided to look for a home in Northville after attending the festival. The festival has also led to increased visits by school groups to

Mill Race Village.

"The festival is Mill Race's busiest week," Marrs said. "Children see it during the festival, then they go back and tell their teachers about it."

The village, which allows classes to pack lunches and spend a day in the one-room schoolhouse, is booked during the school year.

And although local retailers say the festival itself does little in the way of cash register sales while it is going on, it does bring people back into the community for shopping at later dates.

"The festival is like an introduction to the area," Marrs said. "People go home and they come back with their friends. That's why we want people to have a good experience here and leave with a good feeling about the festival and the community. We want them to have an experience here that will bring them back."

The Victorian Festival, unlike many other area festivals, is completely free of charge.

"That's because we have sponsors that are all supportive of our community and all from Northville," she said. "We start out each year by looking for donations. In the beginning it was difficult, but now that people see the benefit of the festival they are putting it into their budgets each year."

So back to that original question. Is it worth it?

"You bet!" Gage emphasized. "When I hear the thank-yous and the it-was-greats and the we'll-come-backs and I know that everything was done so great... you bet it's worth it."

Marrs agreed.

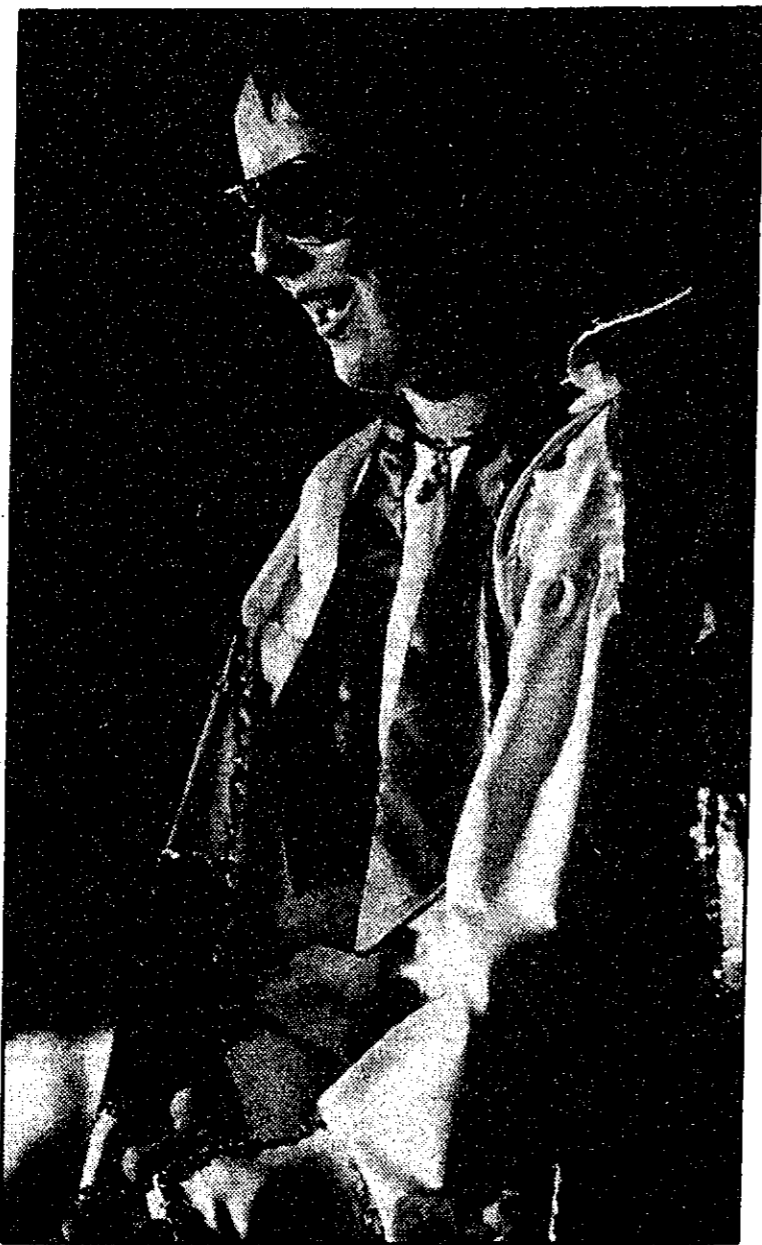
"Now that we're coming up on our fifth year, yes, I do think it's been worth it," she said. "During the first and second year it was a real mind-boggler and there was a lot of nervousness because everything depended on the weather," she said, as she recalled the heavy rains of 1989 followed by the tornado that struck during the festival in 1990.

But those experiences have left the organizers more prepared for the weather. "And we look at the sky now and shrug. There's nothing we can do about the weather," she added.

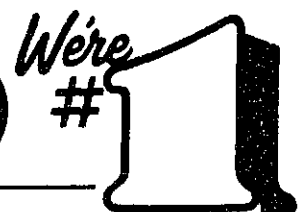
"But yes, it is definitely well worth it. When I look at all the smiling faces and read all the letters from people saying they loved Northville, then I say yes, it was definitely worth it."



Local festivals bring out lacy finery and Elvis impersonators. Above, two Victorian Festival participants stop to chat on the streets of Northville. At left is singer Danny Vann, who performed in the Michigan '50s Festival family tent last week while (far left) 14-year-old J. Rembisz was Elvis in the lip sync contest. Amber Bonar, below, sported the finest in Victorian millinery at last September's Victorian Festival.



