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**THURSDAY**  
DECEMBER 29, 1994

Volume 39  
Number 13  
Four Sections  
40 Pages plus Supplements

# NOVI NEWS

**Opinions** A LOOK BACK AT

1994 / 8A

**Living** HORSES ON

PARADE / 1B

**Sports** WINTER SPORTS UP  
AND RUNNING / 7B

## Ruyle seeks term limits on council

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

State elected officials already have term limitations. So does the president and the restriction could be on its way for the U.S. Congress.

So why not Novi City Council members, former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Dave Ruyle is wondering. After Jan. 1, Ruyle plans to polish up a petition to change the city charter. If he gathers enough signatures and then the approval of voters, the mayor and council members here could be elected to no more than two terms.

"It's time we had more people in the City of Novi to be eligible to run for office. It's time for us to lose the people in power so we can get new blood and new ideas," Ruyle explained last week.

"These people have been on too long. They've served their purpose and their usefulness."

Council members are in office four years each term; the mayor's term is two years.

Ruyle says he will seek the assistance of City Clerk Gerry Stipp to work on the wording of a petition to amend the city charter.

He already has a legal opinion from Novi City Attorney David Fried stating that Novi's city charter can be amended via a petition drive.

On the current council, Mayor Kathleen McLallen and Council Members Rob Mitzel and Carol Mason are serving their first terms. Council Member Bob Schmid is in the first term in a second go-around on the council; he was formerly the mayor.

Council Member Tim Pope is in his second term, while Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford is in his third and Council Member Joe Toth has been in the office for eight years.

McLallen says she opposes term limitations at all levels of government, because voters already have that option.

"People are given the right to vote. Term limitation is something of an oxymoron. I'm opposed to term limitation at all levels because I think it's a redundancy," she explained.

In addition, the mayor said she could not support legislating away the voters' right to return an experienced official of their

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Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

### What's Cooking

The Cooker Bar and Grille reopened Dec. 20, just weeks after the Twelve Mile Road building was gutted by a clothes dryer fire. Server Heather Gardner said last week she was happy to be back on the job, while Chef Andre Colbert was already

busy at the grill. The Nov. 6 conflagration, which caused the back wall of the building to crack, is believed to have started when greasy towels soaked in chlorine bleach ignited in the dryer. Tuesday at dinner time, Cooker's was hopping.

## County stifles recall attempt

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Doug Erwin is considering his options this week, after his proposed petitions to recall five Novi City Council members were rejected for the fourth time by the Oakland County Board of Election Commissioners.

Erwin said Tuesday he's not sure yet if he'll tinker with the wording of the petitions once more to try to win the board's approval or just take his whole case to Oakland County Circuit Court.

"We definitely got defeated. It's the same old runaround. It's a bunch of nonsense," he said.

"It's one big political game to try and keep ordinary citizens from making a run to try to get justice served."

Erwin would like to see Mayor Kathleen McLallen, Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford and Council Members Joe Toth, Bob Schmid and Rob Mitzel removed from office for their support of a city contribution to the Main Street project. The five agreed to let developer Vic Ventimiglia build the first phase of a ring road over a sliver of city land.

The most recently rejected peti-

tion read: "For this person who has voted yes on all matters pertaining to Main Street as it has been proposed since February 1994."

Representing the five targeted council members last week were McLallen and Crawford, while Mitzel sent a letter.

McLallen said their argument focused on the fact that an affirmative vote on a council resolution is not always a vote of support for an issue, it could be yes to reject a matter.

"That wording gets ambiguous. A vote yes doesn't necessarily mean a vote in favor of the project. It depends on what the motion says," the mayor explained.

"Mr. Erwin certainly has a lot of tenacity."

The election commission consists of Oakland County Clerk Lynn Allen or his assistant, Oakland County Treasurer C. Hugh Dohoney or his assistant and Oakland County Probate Court Judge Joan Young.

Erwin said one thing that frustrates him is that the election board will not give him any advice as to what they would accept. All

Continued on 1

## Walled Lake hopes Saturday election will be successful

It could be "three strikes, you're out" for the Walled Lake Consolidated School District if the Saturday, Feb. 4, bond issue goes down in flames the way two others did.

It's a grim prospect even acknowledged by more-optimistic officials such as school board president David Flammer.

"I don't foresee us coming back in June," Flammer said, if voters reject the February proposal - a split-ballot totalling \$116 million.

the same amount as the failed Sept. 27 attempt. "I think it would be a while."

The upcoming ballot will contain two bond propositions - one for \$90.55 million to address "basics" such as new classrooms, school buildings and district-wide technology. Part 2 will be for \$25.45 million, with the so-called "like-to-have" items. Citizens will be able to Ok both, reject both or vote for either.

September defeat. "We want you to split the academic and other stuff" and I think we've done that," Flammer said.

He discussed the controversial subject following a special meeting at which, despite opposition from some, the board unanimously approved calling the Feb. 4 bond issue. The board had to reserve an election spot with the state no later than Dec. 22 in order to put

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## Commissioner pumped for gas tax

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Voters could be asked if they're willing to shell out an extra 12 cents per gallon of gas to help finance state road repairs.

Brent Bair, managing director of the Oakland County Road Commission, was in Novi last week stumping for a package of tax hikes which would raise billions of dollars to pay for smoother and safer highways.

With a predicted additional \$839,000 in road money available for Novi annually if the tax hikes go through, the majority of the Novi City Council last week threw their support behind the County Road Association of Michigan's funding proposal.

"The more you drive, the more you pay for the use of the roads," Bair told the council.

The package which may go to state voters for approval includes, besides the higher per gallon gas tax, a 15 cent tax increase on diesel fuel, a 50 percent hike in the truck registration fees, an increase in driver's registration fees from \$12 to \$20, and an elimination of discounts on diesel fuel. In ten years, the tax boosts are expected to bring in \$8 billion dollars, Bair said, to help pay for an estimated \$18 billion worth of damage.

Statewide, a one cent increase

in the gas tax brings in about \$51 million per year.

If you drive 12,000 miles per year, with the 12 cent increase to 27 cents per gallon, your gas tax payout would rise by \$72 a year. For the past 11 years, the gas tax has been 15 cents per gallon. During those 11 years, cars designed with increased mileage per gallon have led to a decline in revenues from the tax, Bair said. He showed the council statistics that indicating that the owner of a Ford Crown Victoria was out-of-pocket \$106 in gas taxes in 1984 and \$86 in gas taxes in 1994.

"What we're seeing in Michigan is an increase in travel but a decrease in what's paid in per mile travel," Bair said.

Michigan is said to be the 48th lowest when the 50 states are ranked by the amount spent annually on roads.

Road deterioration in Oakland County, where the percentage of workers commuting from suburb to suburb has doubled over the past 30 years, has been severe, Bair said, with bad roads leading to vehicle damage and accidents.

"Where have you guys been in the past ten to eleven years when all the roads have been going to pieces," Council Member Bob Schmid wondered.



photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

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Drivers like Jim Malotke could pay higher pump prices.

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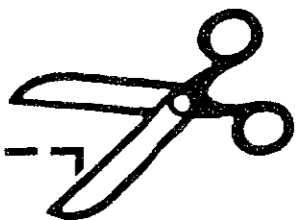
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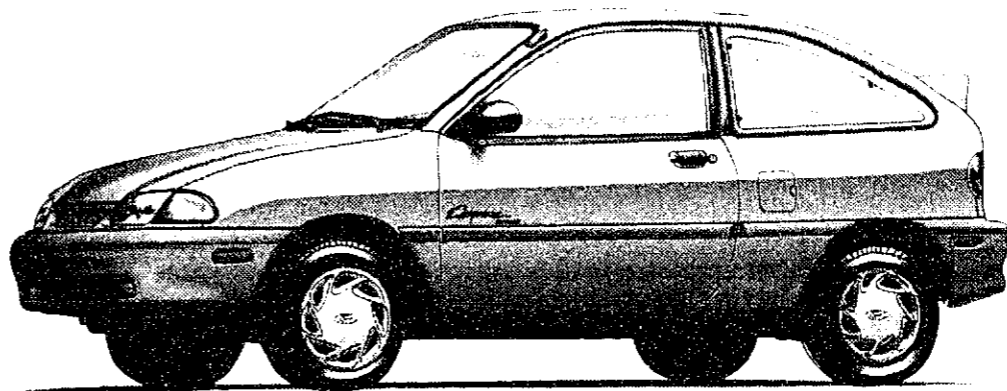
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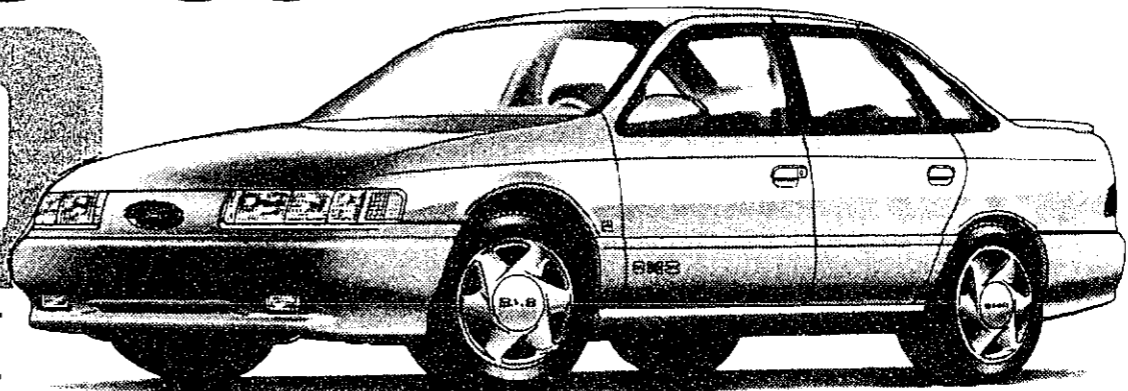


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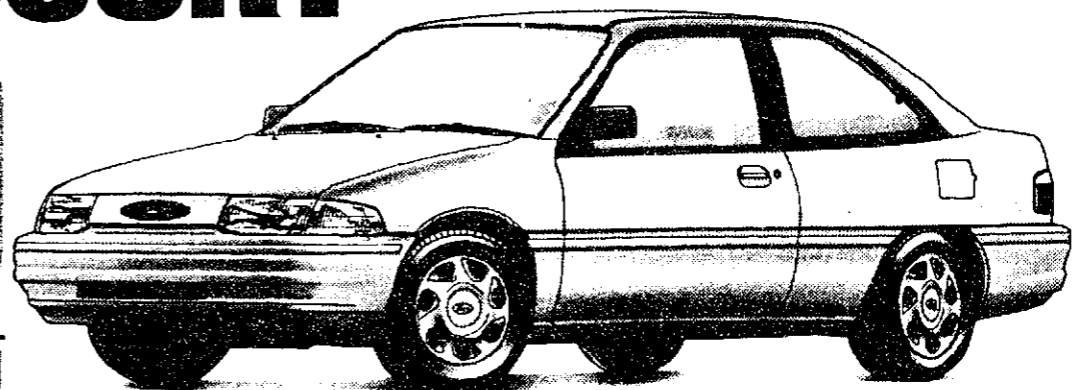


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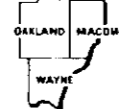
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the NOVI NEWS

# Living

**NOVI HIGHLIGHTS**  
Novi Youth Forum begins second year — 2B

**WALLED LAKE AARP:**  
Area Lakes residents 50 and over welcome — 4B

**ROTARY PROGRAM:**  
Ken Myers selected for year-long exchange — 3B

**DIVERSIONS:**  
Calle Bravo hosts Mike and Carol — 5B

**B**  
THURSDAY  
December 29,  
1994

# IN HARM'S WAY

## Salem resident horses around during parades

By CAROL WORKENS  
Staff Writer

If you love a parade and have an interest in horses, you may be just the person Nancy Harm is looking for.

About a year and a half ago Nancy and George Harm of Harmony Acres Arabians in Salem Township began riding in parades. This year alone, the horses have been ridden in 17 parades carrying flags, wearing lights in night parades, and wearing various costumes reflecting parade themes.

Although it all sounds glamorous, it takes many volunteers to pull it off.

"Our love of horses has drawn us together," she said of the volunteers. "I want it (parades) to be fun."

The volunteer program is open to any adult with an interest in horses, has time to spare, and is reliable, said Harm. Volunteers are involved with a variety of duties depending on their experience and background. Positions include photographer, escort, rider, groomer, sewing costumes, and training assistant.

For example, Jerry Costello, one of the newest volunteers, makes tassels and attaches beads and seeds to the costumes.

Prior to parade day, volunteers help with four hours of grooming per horse. The horses are vacuumed, then special shampoos are used to wash their bodies, manes and tails. Their hoofs are sanded and their tails are always braided.

Escorts are needed to walk alongside the horse during the parade but also to hold the horse while it is groomed just prior to the start of the parade.

Helpers are also needed to walk behind the horses, a service not always provided by the parade, said Harm.

To train the horses, Harm uses child psychology. All the Harmony Acres horses, ages three to seven, started training a few hours after birth and have competed in the show ring since three months of age. All have won first-place ribbons and have graduated from college at the University of Findlay Equine Training Center in Findlay, Ohio.

Harm sees to it that the horses are exposed to almost every obstacle, noise, and disturbance that could pose an obstacle during a parade. Flags are used to teach the horses not to be concerned if they should flutter next to them and to get accustomed to the sound. Balls are used for the horses to kick. Tape recorders play horns, sirens, and the sounds of people clapping and yelling.

