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Well owners win a stay on hook up

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

An ordinance requiring that 652 new homes be connected to Novi water mains, once mandatory, becomes voluntary for now as the city scrambles to wipe up outstanding issues with the state and Oakland County.

That will come as 90 days worth of relief to 66 residents of Walden Woods I subdivision, who petitioned the city to make the connections optional.

"All we're asking you is a choice at this point," said Walden Woods resident Jim Utley.

"When I signed my closing papers, as did a lot of others, we were told by the developer that the hook-up was not mandatory. We were misled by the developer."

City staffers will be meeting with representatives of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Oakland County

"The concessions approved assured safe short-term use of wells but do not assure safe long-term use."

John Fiero
DEQ District Engineer

Health Department, as well as homeowners association representatives, to discuss a permanent easing of the ordinance. They'll report back in three months.

But at least one DEQ engineer urged that the connections be required.

For some subdivisions, develop-

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Julie Solomon, attending with her mother, joins in the line dancing at the Novi Civic Center.

Photo by HAL GOULD

Ice arena funding raises concerns

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

As a direct contribution, Novi taxpayers will likely give \$850,000 to the new ice arena for a road, but the city's credit will also be behind the \$8.5 million of bonds that will be issued to build the Ten Mile Road facility.

Monday, faced with a request to authorize a city building authority to sell the bonds, the Novi City Council came to a snow-pow stop. Several council members said they felt they didn't have enough information to move ahead.

"I have no idea what we're building. I have no idea what we're bonding ... It's almost like buying a pig in a poke," Council Member Robert Schmidt.

His concerns were echoed by Council Member Richard Clark.

"I'm reminded of the words of my sainted Irish grandmother, 'act in haste, repent in leisure,'" Clark added.

"We may all be potentially footing the bill on taxes."

Under discussion for several years, the ice arena is a three-way project between the City of Novi, the city council-appointed Community Clubs of Novi and the private firm, Center Ice Management Inc. Center Ice has no financial responsibility for the project.

Council members were advised by city administrator that they're operating under a tight timetable, but still opted to postpone the decision until a later date.

On March 17, the ice arena will come before the Novi Planning Commission for preliminary site plan approval. The goal is to have it up and running by fall 1997, if possible.

Plans call for the city to issue bonds for the arena under the auspices of a building authority. Annual payments on the bond are anticipated to be in the \$650,000 to \$700,000 range for 20 years. The ice arena is expected to have a profit of \$750,000 per year, most of which would go towards paying off the bonds.

But if the profits fall short, Novi taxpayers could be hit for the annual repayments on the \$8.5 million principal, plus interest. That's what had a slim council majority digging their picks in.

"This is a close call," Schmidt said.

"I'm extremely concerned that we're going to come up with a shortfall and they'll say city, you

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Treasurer suspected of embezzlement

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

The treasurer of the Deerbrook Homeowners Association was expected to be charged yesterday with five counts of embezzling funds from the association's bank account.

According to Novi police, Donald Udics, is alleged to have taken approximately \$30,000 from the account from 1993 to October of 1996 and repaid about \$20,000 before the lack of funds was discovered.

"It's just a situation where he did it once and nobody uncovered it," said Det. Victor Lauria. "He paid some back but kept borrowing out of the account."

The 48-year-old man was expected to turn himself in and be arraigned at 52-1 District Court on March 5, according to police. A letter requesting he turn himself in for arrest was sent out last week.

Lauria said Udics is suspected of "borrowing the money" during times he was in a financial bind with the intention of paying it back.

"It's a situation where you get yourself into a problem and don't see any way out and just make matters worse," said Lauria.

It wasn't until an association member called another association officer to complain about a bounced check from the association that the members became suspicious. The association alerted the police department, which Lauria said began a three month

investigation.

According to Lauria, Udics generated reports for the association board that would show an adequate amount of funds in the account. No other member had access to the account and there was no previous reason to second-guess him, said Lauria.

"It's not their fault the money was taken," Lauria said.

He added there are no other suspects in the case.

"If he didn't know it was illegal he definitely knew it was improper," said Lauria. Udics has been the only treasurer for the association since its inception in 1992, he said. He has no prior charges or convictions, according to police.

Lauria said Udics gave an interview early on in the investigation and admitted to taking money from the account for his own personal reasons.

"It's illegal you can't do that even if you are the treasurer," said Lauria.

Lauria said the association took in approximately \$7,000 a year in dues and one year collected \$8,500 on special assessments. Expenses ran at about \$5,000 a year.

If convicted, Udics could spend ten years in jail on each of the five felony charges and could face fines of up to \$25,000, police said.

Neither Udics nor the association could be reached by The Novi News deadline.

A little bit country ... and a whole lot of line dancing

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Sometimes you just don't know what's good for you.

That used to be Jean Rowe's problem. The Novi resident was a self-described couch potato who lounged around and made sure she got a lot of sleep.

Under pretense of seeing a movie, a friend duped her into going to a country-western dance. Rowe didn't even like C&W music. Then

a few bootscots and she was a convert. Three years later, Rowe's an evangelist, proselytizing for country-western line dancing. Since December, she's taught beginning and advanced dancers at the Novi Parks and Recreation Department's pay-as-you-go Friday night hops.

"I really didn't think I was physically able to do a lot of stuff. Now, I can dance three or four hours and not even get short of breath," she said.

"I'm down to five or six hours of sleep per night."

For someone locked in the endless battle between a mind that whispers "exercise is good for your health" and body that shouts "sit down and stay put," the classes can be a way out of the trap.

"It's great exercise. There's a lot of very nice people. It's better than aerobics. It's not like when you join a health club and you dread getting up and going. You don't have that with this. We have the

best time," said Jeanette Tremblay of Redford, who commutes once a week to Novi for Rowe's classes.

The lures are many. Along with exercise, there's the ever-important social aspect. In Novi, dancers range in age from elementary school-aged children to seniors. They come as couples or as singles. And you don't even need cowboy boots, just shoes with a heel and slippery soles. Dress is as formal as jeans and T-shirts.

"It's a whole other world that people don't know about unless they get into it. They may think 'I hate country music.' That was my background, simply because I never heard it. It's like the old rock-and-roll. There's just a little twang left in it," Rowe said.

"After a month and a half you'll be able to go to a dance and enjoy it."

About 30 to 80 people a week show up for the lessons and open dancing.

After two lessons or so, a beginner knows the basic steps. Then, it's a matter of putting the footwork into different sequences. Most of the songs have their own dances.

Big country hits now are "Rattlesnake Shake" by Rick Tippe, the Go-go Stomp danced to "Cherokee Boogie" by BR5-49, but the classes also jam to rap, contemporary and 1950s rock music. Also hot are The Train, performed to the rap song "Come On And Ride It" by the Quad City Deejays and Hip Hop A

Continued on 14

Galileo's guidance will lead new school reform

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

Some local educators say there is one way to reform education in America - change from within.

"You can't reform schools by passing laws at a legislative level or by making new rules," said John Burkhardt, a Novi resident and program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "It really requires teachers to take the responsibility and authority for what happens in the classroom. They will lead reform."

As part of that theory, the foundation, local school districts and community colleges are teaming up to create a new group of "teacher-leaders" to take part in what is now called The Galileo



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Continued on 20 Galileo group members Joyce A. Fouts, Teri Moblo and Martha Nield plan leadership training.

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Prowler professes adoration to victim

An unidentified white male caused a 52-year-old Novi woman quite a shock Feb. 23 when he appeared outside her Lakewood Park kitchen window.

According to police, the woman was alone watching television and went into the kitchen when she noticed the younger man looking in the window.

He mouthed the words "I love you" to her but turned to run when she picked up the phone. It was then she noticed his pants were down.

The man is described as 20 to 25 years of age, wearing wire-rimmed glasses, a gray or blue knit cap and a two-tone gray or blue varsity-type jacket.

Novi police followed tracks from the house in the frozen grass but lost the footprints when they approached the pavement.

VIOLATION AT GUN SHOW
An off-duty Novi officer roaming at the Novi Expo Center Outdoor area Feb. 22, spotted a weapons violation by a booth vendor.

According to the report, the officer returned with a colleague while on duty later than day to investigate two women selling stun guns and pepper spray, illegal weapons in Michigan.

The officer confiscated two of the

Police News

guns and two canisters of spray from the Survival Blowguns booth. The women said they were from Indiana where the items are legal.

FALSE CURRENCY
The United States Secret Service is investigating a counterfeit \$20 bill passed at the Soft Shine Car Wash in Novi Feb. 22.

According to police, one of the attendants accepted the bill as payment and didn't realize it was a fake until he examined it inside the building under better lighting conditions. The attendant could not identify the person who gave it to him.

KNIFE POSSESSION
An 8-year-old Novi boy was suspended from a Northville school's bus route for a day Feb. 28 after he got on the bus that morning and produced a Swiss army knife to two other students.

According to the police report, the driver spotted the boy with the weapon shortly after picking him up from his stop in the Royal Crown Estates. The driver called the transportation supervisor who

After placing the man under arrest and arranging to meet the sheriff's department at the I-96 and Kensington Road exit to turn the man over, officers searched the car so it could be towed. They found four explicit pictures of young men.

WRONG BED
A 52-year-old woman told police she discovered an unknown man asleep in her Timberlake apartment March 1.

Police said the woman called them when she found the man asleep in a bed. Officers arrived and found the man tucked under the covers and smelling of intoxicants. They woke the 21-year-old woman to find he thought he was in his apartment in Wixom and was very confused to discover he was in the wrong location.

The woman told police she wanted him prosecuted for the unlawful entry of her home and he was taken back to the station and released on bond pending a warrant for his arrest.

Police said the man entered through an unlocked front door during the night. He had left his boots out in the hall and his jacket inside the front door.

Police said an officer exercised the stop at nearly 1 a.m. and discovered an outstanding warrant out of Livingston County Sheriff's Office for the man's arrest on a probation violation for manufacturing child sexual material out of Livingston County.

PORNOMGRAPHER STOPPED
Novi police found four pornographic pictures in a 29-year-old Walled Lake man's car, March 1, after he was stopped on Decker Road for having a faulty headlight and fender exhaust.

Police said an officer exercised the stop at nearly 1 a.m. and discovered an outstanding warrant out of Livingston County Sheriff's Office for the man's arrest on a probation violation for manufacturing child sexual material out of Livingston County.

After placing the man under

approval Feb. 26 and sent it to the Senate, where a 22-16 GOP majority is likely to amend it.

Rep. Nancy Cassis, R-Nowi, voted. Republicans failed to amend it to restrict suits to owners who intentionally torched their buildings. "The bill goes too far in its current form," said Rep. Frank

Fitzgerald, R-Grand Lodge. "It's not a likelihood but the certainty of frivolous suits that makes it bad."

"It's much too broad," agreed Rep. Barbara Dohli, R-Union Lake. "Not that they [firefighters] are not entitled to protection, but it puts them in a different class from the general population."

The House gave it 72-35

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Novi Briefs

No to pool site

The Royal Crown Homeowners Association's Board of Directors recently took a strong position against the possible location of a community aquatic facility at Power Park.

"I truly believe that this facility would better serve the residents of the city at another location, and to that end, this Board will do everything in its power to achieve that goal even if it means defeating the entire project," Greg Barry, president of the association, wrote Mayor Kathleen McAllen in a Feb. 13 letter.

The directly affected residents, those of Addington Park, Dunbar Park, Pines, Yorkshire and now Royal Crown Estates, are not any different than those that surround the corner of Ten Mile and Beck roads. They too do not want something forced upon them by city government. Government is a joint partnership and this partner wants no part of this facility in its backyard.

"The Novi City Council has discussed placing the pool issue before voters, possibly this year.

Happy anniversaries

Celebrating their years of service with the Novi Fire Department in December were: Lt. Richard Antuna, 17 years; Fire Fighter Jeffrey Littleton, 15 years; and Fire Fighter Jerry Holzman, 9 years.

In January, that date of recognition came around for: Capt. Gilbert VanSickle, 29 years; Lt. Lawrence Reiser, 20 years; Steno-clerk Patricia Leach, 18 years; and Capt. Daniel Roy, 16 years. Milestones were also reached by these fire protection officers: Donald Christensen, 16 years; Gordon Pughosen, 16 years; and Brian Moley, three years.

In addition, firefighters Steven Rhea and Andrew Copeland celebrated their third year on the job. They will be joined by 16 firefighters from the Class of '96 who made it through Fire Fighter Training 1.

Kindergarten registration

It's time to begin kindergarten registration for the fall of 1997. All Novi school district elementary schools will be hosting their parent information meetings on Tuesday, March 11. To enter kindergarten in the fall of 1997, a child must be 5 years of age on Dec. 1. This is a state law and does not allow exceptions.

Listed below are the start times for each information meeting and the phone number for each building. Call the appropriate school for further information.

Novi Woods Elementary, 7:30 p.m., (810) 449-1230.
Orchard Hills Elementary, 7 p.m., (810) 449-1400.
Parkview Elementary, 7 p.m., (810) 449-1220.
Village Oaks Elementary, 7:30 p.m., (810) 449-1300.

For assistance in determining which elementary school your child will attend, contact (810) 449-1200.

