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THURSDAY
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the NEWS

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Byers reacts positively to tax hike plan

By SHARON CONDRON
Staff Writer

Novi Board of Education President Ray Byers called the state's tax shift plan for school finance reform Tuesday a "mixed bag" for the Novi school district.

"It's a mixed bag to a degree it's harmless because we aren't having huge cuts but on the other hand our growth will be restricted to one percent," he said.

Byers was reacting to the state's plan for school finance reform that surfaced last week as a substitute to replace the \$6 billion in school property taxes lawmakers wiped out in July.

The plan, which passed by legislators on Christmas Eve day, offers a pair of tax hike packages to restore funding to Michigan schools. Taxpayers will choose one of the two options and decide which taxes will be increased on a state wide ballot on March 15.

Gov. John Engler is backing the ballot plan which seeks a two cent increase in sales tax and a two-tenths of a percent cut in the state income tax. The Legislature's version will kick in if voters reject Engler's plan. It calls for increases in income taxes, single business taxes

Michigan voters on March 15 will put the finishing touches on the biggest change in school finance in 60 years. Whether that ballot plan wins or loses, Gov. John Engler won a major reform: state government — not local districts — will pay for public schools. The story is on page 5A.

and a one percent tax on home sales.

Either way, the good news is that public schools are guaranteed \$10 million regardless of what passes or fails in March.

"The only positive thing that we see right now is that funding will be provided," he said. "But we won't know until March 15 how that will be provided, but we know it will be there."

Knowing that the state intends to finance public education with the good news school districts were waiting to hear after lawmakers

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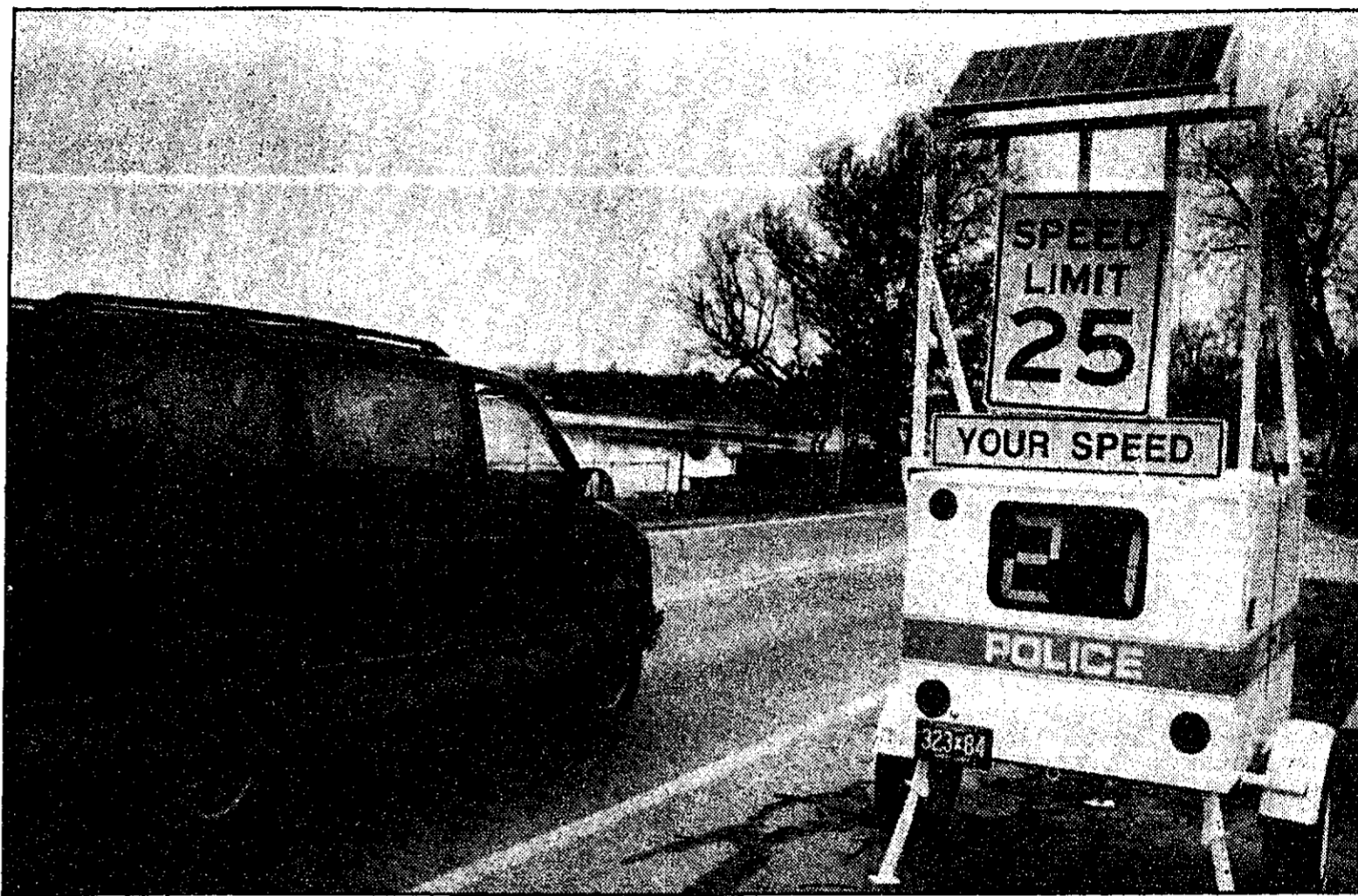


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Watch that speed

Novi police have joined with four other communities to purchase the SMART (Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer) to help educate local drivers of the importance of obeying speed limits. The trailer was placed on Walled Lake

Drive just north of Fourteen Mile Road the week before Christmas to remind speeders of the posted 25 mile per hour speed limit.

City braces for Main Street plan

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

In the opening weeks of 1994, Novi planners will engage in some heavy-duty brainstorming with developers, scuttling to find ways to pay for the \$2.2 million paving of the proposed Main Street, as well as the water and sewer lines needed for the project.

"At this point, we're very optimistic that the private sector will pick up the tab for the most part. I'm not going to make promises that the private sector is going to pay 100 percent," Novi's Community Development Director James Wahl said

recently. "We are looking at other possible trade-offs. We are looking for ways to make the numbers work. This is not a standard road, we're looking for a streetscape ambience."

Some of these trade-offs could involve the environmentally-contaminated, city-owned land fronting on Novi Road, the proposed west outlet for Main Street.

Evergreen III, a Farmington Hills-based investors group, has stepped up to build the \$50-\$60 million Main Street not far from the southeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue. The first building of ten to go up will be a

Vic's Quality Fruit Market. Novi staff planner Mike Csapo says he anticipates the site plans for this and another business to arrive across his desk sometime in January.

Both Wahl and Csapo say that Evergreen seems to have the same goals the city has been targeting for almost a decade.

"We're going to take a really, hard critical look at it. We've got to make sure he (developer James Chen) doesn't walk in and say, 'I'm going to do this and this and this because I'm paying for the land.'" Csapo said.

Novi first began getting serious

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Sen. Faxon misses landmark decision

By SHARON CONDRON
Staff Writer

Even though Senator Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, has said school finance reform is an important issue to him, the politician wasn't willing to forego his holiday festivities to be in Lansing for last week's final voting on the issue.

Faxon was excused and did not vote in the 26-hour marathon session of the state Senate held Dec. 23 and 24. While lawmakers haggled over the school finance reform package at the eleventh hour, Faxon danced his way through the holiday classic, *The Nutcracker Suite*.

Faxon did not return phone calls to *The Novi News* prior to press time Tuesday to comment on his absence from the Senate floor.

But during a regular session of the Senate on Dec. 21, Faxon made these comments to explain his upcoming absence on the Senate floor.

"... I may not be able to make these statements because these sessions have been running into the obscene hours of the morning and going far beyond what we would normally require in the way

of a day. I am hopeful for the recess and the subsequent adjourning for the day, that I can be back here in the daytime because I am really, in fact, a daytime legislator. And at nighttime I might be doing something else, but I always thought I had the right to perform my other activities at night without disrupting my legislative schedule.

"This is the first time I have been put in the position where the legislative schedule has actually encroached into the *Nutcracker* season. After so many years of doing *The Nutcracker*, this is the first time the legislative session has done this. I, however, will be where you can find me tonight and I will be back here tomorrow if we are going to be back in session because I believe it is an important issue and I wanted the members here to know that and I do feel strongly about the need to identify replacement of revenues."

The Senator however wasn't back in Lansing when the Senate decided the bills' fate. According to the roll calls of the Dec. 23 and 24 session of the Senate, Faxon was absent and did not vote in the final hours of the school finance debate.

Dognapping leaves man growling

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

It was, by all accounts, an unusual event for Novi — or anywhere else, for that matter. City police are investigating an alleged dognapping which occurred Dec. 13.

However, the woman accused of the crime told officers that she took the dog only because she thought it was a stray or being abused by its owner.

The owner, a 32-year-old Novi resident, told police of the unusual

Monday afternoon occurrence.

The man said that he was visiting his neighbor's apartment, located off Novi Road. He said that he was only going to be a moment and thought it would be all right to leave his dog outside on the porch.

While in the apartment, the man continued, he looked out the window and saw a woman in a gold-colored Ford trying to entice the dog into the car. The dog, he said, walked towards the car and then retreated several times.

