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**THURSDAY**  
JANUARY 20, 1994

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# NEWS

**Opinions** WORTHY CAUSE IN UNICAMERAL PROPOSAL / 14A

**Living** A HOT TIME IN THE COLD OF WINTER / 1B

**Sports** SPIKERS TURN SEASON WITH PAIR OF WINS / 7B

## Not much city can do to keep oil wells out

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

When it comes to regulating oil and gas wells in the City of Novi, it looks as if the city's hands are still tied by a 1991 court ruling.

However, Council Member Tim Pope is looking for a way the city can recoup the costs of its oversight of the local oil industry through higher permit fees.

"If there's nothing we can do with local ordinances, at least we can have them pay the municipality's burden of regulating what they're doing," Pope said Tuesday.

Now that two new oil firms are wildcatting through town, Council

Member Tim Pope in December asked David Fried to see if it were possible for the city to rewrite its ordinances and completely bar oil wells from residential land.

Fried didn't hold out much hope for the present in a legal opinion received by the council earlier this month.

In November 1991, the Novi City Council ended a six-year battle by granting the necessary permits for a Southern Michigan Oil Company (SOMOCO) well. The council had been advised by its lawyer that a court's award of \$89.5 million to an oil company denied drilling permits

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Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

### It was chili ... cold, too

Sub-zero temperatures forced the cancellation of many outdoor events at the '94 Chilly Willy Festival over the weekend at the Novi Civic Center, but the Chili Cook-off went on undis-

turbed inside. Above, Jim Pawlina of Crawford's in Northville took first place with his chili recipe. The story and more photos appear on page 7A.

## 52-1 court deals with violence at home

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

The long shadow domestic violence casts seems to be shrinking somewhat because of a new program officials of the 52-1 District Court and three area communities began in May.

Results of that eight-month-old experiment are so encouraging, as a matter of fact, that Novi is jumping on the bandwagon as well.

"The short-run effects are just startling," Judge Brian MacKenzie said Friday in announcing the program's expansion to Novi and White

"Abuse impacts our family life all around us. There's a tremendous stigma and trauma associated with it."

Douglas Shaeffer

Lake Township. "But it's not only just the short run. This could be a real attempt to reduce more significant violence in the home. We're amazed and very pleased."

In essence, the program tries to reduce domestic violence by increasing the chances for an abuser of arrest, prosecution and conviction. It also increases opportunities for both abused and abuser to receive counseling and intervention.

The program uses no tax dollars — just mutual cooperation of the police, the court and representa-

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## Water's now served up with ice

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Sub-zero weather has kept the Novi Fire Department hopping this week — and not because of any white-hot infernos.

And the city's water department has been out on a few emergency runs of its own.

You don't have to be Mr. Science to figure out why.

"The water meters are freezing up," Rick White, City of Novi Water Department Foreman, said.

A waterline under Roadway Express, a freight company on Grand River Avenue, turned to ice Tuesday, leaving much less than a

trickle in the pipes.

Water meters have frozen at three homes and in Breckenridge Plaza shopping center this week alone, White said. Besides stopping water service, once those babies begin to thaw, there's a danger of flooding.

Monday, the fire department answered three calls where fire sprinkler heads had busted, including one in city hall, Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said.

It's the cold that made them pop, he explained.

One unruly sprinkler head flooded a portion of Providence Hospital. Another had the Frank W. Kerr Company on Nine Mile Road

awash. Still another soused the loading dock at the Novi Civic Center, mainly getting some stored trash soggy, Lenaghan says.

"A week and a half ago, we had a meter on a house freeze at Shadow Pines and it did cause some flooding," White said.

"This is not real common. The last time we had this was in the mid-1980s."

When a water line's frozen, the customer has the option of having it dug up or hiring a plumber to steam it with hot water. The steam is the usual course of action, White said, unless the pipe's split with the cold.

He suggests homeowners to monitor their meters to see whether they've frozen or not — to avoid a soggy thaw. White also advises residents to keep an eye on water pipes near outer walls or clothes dryer vents and keep them insulated, especially if a cold draft is detected.

Due to the big chill, the fire department cancelled some of its training sessions this week. The chief explained he didn't want to leave the costly vehicles standing outside and the wind chill factor has been such that it seemed more sensible to tell the paid-on-call trainees to stay home — unless they're really needed.

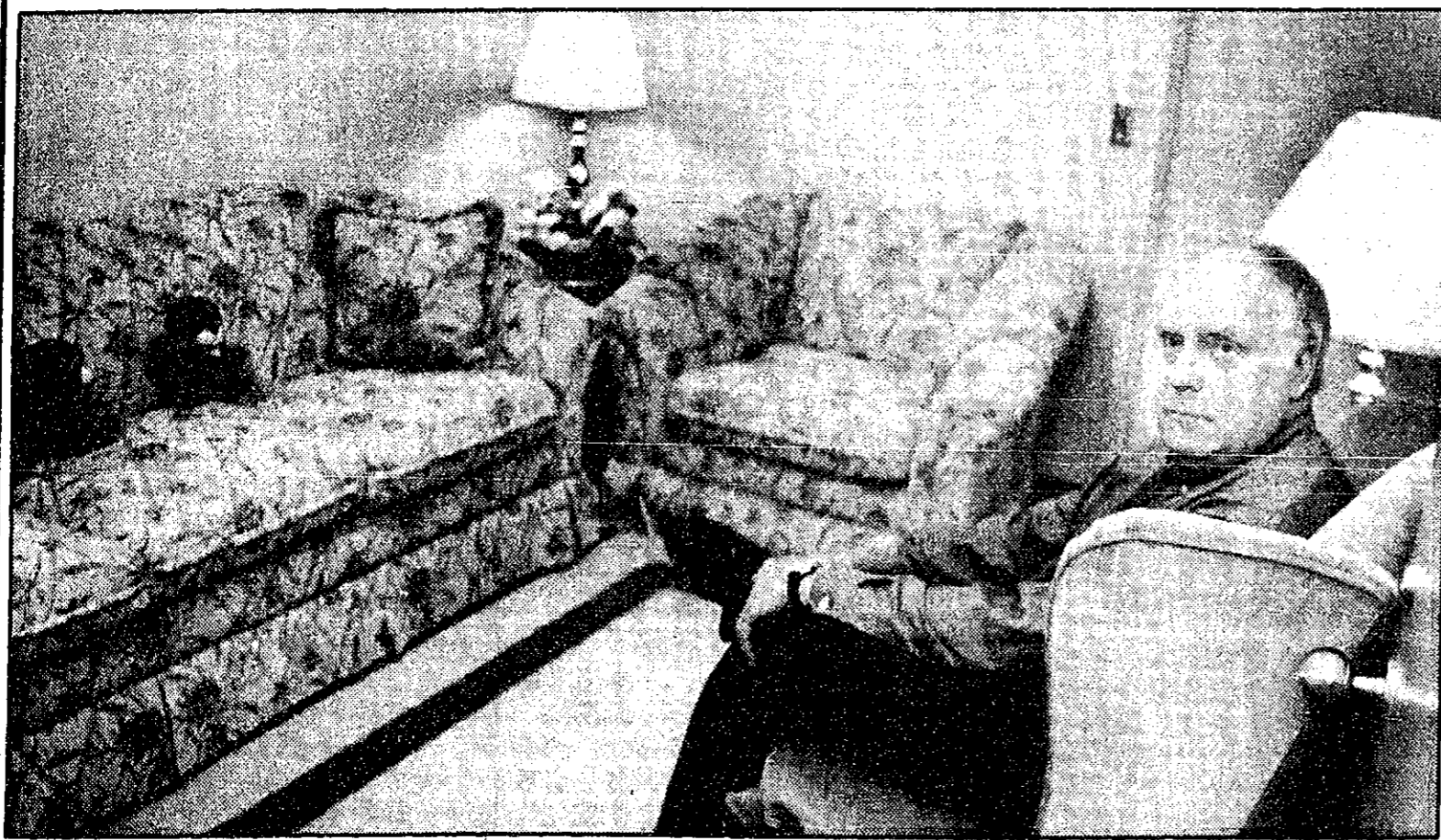


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

Det. John Zimmer in the new Novi Police Department Victim Interview Room.

## Victim grateful for interview room

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer has proof that the victim interview room is working.

After the room opened in the police department in October, an unidentified woman called the Novi Police Department to report that she had been sexually assaulted.

Shaeffer said the victim may not have reported the crime if the victim interview room had not been opened.

"She said she had heard about our sensitivity and wanted to report the case after she heard about the victim interview room," he said.

That proves that the generosity of the Novi Lions Club and the Novi Jaycees has paid off. The Lions donated \$4,000 to pay for furniture and recording equipment used in the room. The Jaycees have stocked an adjacent room with stuffed animals for the children who have been victims of violent crimes themselves or whose parents are victims of traumatic assaults. The Jaycees have pledged to replenish the room's stock as needed.

The blue ribbon that covered the entrance to the room was cut at the onset of a dedication ceremony last Tuesday by city Mayor Kathleen McLallen and Novi Lions President Jerry Coonce. About 50-60 people packed the room to thank

those who made it all possible. Among them were city council members and city administrators. The Lions and the Jaycees were there in full force to show their continued support for the concept and for the project.

"It really seems to be working," Shaeffer said. "We had a three-year-old who had been the victim of a sexual offense. After the detective finished interviewing the child, I saw the three-year-old leaving the station clutching one of the stuffed animals with a smile on her face."

"That's what it was intended to do was turn a negative into as much of a positive as we can," he said.

## Assessments rise, but not too much

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Novi homeowners are less likely to go into shock when they open their property tax assessment notices this February than they were last year.

City Assessor Jim Klausmeyer said Tuesday that on the average residential assessments will go up about three or four percent, as will business and commercial property assessments.

"It should be light on the residen-

tial," he said.

Farm lands, which are parcels 13 acres or larger, will see an average assessment increase of eight percent, Klausmeyer added. Industrial property is now being re-evaluated and could also come in for a higher hit.

Last year, residential property assessments went up an average of nine percent, with some homeowners seeing increases of anywhere from three percent to 21 percent.

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## 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.

Today, January 20

**Novi schools:** The Novi schools Board of Education will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Educational Services Building.

Friday, January 21

**Novi Players:** The Novi Players present the drama *Orphans* at 8 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Tickets are available at the Novi Civic Center (347-0400) or the Novi Chamber of Commerce (349-3743). Cost is \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Saturday, January 22

**Novi Players:** The Novi Players present the drama *Orphans* at 8 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Tickets are available at the Novi Civic Center (347-0400) or the Novi Chamber of Commerce (349-3743). Cost is \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Sunday, January 23

**Novi Players:** The Novi Players present the drama *Orphans* at 2 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Tickets are available at the Novi Civic Center (347-0400) or the Novi Chamber of Commerce (349-3743). Cost is \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Monday, January 24

**City council:** The Novi City Council will meet 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.

**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.

**Breast Disease Support Group:** Providence Medical Center's Conference Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., hosts a monthly breast disease support group from 7:30-9 p.m.

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Dr. Jack Kevorkian meets the press after last week's court hearing.



Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Thomas Jackson weighs arguments in Kevorkian case.

## No trial yet for Kevorkian in Novi man's death

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

With no word yet from the Michigan Court of Appeals on the constitutionality of assisted suicide, a Detroit judge agreed last week to delay his decision on whether or not Dr. Jack Kevorkian will face trial for helping Novi resident Thomas Hyde die.

Meanwhile, Kevorkian said he expected to learn Tuesday if the state Board of Elections will approve the language for a petition calling for a referendum to make assisted suicide a constitutional right in Michigan.

The doctor, his sister Margo Janus, and his two lawyers, Geoffrey Fieger and Michael Schwartz aim to collect one million signatures to get the issue on the ballot in November, although only 250,000 signatures are needed.

"It's good that people will be able to vote one way or another," the retired pathologist said, adding that he would like to see assisted suicide become "a basic right that can't be infringed upon."

The language for the constitutional referendum would be delivered to the state Friday, Fieger said. Kevorkian, who is currently restricted to his Royal Oak home by an electronic tether, reiterated Jan. 14 that he is temporarily out of the as-

sisted suicide business. "I'm keeping my word. It doesn't make no sense to complicate things now," he said.

Hyde's fiancée, Heidi Fernandez, says she plans to be out circulating petitions when the state approves the language. "I wouldn't miss that for the world. We need all the help we can get."

The trial in the Hyde case was originally set for Feb. 15, but all parties agreed to an indefinite delay. Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Thomas Jackson asked Fieger if he objected to postponing the trial until the Michigan Court of Appeals comes down with a ruling on the law.

"It does make a lot of sense, your honor, considering they could decide the issue in the middle of the trial," Fieger said.

"I have 80 to 90 cases on the docket. I certainly don't need to waste time," Jackson agreed.

Hyde, 30, was in the advanced stages of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's Disease, when he died of carbon monoxide poisoning August 4 in Kevorkian's van parked on Belle Isle.

The three-judge Michigan Court of Appeals may soon determine if the state legislature violated the U.S. Constitution in slapping the ban on assisted suicide, as Wayne County

Circuit Court Cynthia Stephens said they did. The appeals court has also been asked by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office to overturn a December ruling by Wayne Circuit Court Judge Richard Kaufman, who found that assisted suicide was a constitutional right for incurably ill people whose condition materially worsens their lives.

Wayne County Prosecutor Timothy Kenny said that the appeals court has not yet ruled on its response but that an answer is expected "as soon as possible."

Kaufman was the judge presiding over the Donald O'Keefe case. Kevorkian allegedly assisted O'Keefe in committing suicide in September after the doctor already faced charges in Hyde's death. Assisted suicide bears a penalty of up to four years in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Jackson said he might rule Feb. 18 on Fieger's motion that the Hyde case be dismissed.

"We may still be at the point, if the Court of Appeals hasn't announced, to put it off," he added.

The defense attorney argued last week that since the prosecution used the details of Hyde's death to impli-

cate Kevorkian in O'Keefe's demise, Kaufman's ruling links the two cases together and the Hyde case should not go to trial. While Kevorkian held a press conference to outline the details of Hyde's death, he remained silent after O'Keefe, who had bone cancer, died.

"The issue has been decided as a matter of law by Judge Kaufman. If the appeals court sustains Kaufman, this case can't proceed. If they reverse Judge Kaufman, this could proceed to trial because Judge Kaufman's decision would be for naught," Fieger said.

"There is a struggle here on the prosecutor's part trying to maintain the validity of the statute when the law has been declared unconstitutional twice. . . . They cannot go around to different courts when it is the same parties to get different rulings on the same issue."

Jackson disagreed with that argument. "The prosecution is not warrant shopping on this. It's a matter of where the cases were committed."

During the hearing, Kevorkian chuckled while the prosecutor spoke. Kenny told Jackson that he is not bound to uphold the ruling of

another circuit or recorder's court judge such as Kaufman, but only a determination issued by a higher court.

"At no time in his opinion does Judge Kaufman say that the evidence at the Redford (O'Keefe) preliminary has anything to do with the decision in the Thomas Hyde case.

Judge Kaufman's ruling on the preliminary was a ruling on a matter of which are also pending, after a stint in jail and a hunger fast, Kevorkian faces charges in Oakland County for the subsequent deaths in his Royal Oak residence of ALS sufferer Merian Frederick and bone cancer patient Dr. Ali Khalili.

"It's better than jail. It's still confining. I've recovered. I do have the freedom of motion within my cell at home. If that's what they want to do, if they want to degrade me," Kevorkian said after the hearing.

Hyde's was the first suicide presided over by Kevorkian after the state ban was enacted. O'Keefe died in his Redford Township home. Kevorkian faces charges in Oakland County for the subsequent deaths in his Royal Oak residence of ALS sufferer Merian Frederick and bone cancer patient Dr. Ali Khalili.