In preparation for Howell's Festival of Lights Parade, Harm prepared the horses by hanging blinking and stationary lights up in the stable. She also wrapped lights up around her arm when feeding the horses treats. Depending on the theme chosen for the parade, Harm will select appropriate music for the horses to listen to as another aspect of their training.

Costumes are chosen according to the theme of the parade. Some costumes have been given to Harm, some she has purchased at auctions and others she and the volunteers have made.

In the recent Detroit's 68th annual Thanksgiving Parade, middle eastern costumes were worn.

The horses and riders were attired in native Arabic costumes made of velvet, silk, and tapestry trimmed with tassels, shells, pearls, sequins, gems, and gold embroidery reflecting the elegance and richness of their ancient heritage. These costumes are all original designs either created by Harm or imported from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the Middle East.

Harmony Diamond wore a red silk velvet costume from the Middle East on which four months were required to complete the gold hand embroidery. This costume won first place in the Native Costume Class at the Berrington Spring Horse Show. The horse was ridden by owner Nancy Harm and Charlotte Austin of Plymouth.

Harmony Sadefa wore a cranberry colored outfit decorated with antique peacock tapestry. Her rider, Karen Simchak of Wixom, was attired in a pink embroidered costume from the Middle East.

Harmony Tarifa wore a black native costume in which he won the Water Wonderland Native Costume Class at the 1993 Michigan State Fair. He was ridden by Maril Zbik of Northville.

For Howell's Festival of Lights Parade, Simchak and Sadefa wore 150 lights and Christmas costumes. Simchak's husband, Jeffrey, designed the lighting setup which was battery powered.

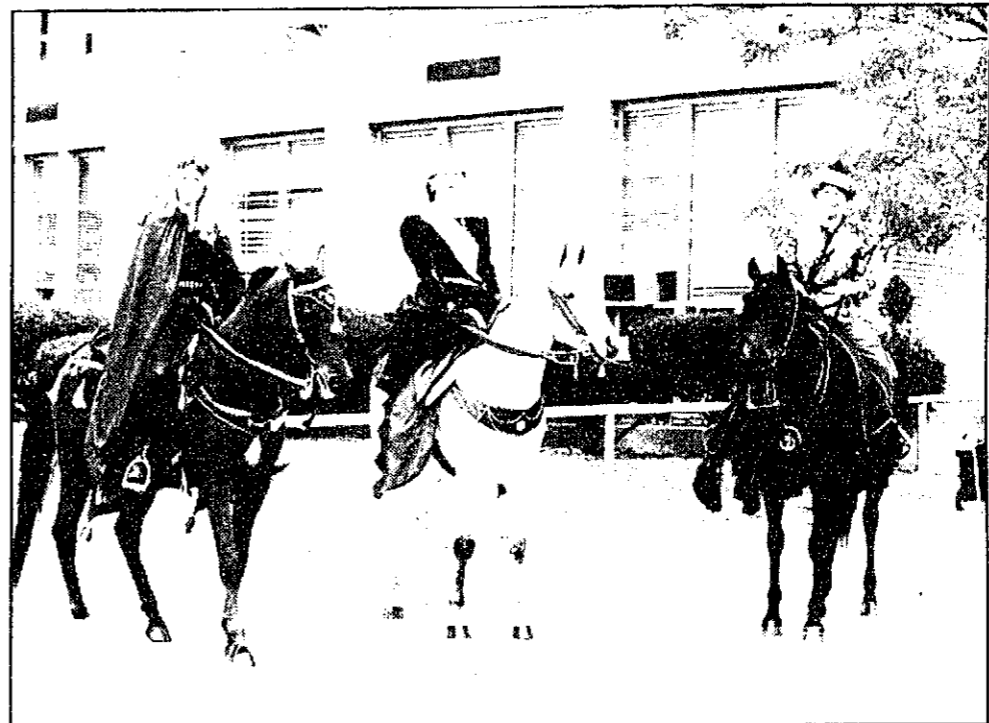
For more information, call Harm at (313) 437-5672.



Maril Zbik on Tarifa (left) and Nancy Harm on Diamond appeared in western attire for Northville's Fourth of July Parade earlier this year.



Karen Simchak has ridden Sadefa in five parades this year.



Karen Simchak on Sadefa (left), Maril Zbik on Tarifa and Nancy Harm on Diamond for Eastpointe's Homecoming parade honoring U.S. Astronaut Dr. Jerry Linenser.



Above, Maril Zbik on Tarifa (left), Karen Price and Nancy Harm on Diamond. All are dressed in authentic native costumes from the middle east. At right, Maril Zbik on Tarifa in authentic Polish costumes for Hamtramck's Labor Day Parade.















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NOVI NEWS

# 'THE YEAR IN REVIEW 1994

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A photograph in the Novi News

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## A word about YIR:

To Our Readers:  
We have been publishing our "Year in Review" (YIR) sections more than 10 years now, and the project still has a special appeal for me.

A conscientious hometown newspaper must do many things. It must report the news of the community; it must provide leadership through well-reasoned editorials; it must provide a community forum ... a "letters page" where residents can express their opinions on the issues and proposals that will shape the future.

But a good hometown community newspaper is also a historian ... a chronicler ... the medium where future generations will look to learn what life was like "way back before the turn of the century in 1994."

"Year in Review" helps us fulfill that responsibility to both current and future generations. As we go about the annual task of preparing each

year's YIR, we try to look at the year's events with an eye on the future. What happened in 1994 that will be important and interesting to future generations? Have we really recorded all of the year's most important events?

What will the historians of the future want to know about life in 1994 and have we included that information in our YIR?

I like to think the YIRs are fairly complete. At the same time, I suspect that we have failed to include some events which seem unimportant today but will be regarded as being of extreme importance by our children's children.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading our 1994 YIR.

Phil Jerome  
Executive Editor  
HomeTown Newspapers

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## About the cover

Recognize the person "talking turkey" in the cover picture?

You should. It's none other than Margaret Schmidt, a former recipient of the Novi Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award. Margaret is well known around Novi for her involvement in 4-H and numerous other projects.

The cover photograph was shot by Staff Photographer Hal Gould. The cover was designed by Juanita Little.

# YIR

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Who were the people behind the headlines in 1994? Mayor Kathleen McLallen heads our list of the year's top newsmakers.

7 ..... **THE CITY**  
It was the year when ground was broken to build an old-fashioned downtown at Grand River and Novi Road. Known as Main Street, the project also prompted a local merchant to launch a recall campaign against city officials.

10 ..... **PLANNING**  
The right development in the wrong place seemed to be a trend in Novi in 1994. The Interlock plastics molding factory was just one of a handful of proposed developments that was opposed by neighboring residents.

12 ..... **THE SCHOOLS**  
For a school district that in past years enjoyed sound financial condition, 1994 was an unusual year in the Novi School District because money was the major issue, particularly after approval of a new state funding plan.

16 ..... **POLICE/FIRE**  
Dr. Jack Kevorkian was charged with violating Michigan's assisted suicide law when he helped a Novi man Tom Hyde die in July 1993. His trial in 1994 brought the national media to Novi.

18 ..... **BOYS SPORTS**  
It was a productive year for Novi High School boys teams. The Wildcats won conference championships in soccer and swimming, and came to within a single game of a state lacrosse championship.

20 ..... **GIRLS SPORTS**  
Novi girls enjoyed their best year ever in cross country, winning the conference championship and then finishing third in the state.

23 ..... **OTHER SPORTS**  
The Winter Olympics were held in Lillehammer and Novi was represented ... sort of. Jerod Swallow, who lives in Northville and whose father works for the Novi School District, represented the U.S.A. in ice dancing.

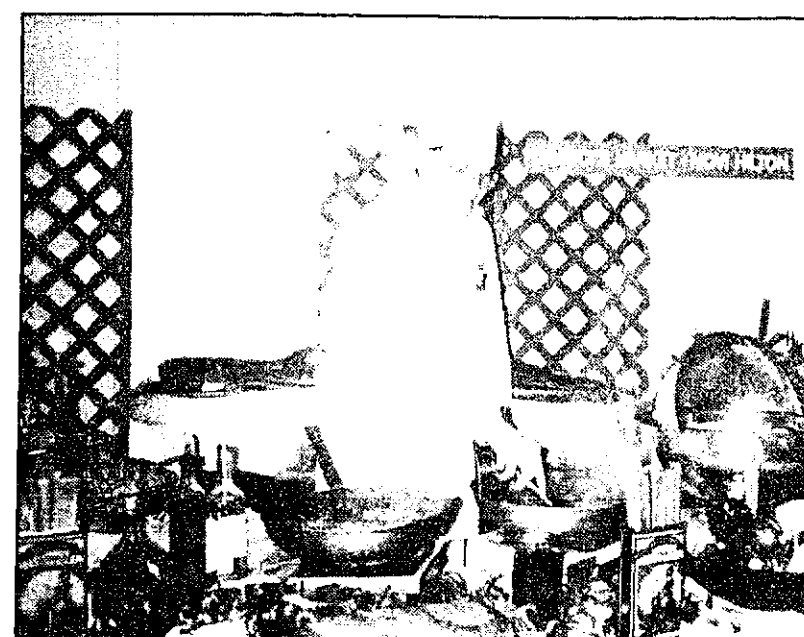
24 ..... **NOTABLES**  
Father Leslie Harding of the Holy Cross Episcopal Church and Father James Cronk of St. James Catholic Church celebrated silver anniversaries. Rob Mitzel won the Distinguished Service Award. Who were Novi's other notables?

26 ..... **QUOTABLES**  
We leaf back through our notebooks to find some of the year's more notable quotations ... among them is a doozie from First Lady Hillary Clinton.

27 ..... **PEOPLE**  
A return visit with some of the more interesting people who have been featured on the pages of the Novi News during the past year. The list includes a 61-year-old chorus girl and a man who's trying to retain the memory of colonial days in Michigan.

## Novi Chamber of Commerce

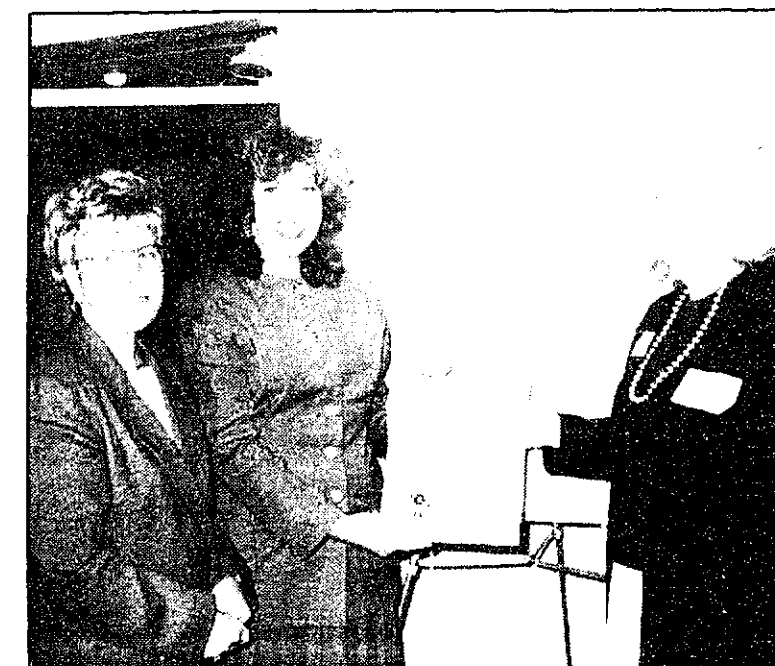
Active, Growing and Serving Novi in 1994



Another Great "Taste of Novi"



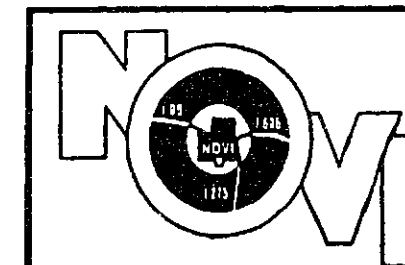
1st Country Fest  
Foot Stomping Fun In Novi!



2nd Focus Health Week  
Promotes health awareness to  
Novi residents.



Ron Heslop's high bid at  
Second Charity Auction  
retains named street sign.



At the center of "The Winning Circle"

43700 Expo Center Drive  
Suite 100  
Novi, Michigan 48375  
(810) 349-3743

## McLallen is city's top 'newsmaker'

By **JAN JEFFRES**  
and **SHARON CONDRON**  
Staff Writers

Novi's top newsmakers of the year were:

### KATHLEEN McLALLEN

After an earlier successful stint as chair of the Novi Planning Commission, Kathleen McLallen found out during her first year in office that it's not easy to be the M.C. of the Novi City Council.

The new leader, called by her colleagues "Madam Mayor," was challenged at almost every step.

During the 1993 race, McLallen promised to make city council meetings more efficient. In 1994, in her attempt to shorten discussion of issues, she locked horns with Council Members Tim Pope and Carol Mason.

McLallen's achievements included a coffee klatch for all the leaders of Novi's homeowners associations, which resulted in the creation of the umbrella group The City of Novi Homeowners Associations. Several council members disputed the mayor's right to hold the city hall event.

Later in the year, McLallen, asked by City Manager Ed Kriewall to represent Novi in discussing Tift Road with Wixom officials, was accused of negotiating without the council's OK by Pope. But city attorneys ruled that McLallen merely discussed the issue and as such did not exceed her office.