He yelled to the woman, the man

said, and at that point she went onto the porch, grabbed the dog by a bandana it was wearing and dragged it to her car.

He came out of the apartment, the man added, and went to the passenger side of the car to get his dog out. The woman, however, backed out of her parking space very quickly, he said, the vehicle striking him and knocking him down.

The man said he got up and went to the driver's side window. The woman then ran over his foot, he said,

and the vehicle struck him again, throwing him across the hood. He reached for the driver's window, he continued, and the woman rolled it up, snagging his sleeve in the process.

She then began to drive off, the man said, dragging him along for 50 feet. He freed himself before the vehicle reached the main roadway, he said, but was struck by it a third time as he fell. A witness getting gas at the nearby G and River Avenue

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R-E-S-P-E-C-T

An aggressive Novi Wildcat cager squad came away from the annual Christmas Tournament with the respect of the taller, larger and favored Northville team, if not the win. At right, Greg Pierman, Shawn Kelly, Chad Dicken and Jason Fannon give an example of just how tough a game they can play. "Novi was very aggressive. They don't give up," Northville coach Larry Taylor had to admit after the see-saw battle that ended in a score of 63-53. The story is on page B6.

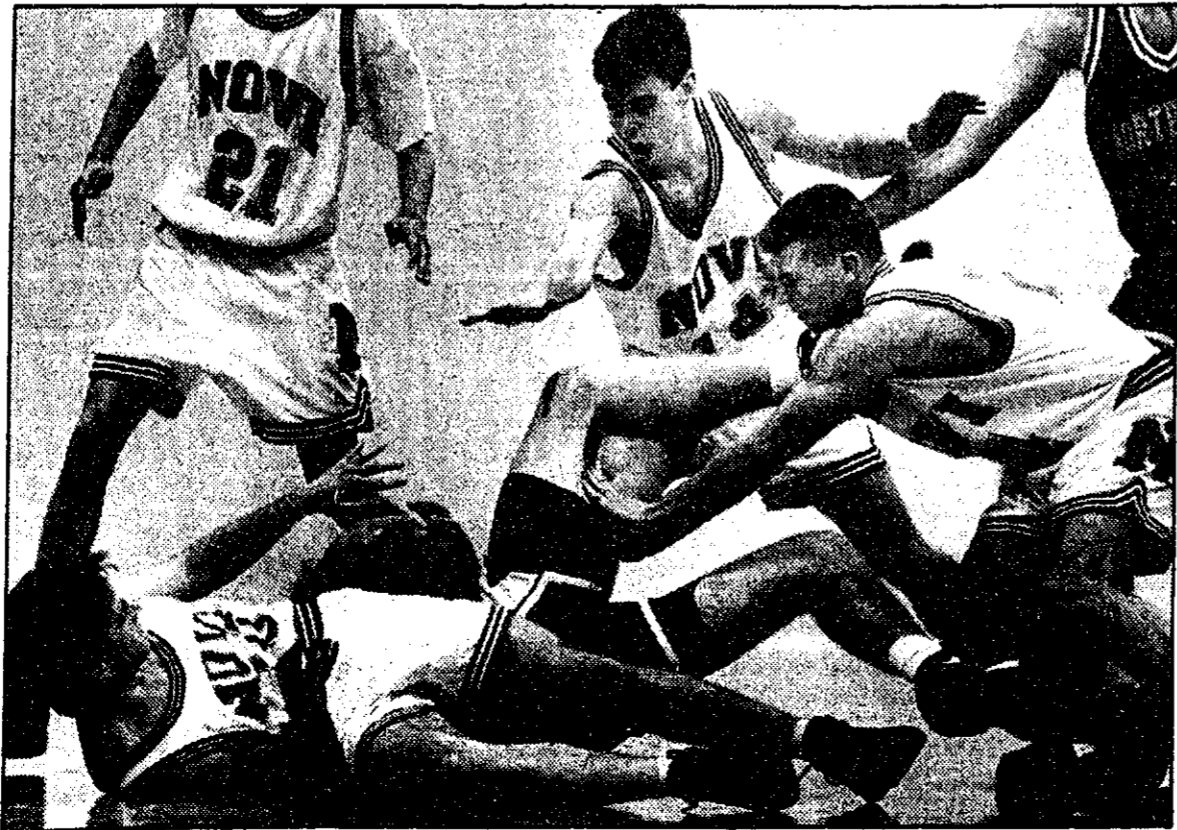


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

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In today's issue



A special section . . .



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Homes sprouting up fast in Novi

By SHARON CONDRON Staff Writer

When all the numbers are tallied, Novi planners are hoping 1993 will be as memorable as 1992. Judging from preliminary year-end figures for 1993, City Staff Planner Mike Caspo said it just may be. Novi may be following its own trend by retaining the title it was awarded last year as the fastest growing suburb in Southeastern Michigan.

So far this year, Caspo said the city has issued 347 new single family building permits. That's just 52 units shy of the number of single family homes built in the city in 1992.

"It's down somewhat, but not significantly," Caspo said while reviewing the figures.

Last year, the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEM-COG) listed Novi as the fastest growing residential suburb in Southeastern Michigan. This year, early estimates indicate the city may be right on its own heels in the number of new construction permits.

In 1992 Novi ranked first among the top ten communities in a survey released earlier this year by SEM-COG. The city has ranked consistently in the top five communities in the seven county region for years. But 1992 was the first time Novi took top honors with the highest total number of residential construction permits, 947.

The city also claimed the highest number of single family detached homes with 456 new starts in 1992. Novi took in more than 196 new permits than did the second runner up, Clinton Township in Monroe County.

The survey stacked Novi up against communities in Wayne, Oak-

land, Macomb, St. Clair, Livingston, Washtenaw and Monroe counties. Ranking was based on the number of new residential construction permits issued in 1992.

The 1992 residential growth bumped the city up four spots higher in the survey's ranks over the fifth spot Novi placed in 1991. That was three spots lower than the second place ranking the city earned in 1990.

Caspo said the results of the SEM-COG survey reflect what's in the city's master plan and what's evolved in Novi in the past decade.

According to the city's master plan, a comprehensive land use survey was conducted in the summer of 1990. The results of the survey were used to compare similar data obtained from the land use survey taken in 1986.

Since then, there has been 963 acres of new development in Novi. Of that growth, 653 acres has been used for residential development. Another 115 acres has been used for commercial and office development. One hundred and one acres has supported new industrial development.

Single family residential use increased 402 acres or 18 percent, while multiple family residential use rose 155 acres or 28 percent, according to the 1990 land survey.

Today, Caspo said 83 percent of the city or 15,334 acres is zoned for residential use. Seventy-six percent or 11,752 acres of that land remains vacant. The same holds true for commercial and industrial land in Novi. A little more than 7 percent of the city is zoned for commercial development, but only 49.9 is vacant. Industrial land constitutes 9.7 percent of the city. Sixty-three percent of it remains

vacant.

That proves there is ample land available in Novi for residential development. That's why Caspo said the city has no plans to try to control residential growth or alter its master plan to allow for more residential development.

"We haven't taken or reserved areas and turned them into residential, but we haven't discouraged residential growth either," he said.

Nor are planners willing to consider zoning changes in the city's northeast corner where the Haggerty Connector (M-5) has bisected large residential lots on both the east and west sides of the new thoroughfare.

The entire northeastern quadrant of the city remains zoned for residential agriculture (R-A) development, even though the thoroughfare might someday spur new commercial and industrial development.

But Caspo said the area will remain zoned R-A because that classification provides larger lots, with less density. The R-A zoning will help to contain the impact on the recent road improvements.

"To develop that area in a more dense fashion would defeat the purpose of the road improvement," he said. "That land has always been residentially planned property and we don't want to deviate from that without compelling reasons."

The Haggerty Connector is there to mitigate traffic congestion not to add to it," he said.

While Novi has enjoyed its residential boom, commercial and industrial development has been slipping, Caspo said.

And even though city planners would like to see commercial and in-

Community Education

Novi Community Education is offering the following:

- Country Western Two-Step:** In this beginner class students will learn the Texas Two-step, Shuffles, Charleston Bump, Rebel Strut, and more. A partner is not required, but it does help.
- The four-week class will meet on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Middle School Cafeteria starting Jan. 1, 1994. The fee is \$22 per person.
- Computer Art Creations:** Using computer graphics and some imagination, children in grades 3 through 6 can create colored paintings to go along with the short stories that they write on the computer. Each student will be able to assemble their collection of paintings and stories into a book.
- The four-week class meets on Tuesday, Jan. 1 through 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Palatkov Computer Room. The fee is \$15.
- Science Fun:** Children in grades 1 through 4 can learn a little science and have fun experimenting with everyday projects. One topic for the younger children will be volcanoes, while the older group will discover vinegar rockets. Students will explode with knowledge!
- The six week class meets on Monday, Jan. 3 through Feb. 7 in the Novi Woods Art Room. Grades 1 and 2 meet from 3:20 to 4 p.m. and grades 3 and 4 meet from 4:10 to 4:50 p.m. The fee is \$17.

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Local guidelines for shooting ranges gunned down

By **TIM RICHARD**
Staff Writer

Local governments would have a more difficult time pushing shooting ranges out of business under two controversial bills passed by the state Senate.