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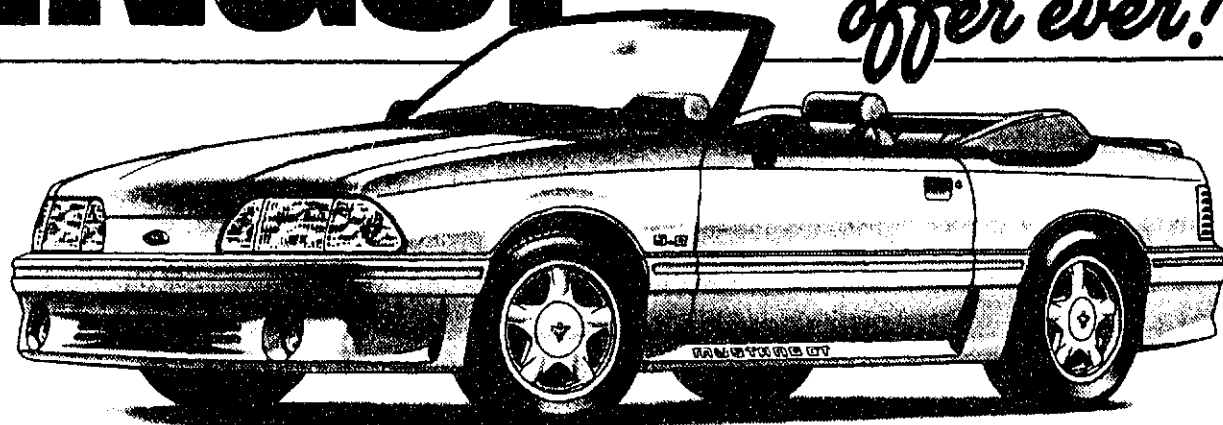
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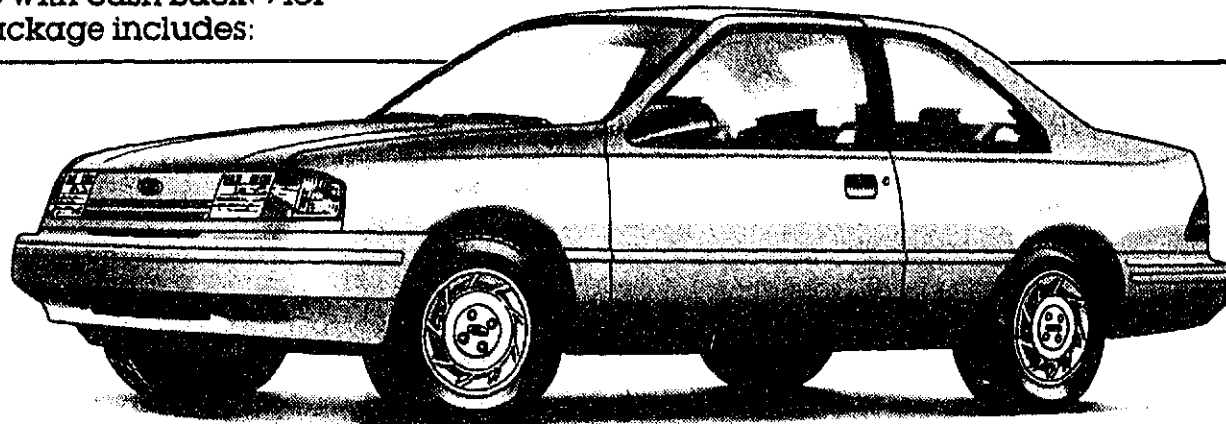
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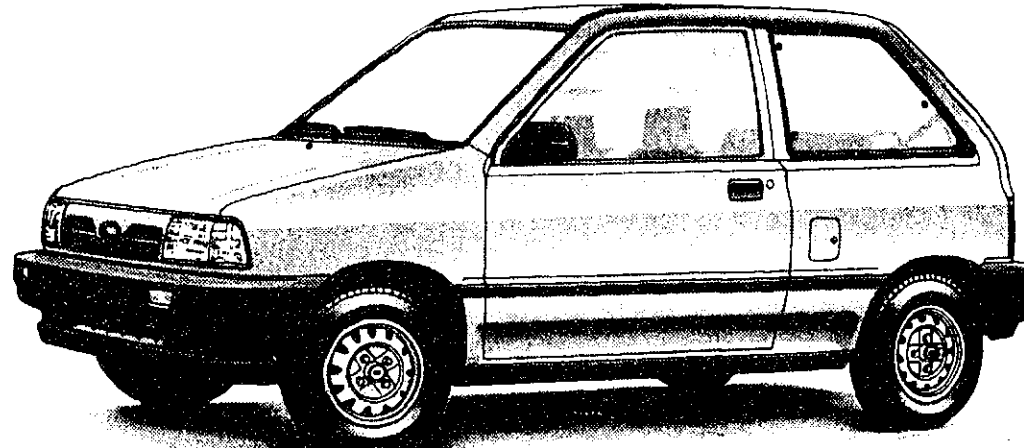
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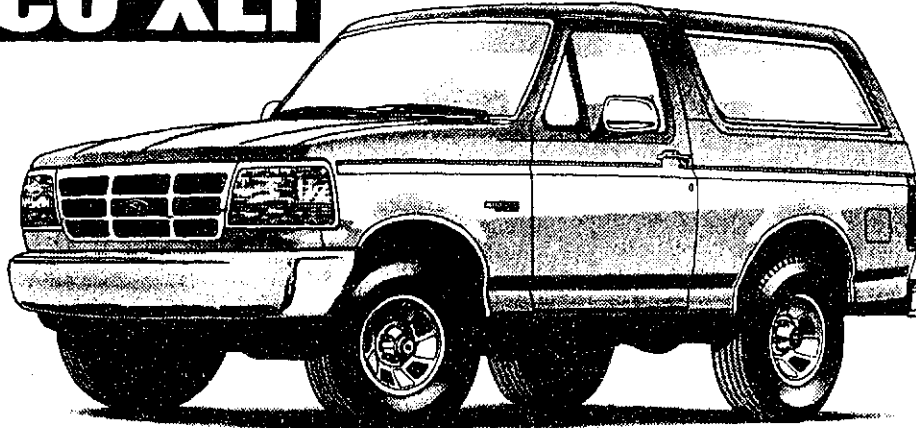
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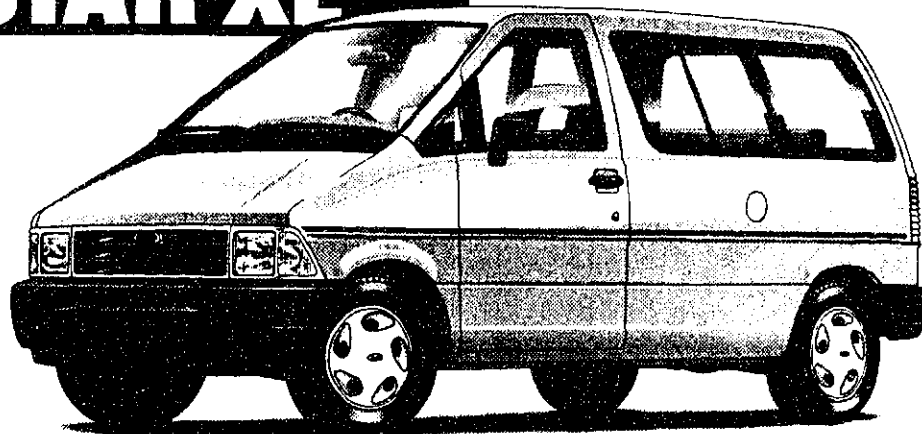
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REAL ESTATE