Ceremonial duties kept McLallen busy, her presence in demand at such events as the groundbreaking for Vic's World Class Market and the opening of the Haggerty Interchange.

### DOUG ERWIN

"Exasperated" and "persistent" are two words which could sum up Doug Erwin's attitude during his foray into Novi politics this year.

Since 1895, generations of Erwins have owned a business at Novi and Ten Mile roads. Now Doug Erwin runs Erwin Farms, the family's produce store.

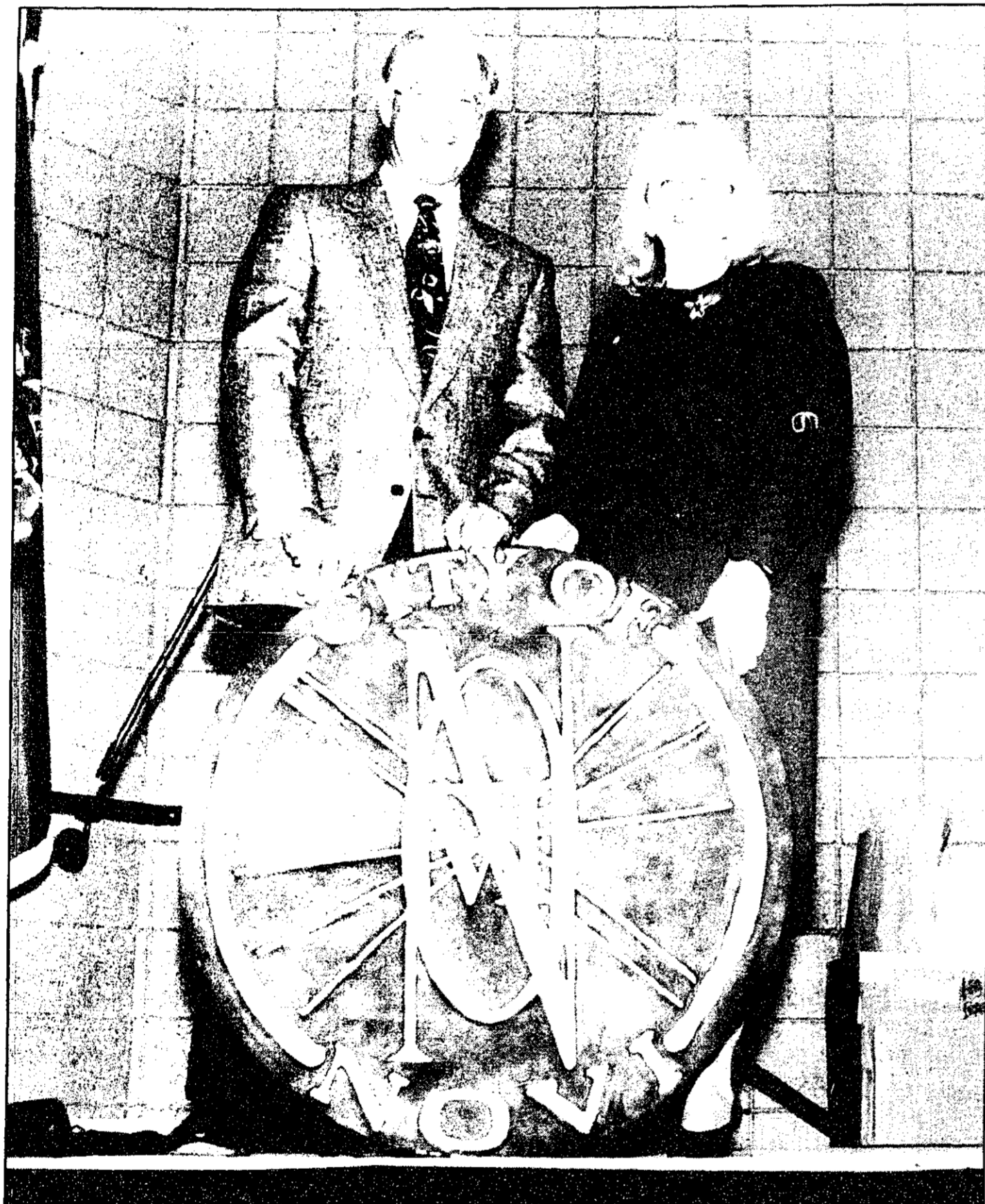
Erwin has been emphatic that it's not the competition which set him off as the city paved the way for Vic's World Class Market, as part of the Main Street plan.

But in January, he set up by his store's front door a hand-scrubbed signboard protesting the use of city land or money to help develop Evergreen III, along with a petition which was signed by over 900 residents.

Come September, when the Novi City Council agreed to let Main Street developers build the first phase of Main Street over city land, Erwin launched a recall campaign against Mayor Kathleen McLallen, Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford and Council Members Robert Schmid, Rob Mitzel and Joe Toth.

The Oakland County Board of Election Commissioners found his language unclear and refused to authorize the petitions.

To date, he's filed four proposed petitions, as one after another the verbiage has been rejected.



Former mayor Matt Quinn and current mayor Kathy McLallen preside over the city's 25th anniversary celebration.

### JAMES CHEN and VICVEN-TIMIGLIA

James Chen, a structural engineer, is the front man for Evergreen III, a Farmington Hills-based investment group which plans to create Main Street, an up to \$60 million "downtown" at Grand River and Novi Road.

He lost points with the Novi City Council when Evergreen III sold part of the 55-acre to Singh Development Company, which will build for-rent townhouses near Main Street. However, the Taiwan-born Chen's dedication made an impact even on those who

don't support any city contributions to the development, including Council Member Carol Mason, who most recently told him she "respected him very much as a person" and that she thinks Main Street will be a "wonderful project."

Produce magnate Vic Ventimiglia stepped up to build the first anchor for Main Street, his Vic's World Class Market.

A festive groundbreaking hosted by Ventimiglia featured fresh fruit and Gov. John Engler.

**RON HUGHES and ROBERT GIBBS**

Ron Hughes, a partner in Hughtan Development Corporation, and his consultant Bob Gibbs, bedazzled Novi officials with a sweeping redesign of the Sandstone project, just south of Thirteen Mile Road.

Renamed The Vistas, the development, a walker's dream, will include six old-fashioned neighborhoods with single-family homes, nine parks, one of the world's largest promenades and a downtown bordered by

Continued on 5

Continued from 4

townhouses where future residents will live and work.

It's the kind of place where niceties such as white picket fences will be mandatory. Gibbs, who designed The Vistas, has worked with nationally-renowned architect Andres Duany.

Hughes seemed so committed to the new approach that he even got into a spat with Novi City Forester Chris Pargoff over trees. Unlike many developers, Hughes wanted to plant more and larger trees along The Vistas' roads.

### HEIDI FERNANDEZ

Pontiac Trail resident Heidi Fernandez was featured in magazines such as *Vanity Fair* and *Glamour* and in national news broadcasts because Dr. Jack Kevorkian was on trial in April for helping her fiance, Tom Hyde, die.

Hyde, 30, had Lou Gehrig's Disease. Fernandez's testimony during the trial left several jury members in tears, as she detailed Hyde's physical deterioration and his decision to end his life.

When cross-examined, Fernandez insisted she thought Kevorkian would help end Hyde's suffering.

The media ate up Fernandez's response when she was asked by the prosecutor whether she expected Hyde, who Kevorkian says died in Royal Oak, home for dinner on August 4, 1993: "Did I take out pork chops and thaw them out? No, I didn't."

Continued on 6



Ruth Ann Jirasek's activities in 1994 included founding a trash coalition.

## YIP

### NEWSMAKERS

### JERRY LeBLANC

He flabbergasted school officials with his grassroots campaign against the June millage election and December bond issue.

The semi-retired tool-and-die maker offered taxpayers residents his two cents on both campaigns on his telephone hotline. The hotline and silent ambush haunted school officials when tax questions in both elections went down to defeat, the first school tax proposals to fail in Novi in more than a decade.

### LYNN KOCAN

Lynn Kocan spearheaded Meadowbrook Lake's campaign against Interlock.

Kocan was the calm voice of opposition and reason at Novi Planning Commission meetings. But when the commission was ready to decide the issue, Kocan staged a picket and press conference at the Novi Civic Center. With the residents' lawsuit stalled in court, Kocan keeps busy on the planning commission's implementation committee trying to revamp a city ordi-

Multi-List



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# YIP

## NEWSMAKERS

Continued from 5

nance that allows 24-hour industrial operations on industrial properties that abut residential areas.

### RUTH ANN JIRASEK

A one-woman dynamo. There are few if any issues that affect residents that Jirasek didn't have a say in in 1994.

This year, the Village Oaks mother of four, was seated at the helm of the City of Novi Homeowners Association. She also was instrumental in founding the trash collection coalition which now provides residents in Novi and surrounding communities with cheaper curbside trash collection.

She's worn several hats and has been active on several city committees including the senior housing committee. She was one of the first graduates of the police department's Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy.

But her community involvement didn't stop in the city. Jirasek followed reports made by Novi schools facilities advisory committee and challenged district's findings and the proposed bond issue. Everywhere you looked in 1994, you found Jirasek.

### JAMES KORTE

James Korte, an Austin Street resident, has become known to some as the "Mayor of the North End." He counts himself as a community activist fighting city hall to improve services to the north end. Some see him as just a gadfly and a nit-picker.

A regular before city council, Korte made headlines all year long with allegations he leveled about high ranking city officials. The most classic case was Korte's commentary on Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer's supposed job search this year. Korte questioned the top cop's motivations and tracked the chief's resume trail to the east and west coasts.

Korte also had a lot to say about how the city disposed of a donated drafting table.

The year also marked the end of a long, drawn out court case in which a felonious assault charge against Korte was dismissed when his accuser was a repeated no-show in court.

### IVA and RUBY FUERST

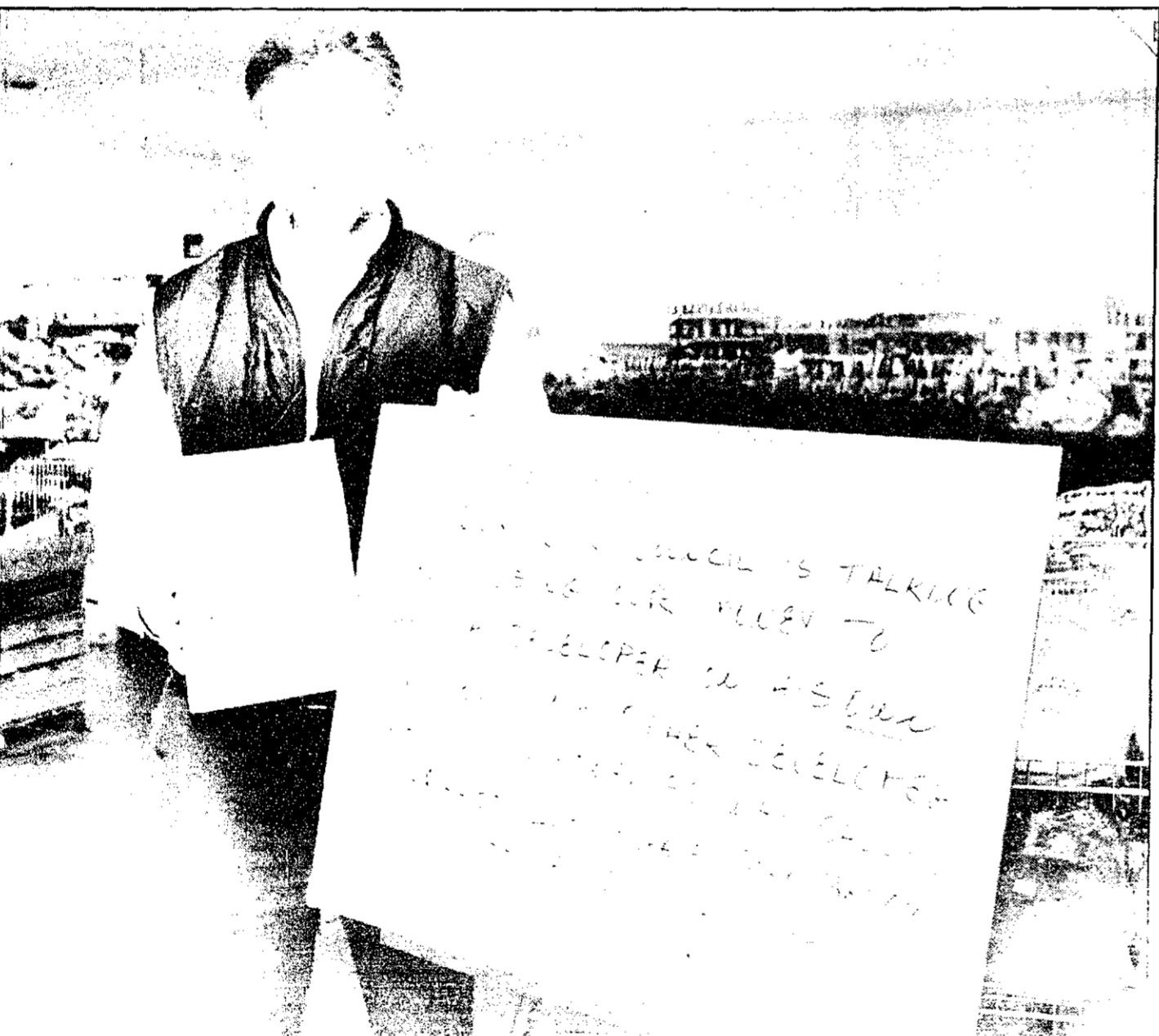
A legend in their own time. There was so much talk about the sisters one might think they were still alive and living in Novi. Instead, historians and civic leaders are dealing not with the persons but the legacy they left behind.