"This would take away the right of local units to control hours of operation," said Sen. Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, an opponent. "I believe people who live in the neighborhood need to be able to turn to local elected offi-

cial for protection."

"These regulations have one purpose: to harass sport shooters," said the bills' sponsor, Sen. Phil Hoffman, R-Horton. "I have 60 townships in my district, and they would have 60 different sets of regulations," said the rural Jackson County lawmaker.

"I used to think the National Rifle Association was unreasonable," said Sen. Don Kolvisto, D-Ironwood. "NRA said there would be licenses, taxes and harassment. It turned out to be true. The NRA was right. You (oppo-

nents of Hoffman's bills) want to license, tax and take guns away."

The Senate Tuesday passed, 25 to 11, the key measure declaring "a sport shooting range is not a public or private nuisance" if its operation "conforms to generally accepted operation practices." Those practices are defined as standards of NRA, although NRA isn't named in the bill.

The bill, opposed by the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association, also prohibits local units from restricting

shooting ranges already in operation but not from writing restrictions prior to establishment of a range.

Area lawmakers voting yes: Republicans Robert Geake of Northville, Fred Dillingham of Fowlerville, and David Honigman of West Bloomfield.

Voting no: Democrats Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and Pollack, whose district includes Salem Township. Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, offered an amendment that would allow local units to impose "impact fees" on target ranges

and use the money to buy nearby houses that are affected by noise. It drew only nine of the necessary 20 votes.

"This says 'soak 'em,'" said Sen. Chris Dingell, D-Trenton, opposing Faust's amendment. "This Legislature has expressed strong aversion to impact fees." The debate turned bitter with religious and ethnic remarks.

Said Pollack: "We can get reelected even if we're not blessed with the holy water of the NRA."

Added Virgil Smith, D-Detroit: "You white folks may be afraid of them (the NRA). I'm not."

Michigan's constitutional protection of gun ownership, stronger than the U.S. Bill of Rights, says: "Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state."

The bills have been sent to the House. Refer to Senate Bills 788 and 789 when writing to your state representative.

Cable 'thieves' asked to 'fess up

If you've got a dark secret you're hiding, now is the time to come clean — rather than wait until you're tracked down electronically or turned in by a neighbor.

MetroVision, the cable television firm serving Novi, has proclaimed January as Cable Theft Prevention Month and is willing to make a deal with offenders.

Next month, if you've been tapping into unauthorized cable service, you can become "legal" with no penalties. But you will have to pay up for past services rendered.

Nationally, the industry estimates its lost revenues to cable theft at about \$4.7 billion annually. MetroVision contends that allowing these clandestine customers to come forward and make good on their accounts saves them the embarrassment and expense of a criminal prosecution and the firm many hours of effort, as well as money.

"The bottom line is that if you're getting a service and not paying for it, whether you ordered it or not, you are stealing cable," MetroVision's regional marketing manager Dan Dinsmore said.

"We designed this program to give people a chance to come forth, free of guilt and set up an honest relationship with our company."

You are considered by law to be stealing cable service if you are:
 ■ Receiving any cable programs without becoming a subscriber.
 ■ Receiving premium services such as The Movie Channel or HBO for which you are not being billed monthly (except for free previews of the premium channels). This applies both to subscribers and non-subscribers.
 ■ Receiving pay-per-view movies or events, such as boxing or wrestling matches, for which you are not billed. Again, both subscribers and non-subscribers may fall into this category.

All of the above applies whether customers requested those services or did not.

In 1993, MetroVision tracked numerous tips about illegal use of their service, paying the tipsters rewards ranging from \$25 to \$300. These tidbits of information also resulted in several criminal convictions. Other alleged offenders opted to settle out-of-court to avoid criminal and civil prosecution.

"Our goal is not to punish people, especially when they don't believe they're doing anything wrong. What we do want is to show them what the law says and make the system fair for all paying customers," Dinsmore explained.

During January, illicit viewers will have a choice. Pay their bills for the programming they've been enjoying illegally or have the service disconnected altogether.

MetroVision says it will not ask questions about unauthorized service and will not investigate those people who turn themselves in during the month-long program.

Cable Theft Prevention Month also applies to giving up illegal cable converter boxes, those which are being used to tap into unauthorized services.

"Some people think it's okay to get converter boxes from someone other than the cable company and use them to receive our services for free. That's absolutely not true," Dinsmore said.

"Both the sellers and the users of those boxes are breaking the law if they use the boxes to receive services they don't pay for."

In Michigan, the criminal penalties for a first offender in cable theft include up to two years in jail and/or a \$500 fine. Penalties in civil court are not dictated by law, but are determined by a judge who considers the amount of damages due the cable company.

After Jan. 31, MetroVision will resume its year-round cable theft prevention efforts and will solicit tips from anonymous sources, as well as investigate and prosecute alleged offenders. That doesn't mean the company will not accept tips in January, only that it won't start investigating possible illegal couch potatoes who have not turned themselves until after January 31.

If you wish to take advantage of the Cable Theft Prevention Program, call MetroVision sometime in January at 553-7418.

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the NOVI
NEWS

Living

B

THURSDAY
December 30,
1993Responsible with
New Year's partiesBy MICHELLE HARRISON
Staff Writer

Don't pull any punches if you're hosting a New Year's Eve party.

Make sure at least one punch bowl is filled with a non-alcoholic alternative for responsible party-goers and designated drivers, suggests members of the Michigan Safe Holiday Campaign.

Hosts may even want to stock up on non-alcoholic beverages such as O'Douls and Sharp's for those who prefer the taste of beer over the alcohol content, said Charlie Stilec, coordinator of the Student Assistance program at Northville High School.

Above all, make sure "people are OK before they drive home," Stilec said.

The Michigan Safe Holiday Campaign, sponsored by the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers, Michigan Licensed Beverage Association, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, Michigan Restaurant Association, Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Michigan Liquor Control Commission and the Michigan Department of Public Health, also gives the following advice for holiday party hosts:

- Serve food with alcohol. High protein and carbohydrate foods like cheeses and meats are especially good. They stay in the stomach longer, slowing the rate at which the body absorbs alcohol. Be aware, however, that salty snacks encourage people to drink more. Plan foods so that guests can also snack on unsalted crackers and chips with dips and spreads.

- Don't put too much punch in the punch. If serving an alcoholic punch, use a noncarbonated base, such as fruit juice. The body absorbs alcohol faster when mixed with carbonation.

- Don't force drinks on guests. Wait until your guests' drink glasses are empty before offering refills, and then don't rush. If a guest says no thanks, respect the decision. Don't insist.

- Make non-alcoholic drinks available. Be sure to have a variety of beverages on hand, such as juices, teas, coffees, soft drinks and non-alcoholic refreshments such as punches and malt beverages.

- Stop serving alcohol before the party ends. Close the bar one to two hours before the party ends. Serve coffee or other non-alcoholic beverages and food.

- Keep guests busy. Plan activities for your guests that include more than just eating and drinking. Set up various rooms in the house with popular board games or playing cards. Organize a game or charades or sing holiday carols.

- Arrange a safe ride home. Only time will sober up a drunk guest, not coffee or cold water. Be alert to signs of alcohol impairment in each of your guests.

If guests do become impaired, make sure they have a safe ride home. Don't accept excuses. Call a cab if a guest has been drinking, or offer to have them spend the night and drive home

in the morning.

As far as teen-agers partying on New Year's Eve, Stilec said parental guidelines shouldn't be any different than any other night of the week.

"Know where your kids are going, just like any other day," he said. "Have the phone number to where they're going and check up on them. Get the message across that drinking will not be tolerated."

Stilec also suggested that activities be planned, such as dancing, skiing, tobogganing, camping up north, playing pool or participating in a church activity, to discourage drinking.

"There's not a whole lot to do in this community — that's part of the problem," he said. "But I've known kids who rented a bunch of videos and sat at someone's house and had a great time."

Still, parents have to get the message across not to drink or use drugs, Stilec insisted.

"Parents have really got to sit down with their kids and let them know they're not allowed to drink," he said. "It would be great if parents could act as an example ... Alcohol is not good for (teens) and its use could end in tragic circumstances. Alcohol shouldn't be part of their New Year's situations."

Some non-alcoholic drinks
to help with a safe eveningWet Your
WhistleStrawberry Demi-
Daiquiris

Blend to medium consistency:
2/3 scoop crushed ice
4-1/2 oz. sweet and sour mix
Splash of cream
1-1/2 oz. strawberries

Orange Sour

1 envelope instant whiskey sour
drink mix
1 cup orange juice
3/4 cup apricot nectar
Combine ingredients in a
blender. Blend for 15 sec-
onds. Pour into on-the-rocks
glasses over ice cubes. Gar-
nish with an orange slice
and maraschino cherry.

Salty Puppy

Salt rim of 9 oz. glass
Fill glass with 1 scoop crushed ice, 3 oz.
grapefruit juice and a splash of club soda.
Garnish with a grapefruit wedge and mint.

Citrus Collins

Fill 10 to 12 oz. glass with ice cubes
Add 2 oz. fresh orange or grapefruit juice,
1 oz. lemon juice and 1 oz. simple syrup.
Fill with club soda and garnish with half an
orange slice and cherry.