Individual home buyers are increasing dramatically

By James M. Woodard
Copley News Service

The number of single individuals buying a home is dramatically increasing, according to several national studies.

"We have experienced a steady increase in the number of individual buyers, men and women, during the past few months," said Barry Moore, owner of Barry Moore & Associates, a medium-size real estate brokerage firm. "In fact, this segment of home buyers now makes up 15 to 20 percent of transactions we handle."

Cathy Mims, president of a regional Association of Realtors, also reports a notable increase in the number of single buyers.

"Today's single individuals want privacy, space and pride of ownership," Mims said. "The majority of single-buyer transactions our firm has handled recently are for women."

Nationally, singles are the fastest-growing segment of the population. The increasing number of divorces and people who concentrate on their careers rather than marriage during early adult life contribute to the trend. And

more people are electing to not marry at all.

Also, people are living longer and many elderly people are widowed. These are key factors pushing up the proportion of singles.

Increasingly, those singles want to own their home rather than rent a residence. And many believe this is the time to buy while mortgage interest rates are low and home values are lower than they have been in recent years.

From 1980 to 1990, the home-ownership rate for singles rose from 45 percent to nearly 50 percent, while the rate fell for all other household types, according to a study by the National Association of Home Builders.

"Singles make up a small but growing portion of the home buying market today and will become an even more important part of the market in the future," said NAHB president Roger Glunt. Singles are growing in importance as a market segment because their numbers are increasing.

In 1960, single-person households made up 13 percent of the population. In 1990, their share

Continued on 2

HOME DESIGNS



The countryside Contessa offers neatness and space

By James McAlexander
Copley News Service

"A place for everything and everything in its place."

That saying fits the countryside Contessa to a T.

Inspired by ideas from a reader in Amherst, N.Y., we've provided clear separation of living environments in this plan.

Family areas are at the center, with informal spaces at the back and formal rooms at the front.

Bedrooms and a den are to the right, master suite and utility room to the left.

Dining room, living room and entry are vaulted, adding to the impression of spaciousness. Glass cabinets define the entryway, providing some separation between the living room and dining room without destroying the open feeling.

In addition to being richly windowed at the ground level, the entire area is brightened by two dormer windows overhead.

The kitchen/family room is huge and just as bright. Windows line a long back wall expanded by a bayed eating nook. And with two skylights over the kitchen, electric lights will rarely be needed during the day.

An L-shaped eating bar juts into the family room and provides extra counter space. From the built-in cooktop, meals are easily served to

people at the counter or in the dining room. Shelves on one side of the walk-in pantry can be accessed through doors that open to the kitchen.

Expanded by a wide bay window, the master suite is a bright and luxurious adult retreat with a walk-in closet and a skylit private bath. A second vanity is located outside the bathroom, in the dressing area.

Controls for a home security system are in the adjacent hallway.

