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Planners reject Kroger rezoning plan

By JEREMY McBAIN
 Staff Writer

In a close 5 to 4 vote, the Novi City Planning Commission turned down the controversial Eight Mile and Beck Roads rezoning request, at its Sept. 2 meeting.

Voting for a motion to deny the request were Commissioners Kim Thomas Capello, Louis Csordas, Andrew Muteh, Michael Watza and Chair Eda Weddington. Voting against the motion to deny the request were Commissioners G. Brent Canup, Robert Churella and Philip Konecha and Karen Piccinini.

The request would have paved the way for a planned shopping center at the site.

The plan has been opposed by area residents, who felt construction of a shopping center would adversely affect the area. They argued the center would bring greater amounts of traffic, crime and it would cheapen the character of the area.

Residents of the area also claim the center will bring unwanted pollution to Maybury State Park. The proposed land for the shopping center was located across the street from the park.

The developer of the site, Stuart Frankel, argued the area was perfect for a shopping center because it would service the residents surrounding it.

He also said it would be more of a convenient shopping for the residents, because it would be closer to them.

However, residents disagreed.

"A vast majority of residents at this area do not want or need a large grocery at Eight Mile and

Beck Roads," said Richard Zyczynski, a resident of the area.

Resident Barbara Lucas added, "People, in the area, not only accept they have to drive farther for services, they are glad for this."

One member of the planning commission disagreed and said she would rather have a shopping center at Eight Mile and Beck Roads.

Commissioner Karen Piccinini, who also lives in the area of the proposed development, said, "I personally don't like to have to drive to Northville to do my shopping."

She added she has to drive three miles for her shopping and she believes that people who live three miles further west than her do not want to have to drive six miles to shop.

Due to the opposition, Frankel asked the commission to table his request for rezoning and that it be looked at when the city Master Plan is reviewed in the upcoming months.

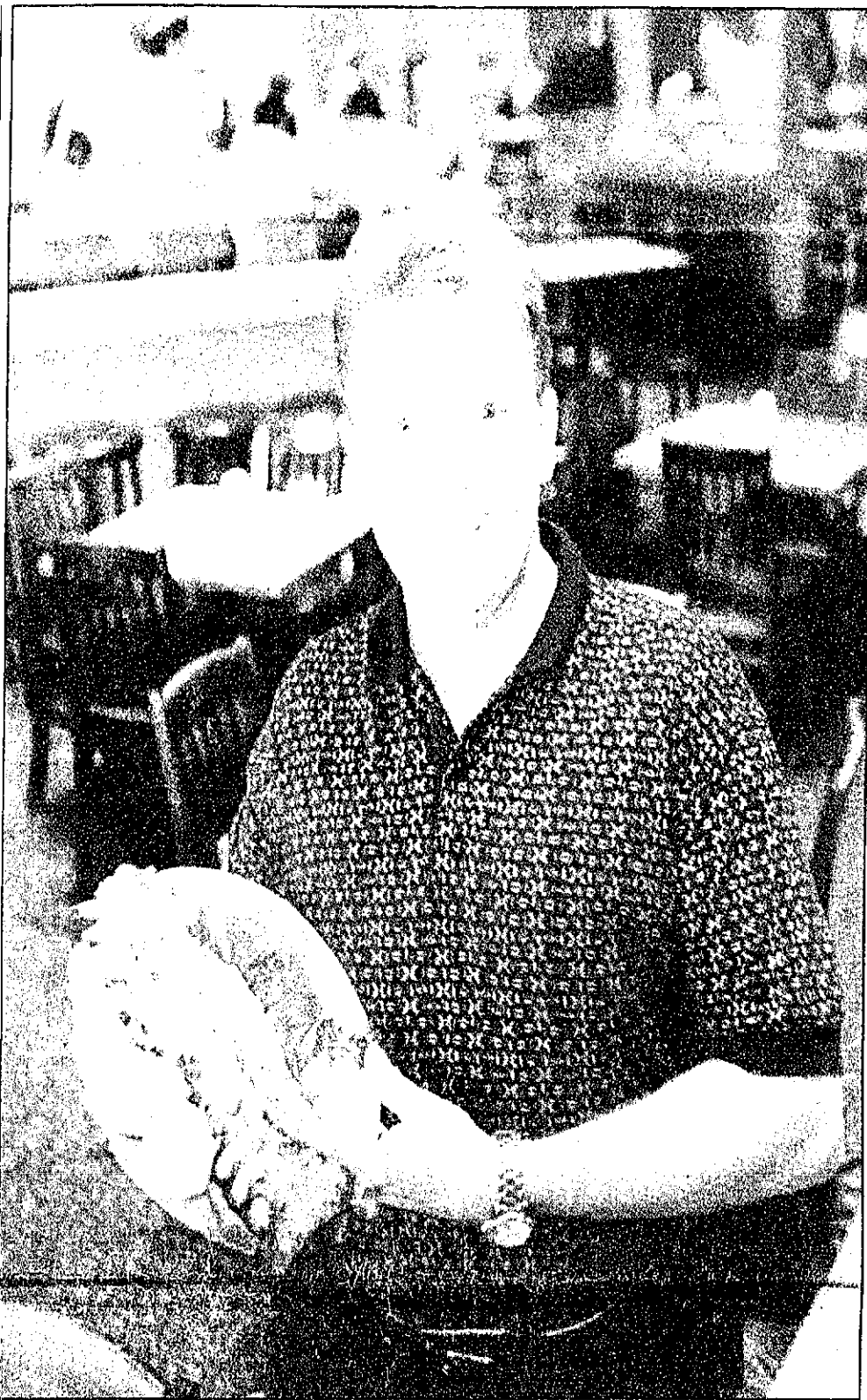
Many residents at the meeting took the move by Frankel to be nothing more than a stall tactic.

