



501077 06/10/94 \*\*CR10  
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY  
45245 W. TEN MILE  
Novi MI 48375-3014

50¢

MONDAY  
AUGUST 16, 1993

Volume 38  
Number 31  
One Section  
12 Pages plus Supplements

# NOVI NEWS

Opinions NOVI COPS LAUDED  
FOR WORK WITH CANINES / 4A

Dining AN ENDLESS VARIETY  
OF GREEK APPETIZERS / 5A

Updates THE WINNERS OF  
50s FEST CAR SHOW / 2A

## Senior housing back on Novi council's table

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Tonight, City Council Members Nancy Cassis and Tim Pope are expected bring the issue of senior citizen housing to the forefront again. At tonight's meeting they will hand over a list of questions they need answered before they will support seeking federal subsidies for the low-rent residences. The council has been sharply criticized since a June decision by the majority — including Cassis and Pope — not to pursue a \$5 million federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant for senior housing. Council members explained at the time that the request came before they had time to research the project and required a quick approval if the HUD July application deadline were to be met. The grant would have been required to donate six acres of land in Power Park for the 80-unit residence, provide a van service, rezone the land and waive all building-related fees. Those against the plan said they were concerned that the housing units would be allocated to non-Novi residents. Within the next 60 days, Pope and Cassis are asking for financial information on Cooperative Services, to tour similar housing built by the firm elsewhere, and for a report from Novi's finance director on

whether or not the city can dispose of land without entering into a competitive bidding process. The two council members also suggest that City Manager Edward Kriewall set the wheels in motion for a city-initiated rezoning of the six acres, to include a notification of residents in the area. They have also asked for a real estate appraisal of the city land and the potential costs of waiving fees and running a van service. The site targeted is near Novi High School. "Our purpose in offering this approach is to encourage city council and administration to pursue positive steps fostering development of affordable senior housing consistent with council's commitment and that of our senior housing committee," the two wrote in their Aug. 11 letter to their fellow council members. Cassis and Pope have also asked for an update on the contested will of Ruby Fuerst. In her first will, Fuerst left most of her \$1 million estate to the city to use for senior citizen housing on the site of her former home on Ten Mile and Taft roads. This land is owned by the Novi school district. The report is to include how much money would annually be available for scholarships to Novi High School students, should the city not accept Fuerst's bequest. Fuerst asked that the scholarships be set up if the city didn't opt to build the senior housing. Kriewall is also asked to report on what options for public and private senior citizen housing may be available.



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Novi firefighter Ramon Alvarez uses the Jaws of Life to remove the driver of this car after a collision on Grand River west of Taft. The driver had no pulse.

## Two killed in Grand River crash

By CRISTINA FERRIER  
Staff Writer

Two drivers were killed Thursday afternoon when their cars crashed in a head-on collision on Grand River west of Taft. Novi Police Lt. Gerald Burnham said the crash, which occurred around 3:15 p.m., happened when a 66-year-old Southfield man heading east on Grand River in a Dodge Aries crossed left of center and into the path of a Chevrolet Camaro heading west. The Southfield man was killed instantly, Burnham said. The driver of the Camaro, a

40-year-old Novi woman, was dead on arrival at Botsford Hospital. A 37-year-old Novi woman who was a passenger in the Camaro was also transported to Botsford Hospital, where she was listed in critical condition. Novi Police were still withholding names of the people involved Friday because all next-of-kin had not been notified. Burnham said Friday that the passenger's condition was "touch and go." The Southfield man was not wearing a seat-belt. Both Novi women were. Based on preliminary investigation at the scene, police say there was probably no alcohol involved.

Police have no evidence at this point that could explain why the Southfield man crossed over the center line into oncoming traffic. Burnham said the investigating officer, Ken Meier, is awaiting autopsy results to see if they might contain a clue. "We don't know if the man blacked out, or maybe he had a heart attack or maybe he just dropped something on the floor and was momentarily disoriented." Meier was unavailable for comment until Monday. "It was nasty," Burnham said of the crash. "The cars were demolished, especially the Aries."

8-10-93

## Hyde didn't want fiance to discover him dead

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer  
© Copyright The Novi News 1993.

Heidi Fernandez spent Wednesday morning, Aug. 4, in her Novi apartment waiting for the telephone call which would tell her that the father of her child, the man she hoped to marry, had died with the assistance of Dr. Jack Kevorkian. Earlier that day, she had helped her fiance Tom Hyde, 30, out of bed. Dressed him. Made him coffee — he didn't want breakfast. Lugged his wheelchair out of the downstairs apartment into the small outside foyer. And sent him on his way. In a few hours, reporters and cameramen parked outside of Heidi's doorstep. Somehow, in the blitz of newspaper and television stories, Heidi says the truth of the couple's story has been buried. The framework is this. Tom was on Belle Isle with Dr. Kevorkian. He died in the back of the pathologist's van after pulling a string which released canisters of carbon monoxide gas. Someone called Heidi with the final word. The following day, the doctor held a news conference to explain his role in Hyde's end, the 17th suicide of a critically-ill individual presided over by Kevorkian. Assisted suicide has been a felony in Michigan since April 1. State legislators are scheduled to continue their debate on the ban in 1995. But Heidi, who lived with Tom for three years, witnessed the chain of events which led one man to take his destiny into his own hands, law or not, with the help of a professional. It was Heidi who saw Tom through his last days, the less-than 12 months of life remaining to him after he was shot down by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This diagnosis, the death sen-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thomas Hyde and his daughter Carmen. The first symptoms of Lou Gehrig's disease showed up shortly after his daughter's birth.