Strawberry Breeze

Combine in blender:
1/2 cup grapefruit juice
1/4 cup strawberries (fresh or frozen)
1 tsp. honey
Puree and pour in a tall glass. Add 1/3 cup
club soda and crushed ice as needed.

Pleasing
PunchesFrosty Fruit
Punch

1 qt. cranberry juice cock-
tail
28 oz. unsweetened
pineapple juice
8 oz. orange juice
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 qt. chilled ginger ale
1 dip raspberry sherbet
Combine fruit juices. Chill
thoroughly. Add ginger ale
just before serving and pour into
chilled glasses. Add one dip of sher-
bet to each glass and garnish with a sprig

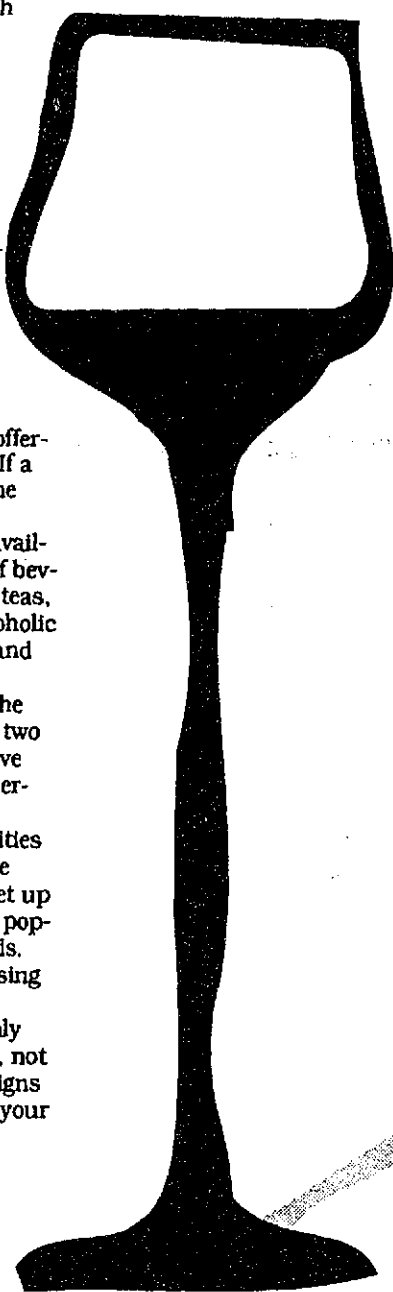
of mint or maraschino cherry. Serve imme-
diately.

Mock Pink Champagne

1/2 cup sugar
1 cup water
1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice concen-
trate
1 6-oz. can frozen grapefruit juice concen-
trate
1 28-oz. bottle cold ginger ale or lemon-
lime soda
1/3 cup grenadine syrup
Early in the day, mix sugar and water in
pan and boil for five minutes. Remove
from heat. Add frozen juice concentrates.
Refrigerate. At serving time, add ginger
ale or lemon-lime soda and grenadine
syrup, stirring lightly. Garnish with fruit
slices.

Faux Chablis

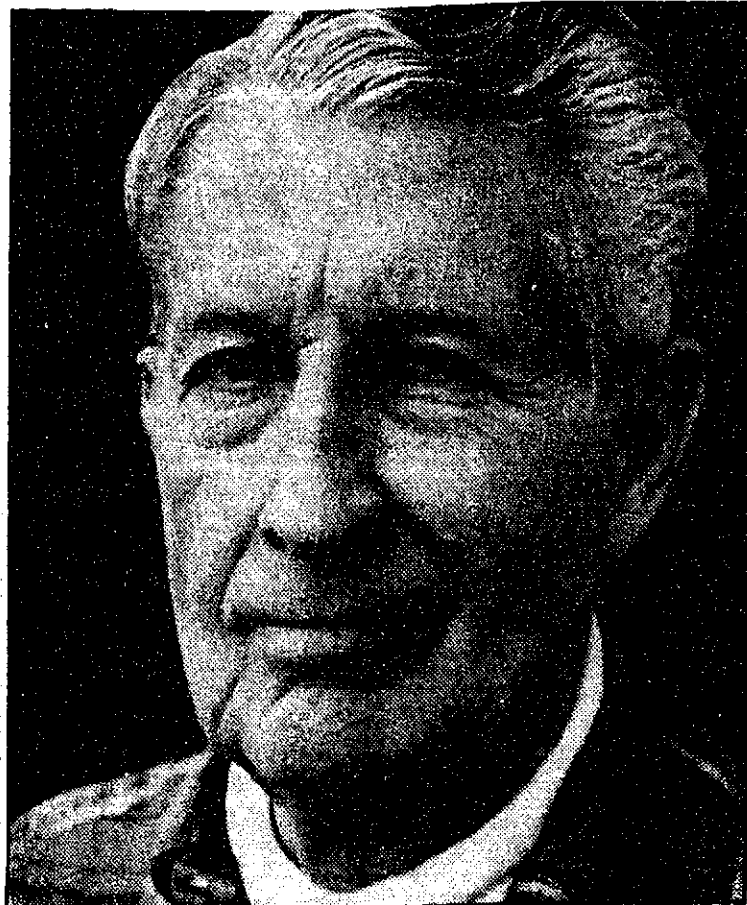
1 24-oz. bottle white grape juice
5 cups water
2 qts. water
2 qts. club soda
1 tbsp. citric acid
Mix all ingredients, adding club soda just
before serving. Garnish with seedless
white grapes and an ice mold using the
drink mix. Serve in a punch bowl.



SAFE PARTIES



Volunteer



Robert Russell

Russell promotes senior
citizens advisory councilBy DOROTHY NASH
Special Writer

What to do with senior citizens is a problem that many communities have been largely solving since the early 1980s by setting aside places for them to meet and enjoy recreational activities.

In Northville the place is 215 Cady Street, and Robert Russell is a senior citizen who is a member of a group promoting it.

The group is the Northville Area Senior Citizens Advisory Council. It is composed of residents of the city and the township and representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department, Schoolcraft College, the public schools and the Senior Center Coordinator.

Since Russell is a resident of the township, he went to the Township Hall and said, "I am a senior citizen, newly retired, and I would like to help somewhere."

He was put on the Advisory Council, and in short time he volunteered to participate in financial meetings

because, he said, "I've always had an interest in figures and finances."

Funding dollars for the senior program, Russell said, come from state, federal, and local governments, and he figures that each township resident's share is about \$1 a year. The city resident's share is about the same.

One primary use of the money this year, he said, is for the purchase of a new bus to transport seniors.

"It's a group-activity bus," he said, "not a taxi." Its cost will be around \$50,000, and he expects that maintenance will run about \$7,500 a year, going for tires and repairs.

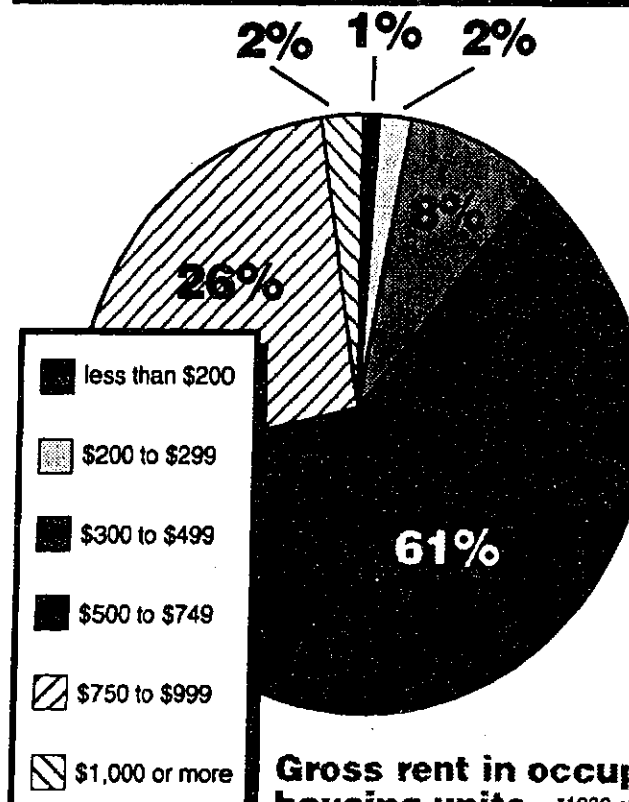
It will have such features as a wheel lift, seat belts, and hand rails.

About his year-round monthly meetings and work on the Advisory Council, Russell said, "It keeps me busy, and with little pains and effort I feel I'm making a contribution."

No matter what your age, if you would like to volunteer in some part of the senior citizen program in Northville, contact Karl Peters, coordinator, at 349-4140.