"As a taxpayer, I have a real problem with referring the matter to a zoning board and spending further taxpayer dollars for additional consulting and planning," said Laura Lorenzo, a resident of the area and a member of the Novi City Council.

Lorenzo said the main question to be answered was whether or not a commercial development would be appropriate in the Eight Mile and Beck Roads area of Novi.

"I have a serious concern with

Continued on 11



Bob Higgins, of the Oxford Inn, stands in his refurbished restaurant with a plate of ribs.

Oxford Inn back in business

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

On February 18, an electrical fire left the Oxford Inn Tavern a charred ruin with some \$750,000 in damages.

Open for business again last week, owner Bob Higgins hopes the Grand River Avenue establishment will really sizzle now, with a jazzy night-club style renovation and a hot new entertainment line-up.

"I basically target a 30-and-over crowd," Higgins said.

"I wanted to do a place where a couple can have a nice dinner and have some dancing and listen to music from the '60s and '70s. A little bit of '50s, a little bit of jazz."

A 140-square foot dance floor was installed and it will be used. Sunday nights beginning in October, a 17-piece band and dance instructors will be on hand to teach two trendy dance styles, swing and salsa.

As more and more night spots open in town - Red, Hot & Blue and the Fifth Avenue Ballroom - are the way, Higgins aims to position the Oxford Inn Tavern as Novi's neighborhood bar.

"I know we're going to get a lot of new clubs here. Every club will have it's own format, which is great for the city," he said.

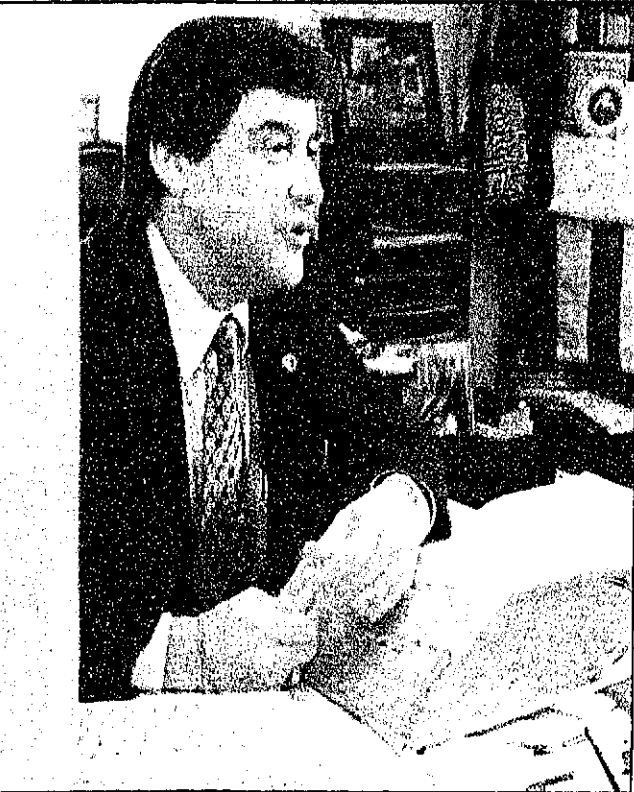
"I'd like to be the 'Cheers' of Novi. I want to be known as a place where a couple can come in and enjoy a great evening."

Expect regular entertainers such as the Sun Messengers and Jocelyn B to be back. Sometimes called the Queen of Novi Blues, Jocelyn B won the International Bluesfest People's Choice award this summer.

After the fire, Higgins originally expected to be open in two to three months, but that stretched

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86-01-6



Appointed by Gov. John Engler, Mario Pallares encourages business people to learn different languages.

Appointee talks about 'globalism'

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

In 1987, when Mariano Pallares moved to Dunbarton Pines, what he loved about Novi was watching the wildlife, especially deer.

"That's gone, gone, gone. The development has been so drastic," he said.

If Novi's been changing too fast for some people to follow, hang on to your hats.

Pallares, the owner of the International Translating Bureau in Southfield, sees a future ahead where the United States will transform from what he calls a mono-culture to a fully multi-cultural society.

"We really have not digested what globalism means. We are all so terrified that we're going to stop being the United States that our

"You can always use English if you're going to buy something. But try to sell something using English. It's not going to work. We would be a better country and a stronger country if we had more knowledge of other peoples' languages and cultures."

Mariano Pallares
 International Translating Bureau

institutions will have to change because we're global," he said last week.

"I know a lot of people are hav-

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Progress marked by second summit

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Some people do their homework and even have it ready to hand in, early.