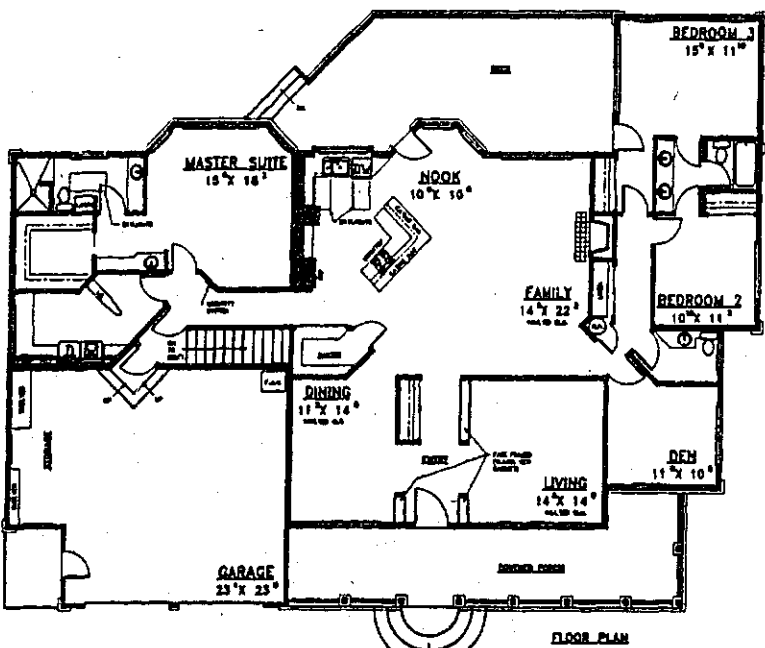
The utility room is much larger than most. Features include a pull-down ironing board and ample counter space. A sewing machine would fit nicely here.

The garage is extra-roomy too, and comes outfitted with storage shelves.

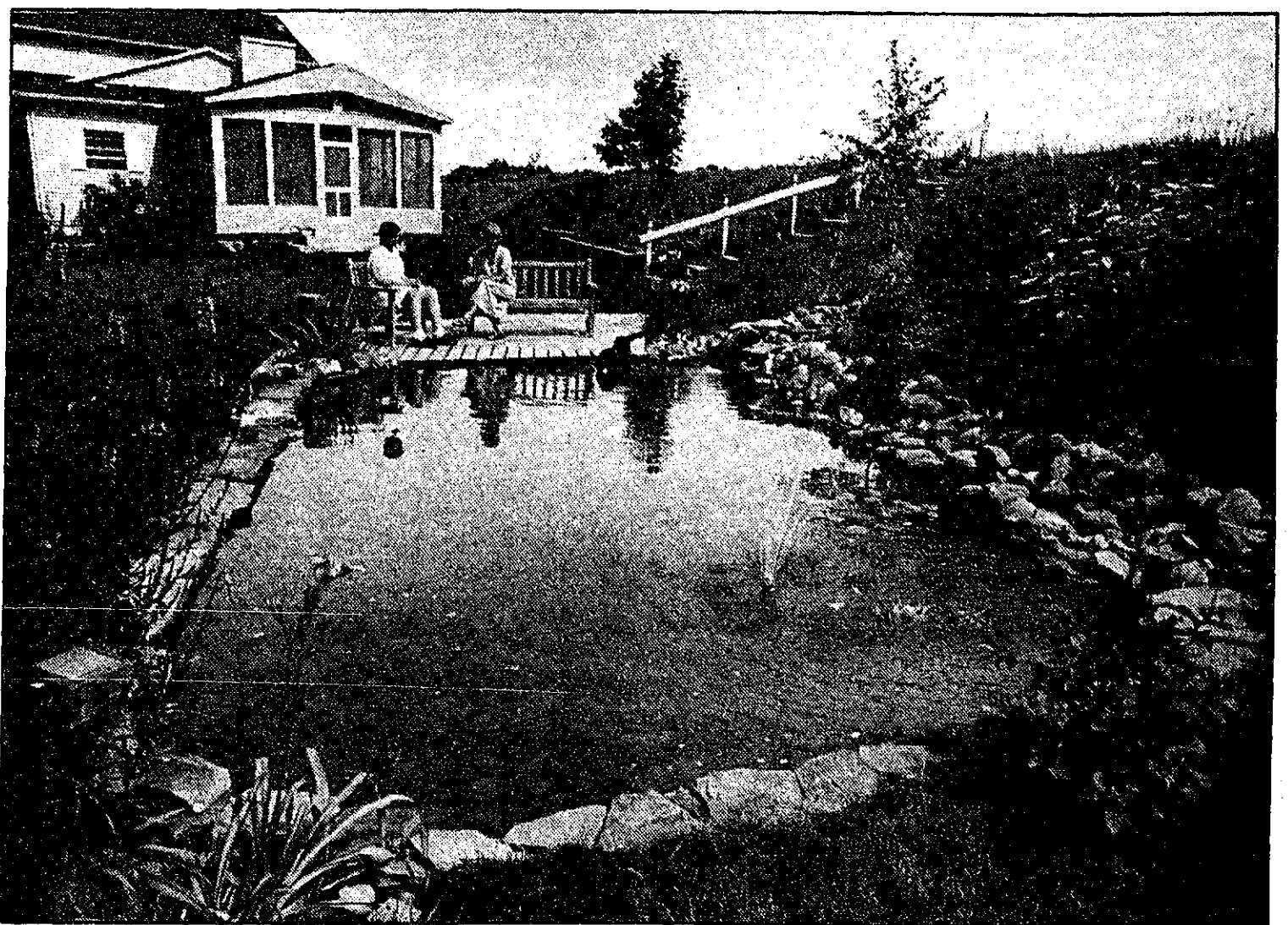
Off to the right of the central living area are a powder room, two bedrooms that share a compartmentalized bathroom, and another room that could be used as a den, home office or whatever. Storage space lines the long hallway.