The Fuerst sisters family farm has been at the root of an on-going debate between school officials, who own the land, and city historians, who want to preserve it. The feud has even the two governing bodies heated up when state funding put a kink in the school district's plan to develop the land into an educational center.

Budget constraints, repeated acts of vandalism...



Heidi Fernandez faced the media following the Kevorkian-assisted suicide of her fiance Tom Hyde.



Doug Erwin led a recall campaign against city officials that was still ongoing as 1994 came to a close.



Governor John Engler and Mayor Kathy McLallen did the honors during groundbreaking ceremonies for Vic's World Class Market on Main Street.

## Main Street issue tops city agenda

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

In 1994, much of the Novi's time and attention was taken up with the business of building up the city.

### MAIN STREET, USA

In October, ground was broken for an attempt to build an old-fashioned downtown at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road.

Main Street was a gleam in city planners' eyes when James Chen and the investors of Evergreen III stepped up to the challenge in 1993. A ring road lined with some \$50 million worth of shops, restaurants and offices, accompanied by apartments, has been sketched out, but the Novi City Council has yet to agree to a land swap and special assessment district there.

The first building, Vic's World Class Market, owned by Vic Ventimiglia and Tom Celani, is expected to be open for business in March 1995. At the 75,000-square-foot produce store, residents will be able to dine at a restaurant, take gourmet cooking classes and belly up to a dairy bar.

### DO YOU RECALL?

# YIP

## THE CITY

Doug Erwin, owner of Erwin Farm, a Novi Road produce market, was down on Main Street, at least the idea of the city helping pay for it. In late 1993 and early 1994, Erwin soon found support among 972 residents who signed a petition saying they did not want any public money spent on the project.

In late September, Mayor Kathleen McLallen, Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford and Council Members Rob Mitzel, Bob Schmid and Joe Toth agreed to let developer Vic Ventimiglia build the first phase of the Main Street ring road over a tiny sliver of city property east of Fire Station One on Grand River. Erwin immediately drafted a petition seeking to recall the five.

But the Oakland County Board of Election Commissioners wouldn't approve it for circulation, finding that the words did not meet the legal standard for "clarity." Erwin

tried again. And then again. And again ...

### PARK IT HERE

The land rush which began in January 1993 when voters approved a \$9.9 million park bond issue continued, as the city scrambled to buy property for parks. Rounding out the roughly 400 acres stacking up near the Novi Tree Farm, the city purchased 40 acres in February for \$1.013 million and another five in September for \$200,000.

Novi landed a \$75,000 state Department of Natural Resources grant in August, to supplement the \$100,000 the Novi Rotary has agreed to raise for Rotary Park on Nine Mile Road. Meanwhile, plans for the development of a 72-acre community sports park at Eight Mile and Napier roads continued, with the project possibly going out for bids in January 1995.

Also unresolved is a city attempt to condemn another 40 acres of land near the tree farm.

### WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Nobody on the Novi City Council much liked Sandstone, a massive planned unit development slated for 300 acres south of

Thirteen Mile Road.

Hey, presto. Drawing on the ideas of renowned architect Andres Duany, Hughlan Development Company and their consultant Bob Gibbs came up with a sweeping new concept, publicly presented in February.

With a July OK from the City Council in hand, plans are moving ahead for 1,193 homes clustered in six neighborhoods around a traditional downtown. Blueprints call for nine parks and a promenade inspired by the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, as well as 200 townhouses where residents can both live and work.

### MERRYMAKING

In July, the Michigan '50s Festival, which lost its site at Novi Town Center to Fudrucker's Restaurant, moved to the Novi Expo Center.

About 115,000 swarmed to the '50s Festival, to enjoy entertainment like "The Drifters." The event was successful enough to raise a \$200,000 donation for the future purchase of a portable stage for the Novi Parks and Recreation Department.

Continued on 8



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from 7

That wasn't why a story about the Michigan 50s Festival went over the national wire service. Everyone was worried about the well-being of Big Red, the macaw that got away. The Living Science Foundation was entertaining kids during the festival when the parrot made a break for freedom. Despite a massive macaw hunt, Big Red was never found.

And in September, the Novi Chamber of Commerce launched its first Country Festival, also at the Expo Center. Hitching a ride on the current popularity of C&W music, the Chamber whipped up a festival which included a performance by Nashville Top 40 artist Shawn Camp.

About 25,000 showed up for the fun weekend, not bad for a first attempt, Chamber President Connie Mallett said.

### ENDLESS HIGHWAY

Gov. John Engler turned out in October to help Mayor Kathy McLallen open the \$35 million Haggerty Connector interchange. The ramps link I-96, I-275 and southbound M-5 with Twelve Mile Road.

While the official types got to cruise the pavement in convertibles, it wasn't open to motorists until several hours later. It's not certain when the rest of the Haggerty Connector will materialize, but its expected to provide traffic relief throughout the region, including Novi's lake area.

The state's still acquiring the right-of-way needed to push the corridor from Twelve Mile north to Pontiac Trail. Sometime in 1995 or 1996, construction could begin...

### UNHAPPY TRAILS

Communing with nature and commuting on foot... why not combine the two in a citywide pathway system?

City planners thought it was a great idea and the Natural Resources Design Plan won a national award. Once the project moved from paper to reality, no prizes were handed out by residents, who revolved against the idea of having strangers tread through the rights-of-way of their subdivisions.

Safety concerns and lack of privacy topped the list of protests. In March, the city council appeased residents of The Maples, Royal Crown, Addington and Wexford subdivisions by relinquishing the pathways in their neighborhoods. By the end of March, it was RIP for the entire trail system, except within city parks.

The deciding vote to rub out the plan came from Mayor Kathy McLallen, who said she still believed in the plan but conceded that her constituency didn't.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The City of Novi threw itself a 25th birthday bash on Feb. 27. About 200 guests were expected to show, but 2,000 merrymakers actually made the scene.

And what a Sunday it was. Volunteers helped city staffers provide the sweat equity and 40 businesses donated money and supplies, including finger food from such local eateries as the Border Cantina, Maisano's and Kosch's.

There was no shortage of Novi mayors at the event. Present leader Kathleen McLallen was joined by past holders of the gavel Pat Karevich, Robert Daly, Bob Schmid and Matt Quinn.

## YIP THE CITY

Other former and present council members roamed through the crowd, grooving on entertainment by the Novi Middle School Concert and Jazz bands, the Novi Girl Scouts, the Sixth Gate Cloggers and other local talent.

No birthday is complete without presents. Novi got a medalion bearing the city's logo, purchased by donations from past and present elected officials.

### BUILD-A-RAMA

Proposals sprouted up in 1994 for a series of major building projects, but nothing's been decided yet on most of them.

In February, the council put the pin in a businessman's proposal to plant an inflatable golf dome behind the Novi Civic Center.

The ground breaking for the new \$2.1 District Court on Grand River was held in July. Earlier, the City of Novi outmaneuvered Walled Lake and Wixom and won the court.

In August, a council committee appointed to find a use for the vacant site of the old Walled Lake Casino unveiled their collective idea, a community building and banquet hall. To be continued...

Sniff on ice, too, is a proposal to set up a hockey arena on city land. The city went out for bids on the project in March and ultimately selected Center Ice Rink Management, Inc. Novi's attorneys are now reviewing the plans.

A second committee researching low-rent senior citizen housing presented plans in November. Action is pending.

### LOCAL LANDMARKS

While the owner of the historic Novi Methodist Church at Grand River and Novi roads aimed to tear it down, Preservation Novi, with \$50,000 in hand from the Fretter Superstores, found the Victorian building a new home. Developers of The Vistas hope the church, when it's hauled there in March 1995, will enhance that old-time image of their planned neighborhood.

In November, the legendary "Shoe Tree" on Nine Mile Road west of Beck was axed by the city. Vandals had sliced over two-thirds of the way through the old cottonwood, creating a safety hazard. Since the 1970s, residents, especially members of the Novi High School cross country and track team, had been tossing their shoes into the tree's limbs. A still-existing smaller tree next to the original is expected to take over.

Things didn't look rosy for the old Fuerst homestead at Ten Mile and Taft roads. The Novi school district threatens to tear the complex of home, barn and other buildings down, but the city stepped up, offering to swap land for the Fuerst site. Under mandate

from a joint schools-city committee, Kathy Mutch, president of the Novi Historic Society, has until January 1995 to come up with a way to use the property and a proposal on how to raise the cash to restore it all.

### OIL AND WATER

Major environmental issues in 1994 included residents' concerns about firms wildcatting for petroleum here.

In March, Wolvenne Gas & Oil conducted seismic testing on city land, looking for black gold. No word yet.

The city itself took a hit in a lawsuit filed by businessman Dan Weiss, who contended that leachate from the old Munn landfill, now owned by Holman & Silverman, was oozing from a pipe, into a city easement, through a culvert and onto his land east of Meadowbrook Road, polluting the property and Bishop Creek. As of November, city engineers were conducting a hydrology study and working with the state Department of Natural Resources.

In February, residents of the Briarwood subdivisions and Roma Ridge were less than satisfied by an outside engineer's opinion that the drainage system in their neighborhood works as planned. The standing water in the woods, which are used as detention ponds, is killing off the trees. A month later, the city council disappointed homeowners further by refusing to finance drainage improvements. Residents contend that over 700 trees are dead or dying in the conservancy.



Gov. Engler and Mayor McLallen were subjects of photographers at the opening of the M-5 Connection.

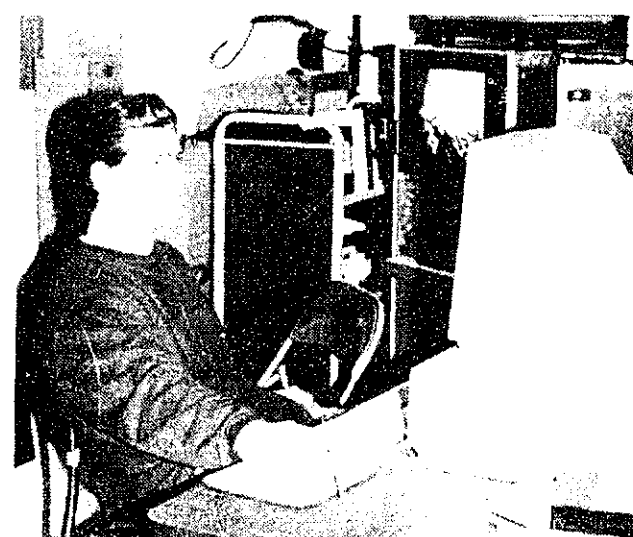
## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The \$35 million Haggerty Connector interchange, linking I-96, I-275 and southbound M-5 with Twelve Mile, was opened with much fanfare in October.

## District Faces Challenges of Today ... and Tomorrow

Planning, progress, and partnerships were some of the biggest highlights of 1994 in the Novi Community School District. The district continued to update and work toward the goals laid out in the Long Range Planning Committee's five-year strategic plan for the district. Continued progress on construction projects in the district brought the grand opening of Parkview Elementary's classroom addition for the start of the 1994-95 school year. The new school year also brought fresh activity to the district's Partners in Education Program with local businesses, with each school putting its new partnership plans into effect.



1995 promises to be an exciting and challenging year. Expanding district enrollments, continued construction at Novi High School, and changes in statewide education programs will provide many opportunities for growth and change. We look forward to meeting these challenges and watching Novi's students grow and learn. Best wishes for a Happy New Year!



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# Residents protest plastics factory

## YIP PLANNING

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

The right development in the wrong place seemed to be a trend in Novi in 1994. The Interlock plastics molding factory was just one of a handful of proposed developments that would be ideal for the city but, according to residents, developers seemed to be pitching their proposals in the wrong places.

### THE INTERLOCK DEADLOCK

If you didn't know where the Meadowbrook Lake subdivision was before Interlock came to town, you know where it is now. The sub abuts the 16-acre site Interlock officials purchased in the Hickory Corporate Park.

For months in 1994, residents tried to block Interlock from coming into the industrial park to build an office and manufacturing facility. The turf war, which spanned nearly seven months, pitted Interlock against residents and residents against Novi Planning Commissioners.

The debate tugged hard at Novi Planning Commissioners who finally made a decision for special land use approval. Residents feared the factory would lower their property values, raise the noise level with its 24-hour operation and increase the potential for hazardous chemical emissions.

Interlock countered each criticism with assurances that they would comply with OSHA standards and be good neighbors. In August, Interlock won special land use approval from a split planning commission. The vote came under fire after two commissioners, who's resignations were effective the day after the vote, were allowed to vote on the issue.

Commissioners Lodie Richards and Irene Cahill both resigned from their seat for personal reasons but the timing of their resignations raised some residents' eyebrows.