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For over two centuries, connoisseurs of fine crystal have prized the mysterious elegance that has become the hallmark of every Waterford creation. On Tuesday, March 11th, Heslop's brings you a rare opportunity to have your new Waterford purchases signed by the artist, enhancing both the collectibility and allure of every piece!

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6 p.m. - 8 p.m. • (810) 375-0823

WATERFORD

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The Log Book

The following is a complete list of the emergency runs of the Novi Fire Department for the week ending March 2. Each incident is listed by type, location, time, engine and squad number which responded.

MONDAY, FEB. 24
Medical, 43100 Twelve Oaks Crescent, 11:17 a.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 180 New Court, 2:54 p.m., Squad 2.
Injury accident, 41810 Borchart, 1 p.m., Squad 3.
Fire alarm, 31123 Augusta, 5:56 p.m., Engines 1 and 2.
Medical, 21671 Shadybrook, 11:15 p.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 41794 Broquet, 11:27 p.m., Squad 3.

TUESDAY, FEB. 25
Medical, 21855 Arbor, 1:25 a.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 24500 Meadowbrook, 4 a.m., Squad 1.
Building fire, 42290 Eleven Mile Road, 9:38 a.m., Engines 1 and 2.
Car fire, 39471 Twelve Mile Road, 11:35 a.m., Engine 1.
Medical, 41750 Manor Park, 5:42 p.m., Squad 1.
Medical, 24935 Portsmouth, 9:37 p.m., Squad 4.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26
Medical, 41310 Lorac, 11:51 a.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 42445 Ten Mile Road, 12:21 p.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 41105 Vincent, 1:20 p.m., Squad 1.
Investigation, 42717 Wimbleson, 4:23 p.m., Squad 2.
Trash fire, Mystic Forest-Lot 67, 4:41 p.m., Engine 3.
Wires down, Grand River and Haggerty, 6:17 p.m., Engine 1.
Medical, 42109 Meadowbrook, 6:52 p.m., Squad 3.
Medical, 47302 Butler, 8:48 p.m., Squad 4.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27
Medical, 25286 Buckminster, 3:41 a.m., Squad 1.
Mutual Aid, Walled Lake Fire, 9:24 a.m., Response 507.

HEALTH NOTE



by Dennis E. Engerer, P.T.

TREATMENT FOR SPINAL STENOSIS


Spinal stenosis is the source of leg pain that is caused by narrowing of the spinal canal. This problem affects people aged 50 years or older. Although it can develop due to a congenital condition, in most cases the cause is osteoarthritis. Whether by excessive use, previous injury, or aging, cartilage covering joint surfaces in the back slowly deteriorates. Discs between vertebrae become worn and spaces between bones narrow. Bone spurts called osteophytes may develop. As these changes occur, bones and soft tissues fold inward into the spinal canal to compress nerves. As the spinal canal narrows, pressure on these nerves causes pain to radiate from the lower back down the buttock to the lower leg. To counter this pain, hot or cold may be applied or the physical therapist may perform gentle massage. Once the pain subsides, and exercise program can be adopted in an effort to improve flexibility, strengthen back and abdominal muscles, and correct posture.

Northville Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Inc. employs a detailed quality assurance program to ensure the highest standards, including continuing staff education and case follow-up. Every patient and referring physician is offered a survey to determine how we can better serve their needs. The invaluable feedback we receive is, in many ways, responsible for our continued success in achieving patient satisfaction. To schedule and evaluation for therapy, give us a call at 349-3816, or see us at 332 E. Main Street, Suite A.

PS: Although management of spinal stenosis usually involves such conservative measures as physical therapy, surgical correction may be considered when pain is disabling or weakness increases in the legs.


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LOTS OF GIGGLES

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"It's like found money" says Marketing Director Richard Zakroff. "People just send it in and are happy to get something for it."

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"With a gold tooth fetching between \$5 and \$20 (depending on the amount of gold used in its original construction) the dollars add up," he says.

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- Staff and wire reports



Culture Day
Novi Co-op Preschool students learned a lot during their Japanese Culture Day Monday morning. Girls got to wear kimonos, the boys wore Happi coats, and some played Fuku Warai (Happy Laughing Face), a Japanese version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Here Alex Wilson, left, gets a hand from Lisa Ito, right, as he plays Fuku Warai - and Sara Carlson looks on.

Electrical short burns police cruiser

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL Staff Writer

Novi Officer Matt Corbett found himself surrounded by smoke in his patrol car Feb. 22 when the electrical system under the dashboard shorted out and caught fire.

According to the police report, the officer was in the 1996 Caprice near the Expo Center at 1:15 a.m. when smoke began to fill the vehicle. Corbett called for assistance, grabbed a few things out of the car and exited the vehicle.

The car became engulfed in flames and the fire was extinguished when the fire department arrived.

The vehicle was towed back to the station, but according to the report it was totaled.

Corbett suffered a sore throat and headache after inhaling the smoke and fumes from the fire but he did not seek medical attention.

Lt. Tim McNamara said Officer Corbett did not have to miss any time from work. The car, however, will have to be replaced, to the tune of nearly \$35,000. All the police equipment such as the radar computer was also destroyed. It will take about six weeks for the new vehicle to arrive.

McNamara said the last time a patrol car caught on fire was in 1981.

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MEET & GREET

PUPPET SHOWS



HIGH JINKS

Look what's coming up in March.

It's three Saturday afternoons - March 8, 15 and 22 - of The Silly Celebration of Spring. Musical shows packed full of silliness, surprises and family fun, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Mr. MacGregor's Garden, Center Court.

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Vacant land in city center proposed for development

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Unlike as it seems, 30 acres sit practically vacant at the far western fringes of the 3 million square feet of development in Novi's commercial center.

That may change soon.

Deka Associates plans a 177,000-square-foot shopping center anchored by a sports supply store such as Dunham's on the corporation's 20 acres.

But Monday night, after the Novi City Council approved a rezoning of the land, Council Member Robert Schmidt suggested that breaking up the property might not be ideal. He called for "something a little bit different than a shopping area, that will complement the regular shopping that we have in Novi."

"It could be exciting. Hopefully, we'll get a major developer that will take over the entire project,"

Schmidt added.

The land is south of Twelve Mile Road, west of West Oaks Shopping Center II and is vacant except for three houses. For several years, there have been discussions behind the scenes for a possible West Oaks III Shopping Center, but the developers, Ramco-Gershenson, have not gone public with the plans.

The new zoning change altered the mix of office-service-district

and residential-agricultural to regional center district.

City planning consultants reported that the office zoning didn't seem to work at the site.

In the past, Consultant Brandon Rogers said, ideas pitched for the site, and apparently abandoned, included a university, a science center, a health club, a multi-screen cinema and a high-tech think-tank.

Mayor Pro Tem Hugh Crawford

agreed that the land didn't seem to be marketable under its current zoning.

"It's time to act on the parcel. It's been there for twenty years," Crawford added.

The altered zoning permits regional and community shopping centers, bus and transit terminals, children's amusement parks and restaurants.

But in Novi, it looks like the shopping center is in the future for the property.

Matt Quinn, the lawyer for Deka, said the company is prepared to go ahead with the 177,000-square-foot development.

Traffic remains a concern, Council Member Richard Clark said, adding that "we're just adding to the problem."

Quinn said Deka is prepared to discuss possible contributions to road improvement, including a possible donation of rights-of-way.

Planners reverse rezoning denial

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

What a difference a few months makes.

The Novi Planning Commission reversed its October 1996 decision and voted 4 to 3 last month to rezone a parcel that could allow up to a 400,000-square-foot shopping center west of West Oaks III.

The commission revisited the issue, Feb. 19 after study by city consultants and the zoning committee.

DEKA owner Dirk Matulis also appeared to plead his case. The property, he said, is not developable under the current office and residential zoning, although he's tried and failed for ten years.

"We tried to market it and have not received one offer," said Matulis. "If you people do not somehow help us... We took it upon ourselves this past summer to take on a rezoning... I think it's in the best interest of everyone to move ahead."

In October, DEKA and Associates presented a conceptual plan for a development that could include a Dunham's, a Barnes and Noble Bookstore, a pet supply store and a restaurant.

Commissioners Louis Scordas, Arthur Vrettas, Robert Churella and Pete Hoadley voted in favor of the zoning change from office and residential development to commercial use. A change to the master plan was postponed six months. Member Kim Thomas Capello was absent.

The change would add a sixth major retail center in the I-96 and Novi Road quadrant along with West Oaks I and II, Twelve Oaks Mall, The Novi Town Center and Main Street Novi, currently under development.

Chair Laura Lorenzo and mem-

bers Michelle Bononi and Eda Wedington said the land would be better developed as office or high tech.

"This city has no shortage of retail space," said Wedington. "To create additional intensive commercial... I think there's a better use in this particular area."

"I think, given another good old college try, it could be sold as office," she said.

"We are extending commercial sprawl," said Bononi.

Lorenzo called it "a bad land use and bad business decision."

She said the city has to see itself as a business and having that property zoned OST would be a better decision because it generates higher taxes and uses less city services than commercial as well as impacts traffic less overall.

The increase in traffic could be handled by a yet-to-come four lane boulevard extension of Twelve Mile Road, according to traffic planner Rod Arroyo. While federal money was allocated for the study and design of the extended roadway, no money has been allocated for actual construction.

Ramco-Gershenson is "working on an integrated commercial development plan west of the West Oaks I and II Shopping Centers," according to minutes from the Feb. 12 Master Plan and Zoning Committee.

At that meeting, the firm's attorney Joe Sutschek "stated the development would be somewhat larger in size than the city-initiated rezoning currently under consideration. He stated that the concept was to create a mixed commercial development including restaurants, theaters and retail."

However, Sutschek said Monday it was premature to be talking

Is West Oaks III in works for Novi?

"... I've seen some of the conceptual... It sets it up to be a potential new commercial development called West Oaks III."

Planning Consultant Brandon Rogers

about the issue and declined further comment.

"They have expressed an interest in obtaining this subject property," said Brandon Rogers, city planning consultant. "They have not presented any plans to the city for official review, but I've seen some of the conceptual."

Rogers said Ramco-Gershenson has also expressed an interest in obtaining property south of the recently rezoned parcels.

"It sets it up to be a potential new commercial development called West Oaks III," Rogers added. Ramco-Gershenson has discussed their desire to open a third West Oaks for years and in 1995 proposed a road system redesign for the area to the Michigan Department of Transportation. No action was taken on the pitch to access the shopping center more easily from the freeway.

Fuerst money open to district residents

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

The Novi Education Foundation is hoping to get a wide variety of applicants for Fuerst Scholarships this year.

Applications are available as of March 1 for the \$20,000 worth of scholarships for district students. But the foundation is hoping to attract more back to school students and other school district students into the pool.

"That was really Ruby's idea she really wanted this to be available to anyone, not just high school students," said Carol Elfving, NEF and Novi Board of Education member.

The scholarships come from \$350,000 left to the district by Ruby Fuerst, who along with her sister, Jan, was a dedicated patron to the schools.

After her and her sister's deaths in 1991, Ruby Fuerst left the money to the Novi Community School District for the purpose of

handing out scholarships to students wishing to pursue higher education. She stipulated that the funding should be made available not only to graduating seniors but also to older residents in the district who wished to go back to school or attend trade school or community college.

The main criteria for the scholarship was financial need.

The responsibility for the scholarship was turned over to the Novi Educational Foundation in March of this year on a two-year pilot basis. Each year the foundation will offer scholarships totaling \$200,000 to district residents. One of the scholarships can be up to \$10,000 over four years pending the recipient earns a 2.5 grade point average each year.

The committee, formed within the Novi Education Foundation including one board member, two citizens, one administrator and one community member.

Three Fuerst Foundation Scholarships were presented last year to Laura Huczek, Sonia Shaimoon and Jessica Perreca, all graduating seniors at Novi High this year.

In addition, a scholarship was awarded to Jackie Perreca, a 1993 Novi High graduate who now attends Florida State University.

The foundation received six applicants last year.

Letter leads city attorney to issue FOIA opinion

After confusion arising from Ted Andris's personal letter to the Novi City Council members concerning his proposed East Lake Drive restaurant, City Attorney David Fried said he plans to draft a legal opinion on the issue.

Fried also advised the council Monday that mail addressed to each individual member cannot be opened by the city clerk's office but will instead be passed on to the addressee.

If the letter concerns city issues and a request to see the mail is submitted to the clerk's office

under the Freedom of Information Act, the council member will be asked to submit the copy to the clerk for release to the public.

"That's the way it should be handled," the city attorney said. "I don't have to be part of a meeting. They (the public) are entitled to any information leading up to a decision by the council on any matter."

However, council members are not obliged to keep their mail and may discard items at their discretion. In that case, the city will be unable to comply with the FOIA request, Fried explained.

Several council members explained that they resort to the waste basket when their hands are paper-laden.

Because the Andris letter was addressed to the seven individual council members, it was not initially on file at the city clerk's office when a resident submitted a FOIA request.

In this case, a council member returned the letter and a copy was given to the resident.

