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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 5, 1996
 Periodical
Volume 40
Number 10
Five Sections
60 Pages plus Supplements

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NEWS

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Living LOCAL MAN FINISHES
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Kramer gets nod for city council seat

By SHARON CONDRON
 Special Writer

Ed Kramer is no stranger to Novi politics, but if Novi's newest City Councilman had forgotten the pressure of the public eye he got a quick reminder of it Monday night.

"You have a year to prove yourself," takes area resident Jim Korte said, shaking a finger, as he told Kramer late Monday night after Kramer had been appointed to fill a council vacancy.

His appointment didn't come easily or unanimously. Instead for Kramer and council it was a public fight to the finish. Council members duked it out until it was time to call the question and vote for either Kramer or James Antosiak, the only other name mentioned in the debate.

At the heart of the debate was whether Mayor Kathleen McCallen was willing to take other nominations from the floor or if the motion to appoint Kramer was the only matter up for consideration. Council members failed to reach a



Ed Kramer

consensus in a meeting that preceded the regular council meeting where the appointment was the lone agenda item. Reportedly during that meeting, both names

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A special guest

Jenny Lacosse, above, sits on the lap of Santa Claus Monday evening at the Novi Civic Center and tells him what she might like for Christmas. Jenny was the first in line to see the big guy during Monday evenings' Light Up the Holiday ceremony, the city's annual kickoff. Annually, the mayor gets a chance during the ceremony to present the key to the city to Santa Claus. Dozens of other Novi children got their chance to talk to him as well. At left, the Novi Middle School Select Choir sings during the ceremony. Toys and food that were donated by citizens Monday evening will be distributed to local needy families.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Secret ballots were illegal, attorney rules

By MICHAEL MALOTT
 Staff Writer

In a succession of four "secret ballots" in a special meeting Nov. 25, Novi City Council narrowed the field of candidates to fill a council vacancy from six to two.

But City Attorney Dennis Watson, in a continuation of that meeting Monday at 6 p.m. in the Civic Center Activities Room, concluded the ballots were illegal and advised council to toss out the results.

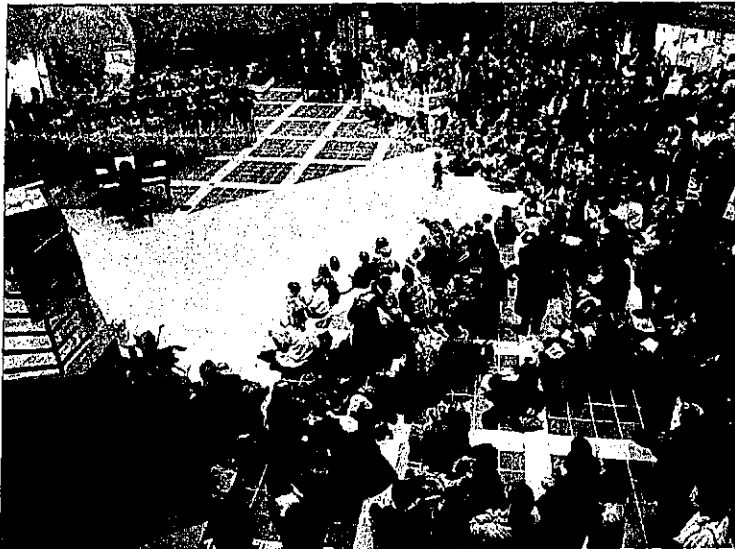
Because paper ballots were used but not retained, Watson explained, it would be impossible to reconstruct the votes and determine how the six sitting council members had cast their ballots. As a result, he said,

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THE 'LIST'

Those also considered for the appointment were:

- James Antosiak
- Brent Canup
- Diana Canup
- Kim Thomas Capello
- John Chambers
- Sarah Gray
- James Harrington
- Ruth Ann Jirasek
- Denise Jenkins
- Laura Lorenzo
- Mike Meyer
- Lodia Richards
- David Ruyle
- Eda Weddington



Mason dies of cancer in Missouri

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
 Staff Writer

Known for her penchant for wearing colorful hats, former Novi City Councilwoman Carol Mason died Sunday in Ballwin, Missouri. She was 56.

Mason had spent much of the last year fighting lung cancer that was diagnosed just this July. However by the time she found it, the cancer had spread. She was with her three daughters, Marti, Cheri, and Boni and their families when she died.

They were celebrating Thanksgiving at Gorum's home when Mason was found to be in critical condition, said friend Jim Korte. Friends here in Novi were notified on Friday and then again on Sunday.

Mason had been under Hospice care for several months. The family is requesting any donations be made in Mason's memory to Southeastern Michigan Hospice.

A visitation will be held tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 6 at the O'Brien Chapel on Grand River from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Immediately following will be a memorial service.

"We all are very deeply saddened by this dynamic lady's passing," said State Representative Nancy Cassis, a friend and colleague of Mason's. "We hoped it wouldn't happen. Boy, was she a fighter."

"Carol's spirit was always just



Photo by HAL GOULD
 Carol Mason, whose trademark was her ever present hats, succumbed to cancer Sunday.

extraordinary," added Cassis. A real estate broker who owned Carol Mason Red Carpet Keim for 13 years in Novi, Mason raised her family in the city, spending more than 30 years here. Friends use words like, caring, compassionate, devoted, humble,

dedicated and say she had a positive outlook and a sense of humor. "She was a woman of strong opinions and strong convictions and you always knew where you stood with her. I respected that," said Cassis.

According to her daughter Marti, Mason will be remembered for her hats and for many times taking "controversial stands to defend what she believed to be in the best interests of the community."

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Council decries mess, but extends license

By SHARON CONDRON
 Special Writer

He's left a trail of tree stumps, broken branches and debris in his wake and his East Lake Drive neighbors are not happy about it. "He's raped the neighborhood ... just devastated it," Tricia Hughes, an East Lake Drive resi-

dent told the Novi City Council Monday. Miffed about what Theodore Andris has done to the southeast corner of Fourteen Mile Road and East Lake Drive, Hughes added, "It doesn't seem fair for him to have that kind of power over our neighborhood."