Take the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the chamber's Economic Development Committee.

When Novi held its first Economic Summit in March, the understanding was the representatives from city hall, the chamber, the business and development community and local propertyowners would come back with a progress report in the fall. Ultimately, the goal is to lure high-tax paying industries to Novi.

Meanwhile, the chamber committee and the city have been busy. They'll report back at the Economic Summit II, scheduled for Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

"The nice thing is that Husky Injection Molding literally fell into the lap of the city and came at the perfect time," said Novi Chamber of Commerce Director Lisa Willard.

Not long after the session, the Ontario-based Husky Injection Molding Systems went public about plans to build a 60,000 to 70,000 square foot research and technical center on 25 newly-zoned OST acres on the south side of Twelve Mile Road.

The inaugural conference pinpointed four goals: the chamber and EDC would work with developers; the city would look at empowering its planning and building administrators; the city would put in place an office-service-technology zoning; and the chamber would target road issues.

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In today's issue



A special section ...

Victorian Festival



Agent Sandy Yono has been busy re-arranging flyers' travel plans.

Travelers scramble due to pilot strike

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
 Staff Writer

The sound of Northwest Airlines planes overhead has been replaced with the non-stop shrill of phones ringing in Novi and Northville travel agents' offices.

Since the strike was authorized Aug. 29, a total of \$910 billion has been lost from the U.S. economy, or \$810 every second the strike goes on.

Glynn Travel manager Sandy Yono said she's received dozens of calls from clients who booked flights on Northwest now seeking a re-booking or refund, but few new airline reservations are being made.

The reason? Yono said Detroit Metropolitan Airport's other airlines only have 2,800 non-Northwest seats available each day. More than three times that number of passengers are stranded from the Northwest strike.

"To try to put 10,000 people in 3,000 seats just isn't going to happen," Yono said.

Yono said many travelers who purchased tickets directly from Northwest have been contacting her seeking assistance in getting their travel plans fixed. Unfortunately, Yono said, little can be done in those situations.

"That's one of the benefits of working through a travel agent," she said. "A travel agent will work with you all the way

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Beat begins

Even before school started, the Novi Marching Band was drilling. At right, Dan St. Clair and other members of the Wildcat drum line, practiced in late August at the school as part of the band's summer camp activities. Above left the band rehearses that fancy footwork. At left, the Novi High School Color Guard got a grip on their flags as part of the camp session.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER



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Quote from Winnie Bennett, Independence Village resident

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HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Life Time Fitness to open three new north suburban megaclubs

By KIM KENNEDY

If the change in seasons has inspired you to make a change in yourself, three new Life Time Fitness sports and recreation centers in Troy, Novi and Shelby Township can help make it happen.

Life Time Fitness is one of the fastest growing health and fitness companies in the country and, perhaps, the most forward-thinking company in the industry.

"Our mission," says founder and president, Bahram Akradi, "is to provide an educational, entertaining, friendly and inviting, functional and innovative environment of uncompromising quality that meets the health and fitness needs of the entire family."

The company's three new centers serve as excellent examples of how well they carry out their mission.

Fun and entertaining

In their effort to provide fitness that's fun—and something for everyone—the new Life Time Fitness clubs of Troy, Novi and Shelby Township all feature two floors and 95,000 sq. ft. of cutting-edge facilities.

The first floor's glass atrium lobby is surrounded by a variety of large-scale amenities that include indoor/outdoor swimming pools with two-story waterslides, interconnected rock climbing walls, basketball and volleyball courts, racquetball and squash courts, whirlpools, dry saunas and immaculate locker rooms. Each locker room also features its own steam room, tanning room, hair dryers, and a lounge area with large-screen television and courtesy telephone. Every aspect seems dedicated to making each visit as entertaining as possible.

Upstairs, members will find a variety of aerobic, step aerobic and cycling studios surrounding an extensive selection of free weight systems and more than 400 resistance training and cardiovascular machines—all of which make any workout more enjoyable.

Perhaps most interesting is the company's trademarked Multivision Frequent-Sees entertainment system; an invention that allows members to workout while watching any of twenty 60-inch television screens and listening to the audio portion on the FM band of a personal headset stereo.

"The whole idea is to make the experience more entertaining, less boring, so you get a better workout and better results," says Akradi. "We do whatever we can to provide members with a fun place they really want to go—not just a fitness place they think they ought to go."