How to apply for Fuerst grant

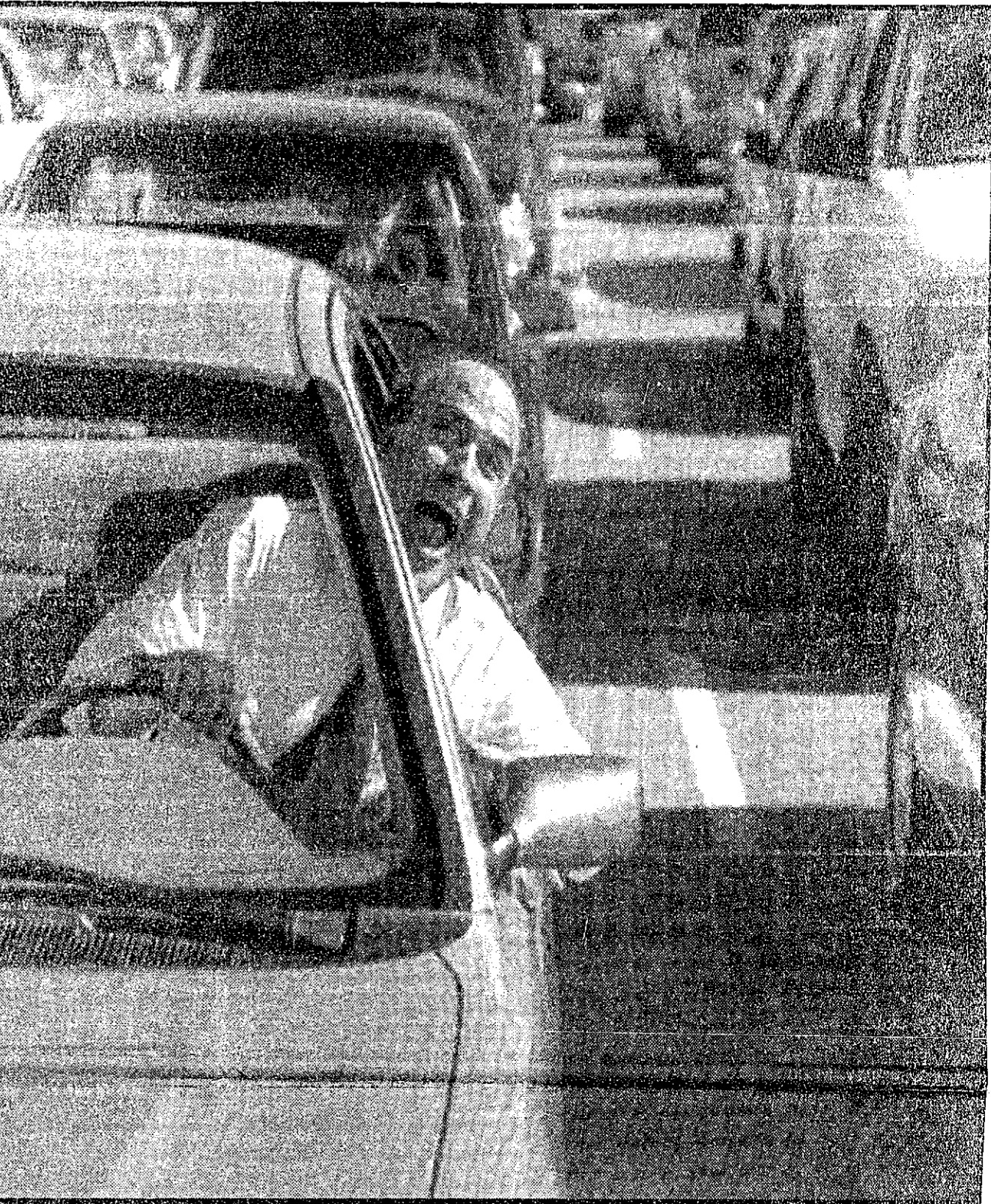
All Novi Community School District citizens are eligible to apply for a Fuerst scholarship and can apply more than once if they plan to attend an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school or community college.

Decision for the scholarship will be based on need, application information and an interview.

Applications will be available March 1. Applicants must submit the following by March 25, 1996:

- A completed application form.
- A high school counselor's recommendation or high school transcript, or a college transcript or a resume if the applicant is not currently attending school.
- Three recommendations from teachers or employers.
- Parent's or guardian's income or own income if a non-dependent in the form of assets, W-2 Form and 1040 Form. Information will be kept confidential.

Applicants can pick up and return the application at the Educational Services Building. For more information, call 449-1200.



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Lawmakers address Novi

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

Sen. Willis Bullard, R-Milford, and Rep. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, are ready to take on the State Board of Education, high school proficiency tests, school funding and education reform.

The pair held an impromptu question and answer session at the Novi Board of Education meeting last week, in an attempt to get public input on some of the plans.

One of their biggest concerns is with the new Michigan High School Proficiency Test, given for the first time last year.

Public entry about low scores, the lack of participation by some students and the lack of emphasis on the State Endorsed Diploma have prompted him and other legislators to take a closer look at the function of the test.

"When good high schools have such a low percentage of students getting to the proficient level, I think something is wrong," said Bullard.

Cassis agreed. "I think it's a good idea but somehow it's gone bad," she explained. "If these tests are to be continued, they have to be connected to something — such as college admittance tests or the real world — or else we'll lose the stu-

dent and parent desire to take part in the test."

Novi school board President Raymond Byers, however, questioned the need to change the test at this point in time.

"I'm very concerned everyone is winging their hands on one test," said Byers. "We're not letting the pot sit still long enough to see if the recipe is any good."

But Bullard said it's simply a matter of "breaking and retraining the process, not throwing it out."

Another focus by Bullard is the ability to offer last growing school districts additional monetary relief. Called the "growing student district" bill, Bullard is committed to maintaining a proper level of funding for these districts.

Another issue that could impact the state financially is Bullard's call for the state to pay tuition for high school students who enroll in college or community college courses. As it stands now, district funds transfer to the colleges when students take the alternative courses.

But with the popularity of the college course option growing, "it could become a multi-million program so let's put it on the backs of the state, not the local district."

Bullard also mentioned he isn't completely supportive of the idea

to have the state take over failing urban school districts. "Something needs to be done... But defining the problem is very easy... But what is the solution?" Bullard said.

Cassis said she is hoping to find new solutions to school district and student problems by researching the successes of districts. As part of the newly formed group RAISE, the Republican Alliance for Identifying Solutions in Education.

"Let's take a look at what we're doing right and build on that," said Cassis.

The group will gather information from administrators, students, parents and teachers around the state. By the fall term, RAISE hopes to have compiled a listing of people, places and programs to share with other school districts.

The pair also discussed the ramifications of a \$680 million Durant lawsuit against the state filed in 1979 by 80 Michigan school districts, including Novi, that could result in paybacks of categorical aid funding and special education money to the tune of at least \$6 million for the Novi district.

The Supreme Court is hearing an appeal on the ruling that left the state liable to payback schools for mandated programs.

Sen. Bullard wants to eliminate Michigan Board of Education

By JEN DIMASCO
and WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writers

One of State Senator Willis Bullard's biggest plans for next year is changing the Michigan Constitution to delete of the State Board of Education.

Bullard said the next day his proposal has nothing to do with partisan politics, adding that Engler will probably not even be in office when this bill would go into effect, if it is successful — Nov. 1998.

Rather, he wants to put the amendment in place to expedite elections.

"Philosophically, I don't believe there should be a State Board of

Education. That's point number one. Number two, I'm also looking at how we can streamline the ballot," Bullard said.

Bullard said citizens often get confused when they read that the State Board of Education has adopted a resolution, because those resolutions are merely advisory. He said local school boards and the legislature hold the real policymaking powers. In addition, he said the governor has given much more power to the state superintendent.

He added that the State Board of Education is one among a long list of educational groups that provide the legislature with information.

"I really question why that function is necessary," he said.

"The State Board has no power to put into effect legislation," Bullard told the school board. Bullard said this policy runs right in line with his other initiative to have the Governor appoint university trustees at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. Like elections for the regents, Bullard said people do not often recognize names on the ballot for the State Board of Education.

"I don't see the need to have those positions elected," Bullard said.