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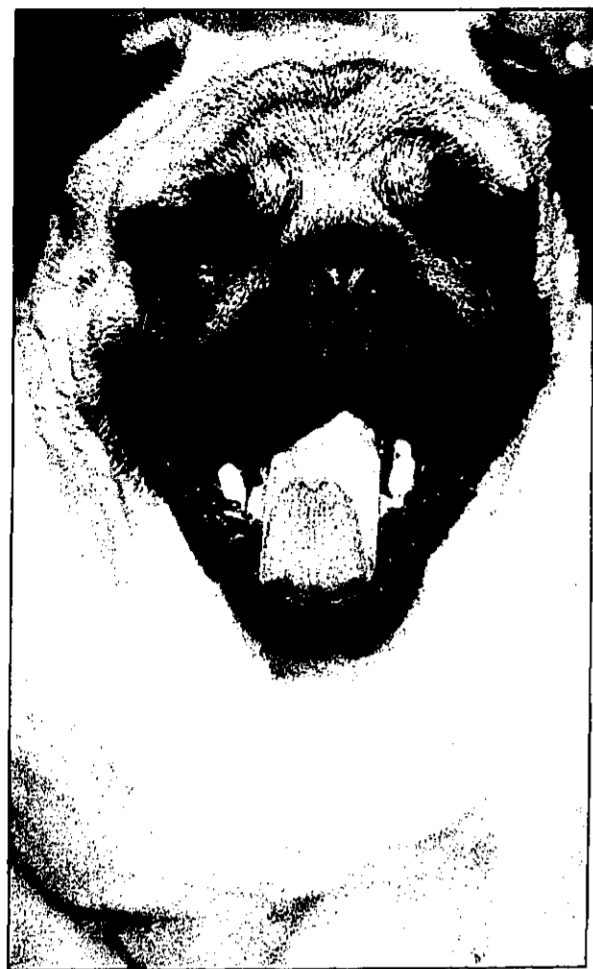
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12-5-96



Going to the dogs

At left 'Archie,' a Pug owned by Barry Allen of Coldwater, seems a bit bored with the dog show at the Novi Expo Center Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Above, Jason Miller's retriever was more interested.

Photo by AL WARD

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Novi honored for technology

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

The Novi Community School District was handed a great big treat this month from Apple Computers. The international company named Novi schools, along with two Michigan districts and 125 other school districts in the country, an Apple Distinguished School District.

Using Apple Technology in innovative ways garnered the district the distinction. "We take into account a number of things we're not looking for districts trying to reward or coerce something," said Brian Filipiak. The district's integrated technology plan with computers, video, hardware and software and inter-

"Novi is on the forefront of implementation."

Marvin Sauer
DataServe Inc.

net system, won them praise as well as their desire and willingness to share the information with other districts. "It's been a model for other school districts," said Filipiak. The technology was paid for with a voter approved \$31.9 million bond issue in 1993. But why reward a district that already has so much? "Being able to recognize a hand-

ful of districts for some sort of achievement was certainly something in order," said Filipiak. "It's been great," said Fry. "The community and the board have been so supportive."

The districts were nominated by employees of Apple, who work closely with districts to keep systems running smoothly. Then a committee reviewed the selections. The two-year award means Novi

will be featured on Apple's Internet Site and appear as partners with Apple in national publications. Novi Schools will be represented during national conferences and new software will head to Novi first for testing and analysis.

"It's not a matter of having lots of technology, many schools do a lot with a little, but in Novi the community support, personnel and the support of Jim Fry and Wanda (Cianetto) has been key here," said Filipiak.

Currently, Debbie Madaja of Parkview Elementary is working with Apple and three other Novi teachers, Jennifer Schimmel, Marcia Reid and Kim Clark, on developing a new Internet program.

Bond supplied much equipment

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

If Novi students can't find a computer upon which to surf the net, they must not be looking very hard.

Thanks to the money provided by the \$31.9 million technology bond approved by voters in 1993, the schools are filled with the latest in computer and communications technology.

According to a report by instructional technology supervisor Jim Fry at Novi Schools, the district now has a total of 2,000 Macintosh, Apple and Pentium computers in use for the 4,912 students

in the district. Also, all the schools are wired with 12 dot matrix or laser printers among them, 12 scanners, 10 digital cameras, 18 file servers, five Internet servers, four phone switches, 280 television sets, 17 broadcast carts and 90 VCRs. Hooked up in 1993, Novi is a rare breed in Internet access. Nationwide, only five to seven percent of schools have Internet access in every classroom, as does Novi, according to Marvin Sauer of DataServe Inc., which provides additional technological support to the district.

"Novi is on the forefront of implementation," he explained. Also, all the schools are wired with 12 strands of fiberoptic for data, voice and video transmission. This enables staff to broadcast programs throughout the district and to make phone calls from building to building without extra cost. Staff use computers for attendance tracking, grade collecting and other administrative necessities.

"One of the exciting things is to see over the three years technology used as a tool," said Rita Traynor, assistant superintendent of instruction. She said while at first she could walk past a computer room and find the chairs empty, more teachers are using the technology in daily work.

Novi is in the process of purchasing software - 50-60 new programs - according to Fry. But even now teachers are having students conduct simulations of presidential debates on broadcast networks, surveys and book reports on computer. Students participate in Internet learning such as the CyberSurfer program where students look for questions and clues hidden within the Internet.

Obituaries

KATHLEEN RUTH BILLINGS

Kathleen Ruth Billings, age 37, of Whitnore Lake died Nov. 28, 1996, at the University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor. She was born April 22, 1959, in Novi.

Mrs. Billings was office manager for Chem-Lawn Corp. She is survived by her husband, John D.; sons, John C. (Emmy), Mark; parents, Ernest and Elizabeth Morris of Novi; brothers, Reg, Larry, Alan and David Morris; sisters, Sandra Seiffert, Marsha Morris, and Deborah Schumaker; and 20 nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 30, at St. Aidan Church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

ROSEMARY THERESA MURRAY

Rosemary Theresa Murray, age 84, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 27 at the Darwin Nursing Home in Livonia. She was born in Detroit on Sept. 27, 1912.

Mrs. Murray was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, John D.; sons, John C. (Emmy), Thomas (Susan), and Richard; grandchildren, John, Molly, Jody, Richard, Thomas, Michelle, William, Maureen, and Michael; and five great grandchildren.

Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 30, at St. Aidan Church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi. Memorial contributions to the Children's Hospital, 3901 Beaubien, Detroit, MI 48201-2196 would be appreciated.

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Sledding season?

Kathy Modic supervises some sledding Wednesday afternoon at Lakeshore Park. With her son Jonathan, 7, on her back, anxiously awaiting his turn, she prepares friend Tommy Delphy, 6,

for the treacherous slide down the hill. The limited snow that fell last week around the Novi area—about three to four inches—was just enough for some good sledding action.

Cut-off leads to arrest, forced test for alcohol

A 25-year-old Warren man was taken to Providence Hospital for a forced blood alcohol test after he cut off a minivan at the corner of East Lake Drive and Thirteen Mile Road, Dec. 1, at 8:30 p.m. Police had obtained a search warrant for the minivan of the night from Judge Brian Mackozie to take the man's blood. Police said the driver of the minivan indicated he was stopped at a stop sign and went to make a left turn when the red Ford van went around him from behind and swiped the minivan with the car and the trailer attached to it. Police said when they arrived on the scene, the man was in the van and told them he didn't know what happened. The officer could smell intoxicants on the man's breath and noted his eyes were bloodshot and his speech slurred. He told them he had a few beers with a friend at a South Lyon bar. He failed sobriety tests given by the officers, who also found spilled alcohol in the van. The two people in the minivan were shaken but not in serious condition. Police said the man refused to take a preliminary breath test. "Man, this is bull—It's not like I killed someone," he told them. He was arrested and taken to the station where he again refused breath, urine or blood tests. Officers received a search warrant for the man's blood from Mackozie and took him to Providence Hospital Emergency on Grand River. He became belligerent. He was restrained by police and security as samples were drawn at 11 p.m. He was taken back to the station for detoxification. He was cited for operating under the influence, lack of registered plates, PBT refusal and obstructing an officer. Police said the man has one prior conviction for impaired driving in 1983.