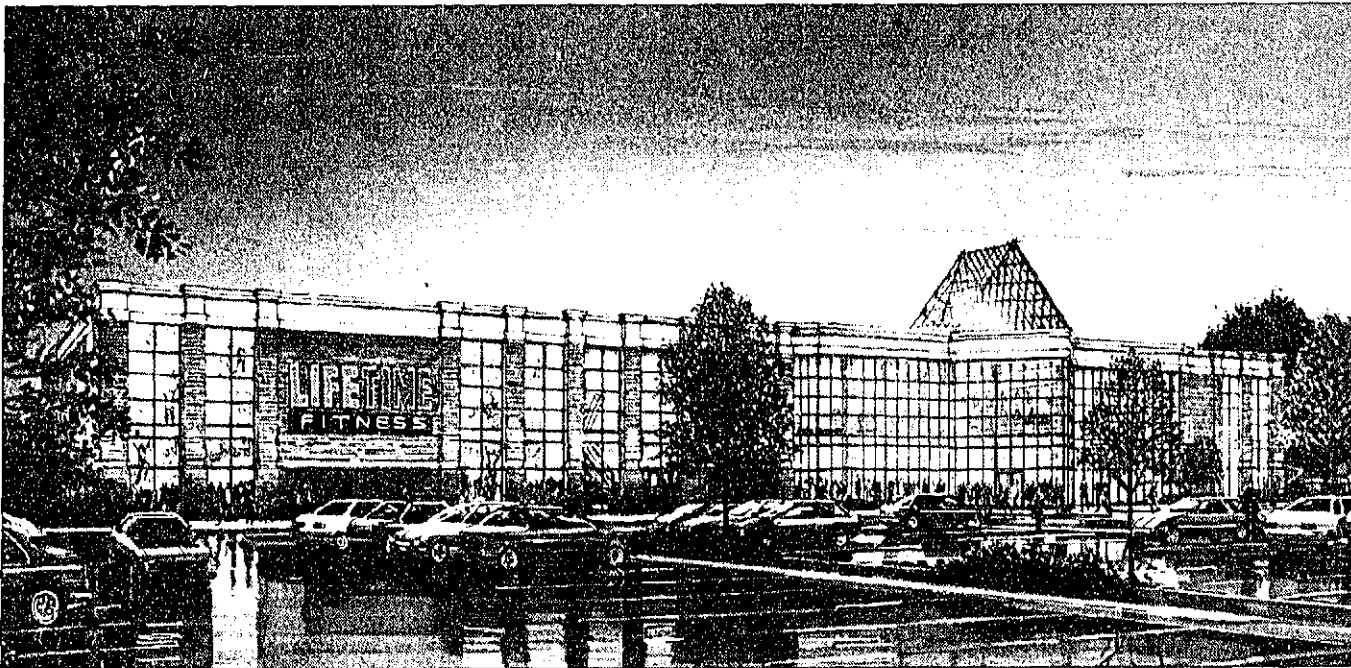
Focus on the family

As part of its commitment to serve the health and fitness needs of the entire family, Life Time Fitness offers its members a variety of children's programs—including free child care services.

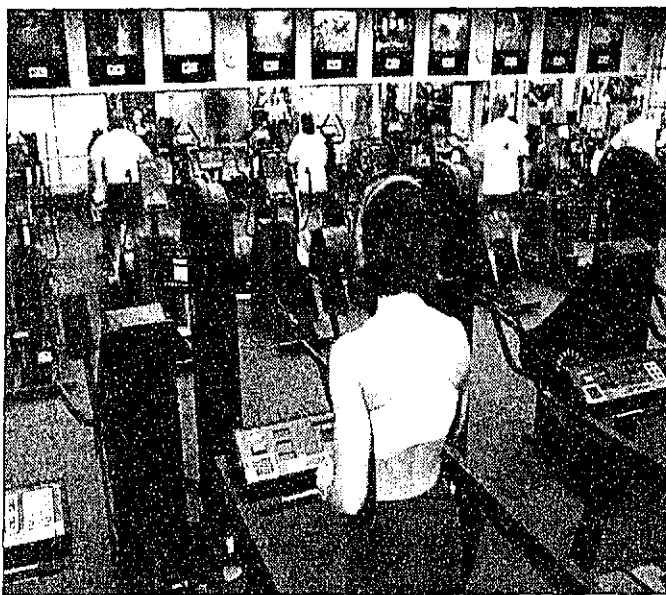
"Many of the people in Troy, Novi, Northville, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Shelby Township, Sterling Heights, Macomb, Clinton and all of their surrounding communities have children. We want those children to feel welcome," says Mark Zaebst, Vice President of Development.

The free child care center is staffed seven days a week by certified professionals and features a variety of fun, educational activities for children aged 12 and under. Toddlers are entertained by special games and developmental toys. Preschoolers enjoy space mazes, ball pits and junior sport courts. And older children can exercise their minds through the use of kid-friendly computers and a reading library. There's even a special surround-sound theatre for young members who would like to watch educational shows or family movies.

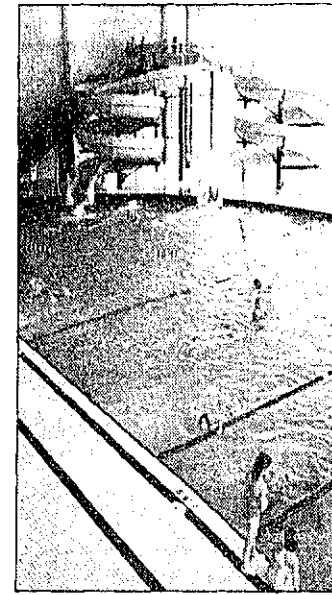
Another dimension of the company's focus on the family



Life Time Fitness of Troy, Novi and Shelby Township feature 95,000 sq. ft. of facilities including indoor/outdoor swimming pools, two-story waterslides (below right), indoor climbing walls (below center), basketball, volleyball, racquetball, squash and free child care.