In the Oakland County cases, preliminary was a ruling on a matter of which are also pending, after a stint in jail and a hunger fast, Kevorkian faces charges in Oakland County for the subsequent deaths in his Royal Oak residence of ALS sufferer Merian Frederick and bone cancer patient Dr. Ali Khalili.

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MetroVision of Oakland County, Inc. has filed with the City of Novi, Federal Communications Commission Form 323 and related documents setting forth its rates for basic service and related equipment, installation and other services with the Office of the City Clerk for public inspection and copying during normal business hours. The basic service rate is \$10.62. Interested parties are invited to file written comments with the City Clerk whether the rates comply with federal cable television rules within 30 days which written comments shall be available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours.

Date: 1-19-94  
(1-20-94 NR, NN)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mark Freedman, representing Progressive Development, Inc. is requesting a temporary use permit to allow placement of a sales/construction trailer on Lot 1, Southwyck Subdivision at 47000 Nine Mile Road, for a period of ninety (90) days.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 1994, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Official and must be received prior to January 26, 1994.

(1/20/94 NR, NN)

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10 am - 6 pm

Monday - Wednesday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Thursday - Friday 10:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

# Thieves hit triple at office complex

Police are investigating three Jan. 6 break-ins at Orchard Hills Place, an office complex at Eight Mile and Ingery roads.

Police suspect members of the building's cleaning crew may have used a screwdriver to pry the suite doors open to two of three businesses housed in the building. There was evidence at the scene of a third office to indicate the door to PM Realty Group had been tinkered with, but entry had not been obtained.

A screwdriver with blue fibers matching the carpet in front of the suite was later found on the cleaning cart in the janitor's closet.

An engineer at Computer Decision International, Inc. reported to work the morning after the theft happened and found his lap top computer had been stolen. Along with it went \$100 worth of software for a total of \$2,151 in computer equipment taken.

Data National Corporation officials reported \$5,042 worth of computer equipment taken from its office the same day. Two lap top computers were taken from desks inside the office along with some latent prints.

## Police News

**MISSED CASH:** The owner of a local pizza chain reported that someone had stolen \$2,287 in cash from his Summerhouse Court home in Novi on Jan. 8. The store owner said he routinely brings home the store's bank deposits and keeps them in his apartment for three or four days before he puts them into the bank. He told police the money was buried up in a rubber band and left on the desk. There was no evidence at the scene to suggest forced entry.

**BREAK-IN:** A 46-year-old Novi man was enjoying the championship ice skating competition in Detroit on Jan. 8 while thieves were in his home stealing \$1,600 worth of stereo equipment.

The man said he returned to his Solon home to find the door to his home unlocked and the stereo missing from the entertainment center in his living room.

**MISSED SNOWBLOWER:** A 34-year-old Borchart man told police his \$255 Toro snowblower may have been stolen from his garage on Jan. 8. The homeowner told police his wife often leaves the garage door open when she's at home during the day. Before it was stolen the snowblower was stored in the garage.

**MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION:** Police are looking for the suspect or suspects who punched a series of large dents in the garage door of a home on Sullivan near Christina on Saturday, Jan. 2.

**OVERDOSE:** The small child of a Springs Apartments resident called 9-1-1 on Saturday, Jan. 8 to tell police that he couldn't wake his father.

When police and CEMS units arrived they found the man lying unconscious on the living room floor. Beside him were a couple of unidentified white tablets. Family and friends

gathered at the apartment and told police the man had been upset earlier that day that his wife and son were gone.

He was taken to Huron Valley Hospital.

**TRAFFIC ALTERCATION:** A 52-year-old Novi man stopped police at the Nine Mile Post Office and told him the driver behind him was following him and threatening him with a machete. Police stopped the second driver who told them he was angry that the Novi man had cut him off on Novi Road. The man denied waving a machete at the other driver, but did say he was following the man with the intent of making a citizens arrest. He did say he had a makeshift tire iron in the car that he had picked up when it fell off the seat, but he never threatened the other driver with it. Police confiscated the tire iron and detained the man while the Novi man left the scene.

**CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION:** Call the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

## Novi Briefs

**Super trip:** Jerry Surles, owner of the Novi Auto Wash, won the Novi Optimists raffle and will fly off to the Super Bowl in Atlanta with a companion. His name was selected in a drawing Friday.

"He's all excited," Novi Public Relations Director Cindy Stewart said. "This time, Surles got it all for the price of a raffle ticket. Last year, he also went to the Super Bowl, but actually purchased the weekend package from a woman who had won the raffle but preferred the cash, Stewart added.

**School financing:** Novi parents will be able to get answers to their questions about Michigan's school finance reform Tuesday, Feb. 1. Representative Willis Bullard, R-Milford, whose district includes Novi, will visit the district to take part in an Information Night for the Novi Community School District. Bullard is expected to provide the latest projections on state revenues, explain the March 15 sales tax ballot proposal, and detail the new education funding system. There will also be an opportunity for a question and answer period.

All Novi residents are being invited to attend the Information Night. The meeting will be held in the Instructional Technology Center, located between Novi Middle School and Novi Meadows on Taft Road. Parking will be available in the Novi Meadows parking lot.

Call (810)344-8330 for further information.

**Under pressure:** Community Emergency Medical Service reported in December that its staff since January 1992 administered blood cholesterol and/or blood pressure tests to 850 individuals, as part of a free program it offers to Novi residents.

The tests are held at the Novi Civic Center on Mondays prior to the Novi City Council meetings.

**Cookies now on sale:** Local Girl Scouts in your community will be taking advance orders for Girl Scout cookies through Jan. 23. Proceeds from the sale support a wide variety of programs for local Girl Scout troops and more than 31,000 girls throughout southern Oakland and Wayne counties. Cookies are priced at \$2.50 per package.

There are seven varieties of cookies: Samoa, Thin Mint, Trefoil (shortbread), Tagalong, Do-si-do, Chateau Creme and the brand-new Juliette.

# Mayor aims to get city, businesses working together

By MICHAEL MALOTT and JIAN JEFFRES Staff Writers

In her first 70 days in office, Novi's new Mayor Kathleen McLallen has performed one marriage ceremony, presented one key to the city, cut two ribbons, hobnobbed with a U.S. congressman and a state representative, reviewed four fire stations, officially lauded six Eagle Scouts and jetted to a National League of Cities conference in Orlando.

Tuesday, McLallen gave her first "State of the City" address, oddly enough, in Farmington Hills at the Holiday Inn.

Looking at the year ahead, McLallen told the Novi Chamber of Commerce that: "The most critical issue facing Novi is the Michigan tax reform and all of its unknowns. At this time, Novi appears to be one of the communities which will not benefit from the proposals. How this will affect our 1994-1995 budget is in question until the special election in March but if revenue sharing is removed our city budget will be affected."

But if question marks pop up in 1994, some things look fairly certain. As signs of Novi's non-stop boom, McLallen points to the forty shows booked this year at the Novi Expo Center, Main Street, as part of Novi's new downtown, is moving ahead. The Novi school district and the city are looking at joint land purchases for school and park sites. Playing fields may open this year at the new park at Eight Mile and Napier roads.

"The spirit of Team Novi is re-emerging in many examples of public/private partnerships," the mayor said.

As part of that, McLallen says she hopes to create a team of civic and business leaders as an Economic Development Committee to explore ways to retain and attract new busi-

ness. She's also been busy meeting with Oakland County officials to find ways to fix up the roads the county owns in Novi.

Novi continues to grow apace; 359 housing permits were issued in 1993. McLallen points to the development which will be soon underway in Section 28, the area bound by Tall Road, Beck Road and Nine and Ten Mile roads.

"Interestingly, through innovative land use ordinance, the central core of this section will remain in undeveloped woodland," she said.

"While major residential development continues to push westward in the city, there is significant land infill going on east of Novi Road with the second phase of Chase Farms, as well as Verkes Estates on Eight Mile, Mission Ridge on Meadowbrook and on Ten Mile. Perhaps the single most significant residential project to move forward in 1994 will be the 1,000-unit Sandstone in the Thirteen Mile and Meadowbrook Section."

About 400 acres of land were developed last year and about the same amount was added as new parkland, the mayor said.

Sull, McLallen predicts housing starts will be slow this year due to the continuing state water moratorium.

Novi's first big industrial project for 1994 will be the 250,000 Arbor Warehouse addition, complete with a railroad spur. In addition, she says the spat with the City of Walled Lake over the new 52-1 District Court may soon be settled, bringing that facility to the Grand River Corridor.

As Novi approaches its anniversary of its 25th year as an incorporated city, McLallen predicts that the municipality will hold its own as a leading community in Oakland County.

"Our city is uniquely blessed by a caring citizenry who take the time to participate in Novi's growth and despite many disagreements are able time and time again to come together to find a solution that continues to move Novi toward the completion of the 'beautiful city' that was begun 25 years ago," she said.

Introductions for the state-of-the-city address were left to Victor Cassis, this year's chairman of the chamber. It was Cassis' wife, Nancy, who contended unsuccessfully against McLallen in November for the position of mayor.

"The mayor says she wants to build bridges," Cassis said in his introduction. "I think Kathy McLallen is the one who can do that."

"She did good," former mayor Matt Quinn, who has delivered the last eight state-of-the-city addresses, said in review of McLallen's speech Tuesday. "She covered all the bases, all the important points. She talked about the past year and the year to come. She mentioned several things that had not previously been known. She gave a few teasers, so that they'll pay attention in the coming year, and that's the point. She passed."

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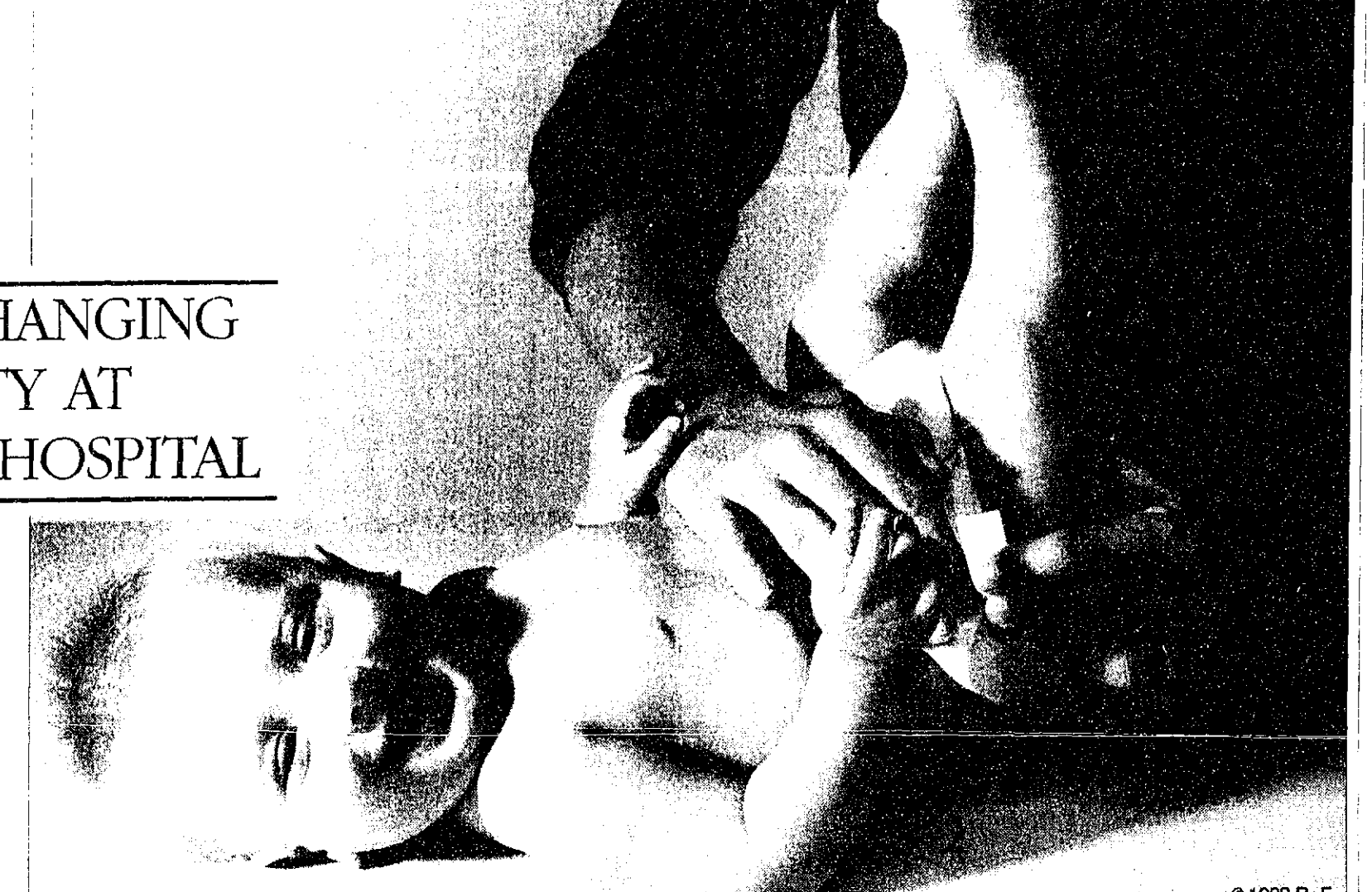
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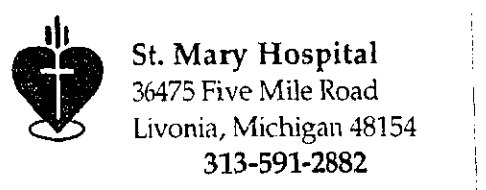
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# Make room for more Methodists

By SHARON CONDRON Staff Writer

None of Novi's consultants were going to get in the way of doing God's work Wednesday, Jan. 5.

That's why they made the recommendation to the Novi Planning Commission to approve a 14,766 square foot addition for the Novi United Methodist Church.

The expansion almost doubles the present size of the church which is on the south side of Ten Mile Road and

west of Meadowbrook.

Blueprints for the expansion also include plans to increase parking and construct a 24-foot by 40-foot accessory building.

Since the church's expansion plans met all the setback requirements, provided adequate parking, and needed no variances from the planning commission, Planning Consultant Brandon Rogers was signing his praises about it.

"This is a major improvement," Rogers said.

And even though church architect left a few minor details of the plan that Rogers had returned him to include, the consultant was still willing to reconcile.

"I'm all for it with a few unholy words," he said.

Traffic Consultant Rod Arroyo was equally at peace with the plan.

Arroyo had recommended the church provide parisheners with two driveways for access to Ten Mile, one existing two-way drive and another proposed as an outbound only lane.

Church officials complied Arroyo's request which was designed to avoid left turn conflicts.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Arroyo had recommended the church provide parisheners with two driveways for access to Ten Mile, one existing two-way drive and another proposed as an outbound only lane.

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If you have even a moderate sized home you have roughly 100 feet of pipe filled with grease and soap scum. Most of this pipe is horizontal. Imagine again a bathtub that hasn't been cleaned for years. If you pour a drain opener into the tub (which is horizontal) it just runs along the bottom. The thick scum ring on the sides is left behind. The same thing happens in your pipes! In the past the only way to remove this gook was to spend \$60-\$120 on sewer cleaning.

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## Library parking lot is going to 'pot'

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

A family of four living in Novi has disappeared.

Novi school administrator Jim Koster fears the family was swallowed up by the gargantuan pot hole in the parking lot of the Novi Library.

Koster, who is the district's assistant superintendent for business and operations, said Jan. 6 he hoped the City of Novi would abide by a 30-year-old lease agreement on the library land and fix the parking lot so no more residents are put at risk from the black hole.

"This is a major pot hole," Koster told elected officials from the Novi Community School District Board of Education and the City Council at a joint meeting of the two boards on Jan. 6. "A family of four has been lost," he jokingly added.

Even though city officials seemed hesitant about fixing the hole at the joint meeting, City Manager Edward Kriewall said Wednesday city officials have agreed to fill the hole so the parking lot can be repaved.