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Facade leads to liquor rejection

By SHARON CONDRON, Special Writer. Be unique. Just not too unique. That's the message coming from the Novi City Council these days when it comes to approving commercial liquor licenses for budding restaurateurs.

In the past two weeks, two restaurant owners coming at the council from two very different spectrums have both left council chambers without permits to pour drinks in hand. The latest victim to fall prey to the council is the Brinker Restaurant Corporation. Monday night Brinker presented its request for a license for a 6,600-square-foot Mexican restaurant adjacent to the Novi Hilton on Higerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road. The \$3.5 million venture features seating for 304 and serves upscale Tex-Mex dishes. Planned for the site next to Chili's Bar and Grill, which is owned by the same company, On The Border features a corporate-mandated frontier motif—a motif that stood in the way Monday night from the restaurant carrying its right to sell alcohol.

Council voted 6-0 to postpone action on the license pending a review of the facade, which had already been approved by the Novi Planning Commission. "I'm not going to support it," said Councilman Richard Clark. "I'm concerned with the location, traffic and design. I have no problem with another Mexican restaurant anywhere else, but I don't want it here."

the national restaurant chain's corporate look.

"It's a fun concept that's designed to entertain as much as the food," he said. "It won't look like the Novi Hilton, but it won't look like an insult to the community either. It would be more of an insult if we weren't here."

"I think that the council or some members of the council just don't like the color or design of the building, but I don't think that is the criteria for approving or denying a liquor license."

Others argued that On The Border's menu was too similar to what's being served at Chili's Bar and Grill next door.

"I'm not seeing a drastic difference from Chili's," council member Robert Mizel pointed out. Seeing that the council debate was taking a downward turn, Clark asked for and received a postponement until January. In the interim, he suggested concerned council members meet with company representatives to discuss what changes could be made to the restaurant to satisfy council.

Reserve soon for summer rentals

Make reservations early at the Novi Parks and Recreation office for Lakeshore Park stickers and tent rentals for the coming year. Applications from Novi residents will be accepted beginning Jan. 6, 1997, on a first come, first served basis during regular office hours, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Non-resident applications will be accepted beginning April 7, 1997. A full set of rental guidelines will be issued upon reservation. Residents may not make reservations on behalf of non- Novi businesses or groups, and the applicant must be at least 21 years of age. The individual listed on the form is responsible for all participants and compliance of all park rules during the entire rental period.

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City begins the process for road, fire bonds

By SHARON CONDRON
Special Writer

A two-tier road improvement project is on the fast track now that Novi voters have approved a \$17.1 million road bond proposal.

Bonds for the entire project will be sold in two phases, the first of which could come as soon as January. To gear up for the sale, city officials passed a resolution Monday night that enables the city to recoup any money spent on the project from its coffers from bond sale revenues.

Council passed three such resolutions Monday night. The resolutions deal with street and highway

improvements, fire department facilities and ice arena expenses.

"We've done this many times in the past," City Manager Ed Kriewall explained to Council members concerned about the impact the resolutions had. "We did the same thing in our prior road bond program."

Because the road improvement project is so costly, city officials intend to handle sales and road improvements in two phases. The first \$9 million in bonds will be sold this year with the remainder to come two or three years down the road.

Bond revenues will be used to

extend Taft Road, connecting Twelve Mile Road to West Road, therefore, offering motorists an alternative route to I-96 and diverting traffic from South Lake Drive. City engineers are also planning to widen, pave and install sidewalks on Meadowbrook Road. Other improvements include putting finishing touches on Crescent Boulevard, subdivision improvements, upgrading intersections and traffic signals along Novi Road, and at other key intersections around town including:

- Ten Mile and Wixom roads.
- Nine Mile and Beck roads.
- Nine Mile and Taft roads.

• Eleven Mile and Beck roads.

The city will first focus on the Taft Road extension, Kriewall said, calling it the first priority. A percentage of design work for Taft Road was paid for in the 1990 road bond program, however, the city could not construct the extension because officials ran out of bond revenue.

"We already have the design so we have a head start," he said. "There was enough money in the old bond issue to fund some of the design. It's top priority to get that out to bid in March of 1997 and construction to start in the spring."

There was little Council dissension Monday to passage of the resolutions, however, some council members were discouraged that the city's Bond Counselor Dennis Neiman of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone was absent from the meeting. Because the attorney was not at the meeting, Councilmen Robert Schmid voted against resolutions that dealt specifically with road improvement and fire station bond issues.

"I'm appalled," Schmid said before casting the lone dissension. "I'm very surprised ... He (Neiman) should have been here. He's going to be paid very well or his compa-

ny is and yet he's not even here."

Fellow Councilman Richard Clark echoed his sentiments.

"I can appreciate Mr. Schmid's comments," Clark said. "In the future we'll need to look at any bill carefully and make sure we aren't being billed for tonight."

City officials are eyeballing land in the Ten Mile and Wixom road area as a potential site for a new fire station, but have yet to close a deal, the city manager said. Nonetheless, the fire bonds will sell immediately as the city continues to shop for an architect for the project.

Take care with credit over holiday

Will you be using your credit cards for holiday shopping this year?

A recent study showed that approximately 40 percent of credit card purchases were made in November and December each year, according to Carol Kurth, Education Coordinator for Credit Counseling Centers Inc., the non-profit financial counseling agency headquartered in Farmington Hills.

To help those who do use credit or charge cards during the upcoming season, the following guidelines are suggested:

- Shop around for a lower interest rate and give yourself an early present — with more than 1.1 billion pieces of plastic already in consumers' wallets from over 7,000 banks and companies that issue all of this credit, you can find the best credit card for you and your family. Look for lower interest rates (APR), no annual fees, low finance charges or late fees, etc. And ... watch those "teaser" rates offered for applying.

- Don't get hooked on cash advances — they may seem convenient, but watch out. Your interest starts adding on from the minute you take the advance and there is usually a transaction fee.

- Look out for theft and fraud — keep your eye on your card, tear up or keep all carbons yourself, and know the company well when telephone ordering. Don't let the "Grunches" steal your holiday joy.

- Watch out for minimum payments — now that banks issuing cards count on a minimum of 2 percent to 2.5 percent of the outstanding balance rather than a former 3 percent or more, it will take you longer to pay off that balance if you are not one of the 33 percent who pay off balances each month. A \$1,000 "loan" with an 18 percent APR and a minimum payment made each month, \$20, will take seven years to pay off if you do not charge any more on that card. And — you'll pay almost half of that loan amount more for interest charges.