It's A Fact

Paying the Rent

Gross rent in occupied
housing units *1990 statistics

31 METRO DETROIT FORD DEALERS

*Hurry!
Offer ends
Jan. 10*



'93 YEAR-END LEADERSHIP SALES EVENT

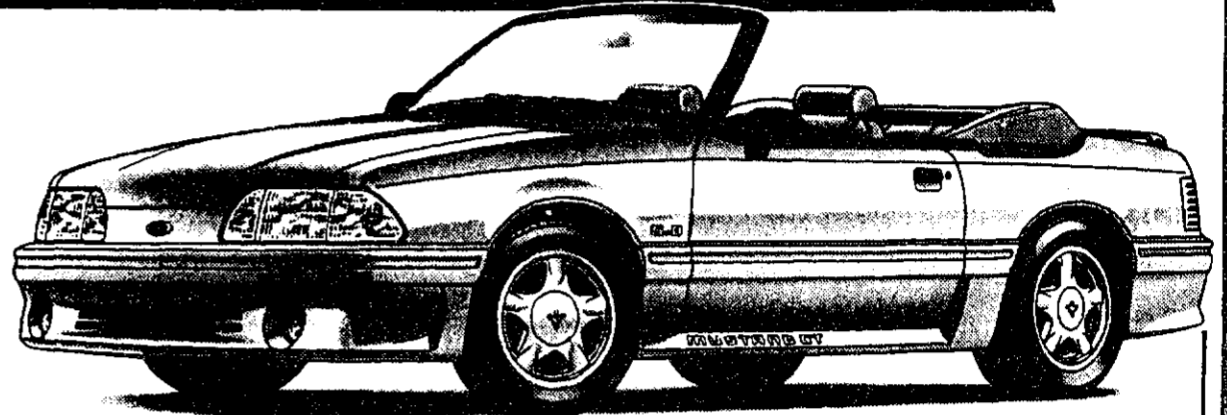
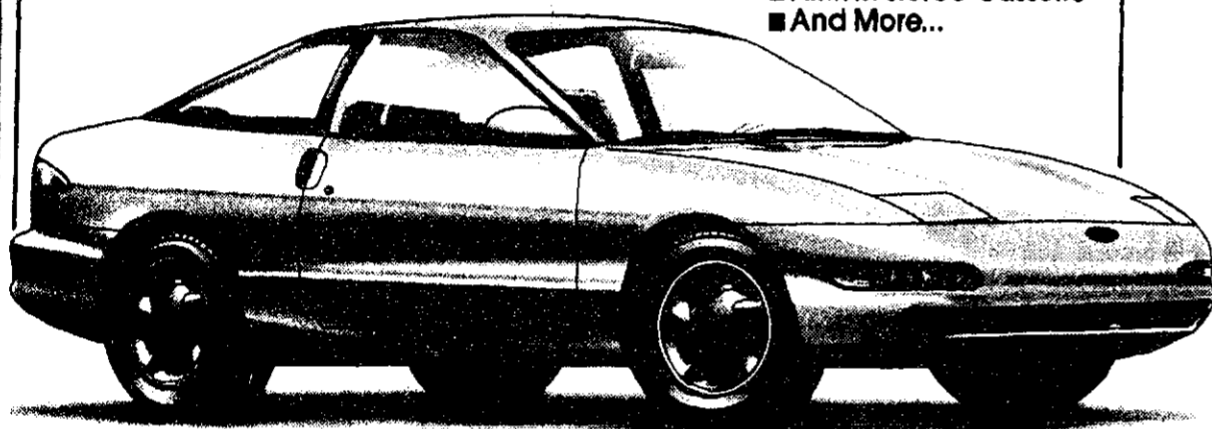
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 ■ AM/FM Stereo Cassette
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 ■ 5.0L SEFI Engine
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 ■ Power Locks
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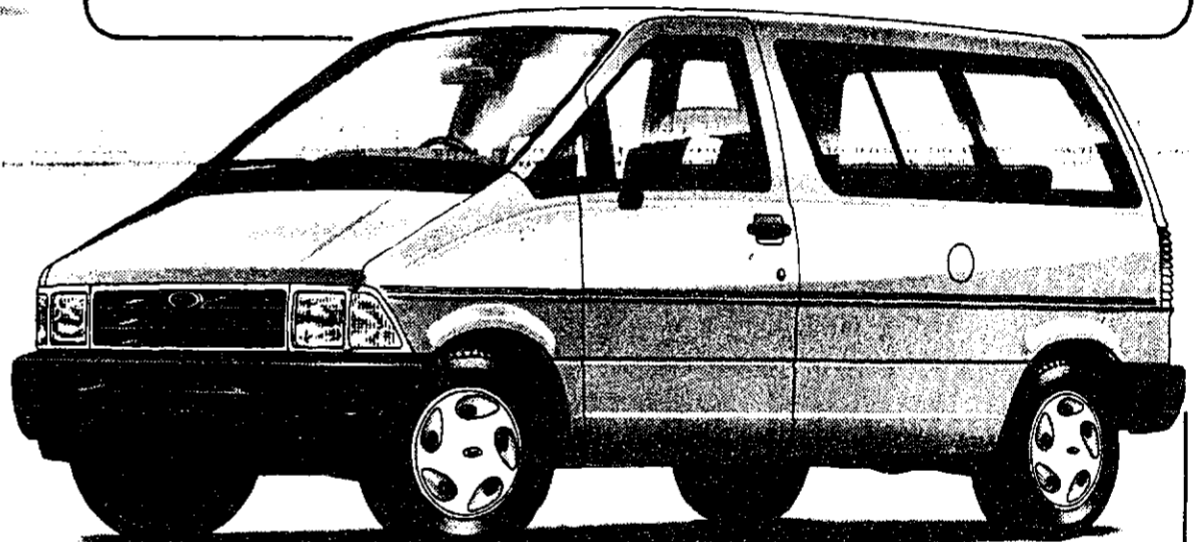
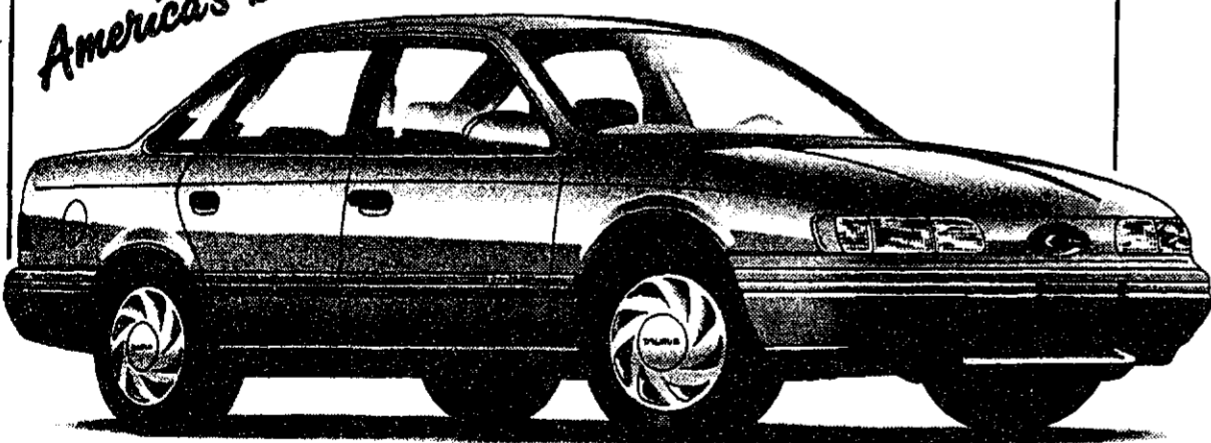
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DICK McQUISTON FORD
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Redford
PAT MILLIKEN FORD
9600 Telegraph Road
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Rochester
HUNTINGTON FORD
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Southfield
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SOUTHGATE FORD
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282-3636

St. Clair Shores
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776-7600

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REAL ESTATE

Home ownership obstacles diminishing

By James M. Woodard
Copley News Service

Key obstacles to home ownership are diminishing, according to a recent survey. And action by the federal government will further expand opportunities for families to acquire an affordable home in 1994.

Most Americans are more optimistic about their ability to buy a home than they have been for years, said the study by the National Association of Realtors.

Lack of a down payment and closing costs most often prevent a family from buying a home, not qualifying for a needed mortgage loan and worry about job security.

The positive factors leading to more home ownership opportuni-

ties are the continuing low mortgage interest rates and lowering of home prices in many areas of the country.

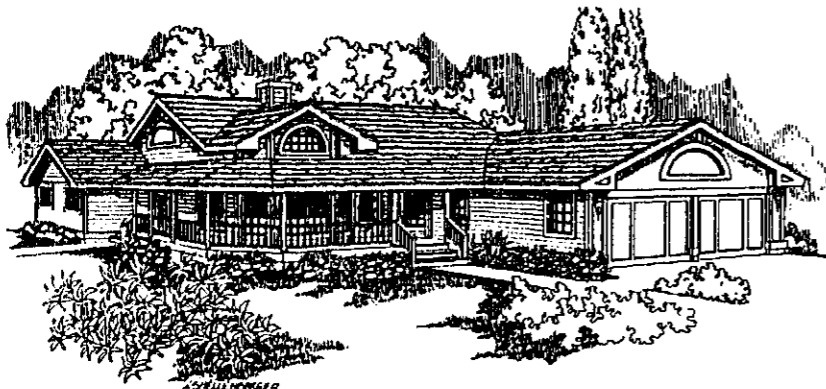
A new strategy announced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will give homeownership opportunities another big push in coming months.

"A comprehensive, national commitment to homeownership could greatly help spur economic growth and provide more homeownership opportunities," said HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros. "It's time to turn things around."

The HUD plan calls for increasing the availability of home financ-

Continued on 2

HOME DESIGNS



The Squire offers plenty of space for families

By James McAlexander
Copley News Service

Families who enjoy spending time together and sharing their lives with friends will find plenty of space to do it in the Squire. Entertainment and family living spaces dominate the core of this home.