"We are going to do what they want us to do," he said. "We are going to dig it out and put in a gravel base so when they re-top they can pave right over it."

The lease agreement is a binding agreement between the city and schools that commenced in 1978 and expires in 2008.

School and library officials were hoping it wasn't going to take that long to get the pot hole fixed.

But judging from the reaction school officials first received from city officials when they asked the city to fix the lot, it might.

According to Koster, the agreement holds the city responsible for

maintaining the parking lot on the leased school district land. But when school officials approached the city and asked officials there when the lot would be repaired, the city sought to terminate the lease rather than pave the lot.

"It is not in the best interest now to terminate the agreement," Koster said at the meeting. "If you want us to terminate the lease you would have to fix the pot hole and maybe we'd consider it."

The assistant superintendent said since the high school parking lot is directly adjacent to the library parking lot, the district has maintained both lots in the winter and provided lighting for them year-round. But the district isn't willing to fix the hole.

Koster said the pot hole isn't the only culprit behind the library's complaints about the lot's condition.

The assistant superintendent said recently library personnel have complained about students parking in the municipal lot and leaving debris behind. There's been broken glass and trash left behind in the lot that makes parking there even more treacherous.

He said school officials intend to do their part to end the problem by telling students not to park there. And library personnel have agreed to help pay for blacktopping the lot after the city fixes the hole.

"The library would be willing to pay for their share to resurface the lot if it were maintained," Koster said.

The manager said the city is willing to honor the terms of the lease agreement even though he said the city rarely uses the lot.

"We haven't used it in five years," Kriewall said about the library lot.

"So I think we are being quite generous."



"The" pothole in the library parking lot.

Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

## Rouge water tapped as part of cleanup

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Samplings of water from the Rouge River as it passes through Novi are but droplets in a \$900 million project expected to pinpoint and reduce the sources of pollution in the urban waterway over the next 15 years.

The Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project is monitoring water quality at two sites along the river as it courses through the city — at Nine Mile Road, west of Meadowbrook Road and by Ten Mile Road near the railroad tracks between Meadowbrook and Novi road. An automatic sampling device tracks the water quality there continuously.

The purpose is twofold. First of all, they want to find out the condition of the water before rain event, then after a rain event," said Leslie Kusek, public relations spokesperson for the Wayne County Rouge Program Office in Detroit.

"The project is looking at all sources of pollution. It could be industrial runoff."

The baseline sampling in Novi began last fall and testing will continue through 1994.

Toxins frequently enter the river during storms or snow melts, carrying oils, salts, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and roads into the waters. This is considered to be the major source of pollution of the Rouge River, Kusek said.

A \$46 million grant to Wayne County from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is underwriting the initial phase of the program, with Wayne County kicking in an additional \$1 million. A second, \$82 million grant has been won for this year.

These funds are described as the first step in a \$900 million effort to purify the Rouge River which could

take place in three phases over the next 15 years. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments are also assisting the program.

"Today, many areas in the river are considered unsafe for 'people uses' such as boating, fishing and swimming due to pollution."

"The intent is to identify all sources of pollution going into the river and then clean it up," Kusek explained.

Once that is accomplished, the Rouge office projects that the river could be a major source of public recreation.

Water samplings are underway in 22 other sites, as well as Novi. The Novi locations are key, Kusek explained, because the headwaters of several branches of the Rouge are located here.

River depth, flow, temperature and water quality will be evaluated via the water sampling program. Discharge points such as sewers and drainage channels will also be monitored for chemical and microbiological characteristics. The work is being done by the Wayne County Department of Public Works and the Wayne County Rouge Program Office.

"We're dealing with a lot of people," Kusek said.

The river is 127 miles long and its watershed area runs roughly from Rochester Hills to Ypsilanti to the City of River Rouge. In this area, 1.5 million people live — and do things like dump leaves down storm sewers and fertilize their lawns.

Among the program's goals are the construction of retention basins in a number of communities to control discharge into the river, to eliminate raw sewage discharge, log and debris jams and toxic discharges into the Rouge.

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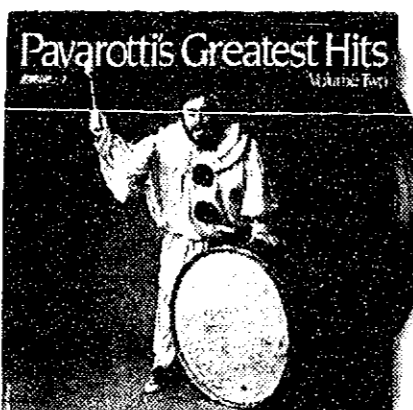
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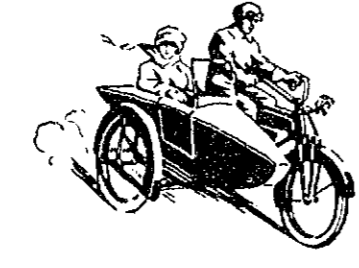
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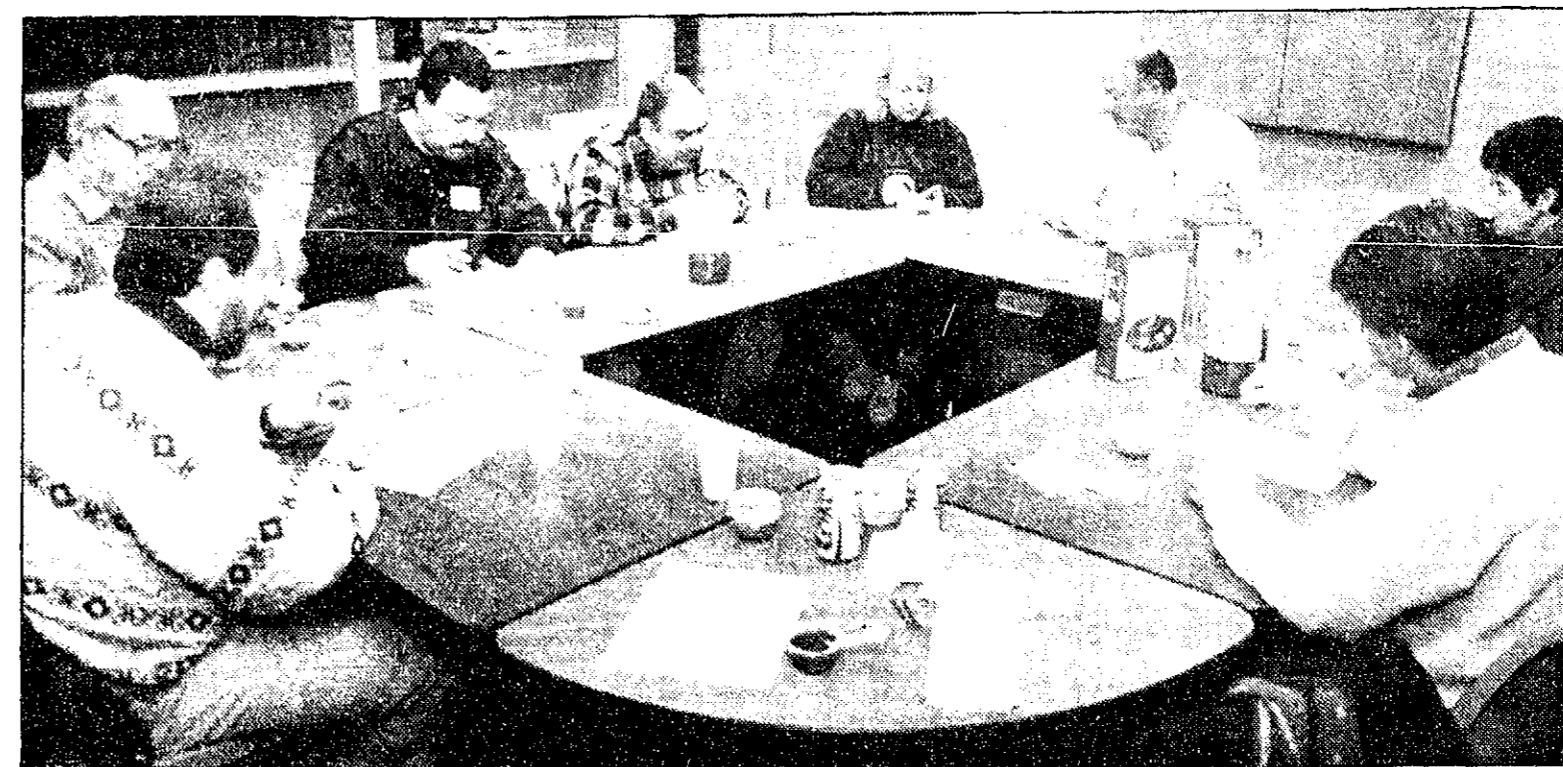
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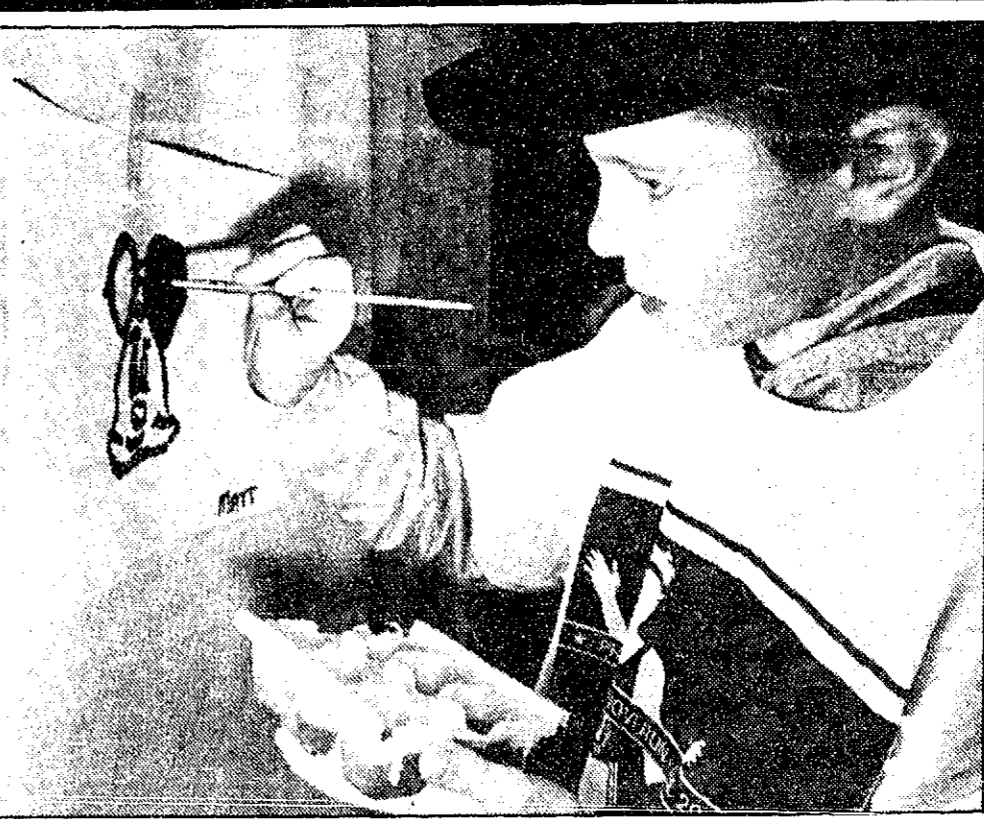
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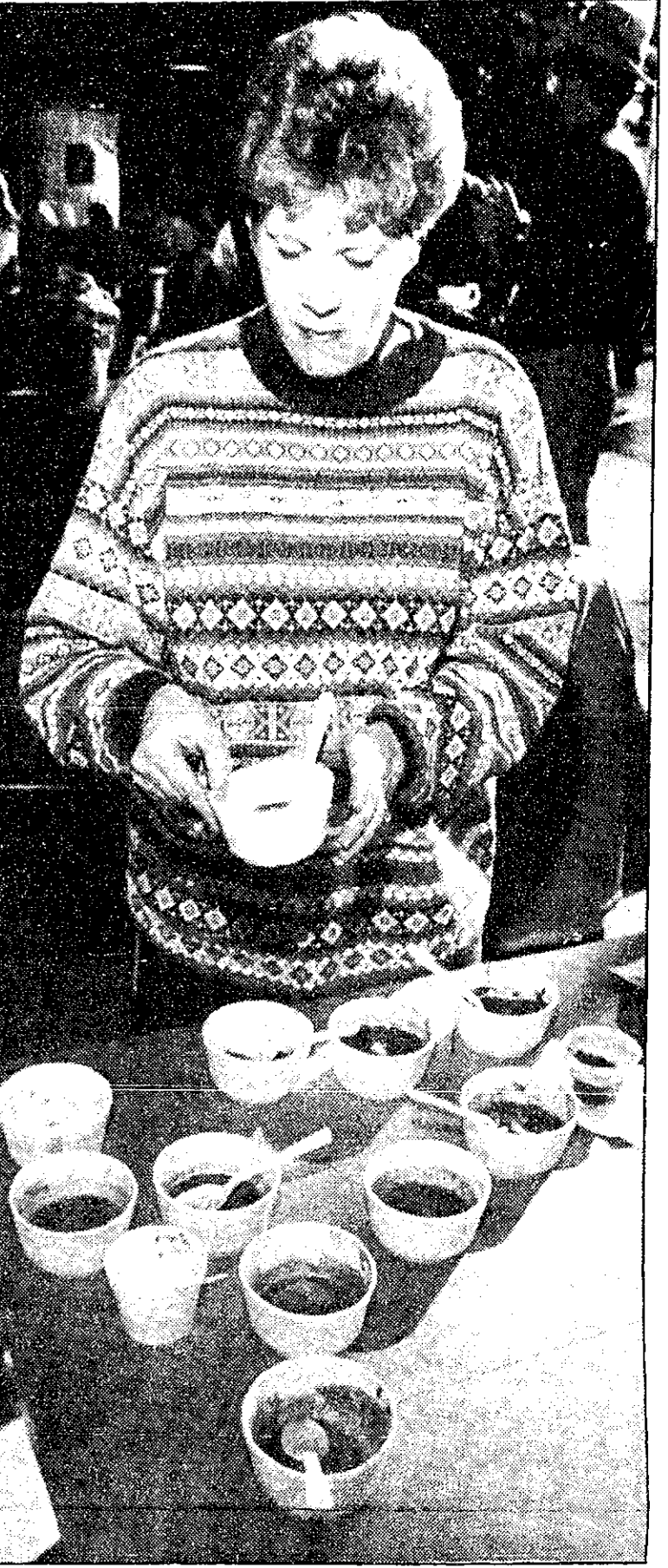


Patrick Miseta was one of the few to brave the minus-30 windchill factor to play hockey at Saturday's Chilly Willy Festival. Most merry-makers stayed indoors and ate chili.



Matt Hoag, 11, stays warm inside at the Chilly Willy Festival and paints his version of Mickey Mouse.

Judging the Chilly Willy Chili Cook-off is a responsibility the judges, at right, took seriously. Among the judges this year were Mayor Kathy McAllen, City Clerk Gerry Stipp, City Forester Chris Pargoff and Novi News photographer Bryan Mitchell. Just as important was the selection of the People's Choice award. Below, Jan McMann take her responsibility seriously too, sampling 11 different recipes before casting her ballot for Nifty Norman's.



Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

## 'Outsiders' sweep chili contest

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

It's a good thing for Crawford's of Northville that Chilly Willy Festival organizers bent the rules this year to allow outsiders to enter the annual Chili Cook-off.

For the first time, restaurants outside of Novi were allowed to bring their steamy chili recipes into the contest. And this year, neighboring communities gave Novi restaurateurs a run for their money by claiming the top three spots in the annual cook-off contest.

Crawford's of Northville took first, followed by Wolverine Lake's Nifty Norman's in second, and Walled

Lake's Key Largo in third.

"The People's Choice award went to Nifty Norman's."