- Watch out for those "You can skip this payment" offers. With many of these plans, the interest piles up even when you skip the payment. Don't become the holiday goose — pay down those bills as much and as fast as you can. The latest offer this year is "We want to give you an early holiday present — skip your payment in November and/or December to give you more money for the holidays." That offer may give you more cash for the holidays but keep in mind you will still need to pay monthly accrued interest on your outstanding balance when the holidays are over. The offer may only relieve you of late payment fees. Read the fine print.

Tuck away these other little tips for wise credit use over the holidays, says Kurth. Carry only one or two credit cards with you. If you carry more, you may think you're not spending much because the total on each card is fairly small.

Wrap a piece of paper to write on around each card to keep track of amounts spent with that card as you "shop along." Keep a running total and compare figures to your holiday budget.

Before you buy on credit, ask yourself, "Would I buy this if I had to pay cash?" Keep in mind that if you don't pay your credit card bill in full each month, the normal price paid with cash is less than a sale paid on credit.

If you have a low rate bank card, use it rather than a higher interest rate retail charge card if you carry a revolving charge at the end of each statement period.

Beware of deferred payment plans (i.e. "90 days same as cash") in which finance charges may add up during the deferred payment period and surprise you at the end of the period if you cannot pay the cost of your purchase in full.

Kurth reminds us that wise credit practices can stretch your dollars and help you pay off your bills more quickly to make your holidays even merrier and the months to come more worry-free.

A free "Holiday Planner" is available upon request from the Education Department, Credit Counseling Centers Inc., 38505 Country Club Drive, Suite 210, Farmington Hills, MI 48331.



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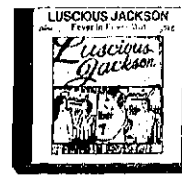
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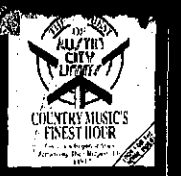
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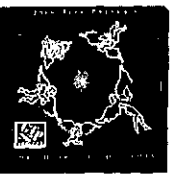
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Wrapping up

Wrapping Christmas gifts and toys for The Northville First United Methodist Church Christmas Outreach Program Monday morning at the church are from left Sue Melaniphy, Lisa York

and Debbie Wick. This is the sixth year that the church has organized donating new toys to area shelters like First Step in Canton, Cass Church and the Baldwin Church and Center.

Three teenagers apprehended in estate break-in

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL Staff Writer

Three 15-year-old Novi students were caught breaking into the Furst Home on Ten Mile and Tall roads Dec. 2 at about 2:30 p.m.

They were looking for a secret tunnel. Police said assistant City Manager Craig Klaver and City Councilwoman Kathy Mutch were at the nearby Old Town Hall that afternoon and noticed some kids up by the home. They thought maybe they were just looking at the home but then "it was amazing they just disappeared into the house," said Mutch.

The boys had entered by pushing in the back door which was boarded up. Klaver and Mutch went up to the house and surprised the teens.

The home was given to the Novi Community School District by Rubby and Iva Furst, patrons of the district and long-time Novi residents. Since their deaths in 1991 the 100-year-old house has remained vacant and boarded up until the district and the City of Novi can agree on what to do with it.

Nothing had been taken from the house, according to the report. The boys said they had a friend who had read a book that said there was a tunnel that went from the house to "the Sinclair Mansion" or the "Home Sweet Home House" on Novi Road and Nine Mile Road.

"We were flabbergasted when we heard that," Mutch said. A member of the historical committee, Mutch said she has never heard of any tunnel system.

The boys' parents were called to the station to retrieve the teens. The matter will go to Novi Youth Assistance.

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Practice makes perfect

Novi Senior Center's Sixth Gate Cloggers Theda Thayer, left, hooks up with partner Marie Terry as the group practiced on a recent Wednesday afternoon for some of the holiday season shows they'll be performing. The group, which has a minimum age of 50 for its participants, will be performing at the Festival of the Trees at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

City moved toward arena bond issue

By SHARON CONDRON
Special Writer

It appears the Novi City Council is moving ahead with plans to build a new arena.

Monday City Council passed a resolution that mandates any money that comes from the city coffers for the \$8 million project will be reimbursed from what appears to be a forthcoming bond sale.

The resolution that passed through council unanimously indicates that the city is examining the feasibility of acquiring, constructing and equipping an ice arena. If deemed feasible, a bond sale is inevitable.

City officials appear to be leaning towards selling Economic Development Appropriation Bonds which are less risky and seem to have a better market performance, City Manager Ed Kriewall explained Monday.

The resolution is the first overt sign that the city is moving forward with the ice arena concept, although two weeks ago council members did pull a resolution off its agenda that dealt with a land purchase for the ice arena.

Kriewall said then he thought the council was close to finalizing a property sale for the arena, but failed to reach a firm agreement with the seller. Since then Council has met in executive sessions twice to discuss land acquisition.

Exchange students need host families

As the holiday season approaches, families across the United States are opening their hearts and homes to foreign exchange students with the Academic Year in America program.

Academic Year in America, which is sponsored by the not-for-profit American Institute for Foreign Study Foundation, has been bringing foreign students and American families together for the past 15 years. Students range in age from 15 to 18 years old and arrive from Brazil, Germany and Argentina with their own medical insurance and spending money.

Both parents and students benefit from the exchange experience. The host family can learn about another culture, make a special friend and earn a scholarship toward designated international travel-study programs. The students have the opportunity to participate in the "American way of life," something many of them only dream about.

If you would like to open your heart and home to one of our international students, please call AYA's Regional Director Amy Miller at 1-800-322-4678 ext. 5423. Your decision to host will lighten the holiday season for an international exchange student.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Novi is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow the placement of a storage trailer at 4325 West Oaks Drive, West Oaks Shopping Center, during remodeling of the K-Mart store. A Temporary Use Permit may be granted for a period of not longer than six months.

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, December 11, 1996 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Official and must be received prior to December 11, 1996. (12-5-96 NR, NN)

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NOVI PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Novi Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 1996 in the Novi Civic Center Council Chambers will begin at 8:30 P.M. (12-5-96 NR, NN)

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Public Access

The following is the Time Warner Channel 12 community access program schedule for Novi for the coming week.

MONDAY, DEC. 9
10:00 a.m. — INFO TV-12 News Magazine
10:30 a.m. — Spanish 101: Basic Spanish for Travelers
11:00 a.m. — The Art of Being Interviewed
11:30 a.m. — First Time Homebuyers: Home Finance
12:30 p.m. — Coffee and Conversation

TUESDAY, DEC. 10
10:00 a.m. — The Light to the Nations: Outside the City
10:30 a.m. — Spices Profile
11:00 a.m. — Good Health: Women and Heart Health
11:30 a.m. — A Little Christmas Magic
12:00 p.m. — Summit University
12:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
1:00 p.m. — Drawing Men to Christ
1:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
2:00 p.m. — Lansing Connection
2:30 p.m. — The Bow Lady
3:00 p.m. — Mountain Ski Series: Extreme Ski and Snowboard

Al Pacino Robert De Niro Val Kilmer HEAT A Los Angeles Crime Saga PREMIERES SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 9 PM ET/PT

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Sherman retires after 40 years at parks
By TIM RICHARD Staff Writer
William P. Sherman will retire Jan. 10 after a 40-year career with Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.