Members of Life Time Fitness enjoy an extensive selection of equipment and the company's large-screen entertainment system.



promising quality.

The company also believes that for any environment to be truly inviting, it must also be clean. Custom-designed air flow systems monitor air composition and automated sanitizing systems release a pressurized spray to keep shower rooms safe and spotless.

On a more personal level, every employee is required to complete a comprehensive training program—through the company's Life Time Fitness University—in order to

ensure friendly, professional conduct and superior service.

No long-term contracts

As with everything else at Life Time Fitness, memberships are designed with member convenience in mind. The company offers a unique, month-to-month membership program with no long-term contract and a low, one-time enrollment fee. "A long-term contract does nothing to protect the customer," claims Akradi. "Most companies with

Life Time Fitness Troy- Novi-Shelby Township

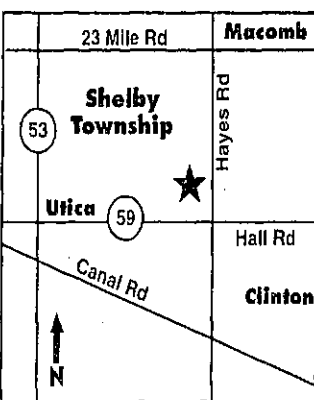
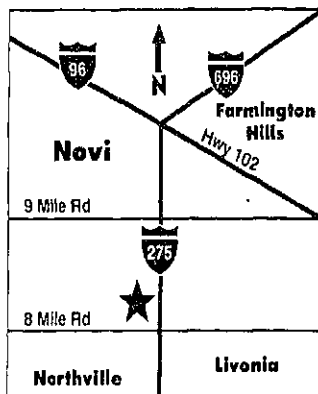
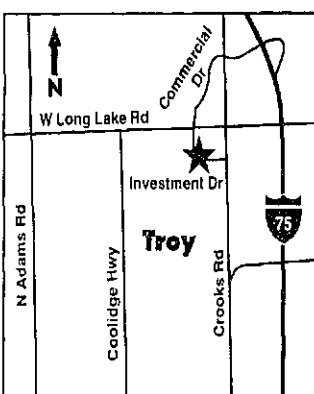
- 24-hour Availability
- No Long-Term Contracts
- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee
- Multivision Entertainment Systems
- Swimming Pools, Waterslides, Whirlpools & Saunas
- Over 400 Resistance Training & Cardiovascular Machines
- Large Free Weight Facilities
- Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball & Squash
- Indoor Climbing Walls
- Certified Personal Trainers
- Free Aerobics & Studio Cycling Classes
- Free Childcare Services
- Free Lockers & Towels
- Limited Number of Memberships
- Adult Athletic Leagues
- Massage & Tanning

248/267-1000

long-term contracts don't have any confidence in their product. At Life Time Fitness, quality is our contract."

The company is so confident in its commitment to customer service that they also offer a 30-day money-back guarantee so new members can fully experience Life Time Fitness to make sure it fits their life.

For further information regarding the new Life Time Fitness Centers of Troy, Novi and Shelby Township, call 248/267-1000 or visit their website at www.lifetimefitness.com.



Located along major thoroughfares, the three new Life Time Fitness centers provide central sports and recreation facilities for all north and northwest suburban communities.

is its Life Time Kids educational program. Designed to provide young members with structured activities and safe instruction, Life Time Kids courses cover everything from swimming and tumbling to karate and rock climbing.

"We're committed to the well-being of the entire family," asserts Zaebst. "The Life Time Kids programs are one more way in which we help kids make early lifestyle choices and develop important skills."

Commitment to education

Life Time Fitness places such a high value on education that they now invest more than one-half million dollars each year in special courses for its staff and membership through the company's own Life Time Fitness University (LTFU).

"Education is the single most important element in creating a healthier lifestyle and a key element in our commitment to members," adds Michael Brown, Vice President of Training and Development. "If you'll learn more about how your body works, you'll get more results from your workouts and stay a member much longer. That's why we discount our enrollment fee for new

members who'll attend one of our free fitness and nutrition seminars. We want to make a meaningful difference in the quality of people's lives."

Superior amenities and services

The Life Time Fitness approach to health, sports and fitness facilities resembles that of a high-end department store: Everything you could need or want under one roof. A wide array of amenities includes state-of-the-art cardiovascular and resistance training machines, indoor/outdoor swimming pools, waterslides, indoor rock climbing walls, basketball/volleyball courts, racquetball/squash courts, aerobics and cycling studios, extensive free weight center—plus special family locker rooms for parents with opposite sex children.

Very few boundaries are placed on the array of services provided by Life Time Fitness, as well. Members enjoy free childcare services, free educational seminars, free locker and towel service and free aerobic instruction. Tanning, therapeutic massage and certified personal trainers are also available.

Furthermore, Life Time Fitness clubs are open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Adding to the superior level of service are a unique health food cafe and a full-service salon that offers a variety of hair, nail and spa services.

There is truly something for everyone with everything under one roof.

Friendly and inviting

Life Time Fitness takes every step necessary to ensure that all aspects of every club create an environment that is friendly and inviting.