Novi Public Information Director Cindy Stewart said she was glad that the contest was opened to other area restaurants. Novi restaurateurs claimed fourth and fifth in the cook-off and second and third in the people's choice, so it was a "great event."

Ell and Denny's at the Novi Sheraton also won the contest for the best dressed booth.

"I think it was a good idea to open it up to other restaurants," she said. "I think it was nice that all of the restaurants came together to make this a great event."

Despite the subzero temperatures

that froze the annual snow ball tournament, Stewart said about 500 people came to last weekend's festival at the Novi Center. The tournament will be rescheduled Stewart says when old man winter gives Novi a break from the deep freeze.

Nonetheless the crowd that did brave the frozen temps came to the festival and few left empty handed.

Janice Wagner walked away with from the Super-Score-O with two free tickets to a Detroit Red Wings game.

And in the Score-O games it was Brandon Burns who took first place in the 5-5 year-olds division; Kyle Vandenberg among 6-7 year-olds; Kellie Pfeiffer won among 8-10 year-olds; Mark Sawasp in the 11-13 year-olds, and Jerry Michelson and Tom Milhizer tied for first in the 14-16 year-olds division.

"I think it went great," Stewart said. "It was just a nice event for a cold, chilly day."

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## Novi '94 event set for Expo

The Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame of America will host Novi '94, the automobile racing and performance enthusiast's dream event this weekend, Jan. 21-23, at the Novi Expo Center.

Novi '94 is a high performance merchandise mart, swap meet, car corral, and collectibles show. Visitors can enter for \$5 apiece and purchase vehicles and components from private parties or large distributors. Parts manufacturers will also be on hand selling direct.

Show hours are Friday, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Celebrity guests will be on hand throughout the event, along with displays of race cars of every description along with muscle and custom cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, classic collector cars and a special exhibit of Bonneville Speed Record competitors.

Saturday night will feature the Bonneville Benefit Bash from 7 p.m. to midnight, an evening of dining and dancing, along with a silent auction.

to benefit the preservation of the Bonneville Salt Flats. Tickets to the Benefit Bash are \$25. Remaining proceeds from the weekend's festivities will benefit the Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame, a showcase of America's racing legends, and a display of over 40 racing vehicles past and present, located in the Novi Expo Center.

The Novi Expo Center is located at the southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road, behind Bob Evans and Big Boy. For reservations or information, call (616) 949-RACE.

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Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

### Total loss

A fire possibly started by a light on a live Christmas tree destroyed this home at 40118 Jefferson in Highland Hills Estates mobile home community on Jan. 5 at about 2 a.m., Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan said. While the owner, Jennifer Southerland escaped, her pet dog hid under a bed and perished. The fire

was contained, but the residence was entirely demolished by smoke damage and water, Lenaghan said. It could not be proved the tree was the culprit, he added, so the cause was listed as uncertain.

### Novi Expo thaws air with spring exhibition

Here's a novel idea to help get you through another long, cold Michigan winter. Start thinking spring at the second annual Spring Home & Garden Show, which opens Feb. 3 at the Novi Expo Center.

"The show will inspire your creativity for springtime home and garden projects," said Robert R. Jones, president of the non-profit Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and Robert R. Jones Associates in West Bloomfield. The association is the event sponsor. "The show brings together a myriad of products for the home and garden all under one roof."

The Spring Home & Garden Show features over 200 exhibitors displaying the latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, yard/gardens, remodeling, furniture, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.

Special highlights at the show include NBC's Today Show gardening commentator Jill Ball's "Yardening Academy" and lawn care information, demonstrations on decorating, home repair and remodeling, the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association gardens and a Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes.

The builders association is also sponsor of the 76th annual International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at the Cobo Conference-Exhibition Center and the second annual Fall Remodeling Show at the Novi Expo Center.

The Spring Home & Garden Show will be open through Feb. 6. Show hours are from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children 6 to 12; children under 6 are admitted free.

## City reaffirms its need to build park

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Building a parks system can be a "give and take" proposition, city officials are finding.

As part of a condemnation case pending in Oakland County Circuit Court, the Novi City Council confirmed once again Jan. 10 their willingness to pay \$998,900 for land near the Novi Tree Farm park.

The council agreed in August to attempt to purchase the property, which city officials say is needed to round out the city's new park complex off of Twelve-and-a-half Mile Road.

While the council tries to "take" this land, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has something to give to the city. The state recently came across with a \$75,000 grant for Rotary Park, to match the \$100,000 put up by the Novi Rotary Club.

In a Dec. 17 letter to Novi Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis, DNR Director Roland Harnes said he approved the funding for the development of Rotary Park and is "optimistic" that the state legislature will OK his recommendation.

The 40 contested north end acres are owned by builder Paul Mitchell, who contends he can make more money developing the land than he can selling it to the city.

City Manager Edward Kieciak said Mitchell is not contesting the necessity of the legal "taking" of the land.

"They're alleging it's worth more up to 50 percent more," he said.

A court trial will determine what price the city will need to pay to add the land to its parks inventory.

Novi already owns 325 acres in the north end parks complex and has spent \$3.44 million of the voter-approved \$9.9 million park bond money to acquire the land.

Learn how to do genealogical research in a two-part program at Novi Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 20 and 27. Both programs begin at 7 p.m.

On Jan. 20, Kathy Mutch, local historian, genealogical researcher and member of the Oakland County Genealogical Society, will present "Genealogical Research: An Introduction to Resource Materials and Sources." On Jan. 27, she will explain "Documenting Genealogical Research: Overcoming the Problems, Avoiding the Pitfalls."

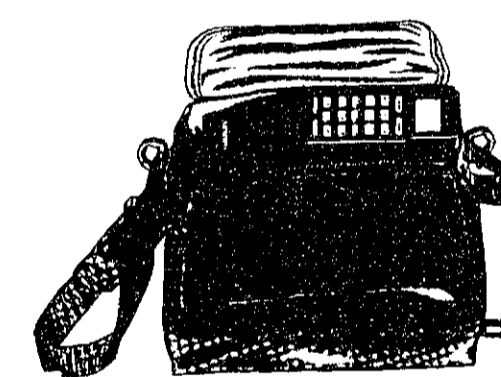
The genealogy theme will continue on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. with "Preserving Family Heritage" by Jeanette Holman. Here, audience members will learn how to maintain and organize photos in a creative "photo-safe" family album that can be handed down through the generations.

Register for these free programs, call the Novi Library at 349-0720.

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# Planners table rezoning of seniors complex

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

The Novi Planning Commission tabled a rezoning request that might lead to a new senior citizens complex near Twelve Oaks Mall.

Commissioners said there were just too many unanswered questions to recommend rezoning land on the south side of Twelve Mile between Twelve Oaks Mall and Meadowbrook Road from office to multiple-family residential. They also feared that if they approved the rezoning and the project fell through, another less desirable project with a similar use could waltz right in.

The rezoning of the 16.9 acres of land would have paved the way for the construction of Grand Oaks of Novi Continuum of Care, a three-tier senior citizen residential project.

Commissioners also unanimously tabled the rezoning because preliminary site plans severely impacted protected woodlands and wetlands. They also hesitated to grant the rezoning because the developer hasn't secured financing for the project and they have yet to see site plans.

Commissioners delayed action on the request Jan. 5. The commission will revisit the issue when site plans are submitted.

The multi-building complex would offer elderly residents three types of housing units. According to initial plans, the complex would have 75 beds in 50 rooms in a home for the aged. Another 120 units would serve as a Congregate Care facility and 30 additional homes with patios would be constructed for elderly residents able to live independently.

Although commissioners were not considering the site plan for the com-

plex Wednesday night, talk of the developer's plans surfaced frequently as planners debated towards tabling action.

Hunting consultant Brandon Rogers recommended the rezoning because he thought the complex would be a suitable neighbor to the shopping mall, Woodland Medical Center and the lake frontage.

"The office market has been slow and this is equally a good use," he said.

Rogers said site plans have been stalled until the rezoning is approved.

"If it's on the map, an applicant can bring in the site plan," he said.

Traffic Consultant Rod Arroyo concurred.

"We don't anticipate any significant road impact," he said. "Typically senior developments like this would generate less traffic and trips."

Commissioner Laura Lorenz said she supported the concept, but wanted assurances that if the rezoning were approved the "lowest would fly."

She said she would support the rezoning for the senior complex but be opposed to amending the master plan for general regional center district use.

Under the zoning ordinance, if the senior complex project failed to materialize the rezoning would remain on the master plan and another developer could take advantage of the rezoning.

Lorenz was also the commissioner who came down the hardest on the applicant for assuming he could build on the protected woodlands and wetlands.

"The city policy is that we don't fill in the wetlands to gain buildable land," she said. "We mitigate as a last resort."

Commissioner Irene Cahill was also concerned about the wetlands and suggested the developer reduce the number of units as a means of lessening the impact on the wetlands.

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# Novi joins regional domestic violence program

Continued from Page 1

Novi is one of 16 communities in the region that have joined the HAVEN program which last year opened an office in Novi. It began in Walled Lake, Wixom and Milford.

"I expected we would just do it," Mackenzie said, describing his feelings when the program started. "But something just frustrating occurred in the eight months of this program, we began to have an impact."

And while they that's not long enough to set anything in stone, officials were excited about the trends they saw.

Police chiefs of the three communities say that their officers are receiving fewer repeat calls for domestic violence. Court representatives add that they've dealt with no repeat offenders of domestic violence since the program started.

Novi's Chief of Police Doug Shafer, for expressed enthusiasm for his community's inclusion.

"We're very excited to participate," he said. "Domestic abuse has been our family life all around us. It's a tremendous stigma and is associated with it."

Court officials said they expect a lot of new business now that Novi and White Lake Township are joining the program. The two communities, Mackenzie said, bring the most domestic violence cases to the court.

Those cases, like the others in the program, will be handled differently than in the past. In 1992, 29 percent of the domestic violence cases brought to the court from the three communities were dropped after request of the woman involved (98 percent of those charged in domestic violence cases are men) or because she refused to assist the prosecution in the case.

That number has fallen to zero among the program's cases. Court officials added that there's been no increase in the number of domestic violence cases dismissed for other reasons as well.

What has increased, Mackenzie said, are the number of those pleading guilty to domestic violence offenses — some 92 percent of those charged. That rise has come, he added, despite a 32 percent increase in 52-1 district court's domestic violence caseload.

"When we see cases go up a third and the dismissal rate go down by a third," the judge said, "we think we've done something. That tells me we've got individuals pleading guilty in cases where, before the program began, they wouldn't have gone to trial."

(Wixom, by the way, accounts for the entire increase in cases to date. Court officials said they don't know why.)

# Perpetrators have no limitations

By RANDY COBLE  
Staff Writer

Domestic violence is an ugly and all too common reality, say the people that are part of a new program to fight it.

"This particular crime is no respecter of wealth," 52-1 District Court Judge Brian Mackenzie said. "It happens in rich and poor communities. It happens everywhere."

According to the FBI's report on the subject, one of every four females in America will be the victim of some form of domestic assault during her lifetime. That works out to one assault every 15 seconds.

It's not just women — (98 percent of those charged in domestic violence cases are men) — that are in danger.

It's a dangerous situation, because in many instances a spouse abuser is also a child abuser, Walled Lake Chief of Police Ken Bortoe said.

In 1992, 16 cases of domestic violence were reported in Walled Lake. Since the program began, that has dropped to 15. Milford, reported six cases in 1992 and four since the program started. Wixom, on the other hand, reported two cases for 1992 and reported 18 since the program started.

The program has several steps. It begins with HAVEN staffers training police officers in the "dynamics" of domestic violence — what tends to go on in abusive relationships and how both sides act and react to it.

The officers themselves now follow a "must-arrest" policy when they respond to a domestic violence call and see evidence of abuse. The point of this step in the program, officials said, is to prevent an abuser from pressuring the woman involved to talk the police out of arresting him — through promises of change or threats of further abuse.

"In many instances, a victim is reluctant to press charges," Milford Chief of Police John Daly said. "After a night's sleep, they're not as willing to sign the complaint. Now we take it out of their hands."

Shafer, by the way, said that the Novi police department has had a "must-arrest" policy for several years.

Those arrested are jailed overnight

Studies say that 60 percent of those who abuse their spouses also assault their children.

Domestic violence is different from other types of crimes, program officials say, and so requires a different approach to solve it.

The perpetrator of domestic violence, officials said, often seems to have a "stable" life — works a good job, pays his bills. Some have even been community leaders.

Underneath the veneer, however, an abuser desperately wants to feel like he's "in control," and will assault his wife or girlfriend to have that feeling.

When faced with cops and courts, however, the abuser plays a double game, officials say. He appears to be reasonable. He expresses concern over burdening the system with such a "small" problem.

Meanwhile, officials say, he's turning the screws — psychologically, emotionally and even through

and taken to the court the next morning, Mackenzie said.

The "must-arrest" policy, Daly added, is an important signal to women involved — they see they have a support system that is serious about protecting them, he said.

Hedy Nuriel, executive director of HAVEN, also pointed out it gets the message across to offenders as well.

"The abuser knows there are consequences when he engages in this behavior or re-offends," she said.

Police also provide women with an informational packet from HAVEN and give HAVEN workers copies of any arrest reports. Court officials notify the woman involved if her alleged abuser makes bail.

Oakland County Pre-Trial Services is part of the effort as well, helping out with pre-bond investigations of 52-1 domestic violence cases.

Prosecutors have also stepped up their efforts under the program. They will no longer drop domestic violence cases from program communities because the woman involved requests it. Like the "must-arrest" policy, the underlying idea is that the alleged abuser now can't put pressure on the alleged victim to drop the matter.

That measure seems to have had an effect. In 1992, the court dealt with 34 domestic violence cases, 10 of which were dismissed — a figure of 29 percent. Since the program be-

gan, none of the 38 cases from the three communities have been.

Yet another step in the program calls for "fast-tracking" domestic vio-

lence cases at the court itself. This reduces the chance for pressure from the abuser and aims at reducing abuse by showing swift justice.

In 1992, a domestic violence case at the court took about 40 days to move from arraignment through pre-trial proceedings. Under the program, that's dropped to five days. It took an average of 113 days for a case to make it from arraignment to final disposition; under the program: 13 days.

HAVEN officials do their part in another step, offering their support and assistance to the women involved. They keep regular contact with them, Nuriel said, to ensure there's no new abuse. HAVEN also offers professional counseling to both abusers and abused.

They've seen a 350 percent increase in counseling requests recently, Nuriel said, most of which can be attributed to the program.

Mackenzie praised the cooperative efforts of all those involved.

"I think that the number of representatives here today from private agencies and governmental bodies demonstrates that there's a real community commitment to the program," he said. "It's a community-based approach."

Further expansion of the program is a possibility, Mackenzie said. He discussed the idea with a South Lyon representative.

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## '91 ruling ties city's hands on oil drilling

Continued from Page 1

by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the Northhouse Dunes set a dangerous precedent for lawsuit slapped on Novi by SOMOCO.

It was estimated by the city's lawyers that Novi might have to pay SOMOCO \$50 million if it were denied the right to drill at a Ten Mile Road site a quarter-mile west of Echo Valley Estates Subdivision.

"It was a pretty devastating case. It was quite a fiscal burden," Pope said. Because the Northhouse Dunes and other related legal cases are based on constitutional law, "we can't avoid their impact by simply changing the ordinances," Fried wrote in his opinion. However, that could be a different case if the Michigan Court of Appeals reverses the

Northhouse Dunes decision, the lawyer added. That ruling could come within the next few months.

The problem in the SOMOCO case stemmed from prior court decisions which make it very difficult to validly present the extraction of minerals from property. The case (Northhouse) was significant because the court treated the subsurface rights as a separate property right from the surface rights of the property.

Novi's ordinances permit the city to bar oil wells from residential land if it can be proved that "very serious consequences" would ensue from the drilling or operation of the well.