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the NOVI NEWS

Living

HIGHLIGHTS:
Geriatric Holiday Revue visits
Novi Senior Center—2B

TOWN HALL:
Former mayoral candidate
is second speaker—4B

SHOPPING SPREE:
Chamber of Commerce
holds annual raffle—3B

DIVERSIONS:
Chenille Sisters perform
at Borders Books—5B

B
THURSDAY
December 5,
1996

this

Ron Bachman stars
in a film which he hopes will
lend perspective, educate
... and inspire

The last scene was a wrap. The film crew members packed up their gear and went home.

But, unlike a movie star, Northville resident Ron Bachman will not begin studying lines for his next role. He lives it everyday.

You may remember first reading about Ron Bachman and the movie *Walk This Way* four and a half years ago in *The Northville Record* and *Novi News*.

The 25-minute film is a documentary about Bachman and what life is like for him. Bachman had both his legs amputated when he was 4 years old due to a congenital deformity.

"The film captures the basic essence of what he is like and what his life is like," co-producer Kathy Vander said.

"There's no shyness there. (The children) ask things that will totally embarrass me to things that will open up my heart."

- Ron Bachman

least give them a different perspective of handicapped people or their own lives," Vander added.

The movie was shot on a film-as-you-go basis. When there was money from grants or private contributions, the camera was rolling.

Now that the filming is complete, Vander will begin editing, aiming for a premiere in the spring. She is giving the film national exposure and will submit it to film festivals and cable companies.

"We appreciate everyone's help who got us to the final stage," Vander said.

Looking back, Bachman said he would like to do portions of the project all over again.

"In the beginning I was really nervous, always checking my hair, pants, or shirt," Bachman said. "After a while you really do forget the camera is there and you do your thing. It seems to work a lot better if you can forget there are 15 people behind you."

"It is a lot harder than you think," he said. "It really does pull on you."

Life itself has changed for Bachman during the last four and a half years. His daughter, Alicia, of whom he has had custody since she was 5, is now driving and is a junior at Northville High School. They are beginning to talk about college.

"That is the biggest change," Bachman said. "It's not quite as hard as it used to be as far as the

day-to-day stuff. There are other issues, like dating, driving - from one set of worries to another."

Now 38, Bachman lost a kidney in 1993. His other kidney is fine but gets infections from time to time. The arthritis in his elbows from walking on his hands is getting worse. His hair is shorter now than it was when the filming of the movie began.

"When I started to see gray, I thought it was time for a change here," Bachman said. Alicia was also bugging him to cut it.

"It was time," Bachman said. "Embarking on a public speaking career, I had to fine tune those tools and look the part a little better."

Bachman is now involved in *Walk This Way Education Through Motivation*. In the one-hour program he takes to churches and children's and adult groups, Bachman talks about handicap awareness issues.

"I tell them I am part of the largest minority group in the country, maybe the quietest and the most unique," Bachman said. "At any time you could join that group."

Bachman divides the program into three segments: a 15 minute insight into his life, a 10-minute clip of the movie, and a question-and-answer period.

Questions from adults are usually about civil rights, accessibility, and the job market.

The children ask questions about the scooter he drives, how he puts his blue jeans on, and can he cook.

"There's no shyness there," Bachman said. "They ask things that will totally embarrass me to things that will open up my heart."

Bachman tells the kids not to stare at handicapped people, not to walk up and ask silly questions and to try to remember that handicapped people are just like them but do things a little differently.

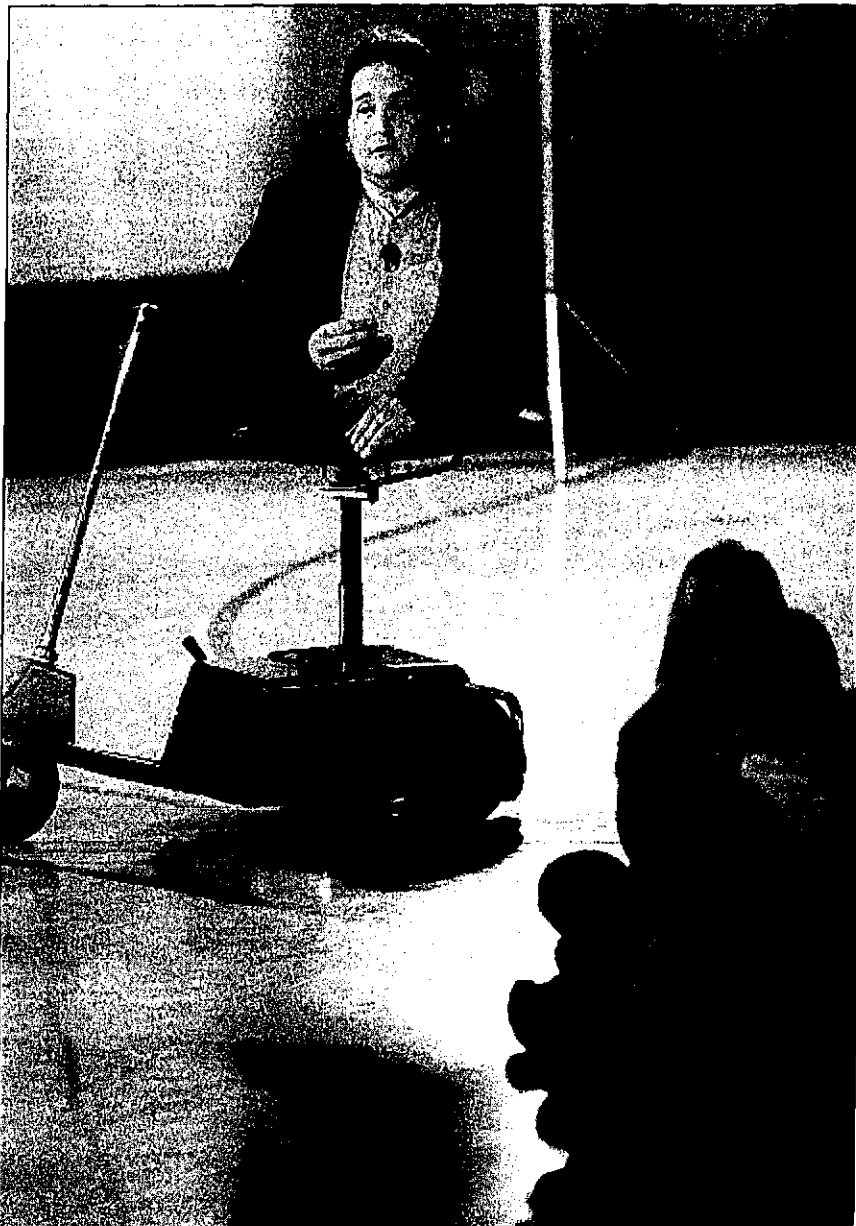
"If you are over the age of 15 or 16 and you are a mean person and will make fun of a person with a disability, Ron Bachman can't change," he said.