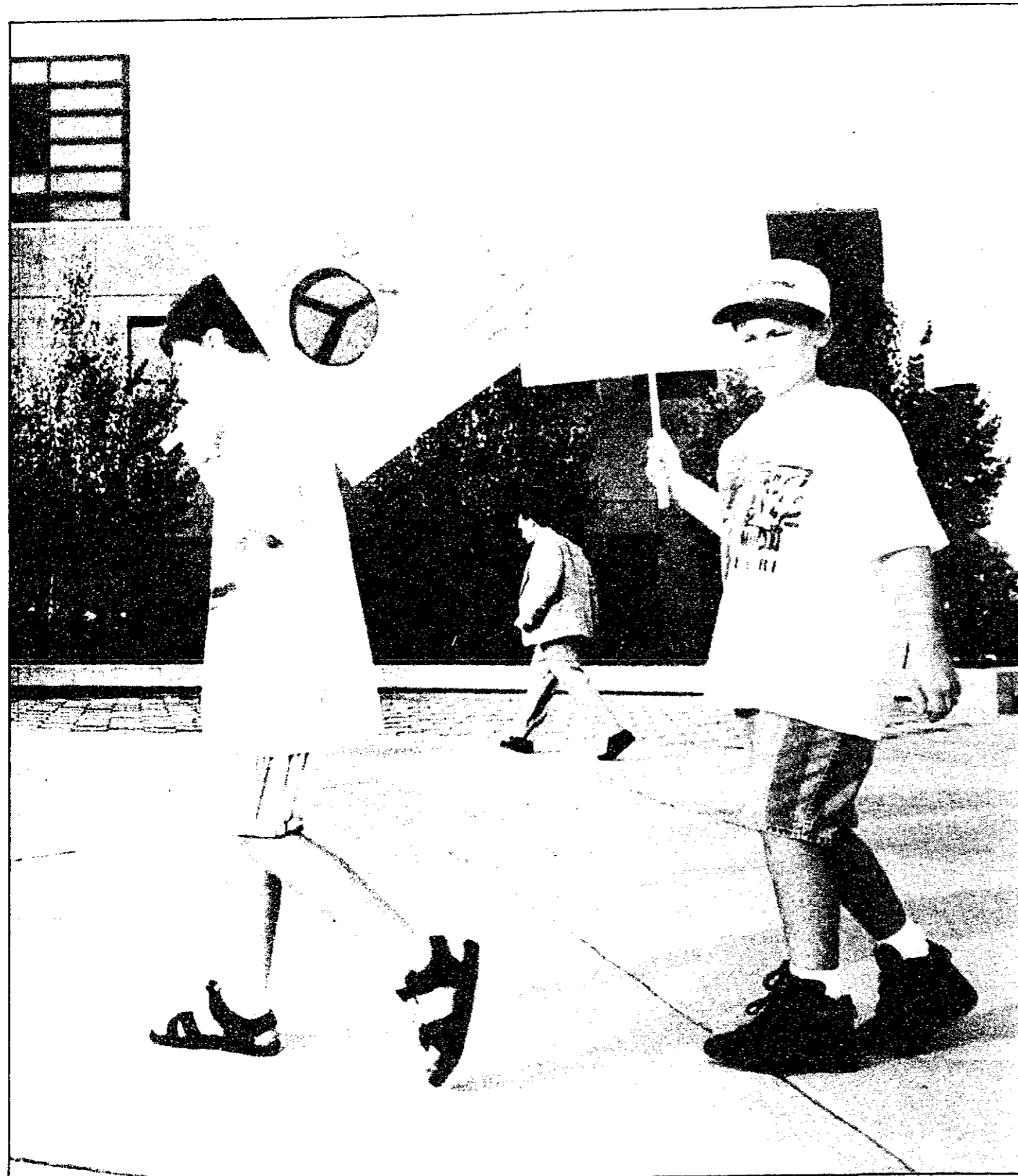
Two weeks later, the residents sued the city and its planning commission. The case remains in court.

### DAYCARE PROTEST

The Blooming Day Child Care facility was one project nixed by commissioners after residents living adjacent to the Nine Mile and Meadowbrook Roads site pitched a protest.

Once a horse farm, the 3.2-acre site on the north west corner of the intersection, lent itself aesthetically to the proposed use.

Owner Nisha Nagar planned to add onto the ranch home that stands there now and pour a concrete parking lot in front to accommodate her daycare customers. But neighbors living behind the lot in the Meadowbrook Lake subdivision contested the plan because of the perceived noise and traffic problem the facility could generate.



Youngsters from the Meadowbrook Lake subdivision protested Interlock plans for a plastic molding factory outside the Novi Civic Center during August hearings on the controversial proposal.

Noise and traffic were issues planning commissioners heard a lot about this year.

### TOO MUCH TRAFFIC

The opening of the Haggerty Connector or M-5 would provide a substantial reduction in traffic on the city's north/south bound thoroughfare.

But planning commissioners feared the projected 28 percent wasn't enough to put more pressure and congestion in the Haggerty Road corridor. That's why the Novi Place development proposed for Eight Mile and Haggerty Roads was denied seconds after developers proposed it.

The plan called for the three-store retail strip development, anchored by Office Max and Best Buy, and a sit-down restaurant similar in design to Chili's, its neighbor to the south. The development was slated to be squeezed into vacant acreage between the Novi Hilton and Chili's.

It was denied by the commission. It too, has become the subject of litigation.

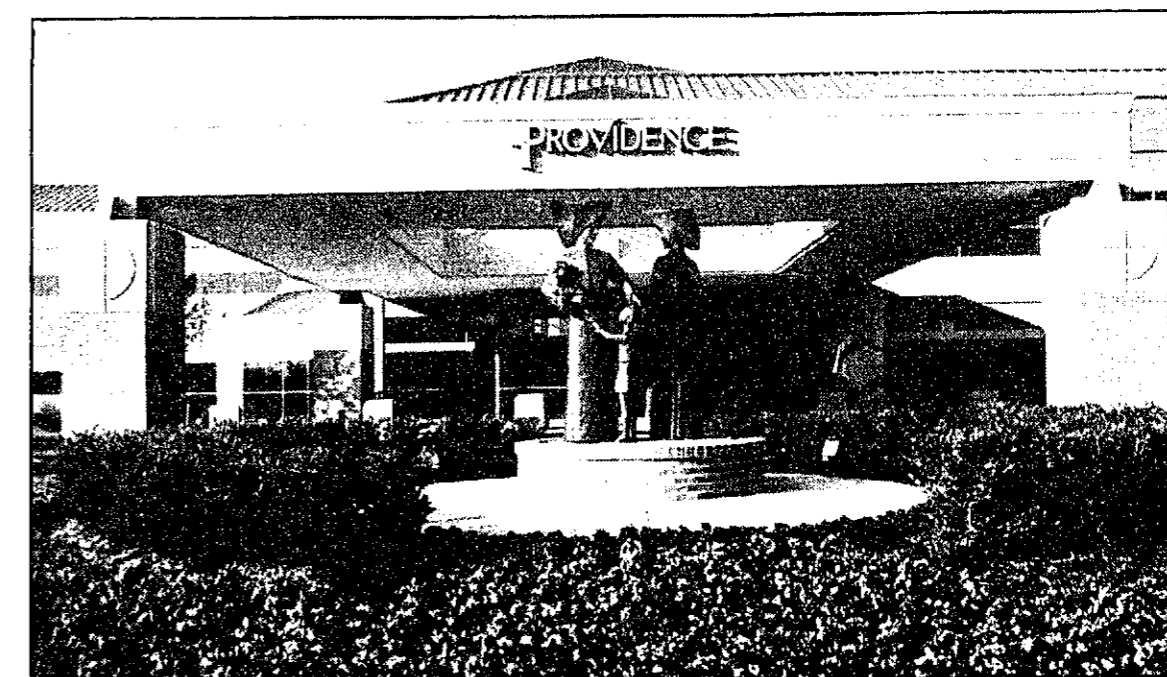
### THE ROBIN'S NEST

Commissioners wrestled with approving plans for the Robin's Nest development on Nine Mile Road near Beck because of the impact the proposed use would have on reg-

ulated woodlands and wetlands. The property changed hands and the name was changed from Silver Beech Estates to the Robin's Nest.

The number of lots was an issue when city consultants recognized the number of trees in regulated woodlands the developer would be destroying to accommodate the number of homes.

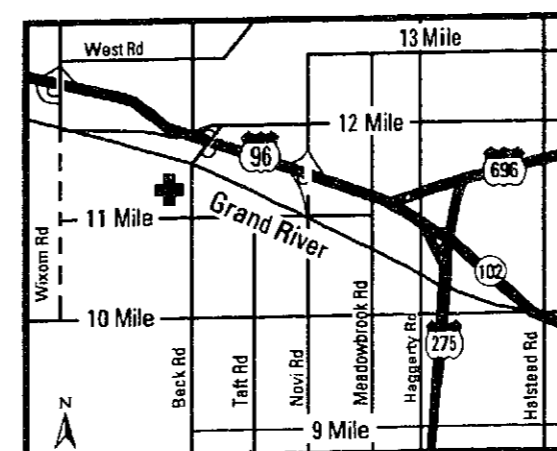
A secondary access road off Nine Mile also stalled a decision on the project until Oct. 19 when finally after months of debate Development won all the necessary woodlands and wetlands permits, but lost two lots in the process.



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THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Nick Schaler, Heather Huff, Mike Abbenante and Lillian Dolley were active participants in the "Gift of Reading" Book Drive at Village Oaks Elementary.

## Schools contend with Proposal A

By SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writer

For a school district that in past years enjoyed sound financial conditions, 1994 was an unusual year in the Novi School District because money was the major issue.

### TAX BREAK

Proposal A shifted Novi schools' tax revenues from property taxes to state aid. Now instead of residents funding the operations in the school district, the State of Michigan is funding public schools on a per-pupil basis. That was the good news in 1994 for district taxpayers who now see a significant cut in property taxes and for school administrators wrestling with a growing student population. Under the new school code, Novi Schools receives more than \$7,000 in state aid for each student. Before the change in the school finance reform, it cost the district about \$500 more to educate each kid. The \$55 difference is compensated with the 5.49 mill harmless mills the district levies on property above and beyond the 6 mill state wide levy. Today, thanks to the March passage of Proposal A, Novi homeowners are

## YIR SCHOOLS

paying about 11.49 mills in property to operate their schools, far less than the 29 mills that they were paying before Proposal A. While a growing student body is adding to Novi schools' tax revenues, more students are devouring space in existing schools. The demand has already exceeded space in Novi Middle and is nearing space capacity at Orchard Hills Elementary. Facility use is a hot topic in Novi, but the desire to find ways to address overcrowding is lukewarm to cold at best, judging from voters' reactions to two tax increases. In June, voters approved an 18-mill levy against city business owners while in an election that brought record crowds to the polls. Educators regrouped after the first millage defeat in 11 years and put off asking

voters a second time for enhancement mills. On Dec. 13, however, school officials hung a \$33 million, bond issue proposal out to voters. Voters rejected the plan 2-to-1. The proposal, the brainchild of a citizens facilities advisory committee, sought to settle space problems by asking voters to build a new middle school for \$23.1 million and renovate two existing schools for \$9.9 million. It drew sharp criticism from parents opposed to moving fourth graders out of existing elementary schools and into a renovated upper elementary school.

### THE AFTERMATH

Novi Schools' twin defeats at the polls raises questions about the district's ability to pass any millages in the near future.

Anti-tax residents like Jerry LeBlanc contend taxpayers are entitled to the tax cut guaranteed under Proposal A. LeBlanc launched a grassroots campaign against both the enhancement mill request and the December bond issue. The semi-retired tool-and-die maker said he believes school administrators should make do with what they have and find a way

to live within their means. That may mean portable classrooms, larger class sizes and perhaps year-round schooling in the future.

LeBlanc's campaign may have spurred the creation of Novi CARES, a citizens committee formed to provide support for educational issues that affect Novi Schools. The group, founded and spearheaded by Carol Elfring, formed weeks after the Board of Education decided to go for a December bond issue.

Elfring's committee campaigned for passage of the bond issue by providing accessible information for district residents. She has been an active member in the school district as a member of PTO groups, the district's long range planning committee and Facilities Advisory Committee.

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

In the June school election, George Kortlandt ran unopposed for Robert Schram's board of education seat. Schram stepped down after 16 years of service because of

Continued on 13

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## YIR SCHOOLS

Continued from 12

limiting constraints from his job.

### POLICY CHANGES

No longer can relatives of school administrators or elected board of education members be employed full time with the Novi Community School District. George Kortlandt's bid for the board seat raised the question when school officials realized his wife Pat Kortlandt was employed with the district. The policy was revamped and approved before the new board member was seated.

### BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

District administrators realized at least one strategy in their long-range plan this year. The creation of Partners in Education paired local businesses with individual schools. Students are working cooperatively with business representatives and learning as they



Continued on 14 Susan Wainwright was named one of the top five science teachers in the state.



Two unidentified Novi students get in the spirit of homecoming '94.



Musical Moms Chris Heffernan and JoAnn Eagan perform at Novi Woods.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**YIR**  
**SCHOOLS**

Continued from 13

go. School administrators, local businesses supported the program which won the approval of the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

**SEX EDUCATION**

Novi Community Schools do not use the Michigan Model for health and sex education. Instead, district administrators have created their own curriculum to satisfy state requirements in those areas.

This year, school administrators decided to beef up sex education instruction by adding a sex ed component to its health curriculum. The change didn't set well with some parents opposed to perceived conflicting ideas on birth control and contraceptive use.

A high school student attempted to speak to the board, but was shot down when board members, parents and administrators disagreed with his request for more sex education.