Wolverine Oil and Gas Company is contracting for seismic studies to determine if petroleum deposits are under or near the Novi Tree Farm Park on Twelve-and-a-half Mile Road. Council Member Joseph Toth pointed out in December that the firm will pay a \$25 permit fee for the privilege. This likely does not cover the costs of the close monitoring of the project, which involves dynamic charges, by the city's fire marshal, Pope said.

"I do think we can recoup our funds. I don't want the taxpayers subsidizing these things," he explained.

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The state legislature, in a 26-hour marathon, completed work Dec. 24 on laws to replace local property taxes and change the way schools are run.

Schiller and his staff couldn't explain the Legislature's error, so board member Gurneet Salas, D-East Lansing, took a stab at it: "This is part of the initiative to privatize schools. If you remove that requirement (certification), it's easier to move people in and out."

Gov. John Engler, in his October

## LARA hosts hearing on oil tests

By JAN JEFFREYS  
Staff Writer

All Novi residents interested in an oil company's plans for seismic testing at the Novi Tree Farm are invited to a Tuesday, Jan. 25 meeting of the Lakes Area Residents Association.

In December, the Novi City Council in December gave the Grand Rapids-based Wolverine Gas and Oil Company the go-ahead to search for possible petroleum deposits under the surface of the city park on Twelve-and-a-half Mile Road. Since then, LARA president Harry Avagian says his phone has been busy with calls from worried members of the north end homeowners association.

"I realize that many people in the lakes area, having read in *The Novi News* about the anticipated exploration of oil may have questions," Avagian said last week.

"People are concerned about the modus operandi of exploring for oil. People are concerned about the interruptions to the environment. Some have expressed concerns that it would be insensitive to the environ-

mental conditions of the Christmas Tree Farm.

"They're particularly concerned that city council has given permission. What I'm trying to do is head off their concerns."

The seismic tests, involving small charges of dynamite, are expected to begin in late February or early March on the Novi Tree Farm. Wolverine has retained Eagle Exploration to do the testing.

Larry Garvin, a mineral rights leasing agent representing Wolverine Gas and Oil, will be on hand at the LARA meeting to field questions. Novi Fire Chief Arthur Lenaghan will also be there to help residents understand what's happening.

Avagian says some lakes area homeowners have been approached about leasing their oil and mineral rights to Wolverine.

"I told them that was a legal matter and they would be best to seek answers elsewhere," he added.

"The oil and gas exploration will not be the only 'hot topic' at the LARA meeting. Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaffer will be present to discuss truck traffic on West Road.

Also on the agenda is Decker Road. After a series of delays, the city council on Jan. 31 is scheduled to discuss the road bond project.

LARA backs the city completing the Decker Road project as planned — although there has been some discussion among city officials of delaying the roadwork, which is expected to run over budget.

"It has been the position of the Lakes Area Residents Association that we're not asking for anything but what was promised," Avagian said.

The LARA meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Walled Lake Middle School media center, 46720 West Pontiac Trail.

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## District moves forward with its long range plan

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

The creation of a business partnership program is just one of several goals that have been accomplished in the Novi Community School District's long range plan this year.

Superintendent Emmett Lippe used the partnership program as just one example of how the district was actively seeking to meet the goals spelled out in the long range plan a 47-member steering committee established last year.

The superintendent updated the Novi Board of Education Jan. 6 on the progress being made on the five-year long range plan that's being phased in district-wide this year. He repeated his presentation later that evening for the Novi City Council at a joint meeting of the council and school board.

"We wanted to show you that the long range plan was not just a document sitting on a shelf somewhere," Lippe told the school board. "It's being implemented."

Last year, a group of 47 school administrators, parents, students and business and community leaders convened to develop a five-year plan for the school district. Through their deliberations emerged a long range plan that seeks to meet specific goals for each competency, technology, quality programs, business partnerships, staff development, facilities and land, financial, curriculum integration, and diverse population.

Goals and strategies have been set by subcommittees of the larger steering committee and the fruits of their labor are taking root.

Phase One of three phases for technology implementation is nearly completed Lippe said last week. In December 1993, voters approved a \$7.9 million bond issue to bring technology into Novi schools. Since the bond issue passed, school officials have been able to link each of the district's buildings to create a local area network. Ninety-five percent of the teachers are computer literate on classroom teaching stations. And each school has a multi-media laboratory for student use. Computers also have access to Internet, an international network that links Novi classrooms to university and other databases. It also provides a link to the Library of Congress and NASA Space Lab.

"Phase one is all done or as much of it as we can do until Detroit Edison gives us the right-away and construction at the schools is done," Lippe said.

Another part of Lippe's brief presentation included the announcement that a business partnership program was taking root in the district. Tonight organizers of the Partners in Education Program will announce the names of businesses in

the community that have agreed to pair up with schools in the district. By the end of tonight's meeting each Novi school will have adopted a business partner. The purpose of the program is to improve student learning by extending the classroom into the business community.

The program calls on business partners to be directly involved with student learning by sharing the expertise of their businesses, organizations, or individuals in a one-to-one relationship with students.

For students the partnership program is intended to enrich the curriculum, increase career awareness, provide successful role models and foster a greater understanding of the business community. It also seeks to increase motivation and improve self-image.

On the flip side, business partners will be afforded an opportunity to invest in tomorrow's leaders today. Business partners will also be exposed to an insiders look at the Novi Community School District. For partners, organizers hope the program will foster a sense of teamwork, mutual understanding and personal satisfaction.

According to the mission statement drafted by the Partners in Education Program Advisory Council, the program seeks "to strengthen the educational process, enhance the sharing of expertise between business and education, and develop a better sense of community."

John Swallow, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, spearheaded the partnership program for the schools. Corinne Mallett, President of the Novi Chamber of Commerce and George Andrews, of TRACC, are coordinating it for the business community.

## Certification is contradicted in new school aid bill

By TIM RICHARD  
Staff Writer

The first error in Michigan's new school funding plan has been spotted.

Lawmakers eliminate a school code requirement that school administrators be certified by the state. But their school aid act penalizes school districts that hire uncertified administrators.

"We are the only state not requiring professional certification to administer our schools. It's a significant step backwards," Dr. Robert Schiller, superintendent, told the State Board of Education. "There has to be some cleanup."

"The state board's authority has been usurped by the law," added Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester Hills, the board treasurer. "Several

sections in the code have some constitutional questions."

The Michigan Constitution orders the Legislature to "maintain and support" free public education. But it gives the eight-member state board "leadership and general supervision over all public education" except universities.

The state legislature, in a 26-hour marathon, completed work Dec. 24 on laws to replace local property taxes and change the way schools are run.

Schiller and his staff couldn't explain the Legislature's error, so board member Gurneet Salas, D-East Lansing, took a stab at it: "This is part of the initiative to privatize schools. If you remove that requirement (certification), it's easier to move people in and out."

Gov. John Engler, in his October

special message on education, told lawmakers that auto executive Lee Iacocca couldn't be hired to teach business. Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley couldn't teach civics and press corps dean Tim Skubik couldn't teach journalism under Michigan's tight certification laws.

Lawmakers did little to change that. Instead they allowed hiring of uncertified administrators — such as superintendents, principals and curriculum directors. Not only need they

not be certified as administrators, but they wouldn't have to be certified as teachers.

The new school code (Public Act 335 of 1993) sets a June 30 deadline for the state board to establish new continuing education requirements for administrators.

The law applies to school districts, public school academies, intermediate districts and nonpublic schools. "The good news," Schiller said, comes in new requirements for

teachers.

The state board must develop a "an expedited fast track teacher preparation program" for the Iacoccas who have "outstanding academic credentials, who are exceptionally gifted performers or artists, or who are outstanding professionals expert in their fields of endeavor."

New teachers are to be helped by "master" teachers who will act as mentors during the newcomer's first three years.

New teachers must take "at least 15 days" a year of professional development work at university linked schools.


A college student planning a career in education must demonstrate successful group work with children, high academic achievement, and knowledge of computers and technology "before any individual may engage in student teaching in a school in this state." That requirement kicks in July 1, 1995.

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THURSDAY  
January 20,  
1994

## As We See It

### Rep. has good cause in one-chamber plan

Like the unsophisticated boy who blurted out, "The emperor has no clothes," Rep. Jerry Vorva is pointing out an elemental truth that political panderers avoid.

Michigan doesn't need a two-chamber legislature. One will do just fine, thank you. And now is the time to push the idea, says Vorva, a freshman Republican from Plymouth whose district includes the Northville area.

As your school child knows, the two-chamber idea was born as a class distinction in Great Britain with the House of Lords and the House of Commons. At the U.S. Constitutional Convention of 1787, the idea was a political compromise between the large states, which wanted representation by population, and small states, which wanted two members per state. There would be an age distinction, too: House members had to be 25; senators, 30.

Michigan followed suit at its most recent Con Con in 1961-62. House districts were to have equal populations. Senate districts were to be drawn by "apportionment factors," with 20 percent of the factors awarded by land area in a county and 80 percent by population.

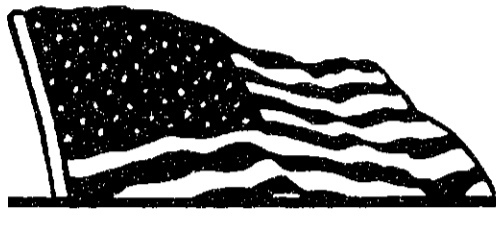
Well, that didn't last long. Before the decade was over, the U.S. Supreme Court said apportionment by anything but population violated the "equal protection of the laws" provision of the U.S. Constitution.

At that point, a two-chamber legislature was obsolete, but its defenders said a second chamber was needed to catch the errors of the first. Precisely the opposite appears to be the truth in Michigan's system.

You frequently can hear lawmakers say they "gave a vote" to a bill they disliked to "keep the process moving"—that is, to get a bill over to the other chamber where, one prays, its laws will be fixed. That's a sloppy way to vote.

In fact, Michigan has a three-chamber legislature. The third is the conference committees and the backroom "negotiations" by a handful of leaders closeted with the governor. Of the 148 legislators, perhaps 140 are left out of the dealing. That's an undemocratic way to do business, particularly in a complex industrial state like Michigan.

The third chamber subjects the House and Senate to all night sessions, as we have seen not only in the recent



Michael Malott

## How much is a vote worth?



Michael Malott

If \$35 in fruit could buy a public official's vote in Novi, then what you have to understand is that all the votes to be cast in the near future by the majority of the City Council have long since been bought and paid for.

Novi just put its mayor and three of its council members through a eight-month long process known as an election. Of necessity, the process involves a lot of fundraising, taking donations and spending the money in all manner of ways.

In the past election, a \$35 donation wouldn't have raised an eyebrow. Two hundred dollar contributions were commonplace. And they weren't coming from just those who have projects or requests likely to come before council in the near future; the lists of contributors read like a virtual who's who of the City of Novi and the surrounding area.

Anyone who thinks that the cash they gave to their favorite politician didn't go to feed the candidate and his or her campaign workers ought to take a closer look at the campaign finance reports. Victory parties and fundraisers in restaurants were typical. One candidate dropped \$312 on pizza on election day alone.

The candidate who raised the most money in the past election, mayor Kathy McLallen, received more than \$14,400. At a price of \$35 a vote, that would mean the first 411 votes are already called for.

I'm being facetious, of course, but I find it a little difficult to get excited about the idea that council members and planning commissioners in Novi were sent fruit baskets worth \$35 over the holidays by Vic Ventimiglia, owner of Vic's Quality Fruit Market and who is proposing a store for

Novi and Evergreen III, the investor group seeking to build the Main Street project in Novi's town center area. Not all took them. Some accepted them only to turn them over to charity later. Others kept them.

But Planning Commissioner Glen Bonaventura objected to the gifts and raised the issue in a recent meeting. He is proposing a new ethics code for the Planning Commission, one which would be more stringent than the one which governs city council and which would also require disclosure of gifts received by commissioners.

It makes some sense that the issue was raised by a planning commissioner, who was appointed to his position rather than elected. So a gift might be somewhat unusual for him. But the idea of disclosure of gifts has come up before the council before and been rejected. The idea apparently is being revived in the council's rules committee.

Now, while I'm not impressed with \$35 fruit baskets or their ability to sway council members or commissioners, I also tend to think disclosure is a good idea. As long as reasonable rules are set—such as a requirement to report only those gifts worth more than, say, \$25 and an exemption for gifts from relatives or friends who have no connection to city business—the idea of disclosure should not be overly burdensome for the council members. And it would follow the spirit of the campaign finance reporting laws, which is how why know how much candidates for office raised, from whom and on what the money was spent.

But I also think that rules, whatever they turn out to be, should be the same for council and the planning commissioners. It is after all the council which makes the final decision on most of what the planning commission does.

If nothing else, disclosure will set the record straight on just how much council members and planning commissioners get in terms of gifts, and just how expensive—or inexpensive—those gifts may be.

Michael Malott is the Managing Editor of The Novi News.

## Good plan still needs scrutiny

It is an exciting concept, one which has drawn a great deal of attention throughout the area. But it is also one that needs a hard look, a skeptical review, by council members who are not hesitant to ask the hard questions.

We are speaking about the proposal to build a downtown-like Main Street on 55 acres of nearly vacant land south and east of the Grand River Avenue/Novi Road intersection. While it would be impossible to create from scratch a typical downtown, like those in Northville or Milford, Novi planners believe they can come up with a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development with a variety of retail outlets as well as cultural and entertainment-oriented facilities, like a theater, an art gallery, sidewalk cafes and a bandshell. Already plans are in the works for a fruit market and a sports tavern. And all this is to be laid out along a "streetscaped" Main Street.

City planners have been working on the concept steadily since 1980 and a number of builders have come and looked at the proposal and passed. But now, developer James Chen and his investment group, Evergreen III, say they can build it and want to give it a shot.

Chen hopes to put up \$50 to \$60 million worth of buildings in the Main Street area. But the big question for the City of Novi is who will pay for the \$2.2 million in water, sewer and road improvements along the Main Street corridor. Planning Department Director Jim Wahl said he hopes the developer will pay for most of it, but Chen may come looking for help from the city in order to "make the numbers work."

Already the city has sunk a fair amount of cash into the concept through an annual \$10,000 budget for the Town Center Steering Committee and through the commissioning of special reports and hiring of consultants. Still, the city could save get help in the form of a state Department of Transportation grant to fund portions of the Ring Road and the town center area, part of which will be the Main Street segment.

City council was on the right track when it ordered up a cost analysis this week to determine how much the city is likely to spend on this project and how much is to be gained as a result of the gain in Novi's tax base.