For additional storage, the Contessa could be built over a full or partial basement.

For a study plan of the Contessa (332-022) 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: 80'-0" X 60'-0"
LIVING: 2705 square feet
GARAGE: 684 square feet



John and Caryl Carr watch the family dog "Brandy" wade through their backyard pond. Below, the small waterfall, made with a natural-looking stone chute, adds sound and helps keeps the water moving.

ON MODERN

POND

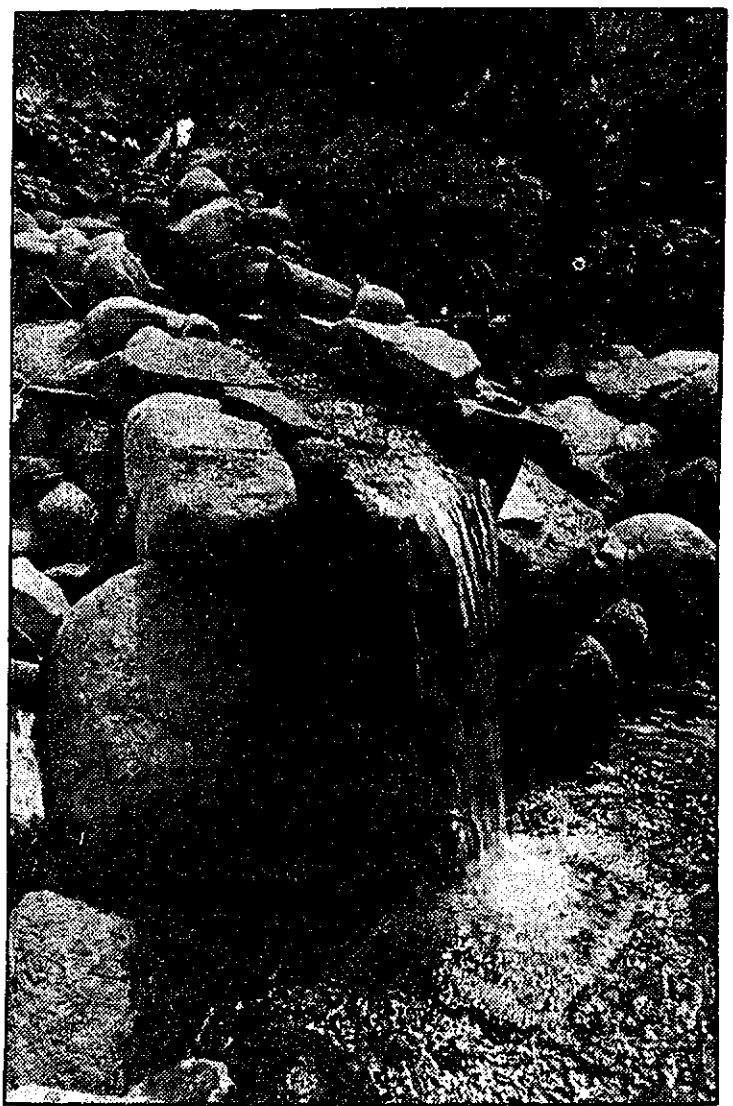
C

aryl and Ron Carr don't have to venture far to find paradise. This Brighton Township couple has brought a soothing, aquatic oasis to their own backyard.

In the midst of a rolling sea of greenery, emerges the tranquility and coolness of nature at its best. The Carrs have built themselves a private paradise in the form of a backyard pond.

A bench faces the pond where the Carrs spend many relaxing hours washing away the rigors of the day with soft summer breezes and the soothing sound of bubbling water. A colorful perential bed swoops down around the pond introducing a small cascading waterfall. In the center of the reservoir, a fountain

Continued on 3



STORY BY ALICIA GARRISON • PHOTOS BY SCOTT PIPER

Sunlight key to hibiscus

By C.Z. Guest
Copley News Service

GARDENING

Q. I have two questions involving my houseplants.

One, why do some of the hibiscus blossoms fall off before they are fully developed? What can be done to prevent this?

Two, I have an aralia (false, I think) and a California palm, which are nearing my ceiling. Both are healthy plants, which I would like to save.

What should I do?

A. The main requirements for constant bloom in hibiscus is abundant sunlight. Moderate humidity (30 percent or more), cool temperature (50 to 60 degrees F) and freely circulating air also help all buds mature into flowers of perfection!

It is the nature of hibiscus to grow into large shrubs so it's perfectly OK to prune them to convenient size at any time.

If the soil dries severely, many leaves will turn yellow and fall, as will any developing flower buds! Drafts of hot, dry air and soil that has become soggy from poor drainage will cause similar symptoms.

During the warm months of summer, place your plant outdoors in a sunny spot.

Most people who have a few houseplants eventually own

dozens, even hundreds! Why? Because multiplying them is almost irresistible once you discover how fascinating and easy propagating plants can be.

For instance, who could dislike acquiring for free a whole new palm plant just by "air-layering" the parent? It's also an easy way of increasing those shrubs, plants or trees that are difficult to raise from cuttings.

Both of your plants should be air-layered.

Q. I bought a package of eight different tomato plants. They all grew well and had a lot of tomatoes. There was only one problem. The tomatoes never turned completely red. The tops around the stem stayed yellow.

Can you tell me why my tomatoes didn't turn all red?