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

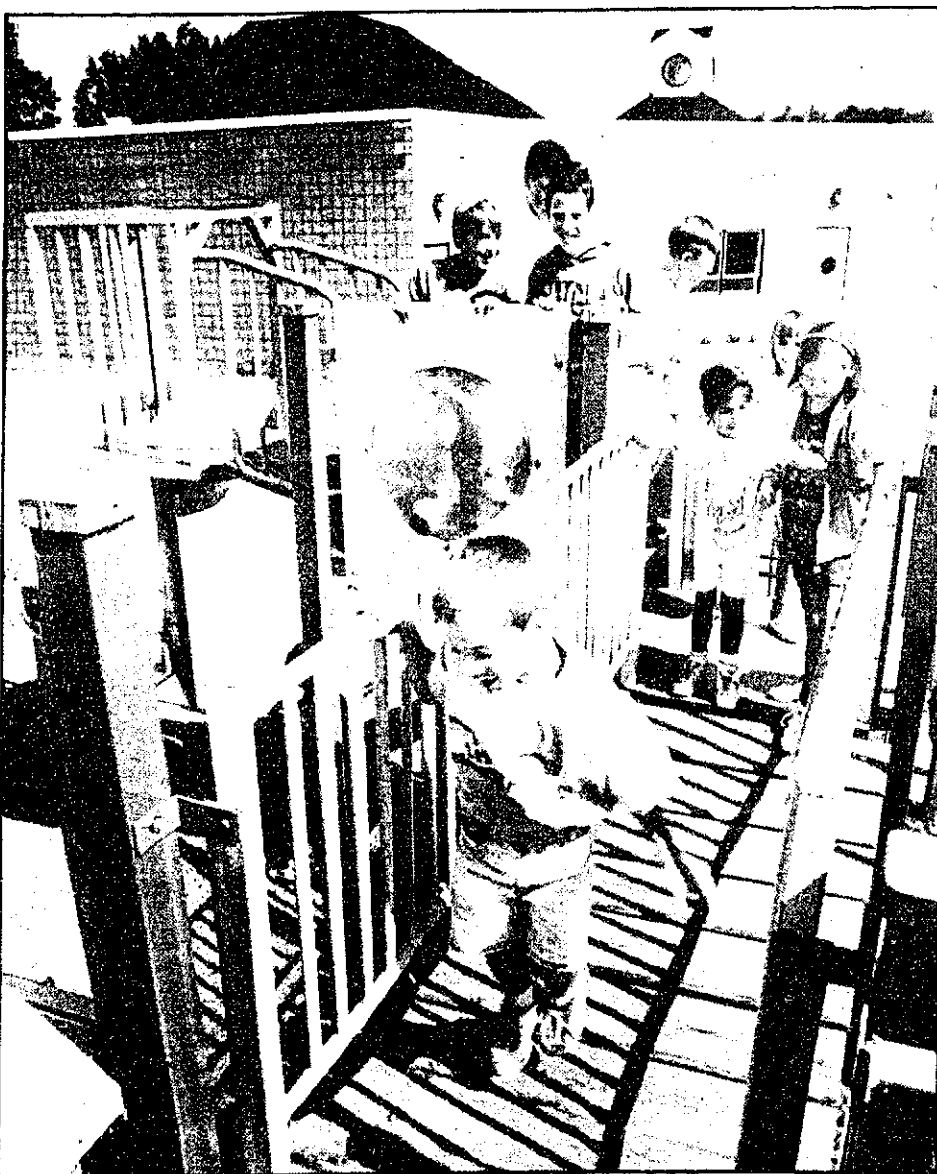
It wasn't until October that Novi High School students could walk from the school building itself to the commons area under a covered roof. Construction was and is ongoing at the high school during the school year.

The three-phase addition is underway although high school Principal Art Miller said the additions there are nearly complete. An indoor physical education facility was still under construction at year's end but the math and science wings were nearly complete.

Final touches were expected to be completed by the onset of the 1995-96 school year. Construction crews put all of the finishing touches on the elementaries and classrooms were good to go when school opened in the fall.

Parkview's new addition of 10 classrooms, an electronic skylight and playground equipment was dedicated by the board of education this year.

All of the construction projects were approved expenditures included in the \$31.9 million bond sale votes approved in 1992. More than \$7 million of that bond was used to purchase and equip district buildings with technology. The three-phase installation program was two-thirds complete by the end of 1994. Teachers were being trained on the new technology so students can use the hardware and apply the software in classrooms.



In the picture above, Wanda Ciancio (left) helps music teacher Kim Tice during computer training sessions prior to the start of the 1994-95 school year. In the picture on the left, students at Parkview Elementary School try out the new playground equipment during the summer break.

**Kids, Of All Ages, Love Novi!!!**



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Novi became the focus of national media attention when Jack Kevorkian, known as Dr. Death, helped a Novi resident commit suicide.

## Kevorkian brings campaign to Novi

By JAN JEFFRES and SHARON CONDRON  
Staff Writers

The City of Novi attracted a good deal of attention in 1994, not only because of the nationally publicized cases that originated here, but because of the new programs launched here by the city's public safety departments.

### DR. DEATH

In April, the national media zoomed into Detroit for the trial of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who was charged with violating Michigan's assisted suicide law when he helped Novi man Tom Hyde die in July 1993. Hyde was in the final stages of Lou Gehrig's Disease. Following six days of testimony, including the dramatic appearance on the witness stand of Hyde's fiancée, Heidi Fernandez, Kevorkian was acquitted.

### HOT WAX

The Soft Shine Auto Wash suffered about \$20,000 worth of damages in January, when faulty electrical wiring in an outdoor sign sparked and sent flames through the Novi Road building's wooden roof and exterior.

## YIR

POLICE/FIRE

The mall-area business was closed for the day when the fire broke out.

### SALLY DUDLEY

Few people who were close to Sally Dudley knew she was suffering in silence.

But Dudley changed all that when she shot her husband seconds before she turned the gun on herself in the family's Orchard Ridge home March 31.

Sally died that day from the self-imposed gunshot to the head.

Her husband, James Richard, was treated for severe head injuries from the near fatal blow he received from his wife's .38 caliber revolver.

One of the couple's three children was in the home when shots were fired.

The daughter called police after discovering her mother laying on the couch and her

father on the living room floor.

### TOMASSI CASE

David Tomassi's long run from the law ended abruptly in October when New York police arrested him and handed him over to Novi Police. The man accused of taking his two sons out of the state 11 years ago was brought to justice in a 52-1 Walled Lake courtroom.

The boys, Jason, now 15, and David, 17, were reunited Oct. 9 with their mother, Emili Rateau, after more than a decade of being apart.

The next day, the boys boarded a plane with their mother and stepfather John, and Grubb to come home to Novi.

The plane landed at Metro Airport. Its passengers exited the plane in time to be welcomed by media from local newspapers, radio and television stations.

The next morning, while Tomassi remained behind bars, the boys and their mother moved to South Bend, Indiana for a second chance at being a family.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

State legislators and 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie have done their

share this year to address growing domestic abuse problems statewide. Lawmakers have extended the parameters of domestic violence or spouse abuse laws to include people who live together and those who share the responsibility of having children.

MacKenzie in conjunction with prosecutors, probation officers and the HAVEN, a woman's shelter in Pontiac, have all agreed to fast track domestic violence cases and promised stiffer penalties for repeat offenders.

Area police departments including, Novi, in response to the state's direction on domestic violence have revamped their own internal domestic violence policies. Today, police officers, under state law, have agreed to an immediate arrest policy.

MacKenzie's cooperative program has proven itself successful. The number of domestic violence cases in participating communities have plummeted and there are significantly fewer repeat offenders who know they'll be jailed on the second offense.

This year, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and most communities in the

Continued on 17

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from 17

county have signed onto the program.

### CITIZENS ON PATROL

The Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy debuted this year with an 11-week intensive inside look at police work. Two sessions were held this year in the spring and fall.

Designed to give residents a closer look at police operations, policies and police personnel, residents studied everything from crime scene evidence to domestic violence to juvenile law.

The program is a cooperative effort of the Novi, Walled Lake and Wixom police departments.

### GLAD TO HAVE SON HOME

Nine-year-old Justin Gladwin caused quite a stir when he walked away from his Chateau Estates Trailer Park home on March 9.

The boy, upset with his mother after the two argued about his choice of hats to wear outside, trotted off towards his grandparents' home.

Novi Police Det. John Zimmer en route to Novi from Troy heard the case unfolding on his police radio. Zimmer exited the freeway to lend a hand in the search.

Minutes before the detective was expected at the family's home, he spotted the boy walking along Thirteen Mile Road. He picked him and brought him home to a very happy and relieved mother.

## YIR

POLICE/FIRE

### TROUBLED TEEN

Gary Kindred took the law into his own hands and lost on May 11. The troubled teen, one of two children adopted by Susan and Kurt Kindred, shot and killed by police after the 17-year-old fired an AK-47 at officers in a Detroit school yard during recess.

Gary's family's and biological 19-year-old brother lived in Novi at the time of his death. But Kindred was a ward of the state who had escaped from a state institution the month before the gunfire.

The teen reportedly had stolen the gun from a Detroit home the week before the shoot out, from which he died of multiple gunshot wounds in Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills.

### GRILLED GRILL

In November, the new Cooker Bar and Grill on Twelve Mile Road was devastated by a late night fire which broke out in the clothes dryer, where greasy towels soaked in chlorine ignited.

Damage estimates exceeded \$500,000 in Novi's biggest fire in two years. The chain eatery is expected to reopen in early 1995.



David Tomassi fights back tears as he awaits charges in court. He was arrested on charges of taking his sons out of the state 11 years ago.

## Holiday Greetings

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# Wildcats win KVC swim and soccer titles

## YEAR BOYS SPORTS

By **SCOTT DANIEL**  
Sports Editor

All in all, 1994 was a productive year for Novi High boys' athletic teams. The Wildcats won Kensington Valley Conference championships in swimming and soccer.

And the lacrosse team came within a single game of claiming a state championship. The Wildcats battled all the way to the state finals before losing their quest for the state title. Novi settled for second place, but a slew of Wildcat stalwarts were named to the All-Staters lacrosse team.

It was the kind of year that makes parents and athletes alike proud. Here's a look back at some of memorable team performances of 1994.

### STICK HELD HIGH

In just their second varsity season, the Wildcat lacrosse team nearly pulled off the improbable — a state championship.

Novi made it all the way to the final before losing to East Grand Rapids 6-5. A host of great players led the way.

Mike Hicks and Mike Sill both scored better than 20 goals, while Eric Hoffman was rock-solid in the goal. That trio, along with Steve Welts, Bill Warnick, Brad Muston and Drew Lussaert made All-State.

### NEARLY PERFECT

Simply put, 1994 was the best year any Novi High soccer team ever had.

The Wildcats won the KVC. No ... correct that ... the Wildcats *owned* the KVC with a 12-0 record beating traditional king-of-the-hill Brighton twice, including 1-0 in October for the championship.

But the boys weren't done there. Novi trounced Baseline rival Northville 4-0 for the district championship. The squad then fell in regionals to eventual state champ Canton, 1-0.

It was farther than any soccer team had ever made in the finals. Chris Young, Joe Schimizzi and Kevin Ansara were just a few that led Novi to glory.

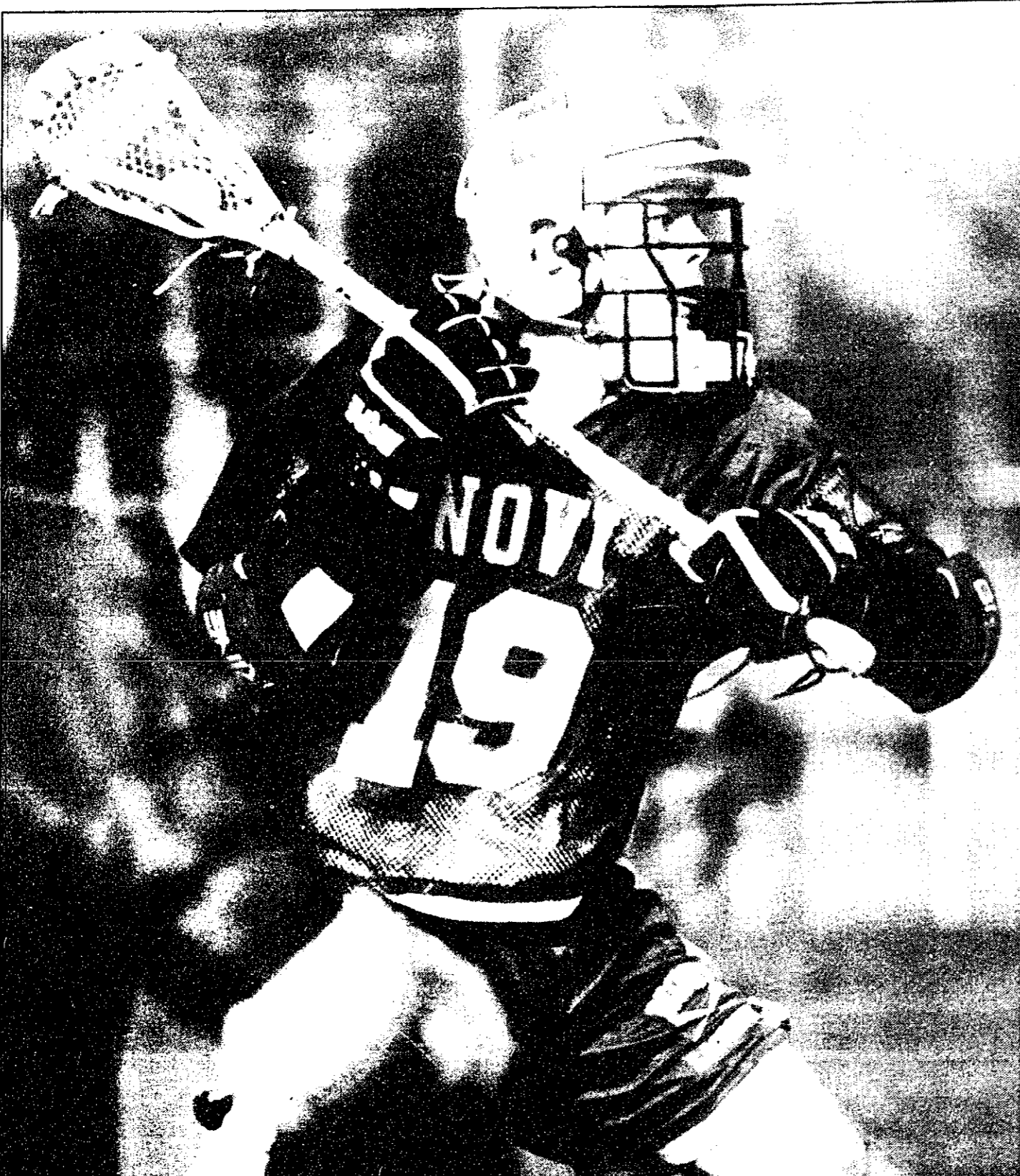
### THE JUG

Novi High rode a rollercoaster every week with its football team.