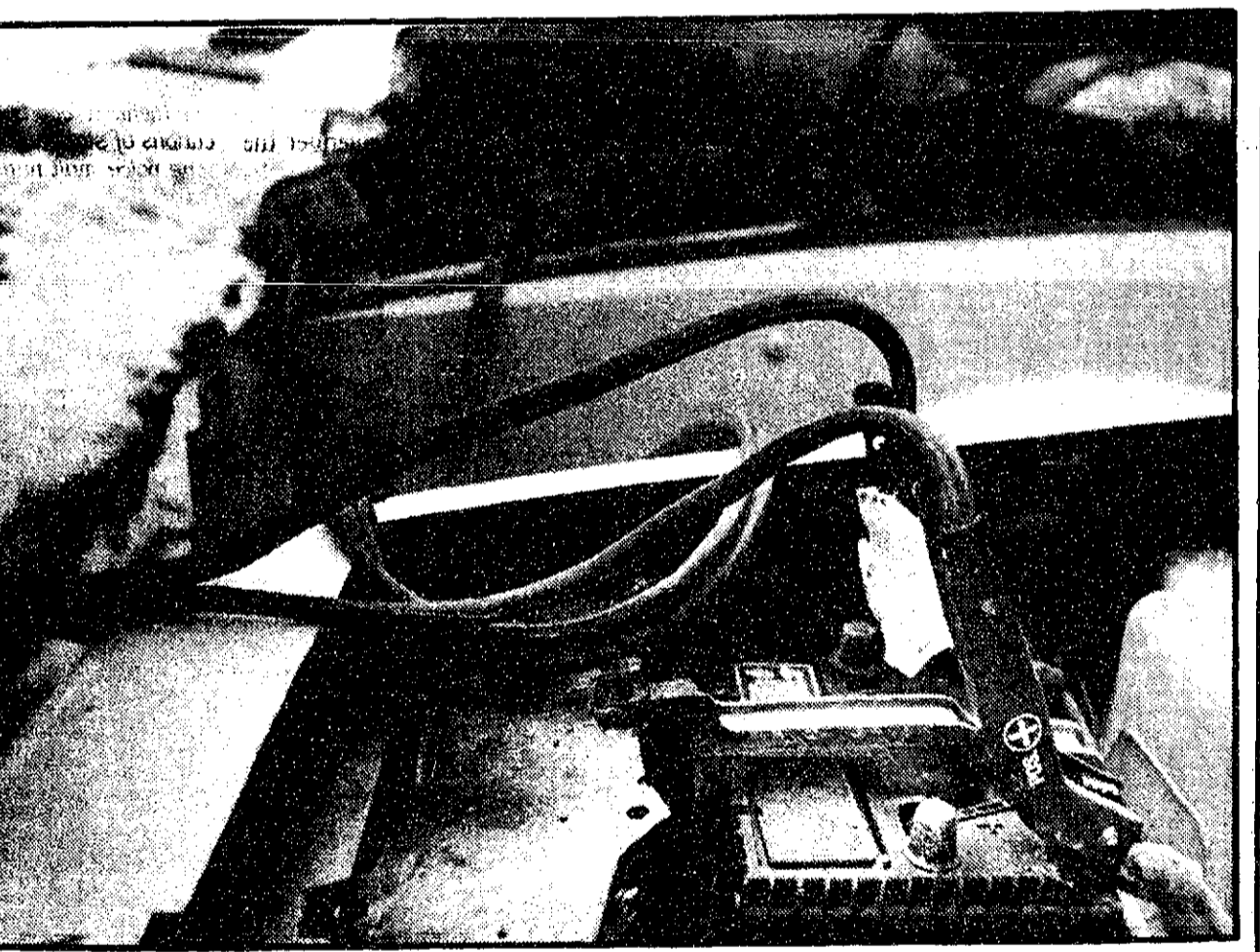
At the same time, council should be considering the economic viability of this area. Downtowns all around the country, including Northville and Milford, have experienced financial hard times in recent years because of the retail competition offered up by the malls and strip centers. Yes, people may like to spend time in downtown areas, but they seem to spend more money in the malls.

All that gain in tax base won't mean much if after the developers get it put up, the businesses of the area find they can't draw enough customers to be successful and go belly up.

Like we said, it is an exciting concept, one we sincerely hope Novi can pull off. Yet, the city stands to get the best chance of having a successful downtown if it asks the tough questions now, and insists that the developer make it on his own without too much assistance from city officials.

## Moments

By Bryan Mitchell



Sub-zero temperatures in the Novi area play havoc with car batteries.

## You can make difference



Randy Coble

behaves from watching the behavior of those around them. Kids with positive role models in their daily lives have a better chance of turning out OK than those who don't.

It's a long process to turn out bad or good. We as kids put away childish things and become adults by degrees, like water running down a rock. Slowly, patiently—painfully—our experiences etch grooves upon the mind. Little by little, a kid learns the way to behave, right or wrong.

A family structure, it's important to note, isn't a static definition as it sounds. Role models don't have to be blood, they can be anyone who exerts an influence in a young person's life—just someone who cares. Someone who's a friend.

Enter Northville Youth Assistance. NYA runs a program that matches volunteers from the community with kids who can benefit from having that sort of a friend—or "interacting with a positive adult role model," as my sister, a psychotherapist, might say. A lot of kids fit that bill. Some have gotten into scrapes

with the law, but a lot are just part of families in a tough spot, where role models of one sex or the other are lacking. They need someone they can confide in.

You can be that friend for a kid in need by joining the program. Anyone 21 years or older, township or city resident, is welcome. You receive 15 hours of training and then get matched with a young person involved in the program. From there, you spend a couple of hours one day a week with your match.

You can do any number of things, NYA Director Mary Ellen King pointed out. Go skating or for ice cream, play a game or just talk. The benefit comes in the child having someone they can trust and talk to. Over time, the groove becomes deeper and deeper. If you doubt that, just think back to your own turbulent teenage years.

Remember that somebody you had who kept your secrets—the ones Mom and Dad would never know—and solved those seemingly insoluble problems? They were the people we looked up to—looked forward to—because we saw in them something we wanted to be. I had those role models as a child and the grooves they made are with me today.

We can all return the favor our role models did for us in those hundred little ways big and small through NYA's volunteer program. If you're interested in the program, call King at 344-1618.

For 15 hours of training and two hours a week—and a piece of your heart—you could etch a groove on a child's mind that lasts a lifetime.

Cheap at twice the price, don't you think?

Randy Coble is a staff writer for The Novi News and The Northville Record.

## MEAP scores are on the way up



Phil Power

There's good news on the school front: MEAP scores are going up.

MEAP stands for Michigan Educational Assessment Program. It's the set of achievement tests covering math, science and reading now given periodically to kids in various grades in school.

MEAP results are important, especially given the fact that the "educational reform" plan passed last year by the Legislature turned out to be concerned mostly with taxes and little with educational quality.

Although originally designed as a device to review school curricula, MEAP turned out to be the only serious education assessment device widely available to parents and taxpayers. This newspaper publishes regularly the MEAP scores for the entire school district, broken out by building-by-building. Readers can see just how the schools attended by their children are doing are doing compared to others.

What is striking about last year's improved test results is that they prove the common sense approach to school quality improvement is correct: Define what kids are supposed to learn; teach them; assess what they have

learned; make changes when things are going badly.

Joseph Payne, professor of mathematics instruction at the University of Michigan, puts it bluntly: "I think there are major efforts in the state to examine curricula, and changes are being made." Tests prior to MEAP were "really minimal. They did nothing about higher thinking skills. It did not represent the kind of situations that people really face."

School official after school official echoes Payne's evaluation.

James Faust, director of pupil personnel in the Huron Valley schools (around Milford), explained: "We used the MEAP scores from last year to analyze our strengths and weaknesses. We always do that, but last year, because there was some criticism, we did it more than normal."

In Birmingham, where MEAP scores also improved, "last year we analyzed the scores and looked at where we needed to make improvements," according to Sandra Schwartz, the district's MEAP coordinator. "There is more hands-on experiential learning... trying to use the best instructional practices we have," she says.

Jane Kuckel, associate superintendent for instruction in the Wayne-Westland district, agrees: "We are satisfied with just common sense approach to school quality improvement is correct: Define what kids are supposed to learn; teach them; assess what they have

learned; make changes when things are going badly.

build on prior grades. Students must work toward the application of skills instead of just computation."

Why not, especially when school officials were dismayed at deteriorating scores for the last couple of years?

Simple. It takes time to go through the process. Scores must be evaluated to determine where kids are having trouble. Course content, textbooks and teaching methods need to be changed. And the changes need a little time to sink in.

But that's life in the real world.

And despite all the huffing and puffing from Lansing about school reform, it's the old MEAP test and the common sense approach to educational quality that are doing the job, day by day, year by year. Congratulations to the many, many teachers and school officials who are working so hard for our kids.

Phil Power is chairman of the company that owns this newspaper. His telephone voice mail number is (313) 953-2047 ext. 1880.

## The most quoted man in Lansing



Tim Richard

The oft quoted man in Lansing, next to gubernatorial press secretary John Truscott, must be Bill Ballenger. He's editor and publisher of a newsletter called Inside Michigan Politics, whose acronym is IMP. That tells you a bit about his sense of humor.

If no legislators or party leaders are hanging around to comment on political implications of a governmental action, the state capital press corps turns to Ballenger. 53. Sometimes the corps turns to Ballenger anyway because he will say truthful things that politicians don't dare say.

MP circulates to political candidates, assessing the strengths of potential candidates, tracking the outcomes of county board elections (a Democratic trend), and rating lobbyists (Oakland schools' Rick Simonson was a standout). IMP even evaluates the press corps, not too favorably: "The corps has shrunk in size since the early '80s. It's also increasingly frustrated by out-of-town editors who bump its stories in favor of 'soft' human interest features and entertainment news." That Ballengerism ap-

peared shortly before the Detroit broadcasters short-changed the state parks story in favor of the Nancy Kerrigan case.

Our quotable guru was raised William S. Ballenger III in mid-Michigan, earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton (magna cum laude), and turned early to politics in Shiawassee County. There he served on the county planning commission, chaired both the Young Republicans and senior party organizations, and directed research for the GOP State Committee in Lansing. Hence his knowledge of the intricacies of electioneering.

In a job usually occupied by faceless bureaucrats, Ballenger made a splash by concocting a series of imaginative promotions for the horse racing industry. Ballenger argued, with mathematical precision, that the Lottery is a sucker bet and horse race wagering is a far better deal. Sad to say, Miliken left office in 1982, incoming Democrat Jim Blanchard gave Ballenger the boot, and horse racing continues to deteriorate.

A bid for a U.S. Senate nomination in the

mid-'80s came to naught, but Ballenger had a barrel of fun with a bicycling campaign.

I can't say we're social friends, but we share an abiding admiration for a comical, inquisitive breed of dog called the Norwegian elkhound. That proves Ballenger is a good sort.

His Republican reputation doesn't stop him from calling the shots as he sees them. Here's what he said recently about Republican U.S. Senate hopefuls: Carl Pursell, former Plymouth congressman who pulled out, is "a garrulous frump." Ronna Romney, the Bloomfield Hills money-raiser, is "flitting an image as an air-head." Front runner Spence Abraham is "a bland hatchet man" with "something missing."

Jim Elsmann, the Birmingham attorney and GOP convert, is a "smart, dogged eccentric—who but he can't do better than single digits next Aug. 2." State Sen. Gil DiNello, "despite a history of high-profile Detroit-bashing, is a nonentity outside state."

That's what you get from an H.L. Mencken admirer who once named an elkhound Lou—for the Norse god of mischief.

Tim Richard reports regularly on the local implications of state and national news. His telephone voice mail number is (313)953-2047 ext. 1881.

## Appreciate Novi's care for victims

To the Editor:  
The creation of a Victim Interview Room by the Novi Police Department is a long awaited step in the right direction.

Twenty years ago, while on a lunch break at a shopping mall (Northland), my wife was kidnapped at gun point from the parking lot.

She was subsequently robbed, raped, and, fortunately, released. Unfortunately, she was sans car, purse, irreplaceable jewelry, and her dignity. Maintaining enough of her composure and common sense, she was able to find a taxi (in a seedy section of Detroit) and return to her place of employment.

Police officers (Southfield) responded to her employer's phone calls and so did I.

With little exception, as I accompanied my wife through her initial police report, her examination and treatment at the nearest hospital (Providence Southfield); her visit to the police station (Detroit, McGraw) to verify the theft of our car (which they had recovered) and to relate to the sneering interrogators the details of the rape and theft; through the line-up of suspects at Detroit Police Headquarters (one of whom was positively identified as the assailant); through the indifferent and self-serving maneuvering of the Oakland County prosecutor's office whose jurisdiction covered the

code of ethics for board members, commissioners and elected officials is needed.

The type of code of ethics adopted by Novi is fairly common. The problem with this type of code, however, is that the person receiving a gift is asked to make a subjective decision about whether that gift will influence his/her actions. This can be difficult, especially since these gifts are being given to influence opinions and actions. For example, I'm sure that Evergreen III and Vic's Market would like the council and planning commission to think favorably about their Main Street plans and approve them. In that respect, however, I'm not sure they would think that the fruit baskets were a good idea.

A more objective code of ethics would require public disclosure of all gifts in excess of a stated amount, say \$25, by board members, commissioners and elected officials. Novi residents could then make their own decisions about whether they believed that the gifts influenced the recipients. This disclosure would also inform the public about those parties attempting to influence board members, commissioners and elected officials. I think that's the real benefit of such public disclosure—a closer look at who ultimately has a say in how our city is developed and governed.

James G. Antosiak

## Letters

There's a benefit to disclosure

Let's build that ice arena

## State park fans rally together

Politically, fans of the state parks have their least together.

Financially, they have yet to map out how to build a \$700 million endowment fund that will free state parks from depending on the legislature for their existence.

"I am heartened that our Legislature is providing the necessary leadership in this state parks initiative," says Jojo M. Spano, a member of the state Natural Resources Commission, said at a state capitol news conference.

"I have been very concerned about the lack of general fund budget support for state parks. Ten years ago the general fund provided 80 percent of

the support and park revenues 20 percent," said Stano of West Bloomfield Township.

"Now that's exactly reversed—20 percent from the general fund and 80 percent from revenues. Let's stop being begging for more money. I am concerned about our fees—we're preying people out."

Spano, the suburban township's parks and recreation director, has been on the MIRC for two years as an appointee of Gov. John Engler.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs started the push in January of 1993 for better financial underpinning for the 100 state parks.

MUCC's plan: a penny hike in the sales tax for one year to set up an endowment fund whose interest earnings would replace tax money from the general fund.

Spano said MUCC and Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, of which she is a member, "raised awareness of the fact that our state parks were deteriorating. But we weren't going to be able to do this on our own."

MUCC's plan would have produced \$15 million a year in interest revenue, more than double the general fund support of state parks.

Engler's idea was shoved aside in the Legislature's process.

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# Bills bear lower assessments

Continued from Page 1

The jump followed a state imposed tax assessment freeze in 1991.

Assessment increases are based in part on sales figures of similar properties.

"I think we're seeing stability in the residential market. The big surge is gone. We're getting a lot of new homes and they're expensive homes but the stuff that gets into the sales studies have been rather stable," the assessor said.

Employees in the assessor's office walked through 1,100 new structures over the past year, including

352 new houses and condos built in 1993 and over 500 constructed the previous year.

"We are just about keeping our heads above water with new construction. These aren't 1,100 to 1,200 square foot ranches. These are 2,000 to 3,000 square foot homes priced at \$300,000 to \$350,000. It takes longer to do them," Klausmeyer said.

But he cautioned that assessment hikes of up to 20 percent might be seen in some residential areas within Novi, while some condominium complexes could see a decrease in assessment rates in the vicinity of 15

percent.

"We've had some softening in the condo market overall," he explained.

Assessment notices may arrive in local mailboxes later than usual, just scooting in ahead of the March deadline due to the restructuring of the system now planned in Lansing. Expect your notice by Feb. 25, Klausmeyer said.

In the midst of all this — including the convening of local boards of review — voters will be asked March 15 to vote on a proposed two-cent increase in the sales tax and a statewide six mill property tax for schools. In this package, homestead property

taxes would be 24 mill, six levied statewide and 18 locally.

If this plan fails, a statutory plan would then mandate school operating property taxes at 12 mills locally on homes and an additional 12 mills statewide on non-homesite property.

"With everything going on, we need as much time as we can get. Normally, we need to send them (notices out by the middle of February," Klausmeyer said.

March 11 is the last day to send petitions to Novi's Board of Review. This year, the board meets from March 14 to March 18.

# Planners veto 64 new homes

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

A developer's plan to stray from detached cluster housing to single family homes was turned by the Novi Planning Commission on Jan. 6.

The revised plan was rejected 8-0 because of the severe impact 64 new homes would have on some of the highest quality woodlands in the City of Novi. The subdivision is located on 58 acres on the northwest corner of Beck Road and Nine Mile.

Neighboring residents also lobbied against the revised plan because it called for a Nine Mile access drive into the subdivision. The previous plan provided access only from Beck Road.

Reportedly developers changed the type of housing after they deemed detached clusters are not as marketable as single family homes. Singh Development Co. purchased the land and changed the plan from Silver Beech Estates to Robins Nest Subdivision.

