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New mayor wants voice for children

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Novi's Mayor-elect Kathy McLallen is thinking of ways that the children and teens of Novi can have their voices heard — even though they're too young to vote.

McLallen, the mother of five kids ranging in age from eight to 22, drew heavily on the younger generation in running her campaign.

Youngsters put up election signs, distributed flyers and stood at the polls on election day, some gaining course credit for their Novi High School government class.

"Kids got extra credit for Mr. (Delno) Munson's government class. That is just so cool. He is a true believer in the political process," McLallen said.

"It was a major group effort. It's incredibly humbling to realize how many people are willing to pin their hopes on you."

The Mutch siblings, Andrew, Meghan, Matthew and Lindsay, were active McLallen supporters and even donated their mom, Kathy, to the cause as the candidate's campaign manager.

"They put up with bizarre hours with Kathy not being there, they were great," McLallen said.

"The children of the new mayor (Christopher, James, Stephen, Andrew and Kate) were also patient when their mother wasn't around and when "dinner was (leftover) mostaccioli from the (fundraiser) picnic one more time," McLallen said.

McLallen found herself getting pep talks from eight-year-olds and was helped out by teens who stood out at the polls on the chilly election day promoting her cause, among them Anna Schmidt, Heather Dinsler and John Streit, Kelly Moser and Noreen Hughes. Others, like Bob Littleton and Scott Sanderson went door-to-door in the neighborhoods.

As part of McLallen's platform, she has called for the creation of a

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Kathy McLallen
Novi Mayor-elect

local youth center and suggests as one option that the city and Novi school district draw on the energies of the younger set to restore the Fuerst farm buildings for that purpose.

McLallen attributes her success to the grassroots support she was able to draw on throughout the community — including the staff at Jerry's Barber Shop.

The Realtor put her colleagues at J.A. Delaney & Company Real Estate in Northville to work licking stamps and elected Judy Johnson, like McLallen a former Novi planning commissioner, to the post of campaign treasurer. Her neighbors on Cambridge Drive baked brownies for her summer fundraiser.

Meyer Berry Farm on Eight Mile Road invited 300 people to their farm to meet McLallen and pick a free pumpkin from the patch.

"It has been an exceptional experience. I got to see so many aspects of the community, so many people invited me into their homes. The campaign was one of the neatest experiences of my life, to do it all the way from soup to nuts," McLallen said Friday.

"Thanks to my fellow candidates," McLallen added.

"Every single one of these people, whether they won or didn't, the community is better because they're here."



Photo by HAL GOULD

Champions!

The Novi High basketball team won a share of the Kensington Valley Conference title Thursday by beating Milford 50-47 at home. Kelly Kearney (No. 24) led the Wildcats to victory with 26 points. Novi finished the league season with an 8-4 record as did Howell. For more details on the game, check this Thursday's Novi News sports section.

Condom protest staged at school

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

It probably won't rank up there with the Boston Tea Party, but you've got to admire the unconventional way some Novi High School students recently drew attention to their cause.

After all, strolling through school with prophylactics pinned to one's person is bound to grab the attention of the odd administrator.

At issue is a "silent protest" which took place at Novi High School last Friday. Several students, mostly tenth graders, came to school wearing condoms in packages pinned to their

clothing. Assistant Principal Jennifer Cheal explained why.

"When I talked with them about it," Cheal said, "they told me it was a 'silent protest' for more sex education curriculum at the high school."

There is a health education course given to ninth graders, Cheal said, which addresses that subject. The students involved Friday, she said, wanted to see additional courses offered at the sophomore level and above.

"Several of them indicated that they were getting a lot of information from peers," Cheal said, "and they wanted to see something more

structured."

Reports that the event was a push for free speech were not accurate, Cheal said. A student in a tenth grade speech course had attempted to give an oral presentation involving condoms recently, she said, but the classroom teacher prevented him.

"There are a clear set of rules on what's appropriate and not appropriate for the class and he changed his talk without telling her," Cheal said, "and then tried to get up and discuss this and she stopped him. That's not really why this all happened."

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School board sets tax levy

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

As autumn turns to winter, the leaves fall, the snowdrifts rise . . . and your property tax bill arrives along with the warmth of the

holidays.

'Tis the season to be jolly.

The Novi schools Board of Education certified the district's winter tax levy Thursday, one that keeps property taxes as high as the law allows without voter approval of an

increase.

The measure completes a move the board began in June. At that time it increased the the district's millage levy to the maximum level allowable under the terms of the state constitution's Headlee

Amendment. It then assessed half of that amount in the summer tax levy, the remainder to come this December.