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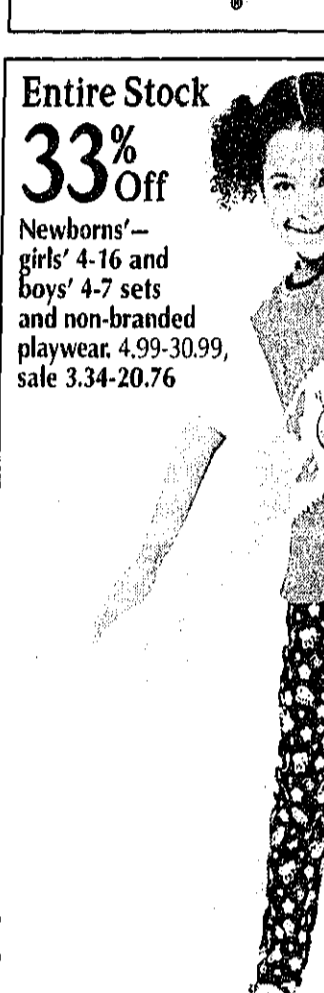
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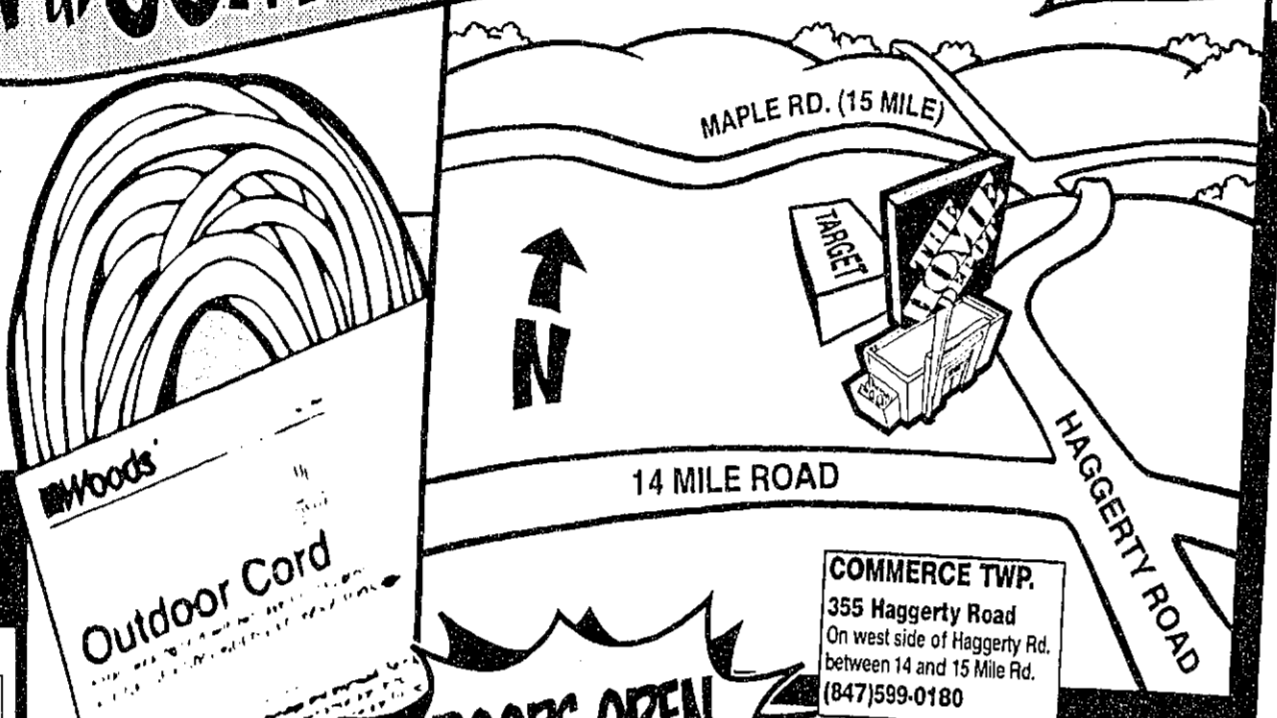
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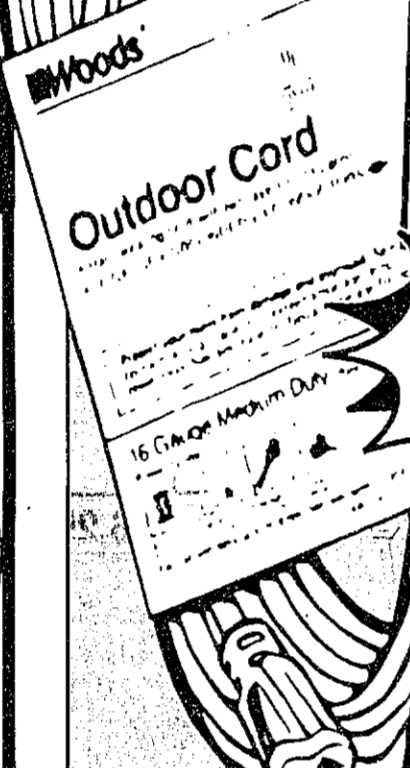
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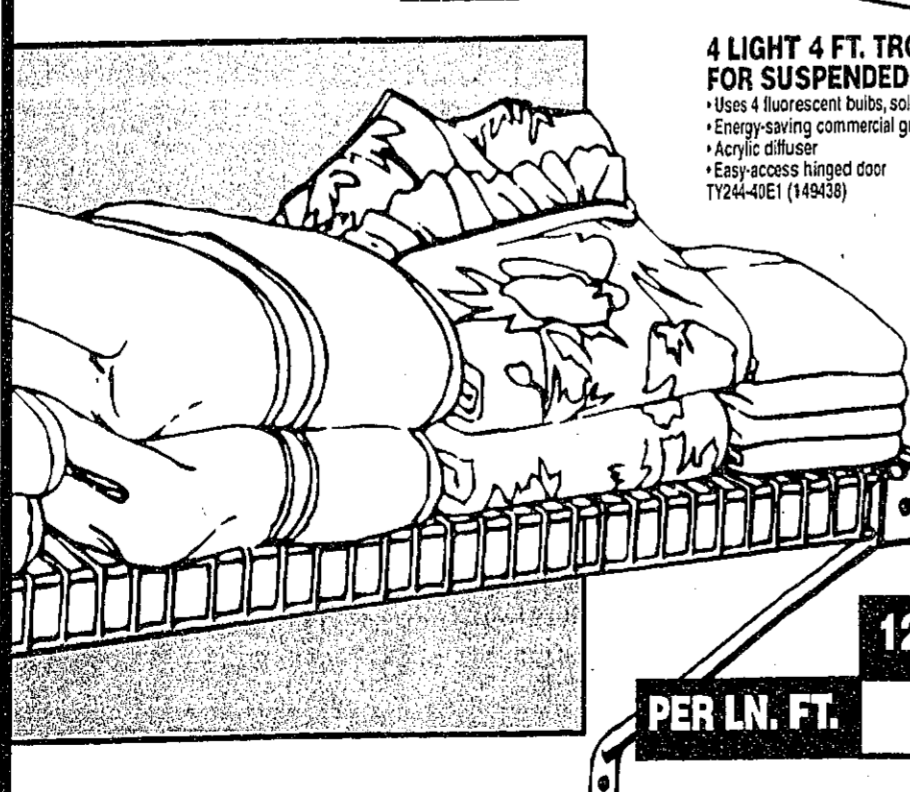
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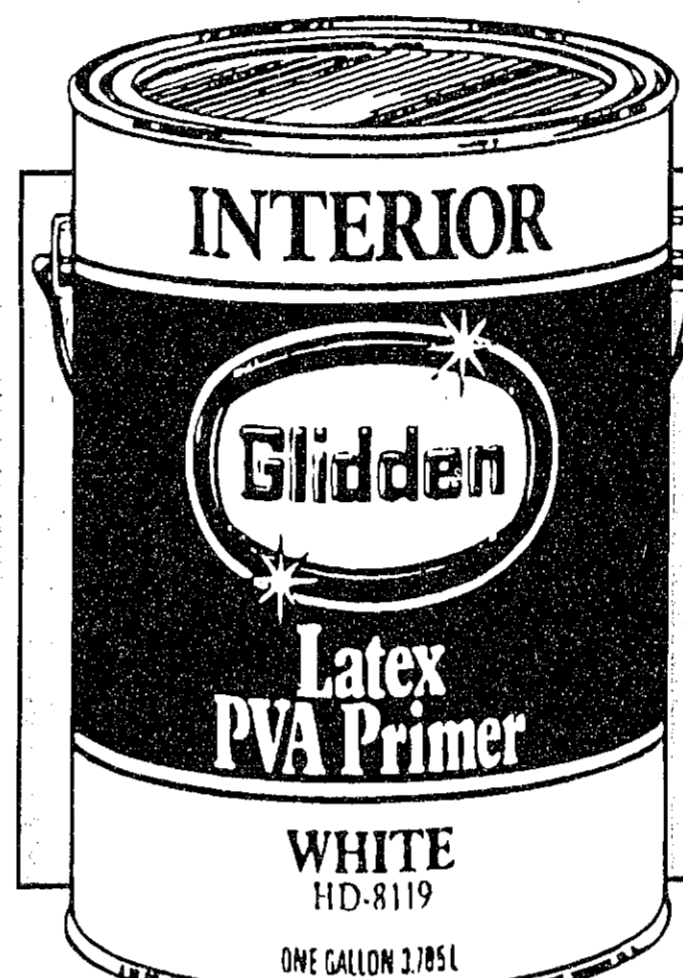
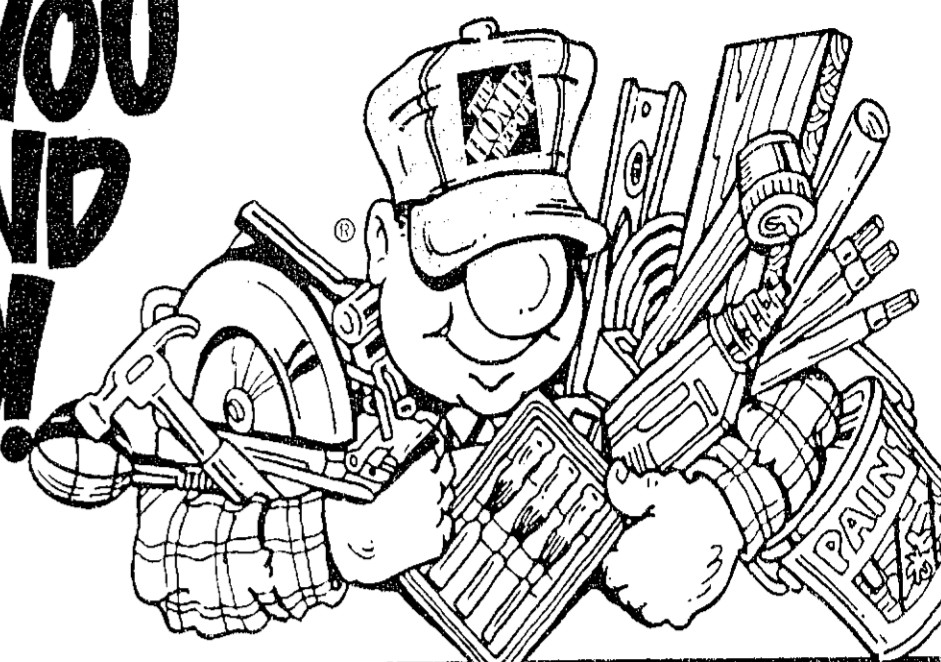
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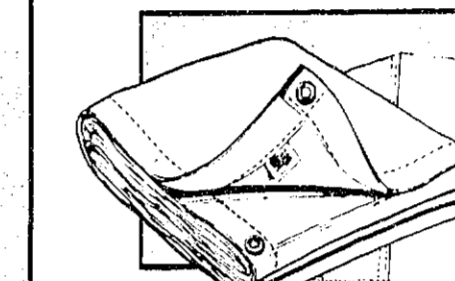
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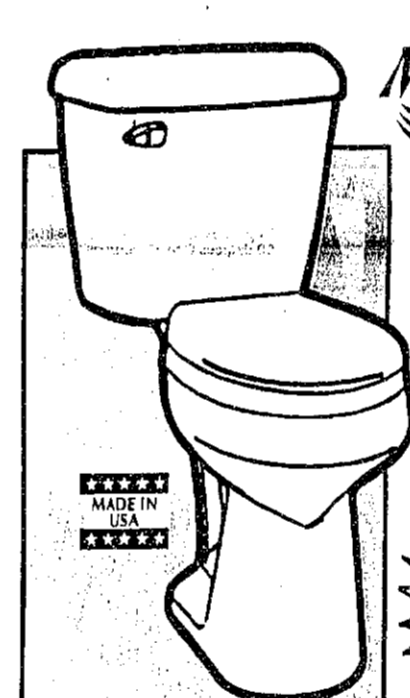
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• Use under oil, vinyl or latex topcoats
• Adheres to most latex formalin, salts, covers and dries quickly
• Easy water clean up
HD319 (463311)



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9'x12' HEAVY GAUGE REINFORCED POLY TARP
• Blue
• Water proof, weather resistant (26701)

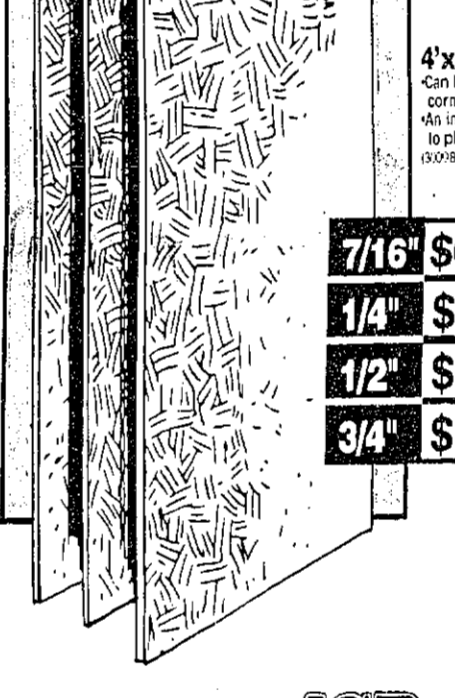


Mansfield

\$58

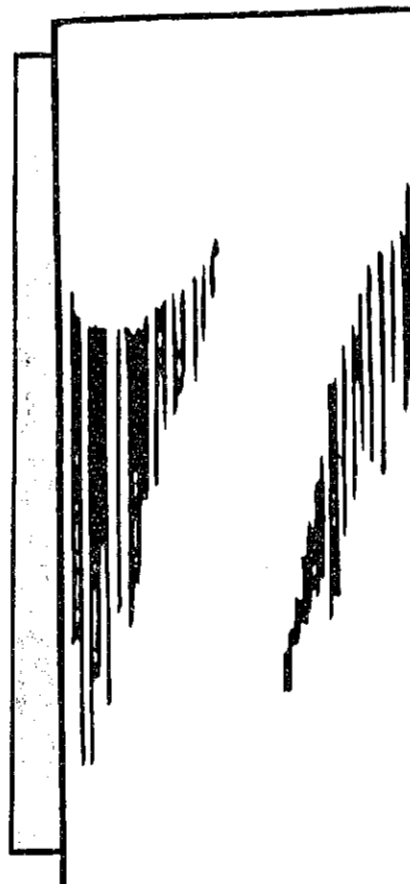
ALTO™ ULTRA LOW FLUSH ROUND TOILET
• White
• Sold separately
• 1.6 gallon flush
• 10" rough-in bowl (132743)

5 YEAR WARRANTY!



4'x8' OSB
• Can be used for roof and corner support sheathing etc. (respective alternative to plywood) (33092)

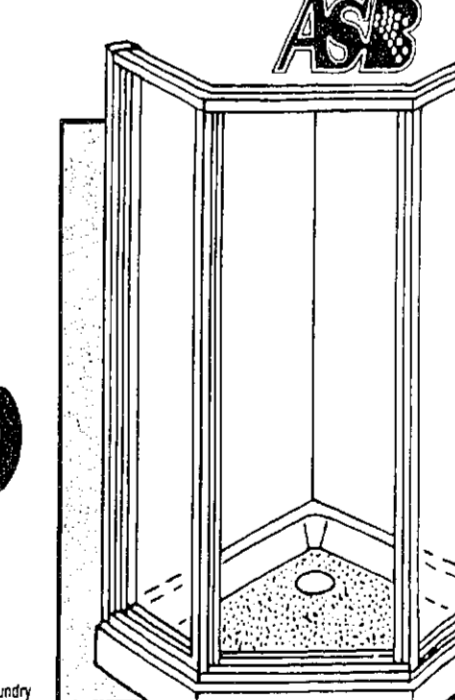
7/16" \$6.25
1/4" \$5.50
1/2" \$8.70
3/4" \$14.95



ABICO

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4'x8'-1/8" WHITE TILEBOARD PANELING
• Ideal for bathrooms, showers, laundry rooms, wherever moisture protection is needed
• Resists mildew, no popping tiles, no grout upkeep
• Easy cleanup with soap and water (30034033)



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36" WHITE NEO-ANGLE SHOWER STALL
• Space saving design
• Tempered glass & anodized frame
• European look
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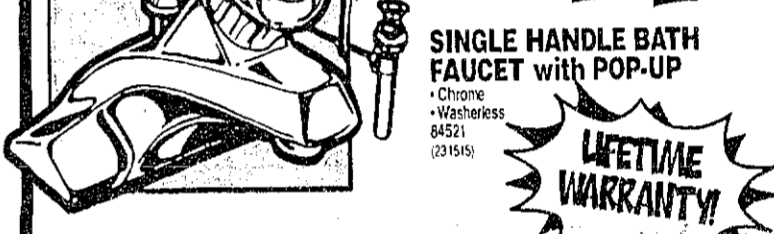
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\$1.04 PER SQ. FT.