A. The high plants in tomato culture are planting on fertile, moisture-holding soil, and keeping the weeds under control. Tomatoes seem to thrive under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

Buying or starting strong plants is important and using

Continued on 2

Hibiscus how-to

- Keep plant in abundant sunlight.
- Plants thrive on moderate humidity, cool temperature and good air circulation.
- Keep soil moist.
- Prune as necessary.



Hibiscus
Hibiscus moscheutos

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

060 Novl
REDUCED to \$41,900. Immaculate ranch in the village of Princeton...

NEAT RECREATIONAL COMMUNITY, docks to all sports chain of fishing, hot tub, insulated garage...

081 Homes For Rent
Cobblestone Ridge of Brighton
HURRY! ONLY TWO HOMES LEFT!

082 Lakelands Homes For Rent
BRIGHTON All sports lake, 1 br, approx. 100 sq. ft., \$650/mo.

083 Apartments For Rent
UPPER level apartment, 3 rooms, small kitchen, large bath...

061 Pickney
EXCELLENT condition, 5000 sq. ft. house, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths...

062 Pickney
LET'S TALK TERMS! A bedroom log home on Strawberry Lake...

066 Stockbridge/Unifund Gregory
BEAUTIFUL 1 1/2 acre, sold by state land, 4 br, 2 1/2 baths...

083 Apartments For Rent
BRIGHTON 1 br, w/den area, in quiet 1 unit. Close to town...

083 Apartments For Rent
LEXINGTON MANOR
122 bedroom apt. 1989 monotype in 1 Bedroom

084 Duplexes For Rent
BRIGHTON in city, 2 br duplex. All appliances, wash/dryer, hookey...

085 Rooms For Rent
FOWLERVILLE furnished home. Private entrance & bath, kitchen...

087 Condominiums/Townhomes For Rent
BRIGHTON 2 br, appliances, laundry hook-up, air, full bath...

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062 Pickney
LET'S TALK TERMS! A bedroom log home on Strawberry Lake...

065 South Lyon
BEAUTIFULLY decorated ranch, centrally located to schools/shopping...

066 Stockbridge/Unifund Gregory
BEAUTIFUL 1 1/2 acre, sold by state land, 4 br, 2 1/2 baths...

083 Apartments For Rent
BRIGHTON 1 br, w/den area, in quiet 1 unit. Close to town...

083 Apartments For Rent
LEXINGTON MANOR
122 bedroom apt. 1989 monotype in 1 Bedroom

084 Duplexes For Rent
BRIGHTON in city, 2 br duplex. All appliances, wash/dryer, hookey...

085 Rooms For Rent
FOWLERVILLE furnished home. Private entrance & bath, kitchen...

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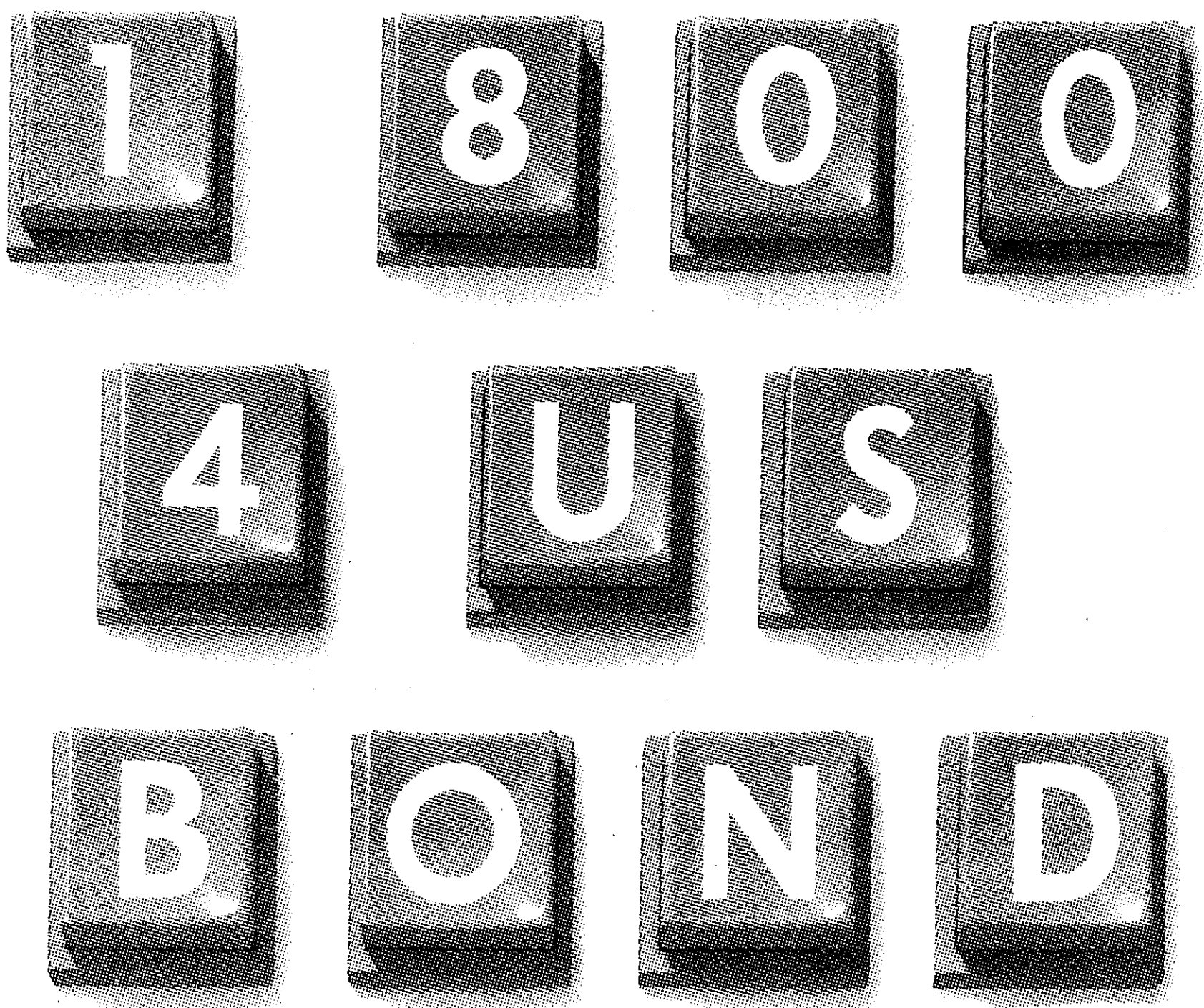
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Making American Dreams A Reality