Vaulted ceilings increase the sense of spaciousness in the central section and dormer windows brighten the living room and dining room. The open floor plan is easy to adapt for wheelchair accessibility.

Formal spaces and an office are at the front while everyday activities take place at the back. Secondary bedrooms are to the left, master suite and utilities on the right, close to both the kitchen and the garage.

Easy-to-clean ceramic floor tiles extend from the vaulted entry to the hallway that access the secondary bedrooms, dividing the formal from the informal in the process.

A centrally located wood-burning stove provides heat and visually separates the dining room from the family room.

Skylights combine with two walls of windows to bathe the family room and nook in natural light. Hanging plants and other greenery can't help but thrive in this bright space.

The entertainment center can be viewed from the kitchen, family room and nook. French doors open onto a wraparound deck with space for a hot tub.

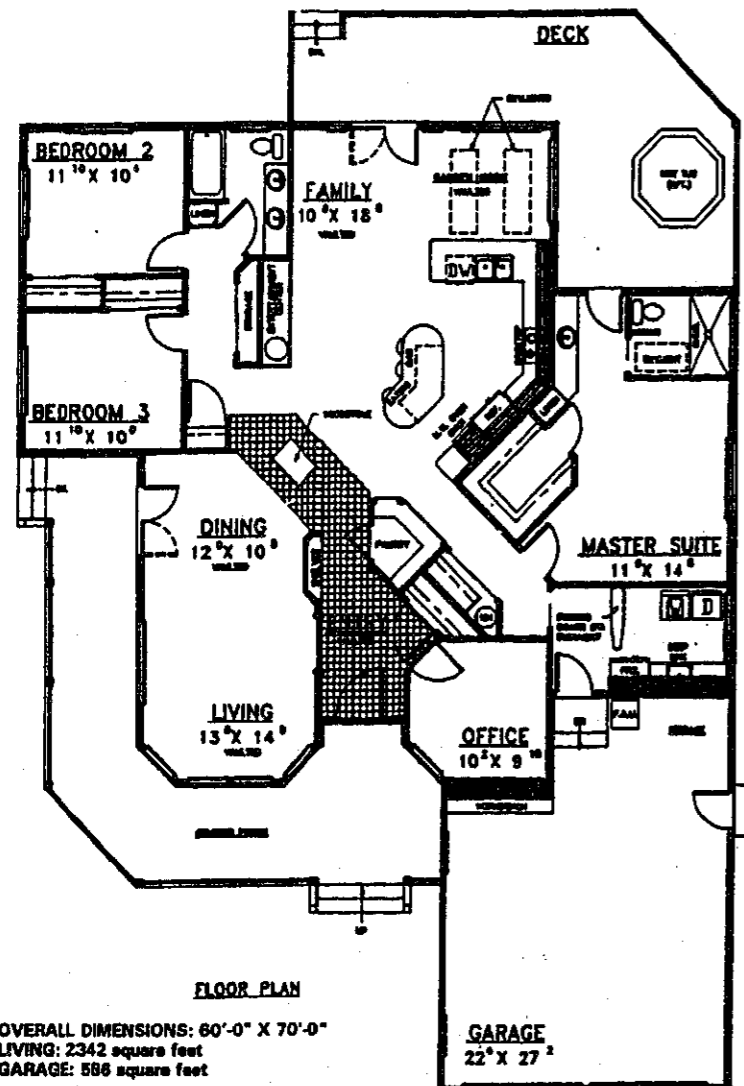
Standing at the kitchen sink, you can gaze out across the nook to the deck and beyond. The kitchen has two eating bars, one in the central work island and another in front of the sink.

Other conveniences include a large pantry, accessible from three sides, and built-in appliances—a cook top, microwave, oven and dishwasher. A broom closet lines the hallway to a large utility room with a deep sink, fold-down ironing board and space for a freezer.

In the owners' suite, a huge walk-in closet provides plenty of storage space. The vanity is located outside of the separately enclosed, skylit toilet and shower. Access to the deck will be particularly appreciated if there's a hot tub outside.

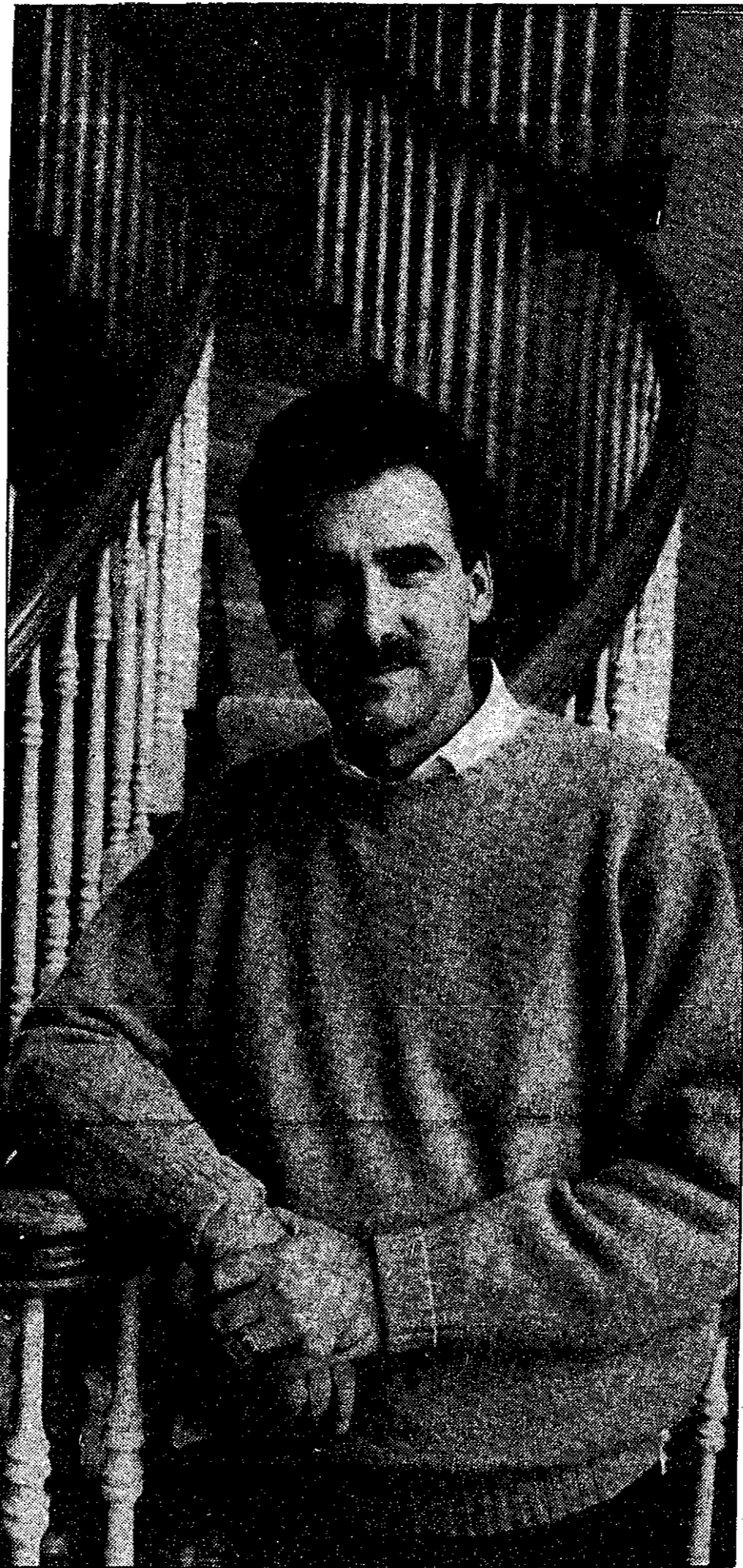
The other two bedrooms share a bathroom with twin lavatories, and this home is rich in storage space throughout.

For a study plan of the Squire 332-210, send \$9 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: 60'-0" X 70'-0"
LIVING: 2342 square feet
GARAGE: 586 square feet

Y B Y!



Above, Mark Guidobono, chief executive officer of Cambridge Homes in Northville and at right, a model in Pheasant Hill Subdivision located along 8 Mile in Northville.

CEO of Northville company is named Young Builder of the Year

Mark Guidobono, chief executive officer of Cambridge Homes in Northville, was named Young Builder of the Year by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM) earlier this month.

The 1993 Leadership Recognition and Awards Night was sponsored by the BASM and the Apartment Association of Michigan in Troy.

Guidobono remembers exactly when he decided to become a builder.

"It was 9:30 in the morning and already the temperature was 80 degrees," he said. "I had my shirt off and was soaking wet. The builder of the project drove up in his white Cadillac, spent 10 minutes at the site, and left. We never saw him again that day. I knew then that I wanted to be a builder."

As honest as that story is, Guidobono also believed he could put his education to better use as a builder than as a field contractor.

Born in Highland Park and raised in Detroit, Guidobono's family eventually moved to Southfield where Guidobono graduated from Southfield High School. In 1977, he graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in business administration and personnel management.