4 1/4" CONTRACTOR GRADE CERAMIC WALL TILE
• Choose from white or color
• Case covers 15 sq. ft.
• For a bright finish on walls or countertops



JOHN \$49.97

SINGLE HANDLE BATH FAUCET with POP-UP
• Chrome
• Washers (84521)
• 271619



98¢

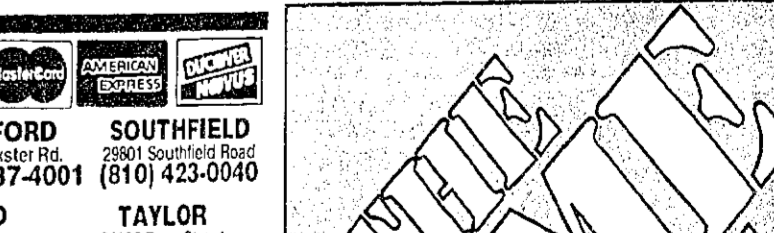
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ADHESIVE
• 10.5 oz.
• The original panel and construction adhesive
• High strength and quick grab (4627B) (41245)

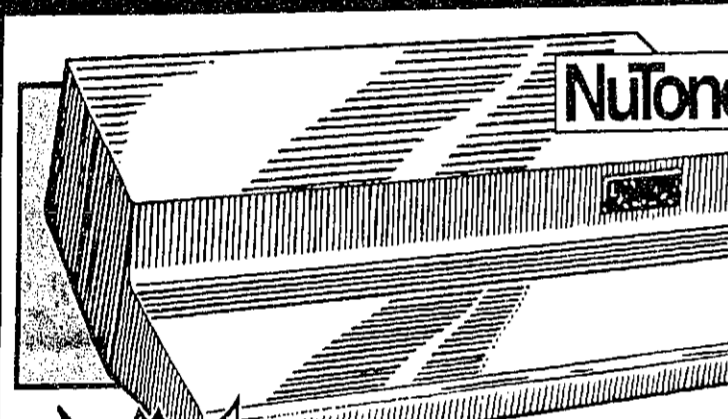


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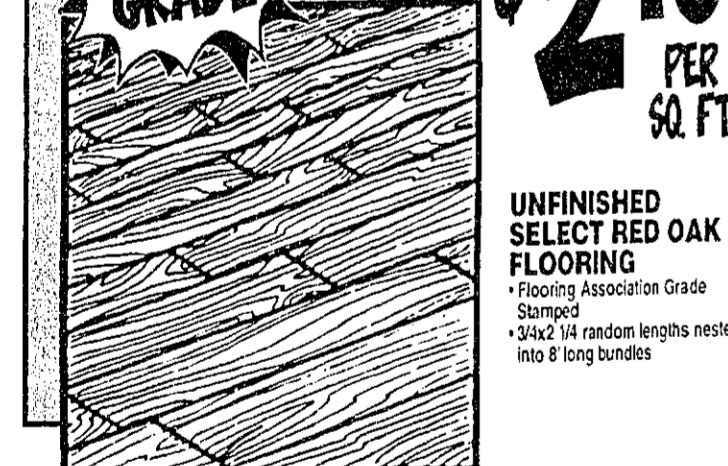


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30" 180 CFM DUCTLESS RANGE HOOD
• Almond or white
• Etamined finish
RL6232AL (126067)

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• Sold in pre-cut lengths
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D0076 (264687)

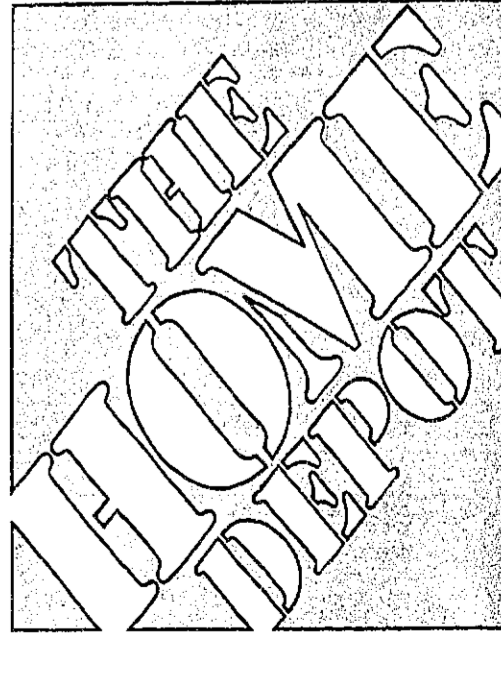
4'	\$17.20	8'	\$34.40
5'	\$21.50	10'	\$43.00
6'	\$25.80	12'	\$51.60

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PRICES MAY VARY AFTER MARCH 9, 1997. IF THERE ARE MARKET VARIATIONS.

THE BEGINNING!



Massage parlor plan rubs city council the wrong way

The Golden Touch Spa and Beauty Massage Incorporated requests for a license to operate a massage parlor in the Nov 1 City Council building.

Shedden, Howell resident Matt A. Hays' request for the license to open his massage and beauty business in the Village Plaza was turned down by the council, due to lack of sufficient information on the application.

Joseph M. Marino, Hays' lawyer, said Hays' request for the license is not a business, but a service. "I have spoken to him and discussed about the problems other cities have had with these kind of institutions. This is not the same kind of institution," Marino said.

Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer said Hays had not complied with all provisions of the local ordinance and requested the denial.

"You said yourself that the kind of business you're asking a license for has had a great deal of trouble

Obituaries

BERNEICE KEES
Berneice (Krajcick) Kees died Feb. 23 at her residence in Novi. She was 86. Mrs. Kees was born March 2, 1910, in Shelbyville, Ill. Mrs. Kees was a homemaker.

Her survivors are: daughter-in-law, Lorraine Kees; sisters-in-law, Eleanor Campbell, Otis and George Kees; Alma Pickett and Inola Froude; grandchildren, Debra and David Kees; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, and son, Robert.

Services were held on Saturday, March 1, at O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

ber of Commerce, and the Greenbush Historical Society.

She is survived by sons, Timothy (Martha) and Patrick (Karen); daughter, Kerry (Tony) Marrooni; and grandchildren: Christopher, Andrew, Meghan, Kathleen, Nicholas and John.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry.

Services were held on Wednesday, March 5, at the Holy Family Church in Novi.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Memorials to The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075-5218 would be appreciated.

A funeral mass was held March 1, at Holy Family Church in Novi. Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Donations to Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi, MI 48375 would be appreciated.

PATRICIA A. BACCCHAN
Patricia Ann (McAllister) Baccchan of Novi died Feb. 26 in Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. Mrs. Baccchan was 61. She was born Sept. 17, 1935, in Detroit.

Mrs. Baccchan was a homemaker and an active member of Holy Family Church in Novi.

She is survived by her husband, Frank; son, Mark; daughters, Brenda (Greg) Goszowski and Julie Strick; brothers, William, John, and Robert McAllister; and grandchildren, Heather, Sarah, and Kaitlin.

Services were held on Monday, March 3, at Holy Family Church. Interment was in Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Memorial contributions to Make a Wish of Michigan, 913 W. Holmes Hill, Lansing, MI 48910 would be appreciated.

MYRTLE J. BELANGER
Myrtle J. (O'Brien) Belanger of Novi died March 2 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She was 75. Mrs. Belanger was born June 10, 1921.

Mrs. Belanger was a former resident of Flint and Osceola. She was a member of the Alpha Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Gamma sorority, Gamma Eta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, and the Holy Redeemer Alter Society located in Flint. Additional memberships included the Northville Town Hall Committee, the Plymouth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Greenbush Cham-

ber of Commerce, and the Greenbush Historical Society.

She is survived by sons, Timothy (Martha) and Patrick (Karen); daughter, Kerry (Tony) Marrooni; and grandchildren: Christopher, Andrew, Meghan, Kathleen, Nicholas and John.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry.

Services were held on Wednesday, March 5, at the Holy Family Church in Novi.

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Memorials to The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield, MI 48075-5218 would be appreciated.

LOUISE L. MADILL
Louise Lucille (Morock) Madill of Novi died Feb. 26, at Providence Hospital in Southfield. She was 67. Mrs. Madill was born Jan. 13, 1930, in Detroit.

Mrs. Madill is survived by her husband of 46 years, Joseph; son, Gerard (Lori Ann); daughters, Mary Louise (Melody) and Natalie; sisters, Dolores Rohlfand, Lorraine Kutlak, Delphine Kutlak and Bernadine Nawrocki; and six grandchildren: Michelle, Andrew, Christine, Claire, Eric and Hannah.

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in many communities. You haven't answered all the questions," Council Member Robert Schmidt said.

"Before I'd ever issue a license for a massage parlor, I want to be very, very sure it's for a reputable corporation with financial backing."

As required by the city regulations, Hays did not give a detailed breakdown of his employment record over the past three years, the police department report noted. He also did not give his immediate prior address, besides noting he lived in Lakeland, Florida, the report said.

In addition, written character references from three permanent residents of the U.S. were not included with the paperwork, as mandated by the city, Shaeffer explained.

Hays is a native of Korea now residing in the United States, Marino said. He was previously a bartender in Korea and a T-shirt vendor at Florida flea markets.

How to be safe and dial cellular phones on the road

Cellular phones provide a wide range of safety benefits for traveling motorists. Whether requesting emergency road service or reporting a dangerous driver, cellular phones provide a large measure of safety and security, comfort and convenience.

But with that convenience comes added responsibility. Safe driving requires caution, courtesy, common sense, and alertness under any condition.

To help motorists meet these responsibilities, AAA Michigan and Ameritech have published a brochure titled "Cell Phone Safety Tips, How to be Safe and Secure on the Road."

Among the topics covered are cellular safe driving tips, highway concentration, when to dial 9-1-1 and "the safety zone."

"For most drivers, anything that is a distraction — a passenger, the radio, or your cellular phone — can get in the way of your concentration," said Jerry Fasch, manager of community safety services for AAA Michigan. "But there are ways to minimize the distraction."

To help increase concentration while driving with a cellular phone:

- If you call while stopped or face someone dial for you.
- Use the cell phone in the "hands-free" mode.
- Avoid intense or complicated conversations.

Some other useful safety tips for cellular phone users:

- Always buckle up.
- Always assess traffic conditions before making a call.
- Give driving your full attention.
- Ensure that the phone is with-

easy reach.

- Use "memory dial" to minimize dialing time.

For a copy of the AAA/Ameritech brochure "Cell Phone Safety Tips," visit the AAA Michigan or Ameritech retail outlet nearest you, or call 1-800-AAA-MICH.

NOTICE
CITY OF NOVI
REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT
TUP 97-005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Patterson Construction Company is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction trailer on the Sprengelway Gas Station job site, located on the north side of Ten Mile Road, east of Novi Road, beginning March 1997. A Temporary Use Permit may be granted for a period 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.

The request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 1997 at the New 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 March 12, 1997.

(3-6-97 NR, NN)

NOTICE — CITY OF NOVI
REQUEST FOR BIDS
T-SHIRTS/SWEATSHIRTS/HATS

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for T-Shirts/Sweatshirts/Hats according to the specifications of the City of Novi.

Bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing eastern time, Wednesday, April 9, 1997, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE TYPICALLY MARKED

T-Shirts/Sweatshirts/Hats BID

AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK,
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(810) 347-0446

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The introductory variable rate of 7.95% APR is for the first six months on all new HELOC and line increases of \$5000 or more. After that, the rate will be the Wall Street Journal Prime plus just 1% (i.e., on 11/5/97 the Prime was 8.25% so your new rate would be 9.25%). You may know up to 85% of your home's equity. The APR are variable, subject to change monthly and based on the Wall Street Journal Prime plus the applicable margin. Minimum 6% APR and maximum 18% APR. There are no other costs to open your account. Please consult your tax advisor regarding tax deductibility.

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4 FOR \$100	ANY SIZE LISTED! P185R-13 P185R-14 P185R-13 P185R-14
4 FOR \$110	ANY SIZE LISTED! P205R-15 P205R-15 P215R-15 P215R-15

\$41.99	\$49.99	\$61.99
RADIAL ALL SEASON	ARIZONIAN SA4	ARIZONIAN LIMITED EDITION RADIALS
P175R-14	P185R-14	P185R-14
P185R-14 36.99	P205R-14 51.99	P205R-14 51.99
P195R-14 36.99	P225R-14 52.99	P225R-14 52.99
P205R-14 36.99	P245R-14 53.99	P245R-14 53.99
P215R-14 36.99	P265R-14 54.99	P265R-14 54.99
P225R-14 36.99	P285R-14 55.99	P285R-14 55.99
P235R-14 36.99	P305R-14 56.99	P305R-14 56.99
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P225R-14 49.99	P285R-14 62.99	
P235R-14 49.99	P305R-14 63.99	
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P255R-14 49.99	P345R-14 65.99	

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TROY • 698-8001
3429 Rochester Rd. (North at 16 Mile Rd.)
STERLING HEIGHTS • 939-0700
6022 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 16 Mile Rd.)
NOVI • 347-1501
42990 Grand River Ave. (E. of Novi Rd.)

FARMINGTON HILLS • 737-7812
30729 W. 12 Mile Rd. (E. of Orchard Lake Rd.)
CLINTON TOWNSHIP • 799-1800
2323 Center Ave. (E. at I-75 Mile Rd.)
NEW BALTIMORE • 949-0280
28360 23 Mile Rd. (West to I-94)
CENTERLINE • 810-7144-1780
2655 Van Dyke
LIVONIA • 618-4210
18915 Midland (E. Blocks South of I-75)

CANTON • 881-8800
41560 Ford Rd. (2 BLOCKS West of I-75)
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Lawmakers seek to repair damage to state FOIA

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

One suburban lawmaker thinks the Legislature isn't repairing enough damage to the state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) despite committee action Monday.

Rep. Andrew Richter, R-Grosse Pointe, wants to cap fees that local and state governments charge for copying public documents. A 1996 bill that takes effect at the end of this month will take off the lid on "research" costs governments may charge to look up documents.