"It has probably been the most unique thing I have done, except for my disability," Bachman said of the movie. "I never thought it took this long to make a movie."

Besides the financial difficulties, over the course of a two or three week filming period they would end up with just one minute of usable footage.

"I found it very challenging and a lot of fun," Bachman said. "I love acting. I can't wait to do something else like this. I hope that this documentary will be picked up and lead to a feature-type film."

If you are interested in more information about *Walk This Way Education Through Motivation*, call Bachman at (810) 347-2227.



Northville resident Ron Bachman wraps up shooting a final scene for his film *Walk this Way* at the Plymouth Salvation Army during which he answered questions from local children about growing up handicapped.

Story by **CAROL WORKENS**

Photo by **JOHN HEIDER**

Volunteer



Cathy Shapero is Playscape's children's coordinator.

Shapero is in touch with the children

By **CAROL WORKENS**
Staff Writer

Today is one of many days when months of planning pay off and things fall into place for Cathy Shapero, Children's Committee Coordinator for the Playscape Committee.

The playscape designer, John Dean, from Robert Leathers Inc. in New York, will be giving a slide presentation and meeting with student council members in Northville throughout the day today, gathering ideas for the playscape, which has been named Fort Griswold.

This morning, the designer met with student council members from Silver Springs, Amerman and Moraine at Thornton Creek Elementary School. Small groups of Winchester students will meet with the designer in the afternoon.

Students gave information about what they would like the playground to look like to their

student council and children's representative. Younger children drew pictures, while fifth graders graphed the data.

The designer met with groups of 100 students for 15 minutes in the morning. During lunch, Winchester students were able to watch the designer at work as he sketched ideas for the playground.

The designer also met with students at Old Village School. "I wanted children with disabilities to have equal access to the playground," Shapero said. "That was my impetus to get involved in the project."

Children's representatives, who were chosen from each of the elementary schools, will bring their parents to a meeting with Dean at the Northville Parks and Recreation gym from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday evening. The rep-

Continued on 3

It's A Fact

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Members
of Northville
High School's
first
football
teams
in the
late 1890s
purchased their own
uniforms and no two
looked alike.



the NOVI NEWS Sports

TRYOUTS: Local AAU basketball team holds tryouts /9B
ANALYSIS: Wildcats wrestlers should beat Northville /9B
8B THURSDAY December 5, 1996

Watanabe out with arm injury

Wildcat wrestling star Taka Watanabe will not be in today's lineup when Novi opens against Northville. The senior was scheduled to undergo elbow surgery Tuesday to remove bone chips. He's expected to miss the first two to three weeks of the season. "I want to get back sooner," said Watanabe, who was crowned state champ last March at 135 pounds. "But I'll have to wait until the cut heals."



Taka Watanabe should return to the lineup in a few weeks.

Novi grapplers open season with Mustangs

Dozen Wildcat wrestlers attended camps over the summer. Huss said it was the "best" off-season camp he has had in years. Unlike some seasons, wrestlers need every advantage, such as camp, just to stay in the Wildcat lineup. One youngster sure to see plenty of varsity action this fall is Dan Jigg. The freshman will start the year as Novi's 103-pounder.

Wildcats open season today

Continued from 8. Soaviest wrestled at 103 pounds two years ago. "He's much improved," Huss said. Mark Churella, a first-year wrestler, may get the nod at 135 pounds. But the junior may end up surprising a lot of folks. "He's playing catch up and he realizes that," said Huss. "But he's a good athlete."



Brad Huss, Novi wrestling coach.

Sports Shorts

Christmas Tree Sale The Novi/Northville Colts youth football program began its annual Christmas tree sale on Nov. 29. This year's sale will be in downtown Northville at the Gardenview store located at Main and Wing streets. Sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekends and from 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays.

AAU Girls Basketball Tryouts Michigan Motion (formerly Michigan Chargers) will hold open tryouts at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Mich., on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Dec. 13, 14, and 15. Age division as follows: Dec. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.; Dec. 14, 1-3:30 p.m.; Dec. 15, 5-7:30 p.m. Ages 15, 16, 17. Dec. 13, 8:30-10 p.m.; Dec. 14, 3:30-6 p.m.; Dec. 15, 7:30-10 p.m. Any questions contact Myles Kearney (810) 348-6411 or Rod Sullivan (810) 950-9492.

Cheerleading The Northville-Notli varsity Colts cheerleading squad earned a silver medal at the cheerleading rally held by the Western Suburban Junior Football League recently. The team came in second place overall. Cheerleaders include: Emily and Elena Bazini, Rachel Bielecki, Lisa Mueller, Meggi Shelton, Valerie Ziegler, Monica Anderson, Ashlee Doster, Sarah Nicholson, Nicolette Pearce, Nicole Rook, Linsey Rosko, and Cheryl Gaitley. The freshman and junior varsity squads each earned blue ribbons for their performances. The team is coached by Alyssa MacFarlane and Lauren Perkins.

Soccer The Novi Jaguar under 16 girls premier soccer team recently took second place in the Grand Valley State University Invitational. The team made it to the semi-final with three wins. Novi won game one 1-0 over Lakeshore as Jenny Gagnidny got the game-winning goal. Game two was another 1-0 shutout over a team from Grand Rapids. The Jaguars won game three 3-2 over another Grand Rapids squad. Kristi Arrington, Katie Bailey and Jenny Corless all scored in that game. Novi took a 3-2 win in the semi-final over Grand Rapids Premier. Kristi Arrington scored twice and Kristen Shea added the game-winner in overtime. Team members included: Nicole Angelucci, Sarah Corless, Julie DiPonio, Traci Frank, Kristin Hong, Elizabeth Thompson, Sarah Marchioni, Patty Moloney, Danielle Wastik and Stephanie Manza. The team is coached by Wendy DuVal-Angelucci and assisted by Robin Hoag.

Michigan Outlaws The Michigan Outlaws, an 18-year-old and under travel softball team, has openings for the coming 1997 season. For further information, call (810) 293-2039 or (810) 867-5255.

Queens of the hardwood

Kenny earns spot on area first team

Taking a look at Hometown Newspapers' 1996 All-Area first-team basketball squad is a little like peering into the future. The young members of our first team have so much talent that they outshined many of the talented seniors in the area this fall. Milford's experienced guard Cindy Heinonen is the only 12th grader on the roster that's full of multi-dimensional players.



Cindy Heinonen earned a spot on the area's first team.

Second unit honors fall to Novi's Drury

You've heard of the G-Men. Now come the G-Women. This year's Hometown Newspapers' Best All-Area Second Team honors that moniker for three reasons: Outs, Gift and Great heart. While our second unit doesn't have the firepower of our top squad, it does have the will to win.

LAUREN METAJ Northville, Jr. guard Metaj made the all-Western Lakes conference team this fall and with good reason. She led Northville in nearly every category. The junior scored 16.4 points per game as well as averaging 4.7 rebounds, 3.4 assists and 4.3 steals. Metaj was about as complete a player as there was in the area. "We tick her to do everything," coach Pete Wright said. "She does everything pretty well. She had a super year."