Little Hornbook helps make preschool fun

By RICK BYRNE
Copy Editor

When Andrea Lenzi started Little Hornbook Day School for preschoolers nine years ago, she knew she wanted something that would be as much fun as it was educational.

"When I first started the school," said Andrea, "I asked people I knew, 'When you were in preschool, did you enjoy it?' Most said no."

Pleasant evergreens surround the large, homey building on Twelve Mile Road, east of the intersection of Grand River and Wixom roads in Novi. Birds and trees are always visible to the kids, through oodles of low windows that allow them to see out without stretching. There are plenty of shady trees, and everywhere is play equipment for them to romp in the sunshine.

But Little Hornbook isn't just a place for kids to indulge themselves. A lot of planning and thought went into bringing together the right staff and the right program in the right building.

"There are so many working families that we have to have a good program," Andrea said. "We need to be educators. Anyone can provide day care. We are a day school."

These are new quarters for Little Hornbook.

Formerly located at Ten Mile and Wixom, the school outgrew its location thanks to a great demand. Their old site had room for 56 kids, but now the school is certified for 140, though they aren't pushing that maximum quite yet.

This is the second time that Little Hornbook has had to move and double its size.

"We have the same excellent staff that we've always had," said Andrea. "Some of our people have been with us for nine years, from the beginning."

"We started adding people six months before we moved, training the new staff."

The new building particularly impresses parents.

"On the Thursday and Friday prior to our opening, we held an open house," Andrea said. "Everyone was asking us, 'What's the adult rate? Can I come here?'"

The huge central play room makes careful use of space, with portions of the room dedicated to computers, arts and crafts, large muscle play and even a life-size (well, kid's life-size) playhouse.

The ceiling is high, which Andrea said keeps kids from feeling enclosed. While it adds to the noise level somewhat, there are plenty of quiet play areas adjoining the main room.

An indoor pool offers year-round swimming, taught by a Red Cross certified swimming instructor. There's also a room just for baby care and play. In the near future, Little Hornbook will even offer private kindergarten classes.

All of the lead teachers are degreed professionals. Of the 15 staff members, seven have their degrees. It makes for a staff-to-child ratio of 1-to-4 in the baby room, and 1-to-6 in the room for older kids.

"We wanted to keep the good program that we had. We're the only nationally accredited program in west Oakland County."

Earning national accreditation is no simple task. It indicates a program of exceptional quality.

"There are just 45 of them in the state," said Andrea. "Only two percent of all day care providers in the country earn it. We have some parents who've moved here from the south, and they're impressed because they know it means something."

And every parent can appreciate a school that can ease the burden of child care.

"Even the moms that don't work, that are in the home, can't do what we can," said Andrea. "Our focus is on the children all the time. We don't



Photo by HAL GOULD

Little Hornbook Day School makes the adventure of childhood a positive learning experience.

have to do the laundry, the cooking, the housework and answering the phone."

Keeping the focus on the children helps them to learn and grow, while having fun along the way. That was the goal, Andrea said, and judging from the happy sounds that come from the play rooms, Little Hornbook

is achieving it. "It should be a positive learning experience, so they can go on to be good

students and good citizens," Andrea said. Little Hornbook offers child care

from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For more information, call 348-2780.

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Money Management

CPAs say check your filing status

Married couples have the option of filing a joint return or filing separately. The Michigan Association of CPAs advises you and your spouse to compare your taxes under both methods to determine which one lowers your combined tax liability.

MARRIED, FILING JOINTLY
The lowest tax rates are available to married individuals who elect to file joint returns. This generally translates into a lower tax bill, particularly for couples where only one spouse works or where one spouse earns substantially less than the other.

Married couples filing jointly may also be eligible for some additional tax breaks that are not available to married individuals filing separately. These include the earned income credit and child-care credit.

Taxes on Social Security benefits are also affected by filing status, and here again, married individuals filing jointly have the advantage. Joint filers with a combined adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$32,000 or less are not required to pay any taxes on their Social Security benefits. However, married individuals filing separately must pay taxes on Social Security benefits if their joint income exceeds \$25,000. Depending on the excess of income over these base amounts, up to one-half of these benefits could be taxable.

MARRIED, FILING SEPARATELY
It may be better for a married couple to file separate tax returns if one spouse earns substantially less than the other and has high deductible expenses. By filing separately, such married couples may be able to avoid losing deductions that are based on adjusted gross income.