Otherwise, there was little controversy as the House Oversight and Ethics Committee unanimously approved Rep. Greg Kaza's bill to restore the broad purpose language of the original FOIA law, to inform all persons of "the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and public employees."

In post-act lane-dance sessions in December, the Legislature struck that language and curbed the purpose to apply only to "governmental decision making." That act is due to take effect at the end of this month.

Lucille Taylor, legal advisor to Gov. John Engler, said the change was "stylistic" and "irrelevant."

Taylor said Engler "neither supports nor opposes" Kaza's bill to restore the original language.

Rep. Pat Gagliardi, D-Drummond Island and chair of the panel, pounced on Taylor, charging Engler "is not supportive of FOIA" and engaged in "shenanigans" in hiding documents on state sale of the Jackson Park.

Barbara Skurnowicz, a Bloomfield Hills government watcher, scoffed at Taylor's remark: "No one is dumb enough to believe the change is inconsequential."

A parade of Oakland County residents was joined by the unlikely duo of the American Civil Liberties Union and Michigan Christian Coalition in supporting Kaza's bill.

Howard Simon, ACLU's execu-

tive director in Michigan, said the FOIA law, unless fixed, could curb the public's right to know about toxic wastes and complaints about licensed nurses, which don't involve "decision making."

"Secrecy is the weapon of totalitarian government," said Simon, a Plymouth area resident.

That was when Richter raised the question about whether FOIA cap fees charged for documents. Committee chair Pat Gagliardi, D-Drummond Island, told of being charged \$700 by the state Department of Management and Budget for documents.

Tom McMillan, an Auburn Hills councilman and field director for

the Michigan Christian Coalition, said "many citizens can't afford an attorney" to fight with government about public information and its costs.

"I never believed in a million years I'd agree with Howard Simon," said Skurnowicz.

Barbara Wilberg, a Lake Orion activist, complained her local police board "won't even share governmental decision-making with the community." Wilberg said she had been charged \$50 just to look at minutes of meetings, although FOIA says looking at documents is free.

Karen Haddock-Merrill, director of Common Cause, urged lawmakers

to pass Kaza's bill and "get rid of the controversy."

Michael Shpicer, a Bloomfield Hills attorney and chair of the Michigan Freedom of Information Committee, agreed with the others and supported the Kaza bill.

In opening remarks, Kaza took the blame for failing to notice the state Senate had made massive amendments to his single effort to allow an administrative appeal, without lawsuits, to persons denied public documents under FOIA.

"I don't know what happened that evening. Why was it inserted? That's all unclear," said Kaza, who said he and other lawmakers had

a thousands pages of bills and amendments to act on in their 21-hour session of Dec. 12-13.

The changes were inserted in the Senate, but who wrote them also was unclear. The Michigan Press Association reported they were drafted by Michael Gattola, an Engler staff member.

While Democrats made much of the oversight, Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, sought to roll back the conversation by moving to report out Kaza's bill.

While the Kaza amendment restores the broad purpose of the FOIA, it doesn't repair the other 1996 changes raising the price for "research," placing a time limit on

when persons may file suits, requiring all FOIA requests be in writing, and removing the right for government to respond "immediately" to FOIA requests.

Richter said he will explore rapping the fees some local units charge for documents. These run as high as \$3 per page. In some police departments with a half-hour minimum for "research" on police reports, libraries and stores charge 3 to 10 cents per page for copies.

Refer to House Bill 4339, the profane amendment to FOIA, when writing to your state representative. State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

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— Compiled by Tim Richard.

Mandatory water hookups put off 90 days by council

Continued from 1

ers were told by the DEQ and county that wells could only be temporary and hook-ups were a must.

However, Novi Superintendent of Public Works Bruce Jerome suggested that the city council permanently ease the rule, except for three new neighborhoods built with community wells. Twenty-four subdivisions went up after the state slapped a moratorium over six years ago on new links into the Detroit water system.

"Not every prospective buyer in every subdivision feels they were properly informed by the builder of mandatory requirements. They've purchased water softeners and reverse osmosis systems. Some of them have invested \$2,500 to \$4,000 in these," Jerome said.

A number of issues need to be looked at by the city. First is that several legal documents mandate connecting: Novi's ordinance; water service agreements signed by the city and developers; and various builders and covenants and deed restrictions for most of the impacted subdivisions. The city could opt not to enforce these, Jerome noted in a report to the council.

In addition, different subdivisions have different well systems. While most have individual wells for each house, three have community wells: Lochmoor Village with 84 occupied homes, Creek Crossing with 17 and Vistas of Novi with 75.

Although the ordinance requires upfront payment for tapping into the water system, businesses are allowed to pay in installments if more than one tap is needed.

For homeowners, the upfront hit is \$1,100 to city hall. That is on top of the costs of disrupted landscaping and invisible fences and the money squandered on water softening systems, said Scott Pitcher, director of the Walden Woods Homeowners advisory committee.

"We believe our wells are safe and fully functional," Pitcher said. Sixty-six residents of Walden Woods One petitioned the city, requesting that the use of the Detroit water system be optional.

"We are also concerned about the quality of service which this new hook-up would provide. As has happened numerous times in recent years, the water pressure in Novi can be quite low. Although computer models suggest an adequate water supply, the true impact of all new hook-ups and future hook-ups is an unknown and will remain unknown for years," Pitcher said.

Walden Woods One is a unique case, Novi's Director of Public Works Anthony Nowicki said. Unlike the other post-moratorium developments, "this particular development may have slipped past the regulatory agencies," he said. In addition, the building of the subdivision went ahead before the local water ordinance was adopted.

Cat show comes to Novi Expo

The Novi Expo Cat Show will be held at the Novi Expo Center on March 8 and 9. Hours will be from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cats valued at \$2,500 plus will compete in six separate divisions, for regional, national and international awards.

The "highlighted cat" of the event will be the Persian cat known for its flowing coat and beauty.

Added attractions will include free cat food samples and door prizes, and an opportunity to photograph the cats. For the kids, there will be cat face painting and a draw-the-cat-of-your-dreams art contest.

Northville "cat participants" will be among the exhibitors representing many communities in addition to the Detroit area.

The Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society will have available for adoption, neutered and spayed family cats. We are asking our spectators to bring along a can of cat food to assist this group.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors; and \$4 for youth (5-12 years of age).

For additional information call Eve Russell (313) 654-2302 (9 a.m.-9 p.m.) prior to show dates or (810) 707-9308 on location Friday and Saturday.

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DEQ pushes to enforce mandatory hook up rule

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

While the City of Novi debates the merits of forcing 682 homeowners to link up with the public water system, a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality engineer contends that this may be imperative in the long run.

For wells used for drinking water, the state sets strict requirements that deal with issues such as lot sizes, depth, construction, aquifer studies and well isolation, John Fiero, district engineer in the DEQ's Environmental Health Section, Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division wrote in a Feb. 26 letter to the city.

Fiero said that "Many of the projects developed during the moratorium were unable or unwilling to comply with strict water supply requirements. Developers voted concern that the requirements were not justifiable given the short-term duration of the moratorium and the stated intent that wells would be a temporary expedient only until the moratorium was lifted."

"We are not aware of any imminent threat to health at this time, but the concern is real for the long-term."

"Obviously, this is complex and emotional, but we believe strongly that the wells were approved for limited short-term use only and that connection to the public water supply is essential to the long-term health and welfare of the community."

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Marilyn Knight joins the activities in the Civic Center.

Line dance sets toes to tapping

Continued from 1

Little to "Gonna Make You Sweat" by LaBouche.

Above all, don't feel intimidated, Rowe said.

"Don't feel people are watching and laughing at you. People are too busy trying to think about what they're doing themselves to look," she added.

While she's a teacher for Lone Star Dance Company, owned by Novi resident Judy Reno, the Civic Center classes are her own program. Rowe is also a member of Lone Star's performing team. They'll be appearing on TMN's "Club Dance" in July. In June, they'll be jetting to Knoxville to tape the three shows.

Once people get the hang of line dancing, they can't stay away, Rowe said. Tremblay would agree to that. She dances three times a week.

One benefit of all this exercise is stress relief.

"You come off the road and everybody's flipping everybody off and you get a bad impression, and you go to a country-western dance and everybody's really nice. It's like a family," Rowe said.

Want to get out of your chair and onto the dance floor? Classes run each Friday night at the Novi Civic Center. Raw beginners can learn the ropes. Back to the basics classes start the first Friday of each month, but you can join in any Friday.

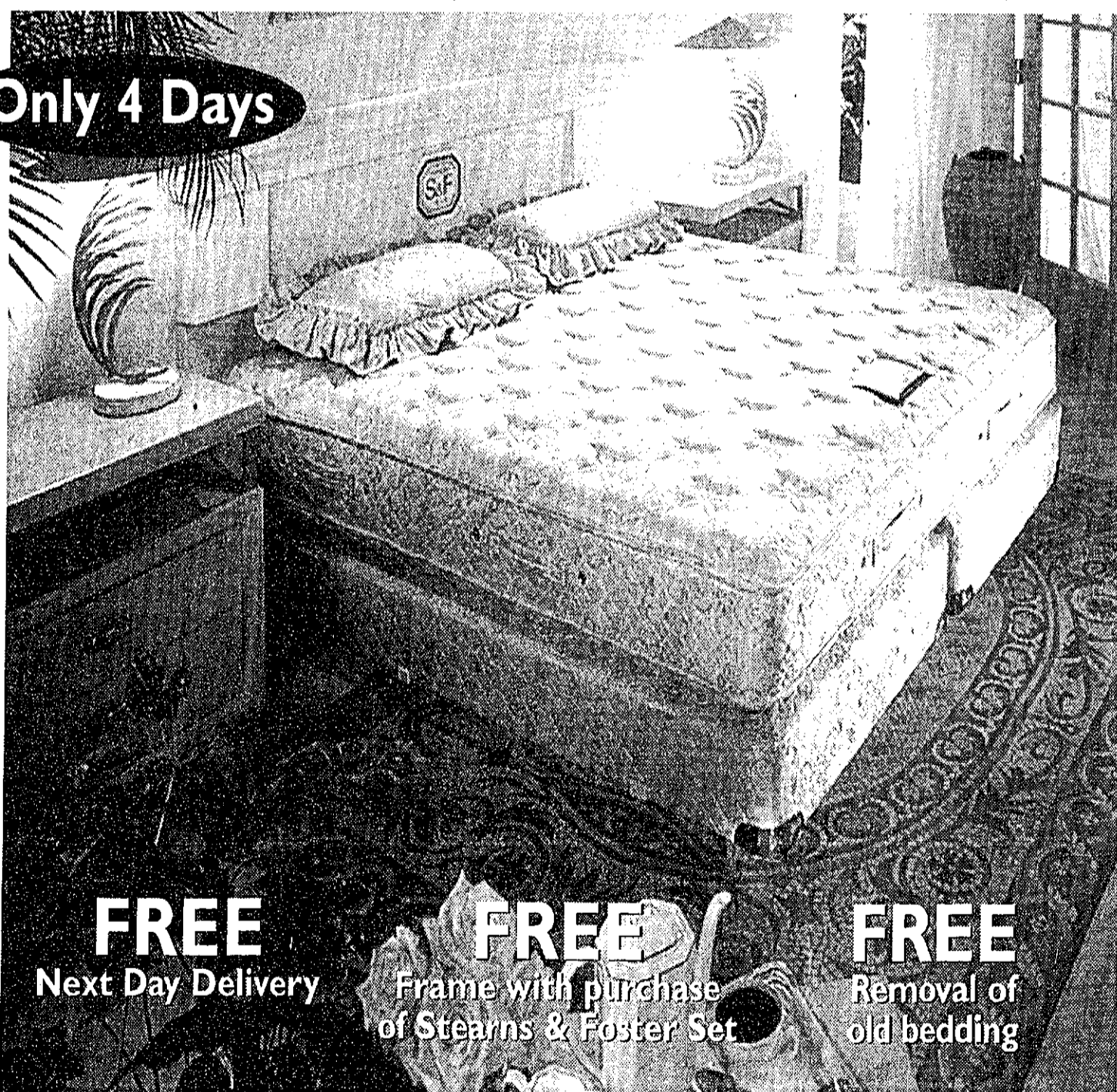
The cost is cheaper than a movie — \$4 for Novi residents and seniors, and \$5 for non-residents. Open dancing runs to 11 p.m.

For this Friday night only, the class has been booked from the Civic Center to the Novi Meadows school cafeteria, 25549 Taft Road.

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Finances cause city concerns

Continued from 1
have to chip in \$150,000 or \$200,000 for the ice arena."

Among concerns raised by council members was that they had not been given copies in advance of a Plante & Moran analysis of the ice arena feasibility study originally prepared by Center Ice Inc., nor had they been given an updated presentation on the project, complete with renderings.

The feasibility study was subsequently updated by members of Community Clubs, Plante & Moran, the city's auditors, did not conduct their own feasibility study but reviewed the existing one for internal consistency.

In addition, Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis said Community Club board members researched the demographically-sharper Farmington Hills ice arena operations.

"Most of what's presented makes sense. On the one hand, I'm not real comfortable but on the other hand I don't see anything that says this is going to blow up in your face," Council Member Kathy Mutch said.