Usually, it was win one week and lose the next. The Wildcats did put together their first winning season in two years at 5-4.

Northville edged Novi 28-20 in late October to retain the Baseline Jug. The game featured two great running backs in the Cats Jason Witherspoon and Northville's Aneil Kersey.

Witherspoon, a sophomore, was the bright spot of the team. He led the conference in rushing with nearly 1,200 yards and scored a heap of touchdowns.



All-Stater Mike Hicks helped the Novi Wildcats advance to the finals of the state lacrosse tournament.

### SCHLUTER TAKES OVER

Pat Schluter took the reigns of the basketball team last winter.

In a rebuilding season, Novi had an overall record of 8-14 during the 1993-94 campaign. The Wildcat eaglers also finished in the middle of the pack in the KVC, scraping their way to a 5-7 record, which gave them a fourth place finish.

The highlight of the season for the young Novi cagers was a 64-56 triumph over Livonia Stevenson in the district tournament.

Senior Greg Pierman tossed in 18 points from the backcourt to lead the Wildcat quintet to the victory.

### REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

In February, four Novi wrestlers qualified for state regional competition.

Mark McBride, Taka Watanabe, Ben Wendt and James Cini all survived rugged competition in the district tournament to win district titles and earn bids at state finals.

None of the four were able to make it, however.

The 1993-94 campaign saw another major change as longtime coach Tom Friz stepped down and turned the reins of the mat program over to Brad Huss.

The Wildcats placed fourth in the KVC with a 2-4 record under his leadership.

### TOP ATHLETES

- TOM GRIGG/baseball
- JASON WITHERSPOON/football
- RICH VANDERMASS/golf
- GREG PIERMAN/basketball
- ERICH KELLY/swimming
- BEN WENDT/wrestling
- TAKA WATANABE/wrestling
- MIKE SILL/lacrosse
- MIKE HICKS/lacrosse
- ERIC HOFFMAN/lacrosse



Goalie Joe Meyer helped the Wildcat soccer team to a 12-0 record in the Kensington Valley Conference and the KVC championship.

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# Harriers finish third in state meet

## YIB GIRL SPORTS

By **SCOTT DANIEL**  
Sports Editor

For girls' athletic teams at Novi High, 1994 was a mixed year. Great success was enjoyed in some sports while others struggled to get to .500. That's not to say that Wildcat teams were without talent.

Far from it, in fact. Christy Carmichael, Lorna Camp, Jenny Hampton, Erin Vogel, Kelly Kearney — the list goes on. But just what were the biggest highlights at Novi High in '94. Let's take a look.

### RACING FOR THE TOP

After months and months of hard work, the cross country team put it all together. A Kensington Valley Conference title was first on the agenda. Novi easily beat arch rival Brighton at the league meet in October, 31-56, to win the championship. Lorna Camp was crowned league champ while Jenny Hampton and Katie Zimmerman joined on the All-KVC list.

The Wildcats then made it through the regionals to qualify for the state meet where Coach Norm Norgren was hoping that his squad would manage to finish among the top 10 teams.

The longtime Wildcat mentor got what he wanted and then some. Novi wound up finishing third with Camp and Hampton racing to positions on the 1994 All-State team.

### WHAT A KICK

In February, Novi High's Pom-Pon squad won a state championship.

Competing in Class A, Division II, Novi edged Baseline rival Northville 327.5 to 322.5. Jackie Perreca and Amy Williams captained the team.

It was the first year the Michigan High School Athletic Association recognized Pom-Pon as a varsity sport.

### MAKING THEIR MOVE

Novi had success in another racing sport, track. Led by Carmichael, Karie Jettie and others, the Wildcats finished second in the KVC.

Along the way, Carmichael and Jettie made their mark. Carmichael claimed the school record in the 100-meter dash while Jettie did the same in hurdles.

In early June, Novi sent Michelle Sveller, Hampton, Zimmerman and Camp to the state finals in various events.

### HOOP TIME

It was a transition year for the basketball team.

Dennis Cichonski took over as coach for John Hoffman. Hoffman had guided Novi to a KVC championship and a 15-6 record the previous year.



Lorna Camp won the individual title in helping the Wildcats win the KVC cross country championship.

While the squad played hard every night, it wasn't able to repeat that same success and slumped to 7-14. Kearney, Christine Edwards and Megan Barton led the team. Hope was provided by some new faces in

Novi's state tournament first round loss to Livonia Ladywood. Jessica Kenny, Kristan Sullivan and Katie Copp should help Novi get back on the right track this season.

**SOFTBALL**  
An up and down year saw Novi rise in the state playoffs.

Continued on 21

## YIB GIRL SPORTS

Continued from 20

The Wildcats made it all the way to the district final before falling to Brighton 6-0. That state tournament success helped ease a frustrating regular season.

Novi went just 19-22 overall, including a 7-7 mark in the KVC (sixth place).

### TOP ATHLETES

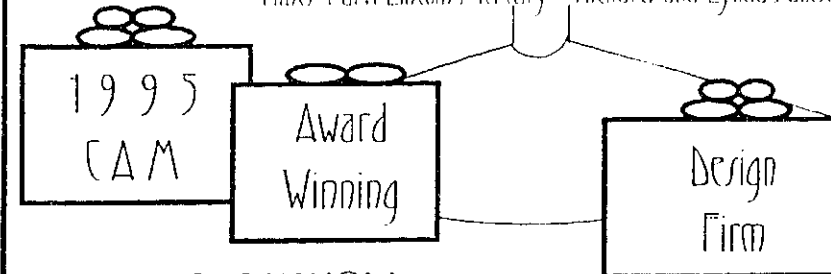
- ERIN BJERKE/softball
- CHRISTY CARMICHAEL/track
- KARIE JETTIE/track
- JENNY HAMPTON/x-country
- LORNA CAMP/x-country
- KELLY KEARNEY/basketball
- CHRISTINE EDWARDS/basketball
- ERIN VOGEL/soccer
- KATIE ZIMMERMAN/x-country
- JUNKO MATSUNAGA/volleyball



Christy Carmichael (far right) was a standout in the sprints for Novi's girls track team in 1994.

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the NOVI  
NEWS

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

# Local man goes for Olympic gold

By **SCOTT DANIEL**  
Sports Editor

Novi high athletic teams weren't the only interesting sports stories in 1994. From Olympic competition to league mergers, the year that was was exciting. So let's take a look back at a few of the stories making news in '94.

### OLYMPIC COMPETITORS

In February, Northville's Jerod Swallow competed in the Winter Olympics, representing the United States in the ice dance competition.

Along with wife Elizabeth Punsalan, Swallow traveled to Hamar, Norway, for the games. The duo represented the community in fine fashion, too, taking 15th overall.

Swallow and Punsalan were 14th heading into the final round of competition. A fall in that round dropped them back into the 15th position.

"Years from now, we'll tell our kids we made it all the way to the Olympics," Punsalan said. "We skated like crap, but we had a great time."

Swallow is the son of John Swallow, assistant superintendent of human resources for the Novi Community School District.

## YIP MORE SPORTS

### MERGER WARS

In August, principals from the Western Lakes Activities Association rejected a proposal for a merger with the Kensington Valley Conference (KVC), which includes Novi.

The move would have involved 12 Western Lakes' schools and seven from the KVC.

A broad geographic region, ranging from Livingston County to far eastern Wayne County, would have been covered.

The three Livonia schools - Stevenson, Churchill and Franklin - led opposition to the merger. Talks began early in the year before the August decision. Stay tuned.

### ALLIANCES

The Novi Baseball Alliance formed over the summer to help relaunch travel baseball in the community. Residents Bob Shaw and Dennis Colligan

helped get the alliance off the ground with a few others. Teams were fielded for the 11- to 16-year-old age range.

### HE'S A SPARTAN

Speaking of baseball, Novi's greatest talent, Tom Grigg, signed up with Michigan State University.

A shortstop, Grigg bypassed professional ball to accept a scholarship with the Spartans. He is slated for a starting spot on MSU's 1995 squad.

During his prep career at Novi, Grigg was a two-time All-State selection. In addition, he tried out with a United States Olympic team over the summer.



Dear Friends,  
Like Santa on Christmas Eve we've been on the run all year long to serve you. During the Holiday season we'd like to extend a heartfelt Thank You for your Friendship, your Business and your Support. With your help we broke records in 1994. We look forward with pleasure to serving you again in 1995!  
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# Notable people, notable achievements

## YIR NOTABLES

By CAROL WORKENS  
Staff Writer

It was a year of achievement for many Novi students ... from the DSA winner to the high school valedictorians to the homecoming king and queen. The names of the people listed here will go in the annuals for distinguished achievement during the year 1994:

- **ROB MITZEL**  
He received the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from the Novi Jaycees. His is a member of the Novi City Council, has served on the planning commission, is a member of Preservation Novi. Mitzel was nominated for his efforts in building a nature trail in Chase Farms.
- **TRACY WATKINS**  
The Novi Jaycees presented the Outstanding Youth Award to Watkins.
- **MATTHEW CONQUEST**  
Officer Conquest of the Novi Police Department was selected as Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer.
- **RICHARD ANTUNA**  
Antuna was named Outstanding Firefighter.
- **CINDY UGLOW**  
Uglow received the Novi City Employee of the Year Award.
- **JEFFREY HEYN**  
Heyn was named 1993 Small Business Person of the Year by the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Heyn is president of Planet Neon Sign Company and is considered to be a leading authority in the neon signage field. He is also active in the community, serving on the city council-appointed Grand River Corridor Committee and sponsoring athletic teams.
- **ED KRIEWALL**  
Novi's City Manager celebrated 25 years of service to the city this year.
- **LES HARDING**  
Harding also had his 25th anniversary at Holy Cross Episcopal Church this year.
- **REV. JAMES CRONK**  
The pastor of St. James Catholic Church celebrated 25 years of priesthood in 1994.
- **BETTY GRIFFIN**  
Griffin received the 1994 Community Enrichment Award from the Novi-Northville branch of the American Association of University Women. She has been volunteering since 1984. Her volunteer work includes the Stephen Ministry Program at Holy Family Church, founding Accent on Women at the church, and peer counseling at Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center.
- **LISA ANTUNA and HUNTER DOWNEY**  
The two were chosen as Novi High School's Homecoming Queen and King.
- **NOVI HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS**  
Novi High School's 1994 graduating class was led by a total of 12 valedictorians. They were Maneesha Date, Michelle Lyn DeWitt, Kerry Lou Ellis, Michelle (Shelly) Hahn, Yeh-Won Hwang, Nate Kushman, Peggy B. Liao, Cyrus Mistry, Becky Ann Oppat, Daniel A. Rowell, Erika Lynn Strausberg and Edna Yang.
- **SALUTATORIAN**  
But there was just one salutatorian. That singular honor went to Christy Leigh Carmichael.



Father Leslie Harding celebrated his 25th anniversary at Holy Cross Episcopal Church.