When the land changed hands,

the nature of the plan also changed significantly.

Singh Development Co. President G. Michael Kahn said access roads to the subdivision needed to be changed because one of the two access roads from Beck bisected one of the homes on the plan. He said the Nine Mile Road access would be reserved as a secondary access. Beck Road would remain as the principle entry.

But residents argued against opening the road. A half dozen of them attended the meeting to oppose the Nine Mile access drive. Many said they often walked and jogged along the gravelled mile road and didn't want the added traffic coming through their subdivisions.

City Planning Consultant Brandon Rogers said Nine Mile Road has been designated as a "scenic road" on the city's Master Plan.

Robins Nest was the city's first submittal under the new "preservation option" that was adopted into the zoning ordinance last July. It re-

placed the previous plan for detached cluster housing, which was granted a one-year extension by planners in June.

Rogers said he couldn't recommend the new plan because it goes against the grain and intent of the preservation option.

The intent of the option is to encourage flexibility in development with substantial preservation of woodlands and minimal intrusion on the functioning ecosystem.

Rogers said he can't see how the intent of the option is being met by a plan that destroys 55 percent of the 26.02 acres of woodlands on the site. The irony, Rogers said, is that the Silver Beech Estates plan was more dense with development but had less impact on the woodlands. This plan has fewer units but greater impact.

"Under the Silver Beech plan they didn't even need a woodlands permit because they left 100 percent intact," Rogers said. "This plan takes 55 percent out."

Planning Consultant Linda Lemke

also recommended denial.

"These are mature woodlands that are very well developed," she said. "It is very sensitive."

The site is covered primarily with mature Beech and Maples. But there are also two small areas on the west side of the site with old apple, elm, maple and cherry trees.

Commissioner Laura Lorenzo said she's always been an advocate for single family homes over detached cluster housing. Until now.

"I prefer single family to cluster homes," she said. "In fact I was one of the ones most vocally opposed to it. But this would disturb all of the city's habitat system because it feeds off this one."

Commissioner Glen Bonaventura hoped the city council would accept the commission's rejection of the plan.

"I think council should pay attention to the comments expressed at tonight's meeting," he said. "This is a very sensitive area in our community."

## Volunteer Notes

**Volunteers needed:** 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 million hours of service and \$2.4 million in contributions.

If you are interested in helping others through this meaningful and worthwhile form of volunteerism, please call Karen Wiley at Providence Hospital's Department of Volunteer Services at 424-3300.

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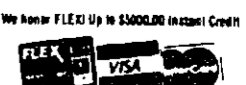
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**REAL ESTATE**

**Beware of offers coming to your financial rescue**

By James M. Woodard  
Copley News Service

When homeowners experience a loss of job or other financial problems, they sometimes find themselves caught in a web of continuing problems.

First, they can't make their monthly mortgage payments, creating a default in their account. Then when the "notice of default" is filed by their lender or servicing agent, they start receiving calls and mail from people who propose various schemes for saving them from foreclosure. And this sometimes leads to more problems.

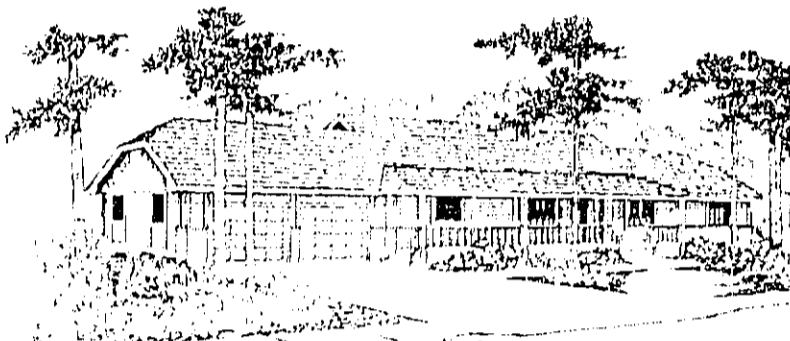
Some of these offers are legitimate. Others are on the borderline of legality. Some are outright fraud.

People and firms who would take advantage of homeowners in distress seem to come out of the woodwork when foreclosures are up. And they are up, sharply, in some regions. In California, for example, foreclosures are up by about 57 percent over 1992.

Many opportunists keep an eye on the notices of default, listed in various publications. Particularly targeted are those properties with

Continued on 2

**HOME DESIGNS**



**A welcome and a mudroom is offered by the Templeton**

By James McAlexander  
Copley News Service

A wide front porch, complete with columns and railings, gives a welcoming look to the Templeton. And inside, a long bench in the airlock entryway provides a place to shuck off muddy footwear, which can then be stored beneath.

Bedrooms are at the front, family living areas in the back. And this compact single-level home has room for a shop and additional storage space in the garage.

Economical to build, the plan is well-suited to the needs of first-time home buyers, empty-nesters and singles.

It also can be adapted for wheelchair accessibility.

Bedroom two, to the right of the entry, is a good location for a home office. A door could be added for direct access from the front porch, or from the airlock entry.

Vaulted ceilings create a sense of spaciousness in the sky-lit entry as well as in the dining room, living room and master suite.

Depending on the family's taste for either formality or informality, the large open space adjacent to the kitchen could either be outfitted as a family room with a nook, or a living room and dining room. A wide hearth spans the alcove that houses a fireplace and wood-box.

The kitchen has

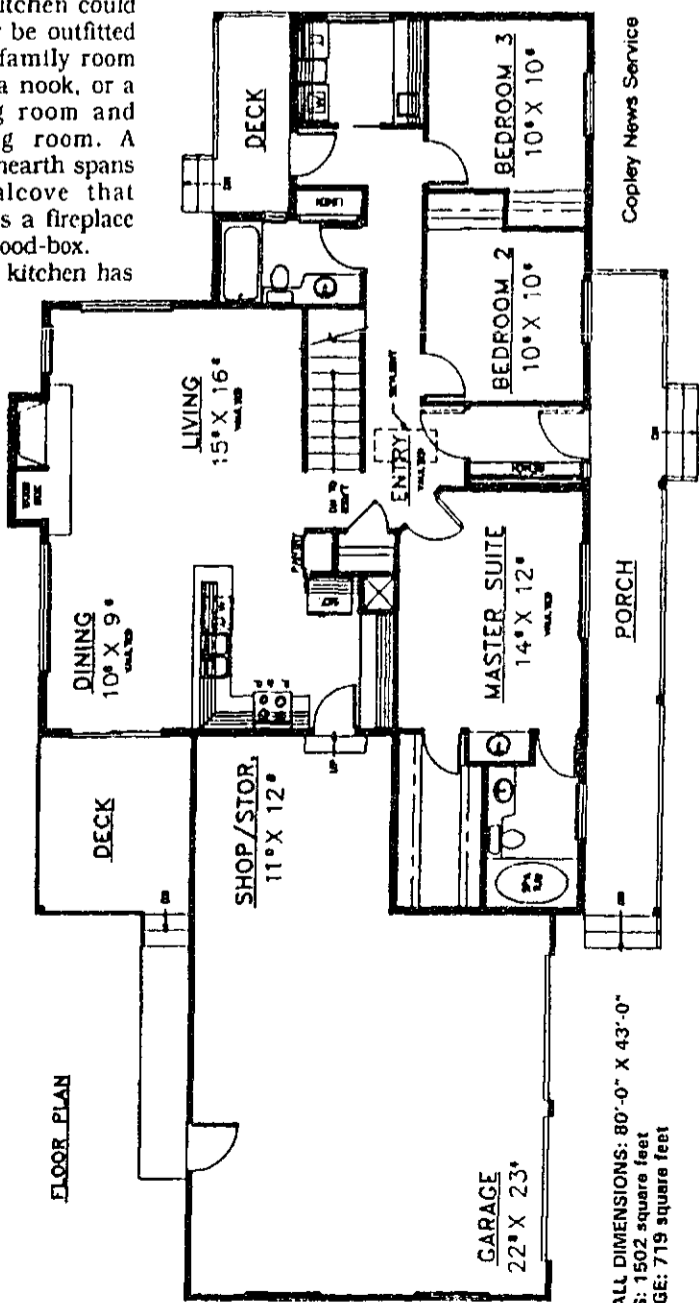
a small pantry, generous cupboard and counter space and is directly accessible from the garage. A cook top and dishwasher are built into the counter.

Basement stairs are at the center of the house, close to everything. Utilities are down the hall, next to a bathroom and the two secondary bedrooms.

The utility room is larger than you'd expect to find in a house this size, and it comes complete with a deep sink, cabinets and a long counter for folding clothes. A rear door, that opens onto a small deck, allows people who have gotten grubby from working in the back yard to leave their gardening togs in the laundry room without tracking through the house.

Luxury features in the vaulted master suite include an extra-large walk-in closet, a spa tub and a second basin outside of the bathroom.

For a study plan of the Templeton (332-201), 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.)



A new arts and crafts show register will enable fans to know where and when the next event will be.

**CRAFTY**

By MICHELLE HARRISON  
Staff Writer

Novi's annual 50's Festival is featured on the cover of a new directory which lists arts and crafts shows, festivals and other events happening in the state.

"We used a state map to identify several shows throughout cities in Michigan," said Penny Kramer, who assisted her husband Richard in compiling the information for The Arts and Crafts Register. "That way there would be something (of interest) for everyone."

The directory is not limited to major arts and crafts shows, but also includes those functions sponsored by churches.

"We contacted anyone we thought was a possibility," Kramer said, explaining that

her husband phoned churches and chambers, visited arts and crafts shows and contacted promoters of such shows.

The directory business is operated through the Kramers' home in Southfield. Their business's post office box, however, is in Novi.

"Novi is a good business location," Kramer said.

Kramer said her husband got the idea for the directory after he promoted a couple of arts and crafts shows.

"We'd been to a couple of shows and my husband felt he had enough time" to take on the project, she said.

Richard Kramer is a painter and independent contractor with a background in computers.

It took about a year to complete the directory, according to Kramer.

"It took an enormous amount of time, but it's worth it," she said, adding that the project took up most of the couple's free

time. "The first year was just phenomenal." A side benefit to the Kramers' venture was the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people.

"People involved in the craft shows are really neat people," Kramer said.

Listed as members of the Better Business Bureau, the Kramers will also offer monthly booklets containing information about upcoming functions and arts and crafts shows as well as any additional shows.

"I feel we put out a good quality book," Kramer said of her husband's directory. Ensuring the best customer service is her husband's other goal.

The Arts and Crafts Register sells for \$12.64, which includes the \$9.99 price of the directory and tax and shipping and handling charges. Checks or money orders can be sent to The Arts and Crafts Register, P.O. Box 1016, Novi, MI 48376-1016, or call (313) 927-8745.

**Landscape fabrics prevent weeds, conserve water**

By C.Z. Guest  
Copley News Service

**GARDENING**

Out with the old and in with the new—the trend in weed prevention is changing. Today's environmentally conscious homeowners are trading in chemicals and plastic bags for a nontoxic and chemical-free alternative for blocking weeds: landscape fabric.

Just what are landscape fabrics, and how do they work?

**Q. What is a landscape fabric?**  
A. Landscape fabrics are barriers designed to prevent the growth of most weeds.

These fabrics are produced by weaving fibers together at right angles, or by bonding short or continuously spun fibers together through heat bonding, needle-punching, spin bonding or other processes (all nonwoven).

The result is a fabric with the ability to block the light weeds need to grow.

**Q. Is fabric better than black plastic?**

A. Without question. Plastic sheeting or ripped-open black bags do a good job of blocking weeds: in fact, they do too

good a job. Plastic sheeting prevents much-needed oxygen, moisture and vital nutrients from reaching plant roots. This ultimately results in sour soil, which can permanently damage your plants.

**Q. Will a fabric last longer than plastic?**

A. Unquestionably. Black plastic tends to tear easily and breaks down over time, exposing soil that will eventually result in patches of weeds.

Fabrics can last up to three years when exposed to direct sun and indefinitely if covered with a protective layer of mulch, such as gravel, wood chips or bark nuggets.

**Q. Where do I use landscape fabric?**

A. Anywhere weeds grow is an ideal place to lay a landscape fabric.

For example, fabrics can be put to use around trees and shrubs, in perennial flower beds, beneath patios and even to line potted plants. They may also be used in vegetable gardens.

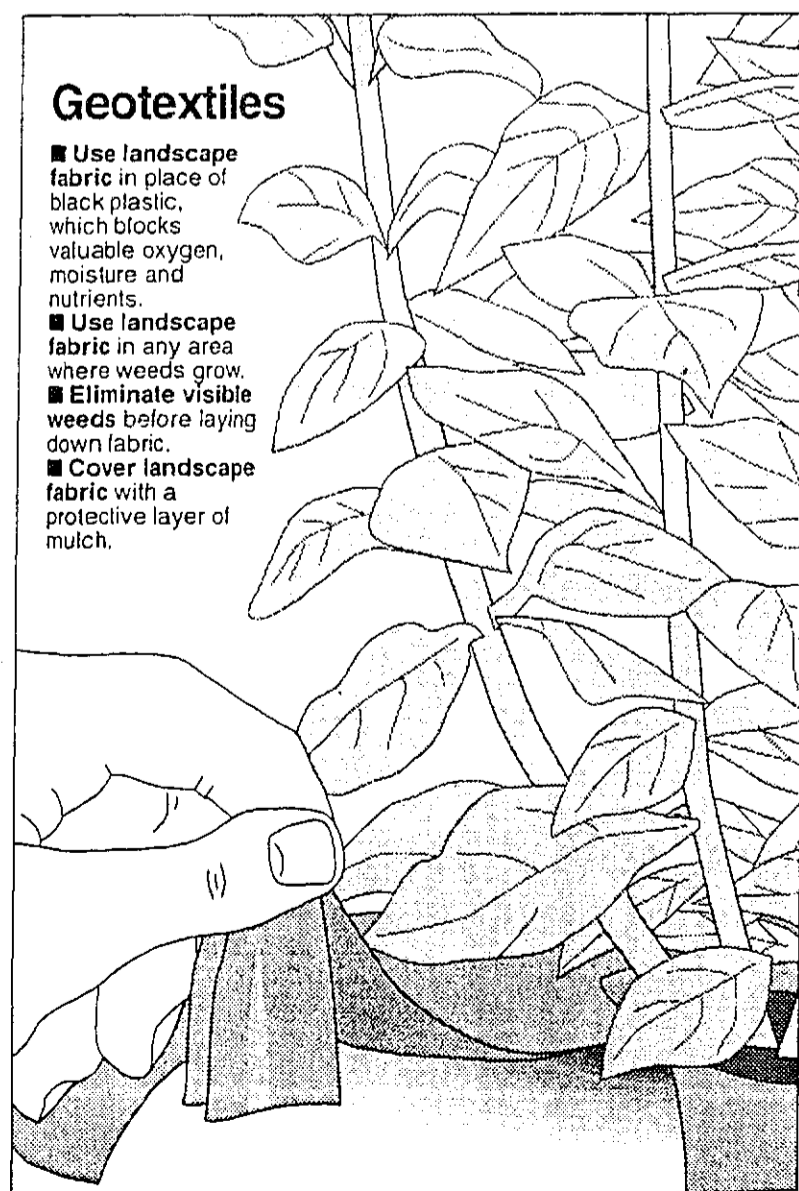
**Geotextiles**

■ Use landscape fabric in place of black plastic, which blocks valuable oxygen, moisture and nutrients.

■ Use landscape fabric in any area where weeds grow.

■ Eliminate visible weeds before laying down fabric.

■ Cover landscape fabric with a protective layer of mulch.



Continued on 2

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

# Hindenburg pennant found in attic

## ANTIQUES

By Anne McCollam  
Copley News Service

Enclosed is a picture of a Hindenburg pennant I found in the attic of a house I was tearing down. The former residents lived in the Lakehurst, N.J., area from 1928 to 1938. It is in very good condition. Is it worth anything?