"Ever since we set a fall of 1997

ICE ARENA FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

City auditors Plante & Moran analyzed a feasibility study prepared by Center Ice Inc. on the proposed Novi ice arena. Here's how Novi's financial projections on the two-rink facility compare to the industry average, according to Plante & Moran.

Industry Average One is taken from the May 1995 Ice Skating Institute of America member survey; it excludes debt principal, interest and depreciation.

Industry Average Two is from the 1991 Ice Skating Industry Profile Survey conducted by the Ice Skating Institute of America and also excludes debt principal, interest and depreciation.

	Forecasted for Novi	Ind. Average 1	Ind. Average 2
Revenues	\$1.9 million	\$803,000	\$811,000
Cost of sales	\$435,900	\$225,300	\$146,600
Gross profit	\$1.464 million	\$577,000	\$665,200
Operating expenses, minus interest and depreciation:			
Salaries	\$269,000	\$155,160	\$249,600
Utilities	\$156,000	\$86,760	\$114,800
Building and maintenance	\$172,000	\$60,470	\$75,800
Other expenses	\$120,000	\$43,950	\$61,200
Total operating expenses, excluding depreciation and interest expense	\$717,800	\$346,340	\$501,400
Net income, excluding depreciation and interest expense	\$746,300	\$231,360	\$163,800

date to open this thing, the pressure of not putting up roadblocks is there."

Plans trimmed to save costs

To cut costs and make space count, the size of the two-rink Novi ice arena has been reduced from 88,000 square feet to 78,000 square feet.

The arena will have:
• Two sheets of ice, both 85 feet by 200 feet in size. One rink will have seating for 500 spectators, the second rink will have seating for 220.

Operating expenses, minus interest and depreciation:

• One men's hockey locker room to be used by the Novi High School boys' hockey team, should one be formed. In the meantime, this space will be used by male figure skaters.

• One women's locker room, shared facilities for both female figure skaters and hockey players.

• Lockers in the lobby for participants in open skating sessions.

• A concessions stand.

• A room that can be divided with room dividers for exercise and dance classes, as well as weight-lifting.

Removed from the plans were a

"We wanted to bring the costs down. We took out the space we don't really need to make better use of the space we had."

Bob Shaw

restaurant and three rooms for exercise and dance classes. Additional space for extra, portable bleachers at the 500-seat arena was deleted.

The women's locker room was downsized, but more space is provided in the lobby for figure skaters than in others area facilities, Bob Shaw of Community Clubs of Novi said.

"We wanted to bring the costs down. We took out the space we don't really need to make better use of the space we had," Shaw added.

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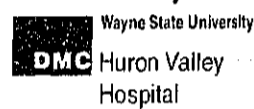


Left to right: Charles O. Gonik, M.D.; T. Eduardo Garcia, M.D.; David R. Calver, M.D.; Travis D. Terrell, M.D.

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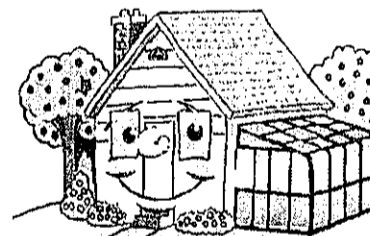
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18A

THURSDAY
March 6,
1997

As We See It

There should be equity in publicly funded arena

The promoters of the Novi ice arena show aptitude for a career as used car salesmen. A few years back, when the idea was first touted, the plan was that the two-rink facility would be a community recreation opportunity.

The sales pitch included emphasis on the growing market for recreational figure skating and ice hockey, both sports in varying degrees for men and women, girls and boys.

While the site plans haven't been yet unveiled before the city council, it clearly shows that the hockey dais have been driving this car. With nine locker rooms for men and boys and only one for women and girls, it's a logical conclusion that the ice time will be similarly divided between the genders and sports. Most likely, the initial plan that included ice hockey for girls will be jettisoned, too.

That would be fine if this were a private operation.

But it's a public facility, a three-way venture between the City of Novi, Community Clubs of Novi, a non-profit group mostly appointed by the Novi City Council, and a private partner, Center Ice Management Inc., that's not kicking in any money.

Taxpayers will spend \$850,000 to build a road for the arena.

More importantly, the credit of Novi taxpayers will be behind the \$8.5 million in bonds that will be issued to build the rink. What that means is that if at any time the arena can't meet the yearly bond repayments of \$700,000 or so, taxpayers' dollars will have to make up the difference.

That is why this clearly discriminatory use of public money is so outrageous.

Every Novi City Council member and every planning commissioner possessing even a drop of integrity and a sense of justice should dig their heels in on this one. Not only does it force the majority to pay for the fun and games of a minority, it's a slap in the face to every woman and girl in Novi, as well as the taxpaying fathers of every daughter.

With the current mentality behind



Government

the project, it's no surprise that when the proposed building size was recently whittled down, among the reductions was paring back the square footage of the single locker room for women and girls.

Novi council members have been warned this project is on a fast-track schedule and they shouldn't slow things down. Local history has shown over the past few years, that each time the pressure's been put on the council to move quickly, that was the time to put on the brakes.

Properly, this was done by a slim majority at Monday night's council meeting, after they listened to a half-back presentation on the project. Council Members Robert Schmid, Richard Clark and Kathy Mutch held out, asking for more information before authorizing the sale of the bonds by a city-created building authority.

On March 17, the arena's site plan will come before the planning commission.

From the beginning, the council majority has been sitting in the back seat on this one. It's time they took over the steering wheel and ensured that the ice arena isn't pandering to special interests but is a fully-public recreational facility. At each step of the way, from building through programming, as elected officials they must keep an eye out for the whole community's interest.

They'll also need the answer to this question: Is it legal in a publicly-funded building to provide such lack of parity as the planned nine-to-one ratio of men's locker rooms to women's locker rooms?

I've got shoes with wings on



Jan Jeffres

Sometimes when I interview someone for a news story, he or she is so bubbling over with enthusiasm, it spills over onto me. That was the case when I talked to Novi resident Jean Rowe, who teaches country-western line dancing at the Novi Civic Center on Friday nights.

Rowe had me ready to run straight home, excavate my muddy old cowboy boots from the back of the closet and sign up. She says she was a couch potato until three years ago when she started skiing five hours per night.

Her student, Jennifer Tremblay of Redford, claims country line dancing has all the benefits of aerobics but is lots more fun. Pam is the operative word.

I don't think the human animal was meant to sit still at a desk in front of a computer for most of adulthood. That's too dulling to the mind and spirit. I need to lose a few pounds and I know there are only two ways to go about it — eat less and exercise more. I prefer exercise as the less painful alternative. But it can't be boring.

A few weeks ago, I signed up for a tap dancing class at Schoolcraft College. Since I couldn't take the beginning class, I'm in advanced beginning. Several of the other women took tap for ten years or more. Most have more experience than I do, so I'm doing time at the bottom of the class.

When I was a kid, that would have bothered me. As an adult, my criteria are: Am I getting exercise? Am I losing weight? Since the answer is yes, I've got shoes with wings on, even if they're two left shoes.

More and more I'm running into people, mostly female, who take dance classes as their preferred method of exercise. Many went to dance studios all through their school years and miss it. Others were the little girls on the sidelines, enviously watching their friends in tutus and en pointe or in patent leather tap shoes. Hey, it's never too late.

Novi's Parks and Recreation Department also runs a clog dancing class on Monday nights, at the same time I'm parked at Novi City Council meetings. Sitting still for several hours is difficult and I'm more inclined to be wriggling in my seat. When the council takes a break, I stealthily watch the cloggers do their thing. They're good dancers and they seem to be having lots of fun. I want to join in.

If reporters could make motions, mine would be to adjourn the council meeting to the dance class. Council members, developers and residents could kick up their heels while they talked their way through that night's agenda. Not only would this shorten meeting times because everyone would be too out of breath to say much, but NTV would be more entertaining for home viewers. Call it Rouge Riverdance.

The media covering the council meeting could participate or not, as the mood hit the media.

Jan Jeffres is a staff writer for The Novi News and The Northville Record.

In Focus

By John Heider



Sharon LeKramers, center, of the Novi Needlers looks at quilts in need of quilting. The group has donated 200 quilts to the HAVEN.

Mill marked start of Northville



Barbara Louie

Northville began with a mill, and a man by the appropriate name of John Miller started it all. People came from miles around to use this mill which, in America's early days, was an essential part of daily life. In his Pioneer Sketches of 1878, Northville pioneer David Clarkson described the milling process: "It was a difficult matter in those days to obtain the necessary machinery for a grist mill, and especially 'imported French Burr' mill stones; they were not to be had. But Miller made up his mind he could get along without the 'French Burr' (and) he would make a pair out of a Michigan boulder.

"He selected a large rock which he found near where Wilkins' cooper shop now stands, and commenced by making an equatorial line around the stone. Drilling holes on this line a short distance apart, he drove an iron wedge in each hole. Letting them remain in and driving them occasionally, the rock split in two pieces. These he faced and fashioned, one into a bed stone and the other into a runner.

"They were four feet in diameter, and proved to be very good, and was used as good flour as a French Burr ever did, and were used many years. Afterwards they were sold and taken to Detroit and put into French's plaster mill, and used for grinding plaster."

Mill Race Historical Village is located on the site of John Miller's original mill. He used the mill stream to water-power his gristmill. Clarkson described this early mill:

struction it was a very primitive affair. I remember well almost every wheel and shaft and pulley, for I have set up with it a great many nights.

"The water-wheel was 12 feet in diameter and buckets 6 feet in length and was on the outside of the mill building, one end of the shaft going through a hole in the wall into the mill pit.

"On this end of the shaft was the pit-wheel, 10 feet in diameter, with a row of wooden coggs, about 2 inches apart around the side of the rim like teeth. These meshed into the wood rollers of the crown-wheel on the lower end of the upright shaft. Above on the same shaft was the spur wheel, which turned the pinion on the spindle that turned the millstone.

This was all there was of the main machinery ... Running a mill could often be hazardous and dangerous work. According to this account by Clarkson, John Miller came close to losing his life in an early industrial accident:

"One morning he raised the gates and turned on the water to start the mill, but it wouldn't go. He then let down the stone, shut the gates and went down into the wheel with his axe to cut the ice off and loosen the wheel.

"After chopping until he thought it was loose, he came up, raised the stone, opened the gate and let on the water, but it did not start. He then went into the wheel again without shutting off the water, and commenced cutting when the wheel started.

"The lining was covered with ice and as the wheel turned he would slide around, hallooing as loud as he could. No one being in the mill, he was not heard, and so had to slide around until finally he got hold of an arm of the wheel and, sliding down to the shaft, he clung to that until some one happened to come into the mill and stopped it, and got him out, nearly used up and almost frozen."

Barbara Louie is a local historian and published author, and a contributing columnist to The Northville Record.

Don't skew proficiency results



Phil Power

More than half of the juniors at Seaholm and Groves high schools in Birmingham didn't take the Michigan High School Proficiency Test last month, while nearly one-third of 11th graders at Troy High School followed suit. Their parents signed forms letting them skip the test.

On the surface, this looks like a misguided, parent-led attack on pupil assessment tests, a key part of the school reform movement. Here's some background: Now in its second year, the proficiency tests — actually four tests, in reading, writing, science and math — is designed to let students earn proficiency ratings and seals on high school diplomas. "Novice" scores, below proficient, are entered into student transcripts.

According to the Michigan Department of Education, the waiver exemption was originally designed to give parents of developmentally disadvantaged students a chance to decide for themselves whether their kids should take the test. But the wording to the rule turned out to be so broad that any parent could use it.

The proficiency test is the most recent version of attempts to measure what students actually learn in school. Students also take the Michigan Educational

Assessment Program (MEAP) tests in fourth, seventh and 11th grades. When the test was given for the first time last year, only 2 percent of students statewide received parent waivers to skip. Reports of the Birmingham and Troy boycotts this year followed news that school officials in Muskegon Heights urged parents to keep low-attendance students from taking the test in order to boost school scores.

That wasn't the case in Birmingham, where more than half of the students skipping the test had at least a 3.0 grade point average. With only about half its student population taking the proficiency test, scores in the Birmingham district will be "virtually meaningless," according to Ernie Bauer, a testing consultant for the Oakland County Intermediate School District.

The rationale for the state proficiency tests is simple. After all, the state subsidizes public K-12 education, and asking kids in each school district to take an exam to see what they're learning is only reasonable. So how come some parents helped their kids skip the test?

"I didn't like that the student was going to be labeled ... and I didn't want to see that on the transcript," said Sue Mordon, a Birmingham school district employee who signed the waiver for her daughter, Laura. Other parents wonder why their kids should take an 11-hour state proficiency exam during the same year that they also have to sit for the SAT and ACT college admission tests.

Bloomfield Hills Superintendent Gary Doyle argues the test isn't fair to students or districts because it doesn't provide enough information to gauge which classes need improvement or what textbooks should be changed. "Assessment is a vital part of an educational program, and we owe it to our students to assess them in a quality way," said Doyle.

Moreover, it's clear that neither college admissions officers nor employers are jumping up and down to have a look at the new proficiency seals on high school diplomas.

The critics have a point. MEAP, SAT, ACT, Michigan Proficiency Test. Enough is enough, already. But the critics also are missing a fundamental issue. Assessment tests are essential to school reform. We simply cannot improve schooling in our state without a uniform statewide assessment of what pupils learn in school.