Color psychology, multi-level lighting and ergonomic design are all employed to create an environment of uncom-

LIFE TIME FITNESS

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"If you're like most of our members, your life is pretty full. You probably have a job, a spouse, a couple of kids—and a couple hundred reasons why fitness doesn't always fit in. But the things that have kept you from other health clubs are the reasons why you'll love Life Time Fitness. Our convenient locations, 24-hour availability

and free childcare services all help ensure that Life Time Fitness fits your schedule, your family and your life. "So, if you've wondered how a good workout could work into your life, we've already worked it out for you. See Life Time Fitness and see what I mean."

—Charissa
LIFE TIME FITNESS Member Receptionist

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CANTABILE CHORALE:
Cantabile Women's Chorale
perform at St. James

HOME HISTORY:
Northville house history
examined for Victorian Fest

PUBLISHER SPEAKS:
Publisher of the Free Press to
address Novi Chamber

GRADS TOGETHER:
Mom/daughter pick up degrees
together

B
THURSDAY
September 10,
1998



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Orphan Annie's owner Ann Quinn, right, along with her aunt Shirley Yaccick, show off some of the best donuts in town.

By CAROL DIPPLE
Feature Editor

If you want to know who has the best donuts in town, you run a poll. Easy enough.

The next question is, who do you poll? Since there is an old, worn out stereotype about a donut shop being the best place to find a cop when you need one, we approached our three local police departments and asked them if they'd like to participate in our poll.

Well, cops may be eating fewer donuts than others in town these days, but someone had to sample 60 donuts.

All the donuts were repackaged in plain white boxes marked only with a number from one to five.

Despite the efforts to conceal the identity of the bakeries from police, Northville police knew which local bakeries had made which donuts.

"So we are good little detectives," said Sue Hatch, city of Northville dispatcher.

They were able to tell not only by the amount of grease in the bottom of the cardboard box, but by the type and size of the donuts from Dunkin Donuts' uniformity to Tim Horton's maple ingredient.

In Northville, donuts for the poll were purchased from Donut Scene, 314 N. Center, \$3.95 a dozen; and in Northville Township from Tim Horton, 17899 Haggerty, \$3.99; and Meijer, 20401 Haggerty, \$4.20. In Novi, Orphan Annie's, 24291 Novi Road, \$5.40; and Dunkin Donuts, 39415 Ten Mile, \$3.99 per dozen, were selected.

One of the participants in the poll was Chip Snider, Northville Township Public Safety Director who has 21 full-time personnel. He said he used the 'scientific' process of elimination method of ranking the donuts he ate - he sampled four out of five.

"[The donut shops] all did a great job," Snider said. "We are all here to attest to that."

Eleven people participated in the poll in Northville Township using the ranking system: 1. the best donut I've ever tasted; 2. pretty good; 3. not bad; 4. I've had better; and 5. thank goodness I don't have to eat these every day, let's put a warrant out for their arrest.

"Although there was a ranking system available, there were very slight differences," Snider said. "Everyone who participated is doing an excellent job of manufacturing donuts for the area."

Officer Kenneth Evans was one of 15 person-

Donut Patrol

We asked the (ahem) experts where to find the best of these breakfast confections . . .

Here's what they had to say.

nel who participated in the donut poll in the City of Northville.

An 11-and-a-half-year veteran of the Northville police force, he sampled donuts from all five boxes.

"I didn't eat the whole thing," he said. "I cut a quarter section so I wouldn't get too full and stuff too many fat calories down my belly."

Evans said that once or twice a week someone will bring in a box of donuts which lasts through all the shifts, but typically someone will get a bag of bagels too.

"They seem to be the 'in' thing, a little less fat grams and they're healthier than donuts," Evans said.

The City of Northville has 16 full-time personnel which includes officers, sergeants, and the chief.

Evans, who considers himself to be health

conscious, will sometimes have a half a donut if he's hungry, but usually a bagel. He favors the glazed chocolate donuts.

"We had a short line going there for a period where you had to wait," he said of the day the donuts arrived. But because there was a training session in progress, Evans said there were additional people were in the building at the time.

Evans thinks that the reason the cop/donut stereotype came about was because at one time the best place for a cop on the midnight shift to get a cup of coffee which would give him a boost of caffeine to stay awake was the donut places which were open 24 hours.

"We've got a donut shop in town but they're not open 24 hours," he said.

Evans who mainly experiences teasing from his friends about the cop/donut stereotype said

"It's fun, it's a joke now. I don't take it offensively, it's clean humor."

Ann Quinn, owner of Orphan Annie's, stocks 24 varieties of donuts in her Novi shop which are baked by Loonie Baker in Howell.

"The cops don't buy donuts from me," she said. "They mostly drink coffee. It's a going joke that cops eat donuts but everybody is pretty health conscious now and they eat bagels."

Donut Scene in Northville doesn't get any cops buying donuts in their store, according to an employee. Dunkin Donuts in Novi is the reverse.

"We have more police officers that come in and out than we do have sitting down," said Mille Panzini, manager of the 24-hour Dunkin Donuts. "They'll come in and just get coffee or a coffee and a donut, whatever makes them happy."