A. The Hindenburg was a rigid and dirigible airship or dirigible known as a zeppelin. In 1937 the Hindenburg was consumed in a holocaust of flames while attempting to dock at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst.

Your pennant would probably be worth about \$85 to \$95 in good condition.



This pennant commemorating the ill-fated Hindenburg airship would be worth about \$85 to \$95 in good condition.

Any information you can give me about it would be appreciated.

A. Martin Stangl bought the Fulper Pottery in Trenton, N.J., in 1930 and changed the name to Stangl Pottery.

Beginning in 1931, the firm added Roman numerals to the oval mark. The "X" above the mark means this piece was designed by Kay Hackett after being inspired by an abundance of chisels growing along the roadside in upstate New York.

Harvey Duke lists your coffee pot in his

book "Stangl Pottery" for \$50.

Q. In 1980 I received a Waterman fountain pen for a graduation gift. The numbers "0552 1/2" are marked on it and it is 18 karat gold filled. I was told it was an antique.

Could you please place a value on it and tell me if it is considered an antique?

A. In the 1880s, the fountain pen was invented by Lewis Waterman. The U.S. government defines an antique as an object that is at least 100 years old.

Your pen was made in the early 1900s and would be a collectible rather than an antique. The value of your pen would probably be about \$150 to \$200 in excellent condition.

Q. Several years ago I bought a Topps 1968 Nolan Ryan baseball card. It was purchased when my grandson, who is named after Nolan Ryan, was born. It is still in excellent condition.

I am curious if I made a good investment. Could you give me an idea of its value today?

A. Investing in baseball cards can be

risky business due to the rapid fluctuations in prices. You didn't give me a clue on how much you spent.

At any rate, it currently lists in a price guide for \$850 in mint condition.

## BOOK REVIEW

"Warman's Americana & Collectibles, 6th Edition," edited by Harry L. Rinker. Published by Wallace-Homestead Book Co., an imprint of Chilton Book Co., it is available in antique shops and bookstores for \$15.95.

Do you want to know just how much all your Little Golden Books are selling for? Are those dishes you got every time you went to the movies worth anything? Do you want the lowdown on reproductions? Have you been wondering what the hottest collectibles in the 1990s are? Look no further.

"Warman's Americana & Collectibles, 6th Edition" has the information you've been seeking. Special attention has been paid to post-World War II items. New categories and listings have been added. Collecting hints and histories are written with clarity and expertise.

Harry L. Rinker and his staff are to be commended for providing this excellent guide to Americana and collectibles of the 20th century.

Letters with picture(s) are welcome and may be answered in the column. We cannot reply personally or return pictures. Address your letters to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 490, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

Letters with picture(s) are welcome and may be answered in the column. We cannot reply personally or return pictures. Address your letters to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 490, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

# Beware of offers coming to your financial rescue; taxes on foreclosures

Continued from 1

A sizable equity (difference between the mortgage balance and market value). Offers range from outright purchase of the property, usually for prices far below its current market value, to complicated arrangements involving "sale rentals" or techniques to postpone the foreclosure by filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

One pitch is to buy the property temporarily with a rent-back provision and an option allowing the seller to re-purchase the property at a later date. But no price or terms are indicated in the contract for the re-purchase transaction.

"I'm now hearing about five or six homes every week where the owner is in default on his mortgage and is being approached by people

trying to make money on his misfortune," said real estate broker Matt Capritto.

"In one recent case, the owner was told he could be grouped with others in a similar situation. The group (partners) would then file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, thus postponing foreclosure for several months. And the owner was told this method would keep his personal credit rating clean."

Such a presentation would be fraudulent and there are laws to prevent it, with stiff penalties for violators, according to Greg Brose, director of a District Attorney's Office Consumer Fraud Unit.

"There's no way a person can use the bankruptcy laws without it being in public records," Brose said.

Brose said various home equity

seams ebb and flow in activity, depending on market conditions. Right now the activity is picking up.

The law Brose referred to is in the California Civil Code, Section 1895. Similar laws have been legislated in other states. It focuses on investors who buy one-to-four residential units from an owner after the recording of the notice of default but before the foreclosure sale.

The statute is very specific and spells out penalties for violators. One key provision states: "The investor-buyer cannot purchase the seller's property which is in foreclosure in such a way as to take 'unconscionable advantage' of that person."

It also specifies that the seller in foreclosure has the right to cancel

any contract until midnight of the fifth business day following the day the contract was signed. And notice of that right to cancel must be given to the seller in writing.

Violators are subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or one year in county jail or state prison.

Alan Stone, vice president of lending administration at a national bank, pointed out that some offers received by homeowners after a notice of default has been filed may be worthwhile. The contacting person may represent a lender who can bail them out financially, even though the price will probably be very high. Or an offer to buy the property may prove to be the best solution.

"It's important to carefully investigate any offer," Stone said. "And before considering any outside

proposal, the homeowner should discuss it with his mortgage lender or servicing agent. Often things can be worked out internally.

"Also, before signing a new contract the homeowner should consult an attorney,"

Kirk Grossman, an attorney specializing in real estate law, said he now receives six or seven calls a week from people who can't make their mortgage payments and fear foreclosure action. They want to know about possible options.

"There are a lot of shaky deals being offered to these homeowners. Some are like fitting a round peg into a square hole—they just don't fit the borrower's situation or offer any real help. But in most cases, there are actions the homeowner can take to protect his interests

and credit record." Grossman said.

One firm has two entities under the same roof, according to Capritto. One is a mortgage brokerage operation and the other an investment firm with partners seeking purchase opportunities. They are constantly making proposals to owners of properties in foreclosure.

If you are suspicious of a proposal to buy, call the Consumer Fraud Unit of your county District Attorney's Office or your local Better Business Bureau office.

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.

# How to use and conserve water with landscaping fabrics

Continued from 1

Q. How do I use the fabric?  
A. When preparing to plant, first eliminate any visible weeds from

the surface of the planting area.

Cut the fabric to the desired size and cover the area with the rough side facing down. Then cut "X"s in the material and place plants through, into the soil. Most fabrics

are easy to cut and will not unravel.

If you are putting the fabric around existing plants, either lay them out in strips on either side of them or, after using a scissors or

knife, to cut an "X" in the material, pull it over the plants.

In the vegetable garden, first till the bed, mixing in fertilizer and peat moss. Then lay down the fabric, using fabric pegs to secure the strips.

"X"s and "O"s can be cut into the fabric and vegetable plants placed directly through, into the soil.

A. Very much so. Fabrics both cool and cover the soil. Moisture passes through the fabric into the soil and evaporates very slowly, an extremely important benefit, which takes on even more significance in drought-stricken regions of the country.

In fact, homeowners concerned about ever-increasing water bills and/or water conservation will be

happy to know the use of a landscaping fabric can reduce outdoor watering frequency by as much as 50 percent.

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.

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**NOVI:** Must See! 30x19 Rec. Rm. & 3rd. full bath in basement. Dramatic entry with great room & view out large window of woods. Walk in cedar closet. \$206,900 Call 810-478-9130

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**FIL SUPERFISKY**  
NOVI

**JAMES BAKER**  
NORTHVILLE

Novi Office 478-9130 West Bloomfield Office 851-9770 Northville Office 349-4550

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**ENJOY THE MARRIAGE OF THIS CLASSIC:** Colonial colonial and its superior location. Situated on a private court and backing to the Commons, you'll delight in the smell of pine trees & logs burning in the fireplace. Many updates. \$217,900 348-6430 (SU1)

**MECHANICS AND CAR BUFFS:** Nice country home with large deck off rear, paved road, neutral decor, wood stove in living room, many updates, appliances stay. 4-car heated garage. Home Warranty. Hurry on this one!! \$89,900 348-6430 (ORA)

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**IMMACULATE RANCH ON COUNTRY-LIKE SETTING:** Close to all conveniences, formal dining room, 1st floor laundry, interesting floor plan. Call today!! \$78,000 348-6430 (WBB)

**SHARP TRIPLE OAK ON NICE 1/2 acre lot in great family sub:** Spacious rooms, fireplace in living room, 1 1/2 baths, newer furnace, central air, finished lower level, large country kitchen, newer family room addition, wrap-around deck, much more. \$125,000 348-6430 (SOM)

**BETTER! BETTER! BETTER!** than new! Updates to this 1990 beauty include underground sprinklers, extended front porch, carpet, lights, kitchen floor, much more. Outstanding offering in a very comfortable sub. Close to schools. \$134,900 348-6430 (BR)

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This four bedroom home in premium sub. Large lot in private court location. Updates include custom kitchen with Jenn-Air range & Sub-Zero fridge, 2 fireplaces, one with full hardsone & slate hearth, custom master dressing area. Security system, central air, 3 car garage, underground sprinklers & more. (S020A) \$382,000

**BETTER THAN NEW!**  
One year old custom home in premium sub. Large lot in private court location. Updates include custom kitchen with Jenn-Air range & Sub-Zero fridge, 2 fireplaces, one with full hardsone & slate hearth, custom master dressing area. Security system, central air, 3 car garage, underground sprinklers & more. (S020A) \$382,000

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This beautiful home has been updated with todays most wanted features. Hardwood floors in living room, dining room & bedroom, walkout and bath. Several layers of great wood on your oriental carpets. The white ceramic in the 1st floor laundry and main bath are clean & bright. Custom draperies are included. almost 3000 sq. ft. of quality (330GL) \$254,900

**LIVONIA SCHOOLS**  
Transfer forces sale of this 6 month new 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial. Master bedroom with private bath, formal living room & dining room, family room with fireplace, oak cabinets throughout, full basement, 2 car garage & more. (165FO) \$153,879

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Currently operating as a successful retail store with 2700 sq. ft., a full basement and central air, free parking. You won't see a deal like this for years, so don't wait. (149MA) \$325,000

**PRIDE AND PERFECTION**  
Pride was spread throughout this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial. Mrs. Cleon lives all the room for Mr. Pack Rat. This is a must see with all its newer qualities. (600AP) \$109,900

**CLASSIC CAPE COD IN PLYMOUTH!**  
Four bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1st floor 5th bedroom or study, beautifully updated kitchen and bath, main floor laundry, attached 2 car garage, double lot. Clean w/ neutral decor. Ideal in-law or teen quarters with separate single bedroom "cottage." Unbeatable package. (104HD) \$154,900

**PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP**  
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**BUYER'S DELIGHT!**  
Sharp 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath colonial sits on extra deep lot. Extensive updates include: new cupboards and more in kitchen, both baths have been updated, newer carpet and linoleum floors, bay window in living room, deck, swimming pool and more! (213CH) \$107,900

**EXECUTIVE HOME**  
Plymouth Township Beacon Estates offers this large 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with finished lower level, large kitchen, family room with beamed ceiling & natural fireplace, den, wonderful lot backing to trees, side entry garage, lovely home. Immediate occupancy. (180CO) \$244,000

**CLEAN AS A WHISTLE**  
Move right into this very clean 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in great family neighborhood. Nicely landscaped, large eat-in kitchen, central air, hardwood floors. Open fields behind house for privacy on backyard. (951R) \$89,900

**RIDGEWOOD'S FINEST**  
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Three year new colonial, lovely landscaped yard, multi-level deck, 24 foot island kitchen-dining room, even 1st floor laundry. (055EL) \$128,850

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Here it is - beautiful 3 bedroom ranch with updated kitchen & bathrooms. New windows, new neutral carpeting. Tastefully decorated. Too many updates to mention. A must see. Walking distance to school and Beverly Park of dreams (800H) \$93,700

**BRIGHT AND LIGHT!**  
This 3 bedroom brick ranch is sparkling clean with new paint throughout and new "sand" colored carpet. Window blinds just installed. You could move right in! Nice extra deep yard, garage. Immediate Occupancy. (634CA) \$72,800

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION**  
Rarely does a home come on the market in this sought after Plymouth neighborhood. 3 spacious bedrooms, den, 2 1/2 bath colonial backing to creek. Freshly painted neutral decor, family room with brick fireplace, newer furnace, central air, 2 car garage. Short stroll to Smith Elementary. (427RC) \$169,900

**BUYER'S DELIGHT!**  
Sharp 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath colonial sits on extra deep lot. Extensive updates include: new cupboards and more in kitchen, both baths have been updated, newer carpet and linoleum floors, bay window in living room, deck, swimming pool and more! (213CH) \$107,900

**EXECUTIVE HOME**  
Plymouth Township Beacon Estates offers this large 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with finished lower level, large kitchen, family room with beamed ceiling & natural fireplace, den, wonderful lot backing to trees, side entry garage, lovely home. Immediate occupancy. (180CO) \$244,000

**CLEAN AS A WHISTLE**  
Move right into this very clean 3 bedroom, 1 bath home in great family neighborhood. Nicely landscaped, large eat-in kitchen, central air, hardwood floors. Open fields behind house for privacy on backyard. (951R) \$89,900

**RIDGEWOOD'S FINEST**  
Much sought after ranch with the best of amenities: updated and decorated perfectly. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, finished lower level, sunroom. (64ME) \$250,000

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**BRIGHTON**, 2,700sq.ft. of prime Grand River office space, can be split. For information, call (313)227-3710, (313)349-5812.

**FOWLERVILLE**, 2,400sq.ft. Completely remodeled 2 yrs. ago. (517)546-5995, 10am to 6pm. daily.

**HOWELL**, 2 room office in city, with window. (517)546-7456.

**HOWELL**, City, 5200sq.ft., finished to tenant needs. First Realty Brokers. (517)546-9400.

**NOVI** office space, secretarial service available. (810)349-6400.

**094** Vacation Rentals

**DISNEYBOUND?** Orlando lakefront condo. Sleeps 6, tennis, pool. \$475 week. (313)781-4751.

**DISNEY/EPCOT**—Universal Studios, 1/2 miles away. Luxury 2 & 3 br., 2 bath condos. Washer, dryer, microwave, pool, jacuzzi, tennis courts, from \$525 weekly. (810)474-5150 days; (810)478-9713 evenings.

**FAIRFIELD** Mountains Resort N.C. 3 br., sleeps 8, golf, skiing, family recreation. (810)887-2447.

**FLORIDA**, Beautiful beachfront, 2 br., 2 bath condos. Ft. Myers Beach. 1(800)484-6535. After dialing 1-800 #, listen for tone & enter 9082 for call to go through.

**HILTON** Head, S. Carolina. 2 br. villa, white sand beach, tennis, 2 pools, racket ball. Brochure available. (313)425-6782.

**Houghton Lake**, Cute & cozy 2 br. lakefront cabin, sandy beach, near Hunt's Drug Store, available weekly starting June 5, (810)653-7086 or (810)238-8581.

**SARASOTA, FL**, Siesta Key, gulf view, 2 br., 2 bath condo, tennis, sauna, golf. (313)663-2626.

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**What did you do today?**

Thursday, January 25, 1990

“ Me and my sisters went down to the center to play with the disabled kids. You know, to just be with them. ”

**Beth Kerby**  
Troy, MI

Saturday, December 16, 1989

“ I went house to house, getting any food or clothes they would give me. Then I handed it all out to any needy people in the neighborhood. ”

**Jack Powell**  
Salisbury, MD

Tuesday, January 23, 1990

“ All of us in the class called the old people in our neighborhood to see if they were okay and if they needed anything. ”

**Amy Hoffman**  
Poik, NE

Thursday, December 7, 1989

“ With the help of the police, we cleaned up a park today. Not only litter, but the drug dealers and their drugs, too. ”

**Thelma LaStrapp**  
Houston, TX

Wednesday, December 13, 1989

“ I offered to pay college tuition for the eighth grade class if they stayed in school and didn't do drugs. ”

**Ewing Kauffman**  
Kansas City, MO

There are many problems facing every community in America. But because there are more people than problems, things will get done. All you have to do is something. Do anything. To find out how, call 1 (800) 677-5515.



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