tence delivered by six grim doctors on Aug. 6, 1992, was more terrible for both of them than Tom's actual passing 12 days ago, she said last week. Tom compared his conference with the doctors to standing in front of a firing squad. "It was very traumatic for both of us. We were beginning a life together. We had been together for a couple of years and we had decided to have a child. Everything was just beginning," Heidi said. The couple planned to get married on Aug. 6, if Tom had lived that long. Family photographs tell the story. As the couple's infant daughter Carmen, born May 10, 1992, blossomed into a happy, healthy toddler, Tom's muscular physique was withered to the bone by the merciless disease. Choosing the time and place of his own death rather than waiting for nature to take its slow and painful course was the way he wanted it to be and Heidi says she agreed with him. Heidi won't talk about Kevorkian or any of the details surrounding Tom's decision to commit suicide

with the former pathologist's help. Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair is expected to decide early this week if Kevorkian will be charged with the crime, which bears a penalty of up to four years in prison and a \$2,000 fine. If the law itself can be upheld. The American Civil Liberties Union is a party to a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the ban on assisted suicide. The Michigan Court of Appeals is expected to hear the case this fall. Heidi says she wasn't surprised at all when Tom first mentioned Kevorkian's name. "I am an advocate of Dr. Kevorkian, but I was before I met him," she said. "If anyone had been with Tom and had been with him like I was — I was the only person that was with him to the end — if anybody had seen that, you'd probably be making the phone call yourself trying to help him." Tom was a good-looking man who enjoyed the outdoor life. He and Heidi liked to hike, fish and camp. Tom also hunted.

Afterwards, they would realize the hints ALS had dropped in the months prior to the diagnosis. Tom complained that when he rode his motorcycle, he would get a "chill right down to his bones." When Carmen was born, he stopped by a favorite restaurant to pick up carryout food for Heidi. The owner gave him one cocktail to celebrate the child's birth. Tom couldn't speak clearly when he arrived at Heidi's hospital room. "His speech was so slurred I was really mad at him. Here I am having a baby and you're out partying." What it was was the onset of the disease," she said. By the time Carmen was three weeks old, Tom came home from a job putting up wooden fencing and told Heidi he was no longer able to hold his hammer. Tom had been so healthy he didn't even have a family doctor. They both thought his problem might have been from a fall he had taken on his head. But when he went to Botsford

Continued on 3

## McDonalds presents plan to city council

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

What you want may be what you get at McDonald's, but the eatery empire may not get what it wants from the city of Novi. The burger king (so to speak) wants to open up a new McDonald's at the intersection of Ten Mile and Novi roads. If approved, it would become the fifth Mickey D's in or near Novi, joining locations at Eight Mile and Haggerty roads, in Twelve Oaks Mall, at Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue and Wixom Road and Grand River. Whether the cheeseburger caesar gets municipal permission, however, is an open question. McDonald's will present its plan to the Novi City Council tonight (Aug. 16). In pitching their plan, company representatives say that the intersection will deteriorate unless it receives the shot in the arm that a McDonald's would bring. Some city officials question if that's true, and

argue that the extra traffic headed for the hamburger haven would overload an already-busy Novi/Ten roadway. McDonald's needs the city to follow a two-step plan: rezone the land it wants to build on and then approve the site plan for the restaurant. The burgher of the Big Mac wants the city to rezone a 1.86-acre site at the intersection from its current OS-1 (office/service) designation to B-3 (business). That has to happen before McDonald's could submit a site plan for city approval, because OS-1 does not allow an eatery of its type. With such a rezoning, McDonald's officials say they'll proceed immediately with the project. A Total Corp. gasoline station and an office building now sit on the site of the proposed milkshake mecca. Total is cooperating with McDonald's in seeking the rezoning. Plans call for Total to construct a new, modern service station, in-

Continued on 2

## inside

- CALENDAR ..... 2A
- CLASSIFIEDS ..... 9A
- COLUMNS ..... 4A
- DINING ..... 5A
- EDITORIALS ..... 4A
- MARY BRADY ..... 5A
- POLICE NEWS ..... 3A
- NEWS/SPORTS ..... 349-1700
- ADVERTISING ..... 349-1700
- FAX ..... 349-1050
- CLASSIFIEDS ..... 348-3024
- HOME DELIVERY ..... 349-3627

© 1993 HomeTown Newspapers  
All Rights Reserved

WHAT'S INSIDE?