BROOKE RATHS South Lyon, soph. forward After an impressive freshman season, Rath found herself clearly in the spotlight this fall. The versatile forward was without a doubt the most powerful weapon on the Lions and coach Ron Shanks made no bones about building the team around Rath. She's just a kid who loves basketball. LHS coach Paul Gmelin said pointing out that Houck's parents and her aunt all starred in hoops at Lakeland. "She wants to play all the time and she's always the last one to leave the gym."

1996 ALL-AREA BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM: LAUREN METAJ GUARD JR NORTHVILLE, JESSICA KENNY GUARD JR NOV, BROOKE RATHS FORWARD SOPH SOUTH LYON, CINDY HEINONEN GUARD SR MILFORD, DAWN HOUCK GUARD SOPH LAKELAND. SECOND TEAM: LINDSAY DRURY FORWARD SR NOV, GINA CHIASSON FORWARD SR NORTHVILLE, LINDSAY HUOT GUARD SR NORTHVILLE, SHANNON KROLL GUARD SR SOUTH LYON, CHRISTIE SCHUMACHER FORWARD FRESH MILFORD.

HONORABLE MENTION Lakeland - Mindy Dwyer, Patty McGuire, Christina Wijchaja. South Lyon - Wendy Jacobs, Melanie Williams. Milford - Brandy Butcher, Beth Quirey. Novi - Kristen Sullivan, Amy Edwards, Kellie Copp. Northville - Christine Herndon, Karla Kalso, Julie Flis.

Watanabe out of action with arm injury

Continued from 8. The year at 140 pounds, he dropped down to 135 for the state tournament and cruised to a title. Watanabe will start wrestling at 132 pounds this season. But, again, he'll likely drop down as the tournament draws near. "I think I'm quicker at a lower weight. I'd be giving up some muscle fat (152)."

Drury earns spot on second squad

Continued from 8. WAAA All-Western Division. SHANNON KROLL South Lyon, sr. guard As one of the few seniors on the SL team, Krull was given a challenge this season and she definitely answered the call. Last year Krull was a starter to open the season but she lost her starting job midway through the year. Lions coach Ron Shanks said he talked to Krull in the summer about becoming more aggressive and accepting a larger role on the club.

HOMETOWN NEWS NEWSPAPERS THE YEAR IN REVIEW In this special section, we'll be looking back at 1996. The big stories, the changes, the happenings and the pictures of people and places that made 1996 memorable. THE MILFORD TIMES, THE NORTHVILLE RECORD and THE NOVI NEWS will each take a fond look back...

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Rec Briefs

Classes Fitness Factory Fitness Factory offers classes for everyone. We have "Step," "Combination" and "No-impact." Each class offers a 30-minute cardiovascular workout and an additional 30 minutes of muscle toning (with rubber bands) to complete your total workout package. Fitness Factory is also offering a body sculpting class - geared to shape and strengthen arms, upper chest and back, abdominals, thighs and lower torso. All instructors are trained and CPR certified. Dates: Jan. 6-March 15 (10 weeks) - No classes 1/18, 1/20, 2/17. Class Schedule: M/W/F, 9-10 a.m., Lo-Impact. M/W/F, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Step. T/Th, 9-10 a.m., Body Sculpting. T/Th, 10:15-11:15 a.m., Lo-Impact. Sat., 8-9 a.m., Step. M/W, 6-7 p.m., Combination. M/W, 7:10-8:15 p.m., Step. Location: Nov/ Civic Center. Fees: \$43 once a week (\$51.60 - non resident); \$57 (twice a week \$68.40 - non resident); \$72 unlimited (\$86.40 - non resident); Step rental \$10. Registration deadline: Friday, Jan. 10 - 5 p.m. Fitness Factory offers babysitting only for some classes. \$1.50 per child. Gymnastics Mondays: Jan. 6-March 24 (10 weeks) - No class Jan. 20, Feb. 17. 3:45-4:15 p.m., pre-beginner, limit 15. 4:20-5:05 p.m., beginner, limit 15. 5:15-6 p.m., advanced beginner, limit 12. Wednesdays: Jan. 8-March 12 (10 weeks). 4-4:30 p.m., pre-beginner, limit 15. 4:35-5:30 p.m., beginner, limit 15. 5:30-6:30 p.m., intermediate, limit 12. Pre-Beginner: 3 and 4 years, no experience required. Beginner: 5 years and older, no experience required. Advanced Beginner: 5 years and older, prior lessons required. Intermediate: 8 years and older, must be adequate in performing cartwheels, back walkovers, tumbling stunts.

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Health

the NOVI
NEWS

10B

THURSDAY
December 5,
1996

Take charge of your own health

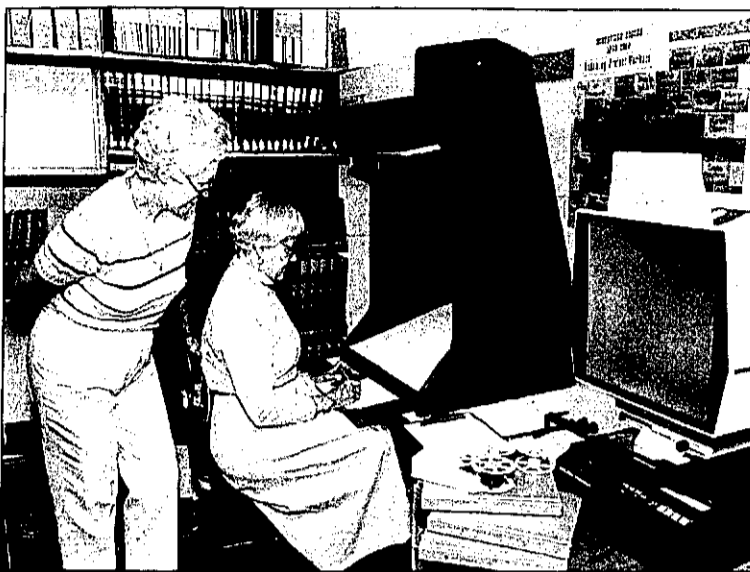
Your health care team may include your family physician, a specialist, a nurse, a nutritionist, and a pharmacist. But the team has one more player - you. When you are well and when you are sick, you will play a vital role in maintaining your health.

It is now generally accepted that the patient who is informed becomes empowered to take responsibility for personal health and will be an active partner in the health care team.

The American Hospital Association formalized this concept in 1973, when it published the Patient's Bill of Rights, which states: "The patient has the right to receive from his physician complete, current information concerning his diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in language the patient can reasonably be expected to understand."

The way to make informed decisions is to obtain all of the facts. But information comes from a variety of sources including your physician or the other health professionals involved in your care. In addition, any large bookstore or library today has a collection of consumer health magazines and books. The media also play a role in attracting the public's interest in health topics.