For example, since the medical expense deduction is limited to 7.5 percent of AGI, a married taxpayer with a low AGI and substantial medical bills is more likely to qualify for the deduction by filing separately than by filing a joint return with his or her spouse. The same principle applies to miscellaneous itemized deductions. Because there is a 2-percent adjusted gross income limitation, couples may benefit by filing separately if one spouse has high unreimbursed business expenses or other qualified expenses.

Be aware, too, that casualty and theft losses involving personal assets, which are allowable only to the

extent that they exceed 10 percent of AGI, may provide a deduction on a separate return but may not on a joint return. Remember, however, that if one spouse itemizes deductions on a tax return, the other spouse must also itemize. **WHEN YOU'RE MARRIED IN THE EYES OF THE IRS**
For tax purposes, marital status is generally determined by the situation on the last day of the year. So if you married on December 31, 1992, you and your spouse may file a joint return and have the past year's income taxed at the married rate. On the other hand, you cannot file as a single individual unless you and your spouse have lived apart for the entire year or are legally divorced before December 31.

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Business Briefs

ARBOR DRUGS INC., will open its 137th through 140th stores by the end of August, including its second store in Novi, and its first Hamtramck location. The announcement of the company's four additional stores was made by Eugene Applebaum, chairman and CEO of Arbor Drugs.
The scheduled openings follow:
■ Now open: Arbor's sixth Westland store, formerly a Richardson's Drug Store, is located at 37376 Glenwood at Newburgh Road.
■ Now open: The company opened its seventh Washtenaw County location in Ypsilanti, also formerly a Richardson's Drug Store, at 1510 Washtenaw at Mansfield.
■ In August: Arbor's first Hamtramck location will open at 9300 Joseph Campau and Holbrook Avenue.
■ In August: The chain's second Novi store is located at 22240 Novi Road at Nine Mile Road.

Commenting on the stores, Applebaum said, "Arbor is committed to increasing its strong presence as a health care center in southeastern Michigan, the nation's fifth largest drugstore market. These additional stores will provide more convenience for our growing customer base, in addition to reinforcing our position as the market share leader in this region."
The stores, ranging in size from 6,640 to 10,700 square feet, will offer all of the traditional Arbor services including Arbotech Plus. This pharmacy system enables customers to refill prescriptions at any Arbor drug store in Michigan.
Founded by Applebaum in 1963, Arbor Drugs is the country's 20th largest drug store chain. Presently, Arbor operates 136 full-service stores, all in Michigan, and has more than 4,500 employees.

GERRY DODDS of Century 21 Suburban in Northville announces the leasing of the retail store at 139 E. Main St., formerly the V & G Variety Store to Raymond and Loretta Novely of Farmington Hills. Their company, Novely Bakesies Inc. will operate a retail outlet of the Great Harvest Bread Company.
This unique bakery specializes in high quality natural whole wheat products and other baked goods. The bread is made fresh daily using 100 percent stone milled whole wheat grains in the old fashioned method right on the premises. The bakery offers a wide variety of

round loaf breads, as well as cookies, dinner rolls and bread sticks. Selections vary daily and there is always a fresh, hot batch coming out of the oven.

The Novelys are both leaving corporate careers that moved them around the country. This is an opportunity for them to return to their home communities. Loretta Novely grew up in Northville, graduating from Ferris State, and is a registered dental hygienist. Raymond Novely grew up in Dearborn, attended Wayne State and earned a marketing degree there.
Contract interiors of Southfield will be designing the remodeling of the interior and exterior of the store.

THOMAS P. KOWALSKI has been named president and chief executive officer of Clayton Environmental Consultants Inc. in Novi. Kowalski was formerly chief operations officer of McLaren/Hart Environmental Engineering Corporation. Clayton is an international provider of industrial hygiene and environmental consulting services and laboratory services. Providing services to clients since 1954, Clayton has 14 offices in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, with two offices located in Novi.

LONG JOHN SILVER'S opened recently to the cheers of Novi Special Olympics athletes. The restaurant is located at Twelve Oaks Mall, 27734 Novi Road.
Grand opening festivities included Long John Silver's executives stringing a chain of \$20 bills just waiting to be clipped by the Special Olympics kids. The chain of \$20 bills totaled \$500 which will be donated to Novi Special Olympics.
"On behalf of the Long John Silver's team, I want to express enthusiasm for our new Novi location," said Mike Kupstas, division vice president for Long John Silver's. "We are excited to become a part of

this terrific community and to further our commitment to the athletes taking part in Special Olympics programs."
According to store manager Claire Boucher, the restaurant's menu features fish, chicken and seafood meals and salads. The Twelve Oaks Mall restaurant will offer a 90-seat dining room.
"Long John Silver's has led the nation in year over year, same store retail sales in the fast food industry for the past two months," Boucher said. "We are pleased to offer the residents of Novi the newest addition to their fast food selection. Our promise to our guest means providing great tasting, healthful, reasonably priced fish, seafood and chicken in a fast, friendly manner on every visit."

Boucher brings five years of restaurant management experience to the Long John Silver's team. The Twelve Oaks Mall Long John Silver's will employ up to 20 team members.
Long John Silver's hours of operation will be Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Long John Silver's is the nation's leading quick-service seafood restaurant chain with 1,449 shops in 34 states, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Singapore. Long John Silver's chain employs 24,000 people nationwide.

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