Maybe the state should require just one uniform proficiency test. Certainly state authorities should restrict future waivers from the proficiency test to those children who are actually developmentally disabled. But individual parents, no matter how well-intentioned, should not be allowed to skew an assessment instrument that is a key part of reforming schools for all students.

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

Put golf course proposal on ballot

To the Editor:
Re: Golf Course

It would be my suggestion that this council put on the November ballot a nonbinding proposal to be phrased as follows: "Would you support building a city-owned municipal golf course built on city-owned property in northern Novi, paid for by revenue bonds?"

I am sure that our city attorneys are capable of giving you the proper wording for the ballot.

By doing this you would be relieving the city of a hot political controversy in this election year. Five of you will have to make a decision in the next four months as to whether you wish to continue in your present position filing date is June. By doing this all you would have to tell the people — it is on the ballot and I'll abide by your choice as your representative.

This does not preclude you from doing your feasibility studies and other work needed prior to a decision being made to build or not build and at the most only delay the project by one year.

By doing this, two political action committees could be formed one for and one against. Thereby having the battle raged by these committees in print or other forms of communication to the voting population, with the final and only poll that counts, that being the voting booth.

David A. Rayle

Restore trust in our government

Letter to the Editor:
Re: Andris Situation

Dear Mayor and Council — The Novi News gave "credit where credit is due" regarding what they perceive as solving a problem in a timely matter (Andris letter). To some extent, I agree, though I cannot fully support this idea. Having been forced to learn city rules and regulations in order to protect our neighborhood, I find it difficult to believe that all of you ignored, and do not understand to be, two very important rules.

My understanding of your rules are: Rule 1: An item cannot be discussed at a council meeting (by council) without being on that meeting's agenda. The Andris letter wasn't even listed under correspondence. Many of us were in (Parkia Street) until approximately 10 p.m.

Rule 2: If an item is not on the agenda, and discussion is sought, the agenda must first be amended, by majority council vote, to include the item. The agenda of Feb. 24, was never amended.

Several of us called Tuesday morning, searching for the letter. I filled out a formal FOIA on Wednesday. By then, I was aware The Novi News had possession of a copy of the document and was doing a story for the next day's paper. My FOIA was ready at 4:15 Wednesday, when I received a call from the clerk's office. But the letter was not available until Wednesday morning, as The Novi News pointed out, and it should have been available Tuesday. I agree: It's the fastest FOIA request I've ever received. By not following the rules, you allowed two days of anger and distrust to ferment, and it all could have been avoided. You provided the impression that you intentionally waited for the North

Letters

end residents to leave before discussing this item, resulting in additional ground of distrust. Certainly, this was the last thing any of us (council or residents) needed.

That said — allow me address Andris' 13-page letter: After some 12 years of dealing with the Andris project, after two lawsuits (one we lost causing the city to cover his legal fees), numerous extension requests granted by this city, waiving of requirements allowing the granting of our last (1995) Liquor License, rezoning attempts, condemnation attempts, the total disregard for this community shown by the destruction of both the commercial and residential property he owns, hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by this city on court costs, legal fees, expert witnesses, massive staff time, paperwork, consultant's fees, studies of three different concept plans ("S" curve, cul-de-sac, and current "Final Plan"), more studies, more extensions, (not to mention the costs incurred by one of our long standing residents, forced to enroll in the city's lawsuit) and on and on. Andris now wants this city to look at another rezoning attempt, and waste (possibly) another 12 years.

Does he expect our Liquor License to remain "unmarked" through the next 12 years of plans? Did he ever actually intend to build on the location he was granted? It's interesting since, as of today, he has not submitted one, single document to the building department requesting a building permit. (Information provided by T. Marone, Building Department.)

There are two things I ask of you: First: Please forward copies of the city's Lakefront Protection Ordinance and Keyhole Ordinance to Mr. Andris as soon as possible. We've become very bored with his long-standing words (threats) of a marina/launch-site/dock rentals at this location. Enclose a copy of your most recent letter to the DNR stating you (continuously) are not in support of a DNR access point. You might further explain to him that this, too, would require a rezoning of the property. It will be honored to personally pay for the cost of copies.

Second: If, as The Novi News quoted, you are truly "not interested" in reopening "old wounds," place an item on the very next agenda seeking support in returning a reply letter to Mr. Andris stating "thanks, but no thanks" (your words). Once that letter is written, forward a copy to S.E.S. and L.A.R.A., so that the healing process can truly begin and so that Mr. Andris might finally begin to understand the meaning of the word "no."

We understand Mr. Andris has a right to pursue all avenues. The other side is that we, as citizens, deserve to hold some degree of trust in our own city government. You see, words are just that — words. They make no commitment, they merely sound nice. Quotes printed in The Novi News take on that same sound. But — type those same words on City of Novi letterhead, with mayor and council signatures, and they actually stand for something. In my opinion, the only member of council whose stood solid behind his words regarding this project is

Councilman Richard Clark. I invite the rest of you to demonstrate that same integrity.

I urge you to take charge and follow-through on this request and look forward to receiving a copy of your reply to Mr. Andris. Then, and only then, can the "old wound" cease bleeding, the "healing process" take place, and "trust" in our government begin being restored.

Ruth Hamilton

Wanted: Full service bank

To the Editor:
Wanted: A full service bank that is interested in business accounts in the New Hudson area. Bonus ... personal accounts too.

Since the New Hudson, First of America Bank closed, we, as business customers, have been left without a bank. It appears, First of America is no longer interested in servicing business customers. They closed a full service, efficiently staffed branch so they could open one in a grocery store. The Meijer branch does not take business accounts. As a temporary measure, some of us are being allowed to do some of our banking at the Meijer store. We stand in lines and have to watch out for shopping baskets, we cannot bring cash because "they are not large enough to handle cash" and basically, all the banking is done in public because of the design. Watch out, if you sit at the desk, you may walk into the pole as you try to leave. While the staff is doing a nice job and cannot be faulted, business customers have been phased out.

First of America, New Hudson, had a great reputation for servicing business customers. Up until now, we used to brag about the fantastic services at our bank. Apparently they don't want our money anymore. Please respond as soon as possible.

Pat Karevich
Efficient Energy Enterprises
Patricia D. Carcone
Lyon Township Treasurer
Donald C. Casli
New Hudson Lumber
Jerry Sheridan
Jerry's Barber Shop
Tony Zebari
New Hudson Food Market
John Wroblecki
Lee Wholesale Supply

City should favor roads, not RUDs

To the honorable Kathleen S. McAllen, Mayor, City of Novi:
All this rush, rush, rush, for today's March 1 study session was caused by your request for the first reading of a rewrite of local zoning ordinances. To my amazement you admitted that there was a communications gap? This is real progress. Needless to say, this session was a short-sleeve session. Since there was no deadlines to meet, many of us felt relieved. This included the head of our Planning Commission.

What also was interesting is you confirmed that this was the updating of the local ordinances? Not revisions, not changing, not down-

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This newspaper welcomes letters to the editor. We ask, however, that they be issue-oriented, confined to 400 words and that they contain the signature, address, and telephone number of the writer. The writer's name may be withheld from publication if the writer fears bodily harm, severe persecution, or the loss of his or her job. The writer requesting anonymity must explain his or her circumstances. Submit letters for consideration by 4 pm Monday for that Thursday's paper. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity, bias, taste and relevance. The week prior to an election, this newspaper will not accept letters to the editor that open up new issues. Only responses to already published issues will be accepted, with this newspaper being the final arbiter. This policy is an attempt to be fair to all concerned.

Submit letters to: Editor, The Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167

Galileo to train teachers in leadership skills

Continued from 1 Project.

"We were very concerned about how important teachers roles are going to have to be if we're going to reform education," said Burkhardt.

Along with Novi, the participants include Farmington, Northville, Southfield and Walled Lake public schools, as well as Oakland and Schoolcraft community colleges, and Oakland Intermediate School District and the Wayne County Regional Education Agency.

The four-year, \$1 million program is looking for 75 creative, dynamic, risk-taking and motivated educators to take part in the project. Teachers from the participating school districts were presented with the information, a video presentation and asked to apply.

The participants selected to join the program will be announced April 10 during the official launch at the Novi Hilton.

Galileo teachers will explore four areas: rethinking the profession, personal development as a leader, interpersonal relationships behaviors and skills, and systems thinking.

Participants will attend the Academy during the two-year program, including a three-day summer session and several weekend sessions.

Participants will be released from their assignments during the year to make site visits, complete internships, participate in leadership development activities and attend weekend sessions.

"One of the things that makes the Galileo project unique and important is it begins to look at education across a whole lot of boundaries," said Burkhardt.

"We need to think about what

"We see it as a way to get teachers directly involved in leading the schools ... to chart the course of the ... district."

Teacher Teri Moblo

kind of education do we want for young people?" he explained.

Two Novi educators are among the members designing the program. Novi High School teacher Martha Franchi and Novi Middle School teacher Teri Moblo represent the Novi Education Association.

The project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, plus contributions from the school districts and in-kind donations. The Kellogg Foundation is footing 75 percent of the cost of the first year of the program, or \$100,000. Each of the school districts will contribute an estimated \$2,500 per teacher per year, according to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent for business. Novi is estimated to have seven to ten participants in the program. The cost includes the costs for substitute teachers to take over when participants are at seminars.

Burkhardt said the project was funded by the Kellogg Foundation because of the potential within the group of educators to develop initiatives and spread the information to other schools and educational institutions.

"My interest in issues of education in the region came out of concern for education leadership between the districts, K-12 educa-

tion and higher education," said Burkhardt.

The program runs four years total, with two sessions of two years each. At the end of the program, 150 teachers will have passed through the Galileo project.

"We see it as a way to get teachers directly involved in leading the schools and the students," said Moblo. "The ultimate goal is to educate the kids."

"We will be working with the administration and community to chart the course of the school district," she said.

Burkhardt said the Galileo project is different from other professional development programs that teach leadership because teachers work with other teachers from different districts and at different grade levels. It allows for release time from the school day to focus on the program, and it asks the administration and school board of each district to rethink the parameters and policies placed on teachers.

The conditions under which teachers lead will have to change in order for leadership to change, said Burkhardt, including what limits and powers are given to teachers by the district.

Burkhardt said that the teaching profession used to be made up of women who were perceived as professionals committed to the advocacy of children. But somehow that perception has changed, he said, and now teachers aren't given the same respect as other professions.

Under this leadership program, teachers could learn what it means to be a leader, which could involve criticism and having to see things from all perspectives, not just one of education, Burkhardt said.

Boat Show comes to Expo

Hundreds of boats will roll into town for the 5th annual Novi Boating Expo at the Novi Expo Center March 12-16. The Novi Boating Expo is produced by the Michigan Boating Industries Association.

The show will span approximately 200,000 square feet and will feature hundreds of new marine products including boats, motors, trailers, accessories, dockage, slip rental, and more. The five day event expects to draw 20,000 enthusiasts through the gates during its run.

More than 150 exhibitors will fill the hall with a vast array of marine products.

"This show should be a heavy buying show for our exhibitors," said MBIA President Van Snider. "Boaters have been kinking hulls and shopping brands through the winter and are ready to stop dreaming and start boating."

Again this year, the show ties in with the Michigan Water Ski Association's annual convention. The Water Ski Convention, newly named the H2O Ski Fest '97 has a 15-year history in Michigan as

one of only two statewide meetings of water ski enthusiasts nationwide.

Registration for the conference is separate from general admission to the show.

General admission to the show is \$6 for adults, children under 12 are free with adult.

Hours: Wednesday-Friday, 2 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 7 p.m.

For more information call 1-800-224-3008. Sponsored by the Michigan Boating Industries Association.

Ski Fest set for Novi Boat Show

The H2O Water Ski Fest '97 is gearing up for its third annual participation in the Novi Boating Expo. The Ski Fest is scheduled for March 15 and 16, at the Novi Expo Center. The Ski Fest takes place the last two days of the Novi Boating Expo which runs March 12-16 at the Expo Center. The Ski Fest will feature world famous water-skiers and instruction in slalom skiing, trick skiing, barefooting, physically challenged skiing, wakeboarding, jumping, show skiing, boat driv-

ing, and much more.

Among the speakers will be Michigan residents Dave Goode from Waterford and Bill Murbock of Petersburg.

Goode is the owner and founder of Goode Ski Technologies in Waterford. Goode Ski Technologies developed the first ever carbon composite water ski.

Murbock is a long time competitive slalom skier at the state, regional and national level. He holds AWSA official ratings of senior driver, senior judge and

regular scorer. He has been the chief judge and chief driver at Michigan State championships several times and was the Midwest regional championship chief driver in 1990.

The Ski Fest begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 15, and runs through 5 p.m. Sunday, March 16. Rates are:

• Boat show and Ski Fest Sessions: \$20 adult, \$10 child (5-11), kids under 5 free.

For more information, contact Paul Bredell at (313) 332-9145.

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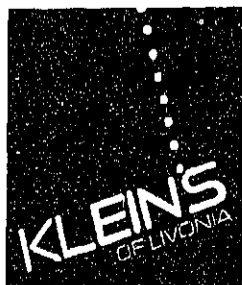
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