Members cited concerns over cutbacks in state aid as the reason

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Council gets trails issue back Monday

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Monday night could be a case of different strokes for different folks, as the issue of relinquishing the easements for the controversial city's nature trail system will come once again before the Novi City Council.

This time, it will be an entirely different city council who will ponder the issue after they are sworn-in by City Clerk Gerry Stipp.

The new kids on the block are Mayor Kathleen McLallen and Council Member Rob Mitzel, both of whom have said they favor the Natural Resources Design Plan.

Re-elected incumbents Hugh Crawford and Tim Pope will also begin their next four years in office Monday.

Council members who in August favored erasing the trails which would wind through subdivision common lands were Robert Schmid, Carol Mason, Tim Pope and Nancy Cassis. Cassis, who lost her bid for mayor, is now no longer on the council.

Five votes at the council table will be needed if the city is to give up the real estate.

McLallen has said in the past that she was "angry" and "disappointed" when the city council voted to truncate the trail system, leaving the proposed paths only in city parks and along Detroit Edison easements.

She does favor backing off for now on trails in subdivisions where residential opposition is high, such as Briarwood and Royal Crown, and

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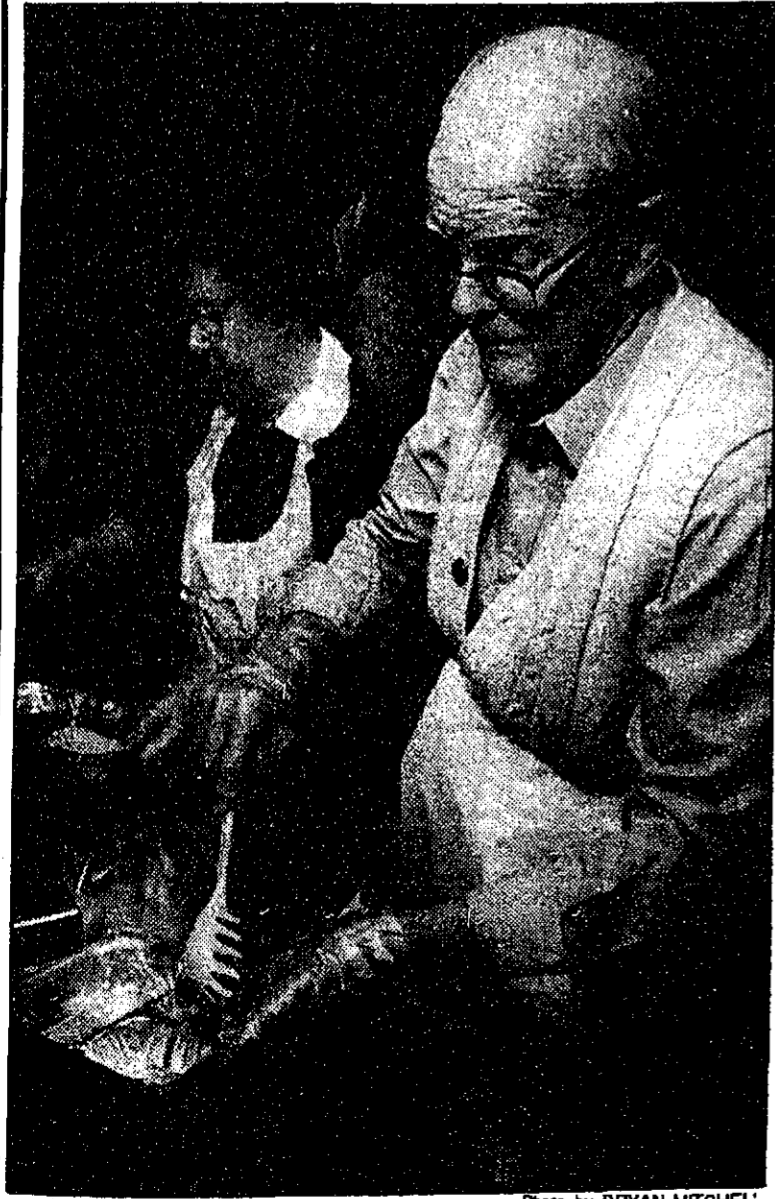


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Lunch is served

Meals on Wheels is an on-going program in Novi in which volunteers prepare and deliver meals to shut-ins throughout the city. Above, Victor and Arlene Gillett work to prepare meals for transport to those seniors who are in need.

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