In addition to traditional sources of health information, the Internet now offers thousands of sites containing a wide variety of medical information, including descriptions of diseases, wellness sites, and health support groups. A recent search of the topic diabetes using the Alta Vista search engine resulted in a listing of 50,000 sites on the World Wide Web. But given all the sources of information, how do you as health consumers determine which source is offering quality information? Of course, your first recourse should always be your health professional. But what about all the print and electronic forms of health information?



The local library is a good place to research health information.

If you are planning on purchasing your own book or magazine, or you are surfing the Internet, always check the source of the information. Government agencies or university sources are generally good sources of health information. If it is a person, check his or her credentials for letters which indicate they have an appropriate health related degree such as D.O., M.D., R.N., etc. Remember, anyone can make information available on the Internet, whether they are qualified or not.

Another way to obtain information is through your local library. Some public libraries offer health information sources in their collections. There are also a few consumer health libraries sponsored by hospitals in southeastern

Michigan.

The materials housed in these libraries are selected by trained librarians based on specified criteria so you can be somewhat assured that the information provided is qualified.

The Consumer Health Library at Botsford General Hospital consists of about 500 books, 30 videos and a full-text database of health information from pamphlets, books and articles written in easily understood non-medical terms. In addition, the Botsford Library has computer access to the Internet.

The consumer collection is backed up by a large medical collection which is housed in the same facility. The library is staffed

by medical librarians who are trained to assist you in finding information from the most appropriate source to answer your questions. The Botsford Library is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Regardless of where you get your health information, always discuss it with your doctor or other health professional. It's your life - and good decisions are based on good information.

Deborah L. Adams, M.S., A.H.I.P., is the director of the Library and Media Center at Botsford General Hospital and current president of the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association.

Health Notes

Well Child Clinic

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Conferences provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 14 locations throughout Oakland County.

Services include: heights and weights; head-to-toe physical examination; immunizations; vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and developmental screening; and counseling with referrals to physicians and area resources as needed.

Appointment is required. For more information, call: North Oakland, 858-1311 or 858-4001; and South Oakland, 424-7066 or 424-7067.

Free Immunization Clinic

The Oakland County Health Division will be offering an immunization clinic for South Lyon and Farmington and the surrounding areas.

For South Lyon, a clinic will be held at the First United Presbyterian Church, 205 East Lake (Ten Mile) and Wells Street, South Lyon on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 9-11 a.m.

Immunizations will be given at the same time and location on the first Thursday of every month. The next scheduled clinic will be on Jan. 2, 1997. Call 424-7046 for further information.

For Farmington, the clinic will be at the Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt Road (south of Eight Mile Road), Livonia, on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Immunizations will be given at the same time and location on the second Wednesday of every month. The next scheduled immunization clinic will be on Jan. 8, 1997.

Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and Haemophilus influenzae Type B (HIB) will be available.

A parent or legal guardian must accompany a child under 18 years of age. Please bring any previous records of immunizations, including notices which might have been sent home from the child's school pertaining to immunizations.

Oakland County Health Division recently opened a new office in Walled Lake at 1010 E. West Maple Road, one block east of Pontiac Trail. For information on services, please call (810) 926-3300.

Perimenopause Years Part II

Sandra Plumer, MSW, ACSW, director of Botsford's Geropsychiatric Unit, provides an overview of the emotional changes women can expect during the years preceding menopause. The session begins at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 fee and pre-registration is required. For information and to register, call (810) 477-6100.

Postpartum support

The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Hospital will hold a mother-baby postpartum sup-

port group meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Postpartum Lounge in the Miracle of Life Maternity Center on the third floor of the main hospital.

Mothers and babies are encouraged to attend this monthly support group. Charlene Shedd, RN, certified lactation consultant, serves as the facilitator. Guest speaker Cheryl Grougan, R.N., health educator, Marian Women's Center, will discuss "Infant Safety." The group meets the second Tuesday of each month.

To register, call the Marian Women's Center at (313) 655-3314 or toll free at 1-800-494-1615.

Support Group

Also offered at the Marian Women's Center is a breast cancer support group from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the Lower Level Conference Room at St. Mary Hospital.

Guest speaker Amy Rhode, RN, BSN, will discuss, "Stress Management." The breast cancer support group is a free, self-help/education group that gives women the opportunity to share experiences and discuss subjects relating to breast cancer.

The group meets the second Tuesday of each month. No registration is necessary. For more information, call (313) 655-3314 or toll free at 1-800-494-1615.

Cancer wellness group

Led by an experienced psychologist, the Cancer Wellness Group meets every Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. in Botsford's 3 West Conference Room, 26050 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (810) 477-6100.

Prostate cancer support group

Offering knowledgeable speakers each month, the prostate cancer support group provides both encouragement and education about prostate cancer, its treatments and the physical and emotional issues associated with it. It meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Botsford's 2 East A Conference Room, on Grand River in Farmington Hills. Call (810) 477-6100 for additional information.

Pager rentals

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers is offering "baby beeper" rentals to help labor partners stay in touch during those critical last weeks of pregnancy.

Rentals are available through Providence Hospital, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield, and Providence Medical Center-Providence Park, 47601 Grand River Ave. in Novi. Pagers can be rented for one or two months at a time at a cost of \$30 for one month and \$40 for two. A security deposit is required. Call (810) 424-3332 for further information.

Blood pressure

Providence Hospital and Medical Centers is offering free blood pressure checks to members of the community. This free service is available at Providence Medical Center, Providence Park, 47601 Grand River Ave. Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Health Education Library (Suite A-101), available to all ages. Call (810) 380-4225 for more information.

New baby

On Dec. 5 from 6-8 p.m., a program on welcoming a new baby into the family will be held at St. Mary's Hospital. The Marian Women's Center is offering a sibling class in the Miracle of Life Maternity Center Postpartum Lounge on the third floor of the main hospital.

Children are invited to attend this class and learn how much fun it can be to be a big brother or big sister. You can see what your new baby brother or sister will look like and learn the safe way to hold the new baby. Parents are invited, too.

The cost of the class is \$10 per family. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call the Marian Women's center at (313) 655-3314 or toll-free at 1-800-494-1615.

Cholesterol and vision screenings

Total cholesterol screening is conducted by the fingerstick method from 1-4 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Botsford Center for Health Improvement-Health Development Network, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. There is a \$5 fee. For more information, call (810) 477-6100.

Breastfeeding basics

This workshop covers the "how to's" of breastfeeding - how to start and maintain successful breastfeeding, as well as answering the questions and concerns of women who are already breastfeeding. Classes are held at the Health Development Network at Botsford In Novi. For more information and to register, call (810) 477-6100.

Physician referral service

Are you new in the community? Do you need to find a doctor and can't determine the best way to start your search?

The Physician Referral Service of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers is available to assist individuals in finding a physician who can meet the specific needs or criteria of the individual.

The service is free of charge and can be reached by calling 1-800-968-5595.

The staff of Physician Referral Services can help locate physicians by specialty or location, finding an office close to your home or work. They can even match individuals with physicians who participate in particular insurance plans.

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