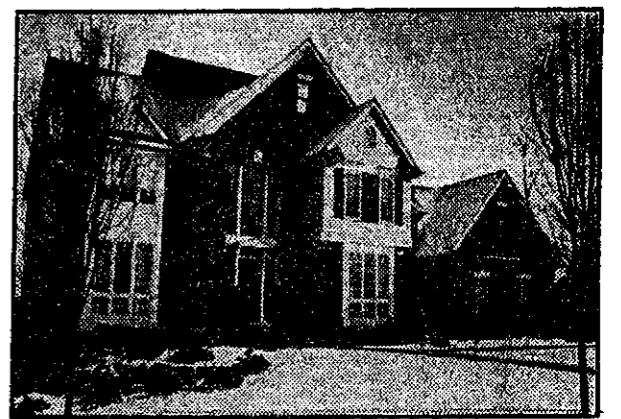
After working for his father's business, Guidobono decided to start his own company. He bought a lot and built a spec house with no building knowledge or experience.

"I must have done something right because two months after we finished the house, I sold it," he said. "I made a profit, too."

Guidobono and his brother, Frank E., merged their own companies into the Cambridge Construction Corporation in 1980. In 1982, Frank moved to Hilton Head, S.C., to start Cambridge's Hilton Head operation. He was named builder of the year there in 1991, and today Cambridge Building Corporation is the largest building company on the island.

In 1981, a third brother, Eric, joined Mark and Frank Guidobono. Mark and Eric

Continued on 2



Creating a small Christmas tree

By C.Z. Guest
Copley News Service

GARDENING

People living in apartments, small houses and mobile homes often have little space to set up large Christmas trees for the holiday season. Although table-size trees may solve the dilemma, they may be too expensive.

Of course, one answer to this predicament would be an artificial tree, but they lack the fragrance and natural beauty of the real thing. Sound hopeless? Not quite. The solution is to create a small Christmas tree with all the trimmings of evergreen trees and shrubs.

A Christmas tree about a foot tall can be easily constructed at home. One item needed as the trunk of a Christmas tree in the project is a block of "oasis," a material used by florists in making flower arrangements. The block can be set on end in a plastic holder, also available at garden shops.

The top end of the block should be trimmed to about 1 1/2 inches in diameter with any excess cut off with a sharp knife. Form the block so that it resembles a cone, and be sure to do this before wetting the

block.

Trimnings from fragrant white cedar, Douglas fir and balsam fir are best. Boxwood, juniper and Japanese yew are good, too. Hemlock and spruce shed needles quickly when dry, but the moist oasis that forms the trunk of the tree supplies moisture to the trimmings, thus allowing them to hold their needles longer.

Most important for success, before putting together a tree, is to soak the oasis in water for several minutes. It absorbs a large amount of water, thus providing moisture to the greens for about a week. In a warm room, the oasis may need watering twice a week or more often, so just pour water into the holder, and the oasis will pick it up.

The next step is the construction of the tree itself. Insert the evergreen trimmings from the bottom up, using the longest pieces (6 to 8 inches) first to make a bottom circle of greens.

Using progressively shorter pieces, build circles of trim-

Continued on 2

Yuletide mulch

- Use old wreaths as mulch-retaining rings around acid-loving plants.
- Use old Christmas trees as bird shelters.
- Use old holiday greenery as covering for perennial beds.
- String cranberries and peanut-butter-smeared pine cones to create bird feeders.

Pinecone bird feeders

- Use large pinecones and tie them securely. Use ribbon or string.



- Stuff the cone with pieces of bread or moist crackers. Intermix seeds or dry crumbs.
- Roll in honey or molasses.
- Do not paint or use glitter or glue.

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

Removing a stopper stuck in a bottle

By Gene Gary
Copley News Service

Q. My husband was given a glass bottle with a glass stopper that we cannot remove. I'm sure you've written about this problem before, with directions on how to unstuck the stopper. Could you repeat this information?
A. This is a frequent question. If there is glue present, you can try a mild heat source to soften the glue, such as a hair dryer or running warm tap water over the bottle top.
If that doesn't work, try this: Use a piece of string similar to fishing cord of yesterday. Have a friend give you an assist. Loop the cord one time around the neck of the bottle. While one person holds the bottle, have the second person pull the cord rapidly back and forth for at least

three minutes. The neck of the bottle will heat up and swell. The glass stopper will not.
If at first you don't succeed, try again. This method works almost every time, and you don't need to force the stopper.

Q. I need some information on how and when to clean wall-to-wall carpeting. I am hesitant to have our carpeting cleaned because I have heard that once cleaned it will attract and absorb dirt more and will be more susceptible to staining. Is this true?
A. Usually not, especially with better-grade carpeting. Some shampoos contain oil that can contribute to soiling; however, most do not.
Walking on a carpet that is not completely dry will cause faster soiling. Most carpet is treated during manufac-

HERE'S HOW

turing with a soil retardant. Although shampooing and extraction do not remove this retardant, foot traffic will. Therefore, a soil retardant applied immediately after shampooing or extraction is wise.
Professional cleaning of wall-to-wall carpeting is best to remove accumulations of embedded grease and dirt. Hire a skilled professional who knows the best methods to use on different fibers and constructions and has special equipment to remove embedded grease and dirt.
Check references. If you do decide to tackle the problem yourself, the three types of home-cleaning methods for carpeting are shampoo, foam spray and powder.
Shampoo can be applied with a hand

backing or with purchased or rented equipment. It is important not to use too much shampoo. Dry the carpeting as quickly as possible after shampooing. A fan or a vacuum cleaner blowing attachment will help. In mild weather, open the windows.
Foam spray is applied in a thin layer, rubbed in with a sponge mop, dried and removed with a vacuum cleaner. Do one area at a time. Foam cleaner can streak if allowed to dry before mopping or if used in a heavily soiled area.
When cleaning with a powder, be sure and vacuum the carpet thoroughly before using. Then sprinkle the powder, brush it into the pile, follow directions for drying time, and vacuum again.
Powders absorb greasy soil, won't cause colors to fade or run, and won't cause

backing to mildew.
When using any commercial cleaner, be sure and read and follow label directions carefully. Before proceeding, test any product in an inconspicuous area to assure that the product will not cause color to run or fade or damage the fibers.
Don't start cleaning with one product and then switch to another halfway through.
Chemical interaction can cause stains. Protect furniture by moving it from the area to be cleaned or covering the legs with plastic or aluminum foil.
Send inquiries to *Here's How*, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Only questions of general interest can be answered in the column.

Northville construction company features Young builder of the Year

Continued from 1
Guidobono formed a new corporation: Cambridge Homes, Inc., which accounts for most of the residential business. In the meantime, Cambridge Construction handles the commercial construction which totals 30 completed projects to date.
Cambridge Homes builds custom houses with an average price of \$450,000. Current projects

include single family homes in Northville, but also on scattered sites in Brighton, Ann Arbor, Farmington Hills, and Northville and Bloomfield townships.
Recently, Mark and Eric Guidobono secured their first land development property. The land in Northville Township will be developed for homes ranging from \$350,000 to \$750,000. This development is the realization of a long-term goal for the two.

The brothers amicably divide corporate responsibilities along their natural interest lines. Mark handles sales, marketing and administration while Eric manages the field, construction work, scheduling and quality control.
A member of BSM since 1979, Guidobono has served as membership chairman, as vice president since 1992 and as a member of the executive committee. He assists BSM in protecting against over-

regulation and in strengthening the building industry.
In the relatively short time since he became a builder, Guidobono and Bloomfield townships and in himself.
"There is more red tape, and there are many more restrictive ordinances than when I started," he said. "The attitude out there today is 'not in my back yard.'"
As for himself, Guidobono admits he has grown up.

"It was a blessing we started our business when we did," he said. "We had barely gotten started when the recession hit. That taught us humility. It taught us we're not invincible. Builders need to be attuned to business cycles, because things aren't always going to be rosy."
Guidobono believes in doing the best job possible, working hard, looking for opportunities and giving a good product to his cus-

tomers. The best advice he has ever received was one word: "Listen."
Aside from work, Guidobono enjoys spending time with his wife Elizabeth and their infant daughter, Erica. All sports interest Guidobono, from softball to racquetball, and hunting and fishing are annual events in Michigan and Canada.
As for the car, Guidobono drives a white Lincoln.

Making a small Christmas tree; preserving your holiday foliage and wreaths

Continued from 1
mings toward the top, tilting them slightly. The pieces near the top should be almost vertical.
Now the fun begins: Decorating your little tree. Let your imagination go wild, by using all sorts of tiny tree lights and miniature ornaments and anything else that strikes your fancy!
PRESERVE HOLIDAY GREENERY
While holiday foliage, wreaths and Christmas trees brighten the festive sea-

son with their natural beauty, evergreens, once in the house, often shed their dried needles and leaves, causing a terrible mess.
To better preserve holiday foliage and prevent it from losing its luster, I recommend spraying trees and other greenery with Safes's FolioEverGreen. Because the product is nontoxic, and nonflammable, it's safe to use around children, pets and holiday lights.
This all-season plant protectant extends the life of holiday foliage by helping to prevent water loss. By simply spraying the upper and lower surfaces of the needles or

leaves, Christmas trees, wreaths and outdoor plants can safely be protected from indoor dryness and winter cold.
MULCH MATTERS
Old Christmas wreaths made from evergreens and wound with wire or twine make dandy mulch-retaining rings when placed around azaleas, blueberry bushes and other small add-loving shrubs.
Just work the wreath down over the tops of the bushes to the ground. It will hold mulch, compost and moisture together. Eventually, it will decompose its nutrients into the soil.
Check Christmas tree lots after Dec. 25. Many dealers will give away unsold trees. They are perfect for bird shelters, and when brittle and dry, good kindling for stoves and fireplaces.
The most important way to build your sandy soil into fertile crop-producing loam is lots of organic matter. You can't overdo it. Rotten plant material such as leaves, wood chips, grass clippings, straw, hay or bark should be worked into the soil. Sandy soil can be mulched anytime, but spring is best, right after a rain.
Old holiday greenery makes a perfect covering for the perennial bed, newly

planted bulbs and other plants in need of protection due to freezing and thawing of the soil.
Make the tree a winter bird feeder. Put up strings of cranberries along with pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and rolled in birdseed.
C.Z. Guest, author of "5 Seasons of Gardening" (Little, Brown & Co.), is an authority on gardens flowers and plants. Send questions to C.Z. Guest, c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 190, San Diego, CA 92112.