With 28 years in the business, Snider said the stereotype, unfortunately, is as prevalent as ever.

"No matter how successful you are ... someone always wants to know why you spend so much time in the donut shops," he said.

In fact, Snider said he only sees donuts come into the office about twice a year.

Although Snider said that they all enjoyed the donut poll day, they were hoping for pizza.

"If you decide to do it with pizzas or cheeseburgers, we will step up to the occasion," Snider said.

And the winners are ...

Best Overall

- 1st place - Orphan Annie
- 2nd place - Meijer
- 3rd place - Donut Scene
- 4th place - Tim Horton
- 5th place - Dunkin Donuts

Rankings by Police Department

- Novi -
- 1st place - Orphan Annie
 - 2nd place - Meijer
 - 3rd place - Donut Scene
 - 4th place - Tim Horton
 - 5th place - Dunkin Donuts

- Northville -
- 1st place - Tim Horton
 - 2nd place - Donut Scene
 - 3rd place - Orphan Annie
 - 4th place - Meijer
 - 5th place - Dunkin Donuts

- Northville Township -
- 1st place - Dunkin Donuts
 - 2nd place - Meijer
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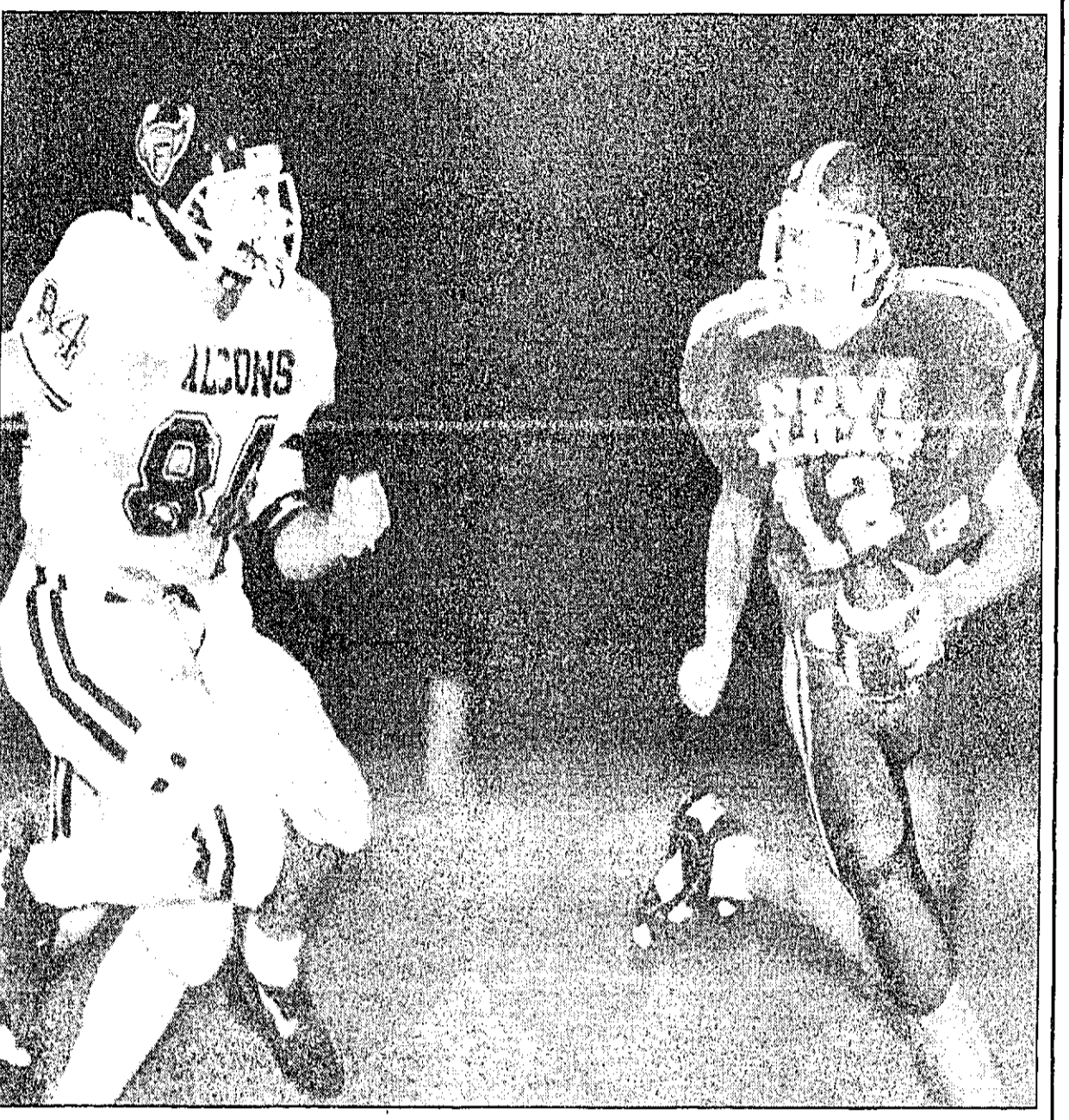


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Novi dominates Farmington 38-7

Novi turned its misfortunes of a year ago over to Farmington, and in the process handed the Falcons a 38-7 season-opening loss on the gridiron Friday night... 'This was a very pleasing game. The kids really responded from some of the momentum they gained last week.'