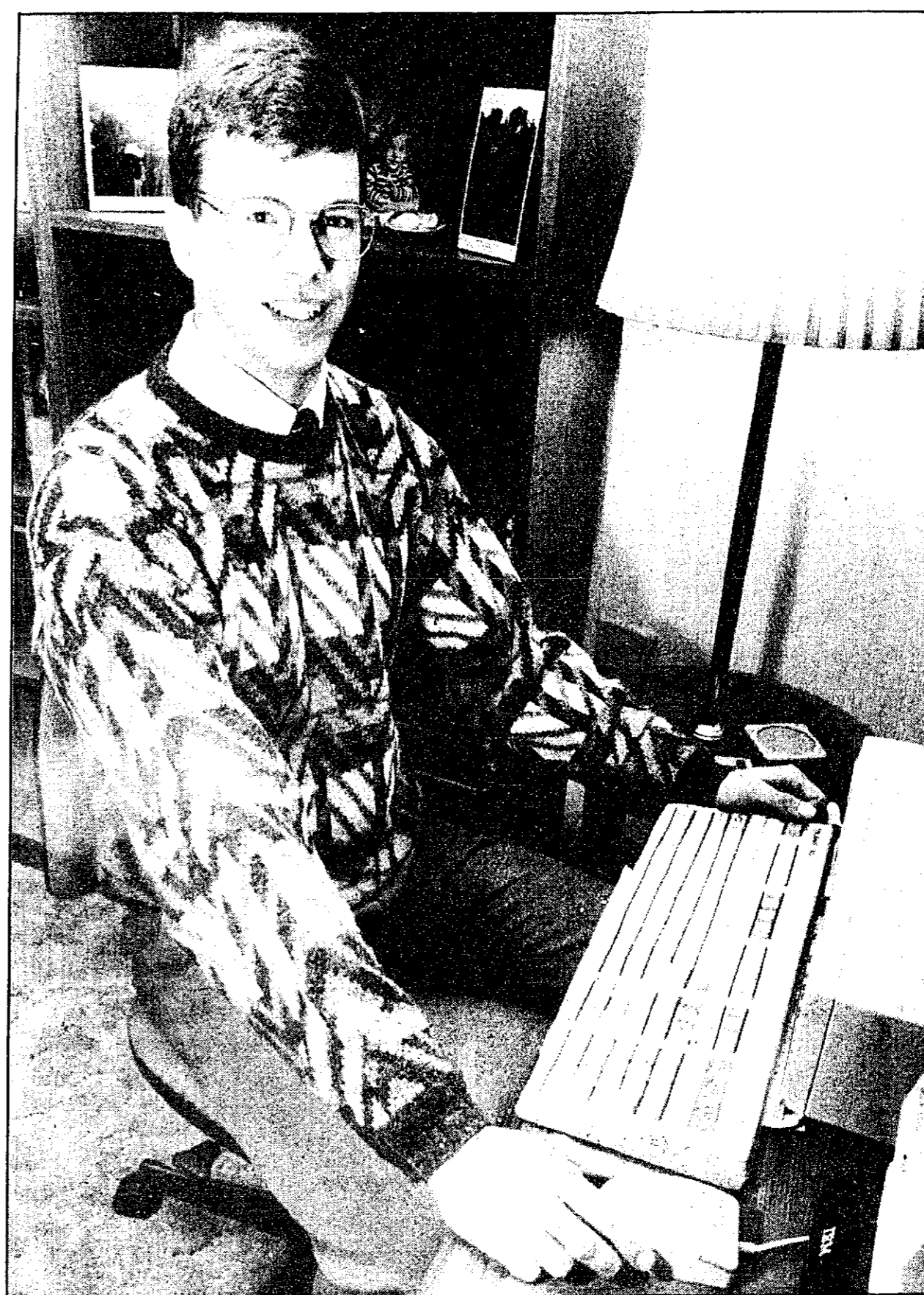


The 1994 Novi High School Homecoming Court



Homecoming Queen Lisa Antuna gets a big smooch from Homecoming King Hunter Downey.

## YIR NOTABLES



Rob Mitzel won the prestigious Distinguished Service Award presented annually by the Novi Jaycees.



The Rev. James Cronk of St. James Catholic Church celebrated 25 years in the priesthood.



Jeffrey and Annie Heyn of Planet Neon were selected as the Small Business Persons of the Year by the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

## 'As Novi goes, so goes Michigan'

The year 1994 was an interesting one for the City of Novi. But there were times when the things that were said were even more interesting than the things that were done.

We don't claim to have collected all of the year's best quotes, but we think that we got some of the better ones. Here are a few of the more notable quotations:

"I feel they should remain at the council table, unless Mother Nature calls them otherwise," City Council Member Joseph Toth said, criticizing colleagues who remain from their seats during Novi council meetings.

"This massage really blows their minds. They think at first it's a little kinky. There's really nothing odd about it. You wear all your clothes," said Parks and Recreation special coordinator Kathy Crawford, on the introduction of the new therapy at the Novi Senior Center.

"If I told you we'd do all this back in 1992 when my husband was running for president, you'd have said, 'What was she smoking and did she inhale?'" First Lady Hillary Clinton said while stumping for Bob Carr for Senate at a Novi Hilton rally.

"I died three times," Kevin Prieve, an employee of the Marbette Corporation, said after he was saved by CPR-administering coworkers when he collapsed with a heart attack.

"If you're worried about dog pee, let's talk about human beings ... I'm not blaming the city for people urinating in my visual sight," Shawood Lakes area activist Jim Korte told the Novi City Council, who had just expressed concern about animal behavior at a vet clinic. He did suggest that blight in the north end encouraged "public urination."

"I don't think the fourth grade issue sunk this one. I think it's all about anti-tax. It's a continued mood from the November election. People in work places are being told to do more with less and I think now they are telling the schools to do the same," board President Craig Forchack said about voters' rejection of a \$33 million bond issue.

"We are a society that tends to be geared toward 100 percent. Sixty percent is very good. Some school districts would be very happy to get a 60 percent. We don't expect our kids to get 100 percent. That's abnormal and unreal," Village Oaks Principal David Brown said after MEAP scores declined in the school district this year.

"The word should be forced retirement by this council, not retired. I want the citizens of Novi to know that I am still here for



First Lady Hillary Clinton made a quotable quote while in town stumping for U.S. Senate candidate Bob Carr.

## YIP QUOTABLES

them," outgoing Parks Commissioner David Ruyle said when he was honored for his service by the city council, which was also the panel which voted not to reappoint him.

"Most don't even read the language. I don't. I usually know the issue before I vote. I'm either for it or against it," Novi Superintendent Emmett Lippe said after it was pointed out the ballot language for the bond issue included items he said the district didn't intend to buy with the money.

"It was like a message from God. They said, 'We like your food.' Usually, we have meat loaf," Novi Special Recreation Coordinator Kathy Crawford said when she learned copy sues would be served at the seniors center lunch the day it hosted a special program for Asian seniors.

"It's a bunch of legal jargon, is what it amounts to; they're legal whiz bangs," Doug Erwin said, expressing his frustration over the reject of his proposal verbiage for a petition to recall five members of city council.

"Essentially, he just questioned the language word for word as to its clarity, what the average citizen would understand. What land was it? State land? Marsh land? What kind of developer? On one hand, it appeared to be quite simple, on the other hand, it was quite unclear," Mayor Kathy McLallen said about that recall language.

"It kind of makes you mad. They'll pay for a bone marrow transplant which costs \$300,000. In Mexico, the hospital will charge \$30,000. We're not closing the door on conventional medicine. We just felt before we tried anything drastic we could try this first because it's safe. We know we don't have a 100 percent chance, but we figure it's certainly worth a try," Cindy Irwin said when she learned insurance

would not pay for her husband, Kevin's, treatment in Tijuana.

"As Novi goes, so goes Michigan," Gov. John Engler in an interview at Guernsey Dairy on Novi Road during the election campaign.

"My Dad just picked me up and twirled me around. My friends said he had tears in his eyes, but I didn't see it," Lisa Antuna said after it was announced at Novi High School's Homecoming game that she was selected Queen.

"What does it have to do with running the city? It has to do with the constitutional rights of a citizen? It is so tacky and unbelievable of people in this city administration to try to blaspheme me," Jim Korte said as he protested the inclusion of a copy of a police report about him in city council packets.

"It looks like we have a terminal ill patient at Eight and Haggerty," Commissioner Glen Bonaventura said of the intersection as he prepared to vote no on the construction of a new strip mall there.

## A look back at some favorite people

By CAROL WORKENS

Staff Writer  
...And there were the folks we met along the way.

**FROM SAX TO PLAQUE**  
Northville dentist Dr. Joseph Sinkwitz plays the alto, soprano tenor and baritone saxophone as well as the clarinet. Sinkwitz, who started playing the saxophone at age 7, has music in his genes. His father was a professional musician. Sinkwitz played his first professional engagement at age 11.

The highlight of his career was playing at the Ritz Carleton on New Year's Eve. Many of his patients are surprised to learn that he is a professional musician.

He's just happy to get the chance to play. Always good with chemistry and science, his decision to go into dentistry was a last minute one and now he's been in practice in Northville since 1972.

**THE 'THREE M'S'**

The tradition of memorial day photographs began for Millie Rabchuk, 3, Marge Grace, 74, Marie Gartrell, 76, when their father gathered them together on Memorial Day at 10 a.m. in 1918 and snapped the first shot. Although their father died in 1955, they have continued the yearly tradition.

The girls were known as the "Three M's" while growing up and performed with their banjos on radio stations WEXL in Royal Oak, WXYZ in Detroit. In 1937 the girls took first place in a competition at the Fox Theatre which was sponsored by R. G. Dunn Cigars, and bought a swing for their parents front porch with the \$9 winnings. They have also played at school and social functions, including galas for former Gov. James Blanchard and former Mayor Coleman Young. Each is still active in either a musical society or in volunteer work.

**NEW HORIZONS**

Rev. Michael Heusel founded New Horizon Community Church, holding the first service in March. He was pastor for 12 years at Cross of Christ Church in Bloomfield Hills prior to coming to Novi.

"You need to come out of church more uplifted than when you came in," he said. "Having a relationship with God ought to be a fulfilling experience, dynamic and fun." The reasons for starting something in Novi, something traditional and upbeat, was because he wanted to put back into the community.

**CHORUS GIRL**

Jean Arline Boucher McGuigan is a 61-year-old chorus girl. She left for a eight-month tour with the Palm Spring Follies in 1994 which means she'll turn 62 before the end of the tour. Performing in chorus lines since 1953, McGuigan said they're called ensembles now days. She has operated dance studios, directed church performances, fashion shows and many pageants and fitness and toning classes for seniors.

**TIGER MOM**

Emilie Newhouser, 97-year-old Novi resi-



Novi Historical Commissioner Daniel O'Connell is dedicated to keeping the British Colonial era alive in Novi and southeast Michigan.

dent, traveled to Lansing to participate in "The Salute to Michigan Mothers," a key part of the fifth annual "Michigan Parades Into The 21st Century."

Born in 1897, the Mom of Detroit Tigers pitcher and Hall of Famer, Hal Newhouser, has some advice - No smoking, No drinking. "Of course you can have ginger ale and root beer," she said.

"Everybody's going too fast. Running here, running there. They don't watch where they're going. Everybody wants to be first," she said. "You've got to take it easy and see how the world will take you. If you're good about it, you'll get along swell," she said.

**PUBLIC PROPOSAL**

Brian Starns made his proposal of marriage to Cheryl Seach on the billboard of the Novi Expo Center, and then escorted her to the billboard where he proposed verbally.

She said "yes," and they set the date for June 1995.

Both were employed at the Expo Center when they met and dated for a year and a half before Starns proposed.

**KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE**

Daniel O'Connell, Novi Historical Commissioner, is waging a war to keep the British colonial era alive. O'Connell, a.k.a. Lt. Bolton, has resurrected the King's Eighth Regiment, formerly stationed in Fort Detroit. He, along with seven or eight other men, reenact the lives of soldiers, not just in battle but in daily life as 18th century soldiers.

"If there's such a thing as a volunteer mission in life, mine is keeping the colonial history alive here in Michigan," he said. The reenactors took part in Novi's celebration of History week, May 21 and 22, at Novi Township Hall. He has learned how to write

## YIP PEOPLE

with a quill and ink and is learning French, because British soldiers had to learn the local language in order to rule the people. He sews all the outer seams on his handmade uniforms by hand for authenticity although the inner seams are done on a machine.

**GOOD FRIENDS**

Kevin Irwin, 31, was diagnosed with leukemia in July. He and his wife, Cindy, both supporters of homeopathic medicine, have chosen to go to St. Joseph Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico for alternative treatment.

The Friends of Kevin Irwin hosted a benefit dinner on Nov. 18 at Vladimirs of Farmington Hills. Hoping to raise \$4,000, the benefit exceeded \$21,000 in just one month. Two hundred eighty people attended the \$30 a plate dinner. The Novi High School graduate was able to start his treatment which includes a vaccination made from his own malignant cells, a special diet to starve the cancer cells, detoxifying his system of food additives and other chemicals and injections of live animal embryos.

**GRASSROOTS ACTION**

Lorraine Beeman, of Novi, and Maggie Sutton, of Belleville, published the first issue of *The Grassroots Action Publication* in January. Their goal is to get complacent citizens active in correcting government's waste of funds and misdeeds. The newsletter circulates from Traverse City to St. Clair Shores and is a potpourri of quotes from *The Wall Street Journal*, syndicated writers, along with names, phone and fax numbers, and addresses of state and federal elected officials, and lists of grass roots citizens activists groups.

The pair aim to keep their opinions off the pages. "No editorials. It's not about us, or to project our ideas," they said. They believe citizens can make things happen, and then intend to keep them informed.

**MABEL ASH**

Mabel Ash, Novi's first city clerk, died May 10 at the age of 88. Ash served as clerk of the Village of Novi from about 1960 and stayed on as clerk when the city incorporated in 1969, before retiring in 1973.

Her first job with the city was in 1959 as secretary to village manager Fred Olsen. She was a charter member of the Novi Historical Society, and a past member of the Novi Historical Commission and Novi Planning Commission.

She was a member of the Arabian Horse Association, Friends of the Novi Library and the League of Women Voters.

"We used to call her the pillar of the community. That's because everybody leaned on her when they needed something," close friend Cindy Gronachan said.

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