Home ownership obstacles are diminishing

Continued from 1
ing insured by the Federal Housing Administration and developing a strategy to expand home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income people.
It also would increase home ownership financing by working with state and local government, as well as private sector sources of capital such as pension funds and foundations.
"The revival of FHA's single-family home mortgage insurance program is a key element in the housing production and home ownership strategy," Cisneros said. "Although use of the program tapered off markedly in recent years, FHA use rose by 42 percent over the past year, assisting nearly 400,000

first-time home buyers."
HUD also is considering a new no-down-payment FHA program targeted to low-income families in urban renewal areas. The mortgage limit for this program would be restricted to about \$75,000, and an income restriction would be imposed—possibly 115 percent of the area's median income, according to Cisneros.
Users of this program would be required to pay closing costs," he said.
Yet another new HUD plan is to allow penalty-free withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts to be used toward a down payment on a home. This plan would help alleviate the down payment shortage many buyers face.
The HUD plan would permit with-

drawals from the accounts of family members such as parents or grandparents to enable the buyer to make the purchase.
HUD's plan also would help working public housing residents to become home owners. They could purchase FHA-foreclosed homes or other publicly owned single-family homes.
"Many meetings with public housing residents have convinced us that most of them prefer to buy and move to a private home of their own rather than purchase their existing apartment," Cisneros said.
Questions may be used in future columns; personal responses should not be expected. Send inquiries to James M. Woodard, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190.

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Richard Browe Steve Demeter
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Happy Holidays to You and Your Family!
Thanks for a Great Year!

Business Briefs

VICTOR MILLER, president of John Adams Mortgage Company in Farmington Hills...



VICTOR MILLER



BARBARA WOJCIK



RICHARD PROBST



JOHN M. HESLOP

RICHARD P. PROBST of Northville has been awarded the designation of Certified Financial Planner...

Vice President-Corporate Counsel for Novi-based Heslop's. The announcement was made by Ronald Heslop...

Heslop's has 13 stores throughout Michigan. Including eight metro-Detroit area...

ing. This year ERA Rymal Symes salespersons, CATHERINE CHAUDON and LORRAINE GERICH...

Perini Corporation announced recently that ROBERT WASHER was named to Vice President of Business Development...

BARBARA WOJCIK has just teamed up with one of the area's fastest growing real estate companies...

BARBARA WOJCIK has just teamed up with one of the area's fastest growing real estate companies...

National and local records fell during the 28th Annual Labor Day Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon...

In announcing this contribution, BEN SKELTON, ERA Rymal Symes vice president...

Northville resident STEVEN L. FINCH was recently promoted from chief financial officer to vice president...

JOHN M. HESLOP has been named

Labor markets show rise in joblessness Job change creates deductions

Michigan's 12 major labor markets reported minor changes in their unemployment rates...

trucking and warehousing, which were related to the growth in retail trade and state and local schools...

All of the labor markets had large drops in their unemployment rates between October 1992 and 1993...

A breakdown of unadjusted October 1993 and comparative labor force estimates for Detroit and Michigan major labor markets...

The largest October change occurred in the Muskegon area, where the jobless rate climbed by half a percentage point...

Detroit, Macomb, Moore, Livingston, Lapeer and St. Clair Counties for Oct. 1993. Sept. 1993, and Oct. 1992 respectively

Civilian Labor Force - 2,170,000; 2,161,000; 2,141,000. Total Employment - 2,027,000; 2,012,000; 1,982,000

Michigan Labor Force - 4,693,000; 4,683,000; 4,614,000. Total Employment - 4,357,000; 4,347,000; 4,240,000

Unemployment - 143,000; 149,000; 173,000. Rate - 6.6; 6.9; 8.4

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Unemployment - 143,000; 149,000; 173,000. Rate - 6.6; 6.9; 8.4

Benefits extended for jobless

Jobless Michigan workers who have used up all of their state unemployment benefits may now be entitled to as many as seven weeks of federal jobless benefits...

Michigan Employment Security Commission Director F. Robert Edwards estimates that some 15,000 unemployed workers in Michigan may immediately qualify for federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)...

EUC claimants may be compensated retroactively for weeks of unemployment since Oct. 2. The extension, however, does not provide any additional benefits...

Those who qualify for EUC will receive the same weekly amount they received in state unemployment ben-

efits, Edwards said. "And while some states qualify to pay up to 13 weeks of EUC, we can pay up to seven weeks in Michigan because of our low unemployment rate."

To be eligible for EUC, claimants must be unemployed, must exhaust their state jobless benefits and apply for EUC before Feb. 5, 1994. The program will issue EUC benefits through April 30, 1994.

Since EUC first began in Nov. 1991 and through this October, MESCC has issued \$1.3 billion of these federal benefits to 384,000 jobless Michigan workers.

"We have identified those who exhausted their state jobless benefits

and will begin mailing them EUC applications over the next two weeks," Edwards said. "On average, about 2,000 claimants a week have been using up their regular state benefits."

"Those who qualify for EUC will receive the same weekly amount they received in state unemployment ben-

efits, Edwards said. "And while some states qualify to pay up to 13 weeks of EUC, we can pay up to seven weeks in Michigan because of our low unemployment rate."

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Give Of Yourself This Christmas Season

Detroit-based construction firm Walbridge Aldinger recently announced the promotion of Northville resident DAVID HAMILTON to senior vice president...

Maintenance department employees of the JOHNSON CONTROLS plastic bottle blowing plant in Novi have received the company's Chairman's Award for Excellence...

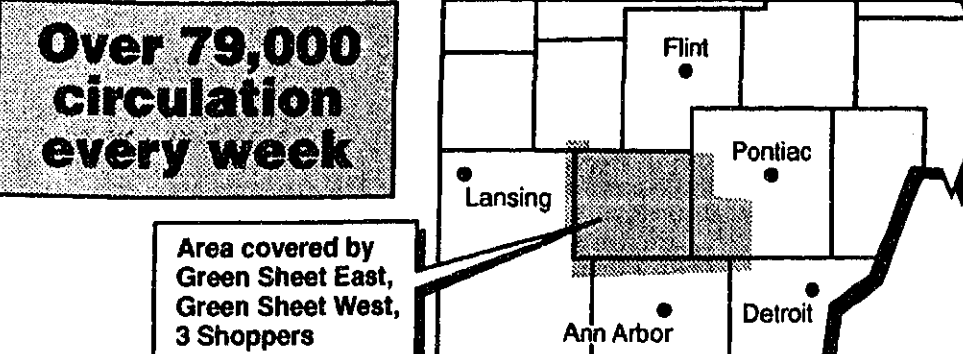
AIPLA's attorneys are employed by private law firms, corporations, universities and government. Newtonson has been a partner in the law firm of Harness, Dickey & Pierce...

Northville resident STEVEN L. FINCH was recently promoted from chief financial officer to vice president of finance and administration of Square Lake Corporation...

GARY L. NEWTONSON, a resident of Salem Township, is elected president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPALA)...

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Job listings including: Help Wanted, ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS, ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR, BETTER NOT POUT, SHUTTLE DRIVER, AUTOMOTIVE, CABLE INSTALLERS, BRIGHTON: Plastic mold injection machine operator, CARPENTERS, KELY TEMPORARY SERVICES, BRIDGEPORT w/ProTrak, CABLE TV installer to \$6000, CDD Operator V.12.

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ACROSS 1 Track event 6 Executive's assistant 10 To be before 18 heading 20 Japanese 21 Candle or numeral 22 Lake, in Italy 23 Start of holiday legend 27 Aerial festival 28 Lohanpin's bride 29 Hampshire 30 Love to Luigi 31 Spinoff for a writer 32 Carol or Anita 34 Former champ 35 Road goes 37 Spectacular viewpoints 40 Informal 41 Stevie, in ancient 43 English 44 Quaker 46 Legatory 48 Tourist stop

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Experience necessary. 40 hrs. wk. plus benefits. M/F. 1015-4655. ESTIMATOR Degree preferred. 40 hrs. wk. plus benefits. M/F. 1015-4655. FABRICATOR For small wholesale steel shop. Benefits. Experience needed only apply. Apply at Ideal Steel, 10300 Hamburg Rd., Detroit, MI 48217. No phone calls.

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006 Office/Clerical

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