Quarterback Mitch Maier (12) rolls out to his left in Novi's 38-7 win over Farmington Friday night at home.

Cats hold off pesky Hawks

Kelly Bendernagel scored 15 points to help Novi fend off Farmington Hills Harrison for a non-conference win last Thursday on the hard court... 'We weren't playing badly. We may have been playing too aggressively and put them on the line too much.'

Netters top Howell, bow to the Hornets

The Novi tennis team rebounded from a tough loss to Saline with an 8-0 drubbing of low Howell last Thursday... 'The only way you're gonna get better is by playing good teams.'

Bankers get four more state cuts, top Harrison and Berkley

Leaving little doubt as to which team was tops at a swim meet last week, Novi scored 154 points to more than double the output of Berkley and Farmington Hills Harrison... Kristy Vermillion won the 200 freestyle and in the process qualified for the state meet in a winning time of 1 minute, 59.95 seconds.



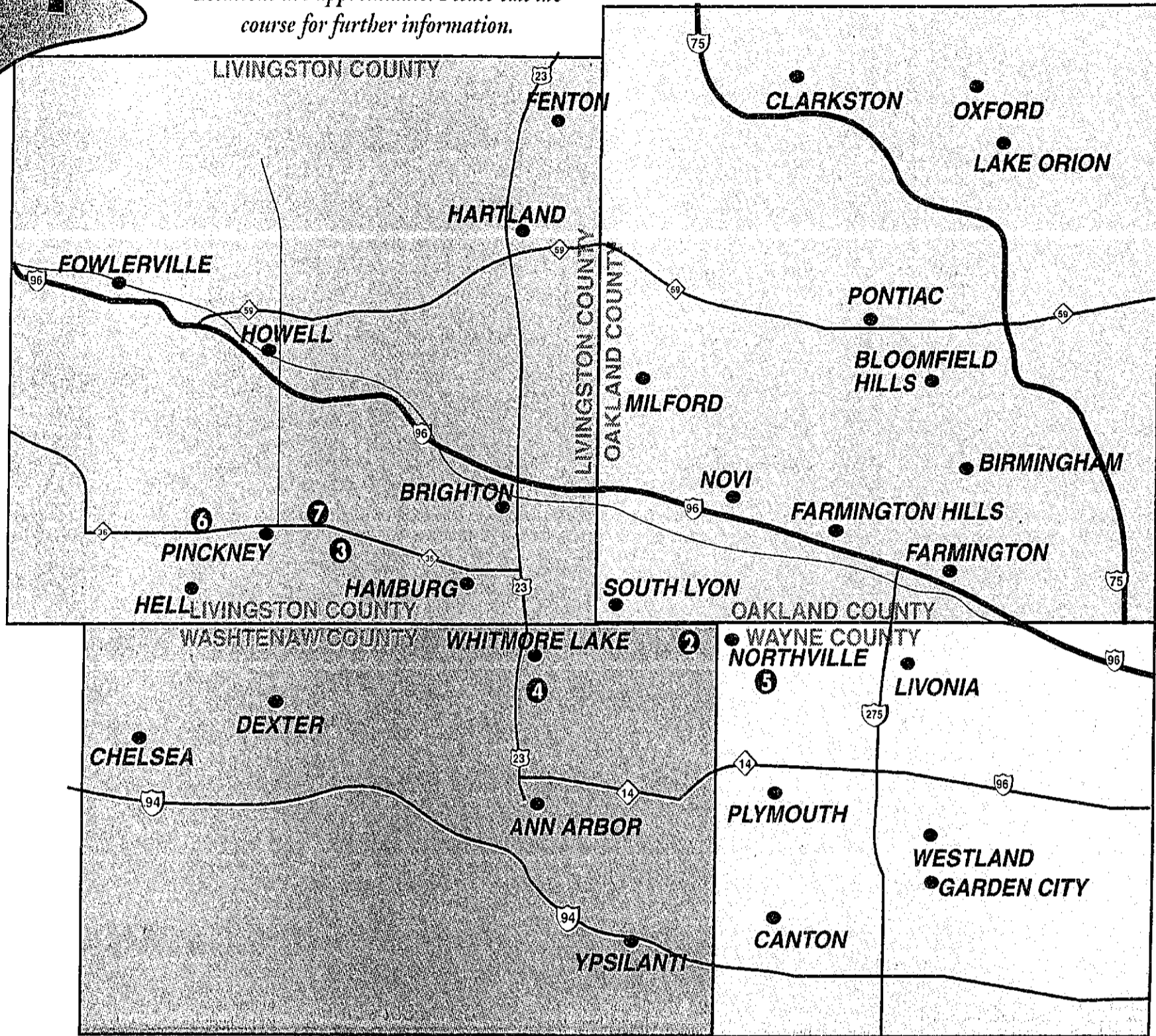
Senior captain Emily Ernst shaved .12 off of her personal-best time in the 500 freestyle.

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