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the NOVI NEWS

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Local man, rep seek credit reform

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Mr. Dicks didn't go to Washington. He didn't even go to Lansing.

Yet, the Northville High School teacher is responsible for the idea behind what could become a new law in Michigan. Legislation introduced by State Rep. Nancy Cassis, R- Novi, would give each consumer one free credit report annually.

"Fourteen months ago, the federal government passed legislation that companies would be able to charge a fee for a credit report of \$8. We learned they might not enforce that if states had their own legislation," Cassis said.

A Novi resident, Bill Dicks teaches biology and earth science at Northville High School and is a girls' swim coach. He learned about the new federal legislation, the Fair Credit Reporting Act, through an article in Kiplinger's magazine and contacted Cassis.

Dicks said he was concerned because "your credit is something that is vitally important to you and can easily be messed up." One report a year should be free to the consumer, he added.

"I have had some erroneous information placed on my credit report that I didn't find out about until I applied for mortgage," Dicks explained.

"It was a charge on my credit card. They didn't read the number correctly and just guessed, and that ended up on my report... You do hear the horror stories."

Cassis's bill was passed by the state house of representatives but was not picked up by the senate. She plans to reintroduce the bill in 1999.

House Bill 5726 has the backing of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, but is opposed by the

"We did hear from several people who thought it was very embarrassing to walk into an auto dealership and be denied credit. There was an embarrassment as well as the mere fact that all of us would like the security of knowing that the credit report is accurate."

State Rep. Nancy Cassis

Associated Credit Bureaus of Michigan.

Credit report mistakes can occur when clerks make typographical error or misread credit applications, when consumers use different names when receiving credit, when a payment is recorded inaccurately or due to a simple computer glitch.

Like the automotive industry in pre-Daimler days, the credit reporting business boasts a big three, Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. Smaller credit agencies contract with the big guys to get a consumer's credit record.

But handing out the reports without charge would be costly for the smaller bureaus, said James Cavenaugh, a lobbyist and lawyer

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All aboard

Above, Michael Edwards and his Aunt Gail, Novi residents, watch as the "World's Largest Mobile Model Train" passes by in the Novi Expo Center Saturday. The display, which has become an annual event for Novi at Christmas time, was part of the Toy Train Show put on by RR Promotions.

Photo by TOM HIBBELN

House fires strike over holiday

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Three house fires made the holidays less than happy for several Novi residents.

No one was hurt, but two homes were left with major fire damage - one while the owners were away on a cruise - and an apartment unit sustained some smoke damage.

Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan is urging residents to be cautious, following the trio of local incidents and those area wide.

"There's been a rash of fires, we just caution everybody to be very careful. Have an emergency plan in place," he said.

The first fire was reported at 3:50 a.m. on Dec. 25 at Deborah Michael's Lakewood Parkhomes condominium unit at 22663 Cranbrook Drive.

"The smoke detector went off, nobody got hurt," said Lenaghan said.

"She had to move. There was no living in it after the fire."

One room was left in total ruins, while smoke and water marred the rest of the residence, to the tune of about \$40,000. Firefighters were on the scene for two hours Christmas morning. The cause remains undetermined.

Sunday at 5:30 p.m., the fire department raced to a mobile home at 26942 Gornada, in the Country Cousins community. But a fire, apparently due to electrical

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Nichols mourned

Sheriff and Novi resident given full honors

Oakland County Sheriff John F. Nichols received full military honors last week as he was remembered by friends and admirers who fondly recalled his exemplary career as a professional cop and his commitment to friends and colleagues.

"Sheriff Nichols was one of a kind. Anybody who tries to imitate him is doomed to failure," said Capt. Damon Shields, one of about 100 command officers who served under Nichols, a Novi resident.

Shields was one of thousands of mourners who visited Mt. Zion in Clarkson, where Nichols lay in state prior to his funeral on Dec. 23. Nichols, who died Dec. 18, was 80.

The former sheriff was in full uniform, with

dozens of police commendations and medals adorning his chest, as visitors filed by his casket. Some paused briefly in silence, tears ran down the cheeks of others.

Honor guards in full dress uniform were stationed on each side of the casket. They were

from the county sheriff's department, as well as the Detroit and Farmington Hills police departments, the three police agencies in which Nichols spent more than 55 years as a patrolman, then command officer.

Nichols, a World War II veteran, was also a colonel in the Army Reserves.

Nichols was the right man, an innovative disciplinarian, for the right place when he was elected sheriff of Oakland County, said County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

"When John Nichols was appointed under sheriff in 1974, I was starting my career as prosecuting attorney. It was then that we began a three-decade long friendship," Patterson said.

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Grant may beef up Novi police

By JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writer

Novi will apply for a federal grant that would pay in part for adding four officers to the police force.

But one thing the city council wanted Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer to apprehend is that although the grant can be mailed in, the city is not committed to increasing the department's personnel level.

"We see ourselves as a growing community that is going to add staff over time. We see this as an opportunity to do so at a reduced cost to Novi," Shaeffer said.

But Mayor Kathleen McLallen cautioned that even if the city

wins the grant, the option is there to back out if it's determined that Novi doesn't want to hire extra officers.

"It seems to be me this federal program are designed to help those communities that are not presently able to meet needs, to get a jump start," Council Member Kathy Mutch said.

"It is not free money. We need to apply for those things that we truly need money for."

The Universal Hiring Grant available through the U.S. Department of Justice would provide the city with a total of \$75,000 per officer over a three-year time span. The city's matching share

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Communities differ over drain trouble

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
 and JAN JEFFRES
 Staff Writers

A fair amount of the water which would have flowed through the Quail Ridge subdivision was frozen last week, but that didn't mean residents weren't concerned about erosion along the Eight Mile Road development.

Neither Novi nor Northville Township officials could deny a serious erosion problem existed.

but the two governments disagreed as to how the problem was created.

Engineers hired by the city of Novi two years ago said two construction and engineering flaws in Quail Ridge were to blame.

A Dec. 15 memorandum from Novi public services director Tony Nowicki to Novi city manager Ed Kriewall, however, indicated Northville Township officials had been dragging their feet in work-

ing together to solve the erosion problem.

"In the past, we have demonstrated our willingness to openly discuss the Quail Ridge drainage issue with Northville Township," the memo read. "However, it is nearly two years since Northville Township has contacted us."

The memo went on to say that aside from articles which appeared in the Novi News and Northville Record on Feb. 26 and

Dec. 3, they had heard nothing about the matter from the township.

Novi City Council Member Laura Lorenzo requested the report on the issue.

"If my community is contributing to a drainage problem in another community, I'm concerned about it," Lorenzo said.

Nowicki said Novi hadn't heard from the township since a Febru-

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In today's issue



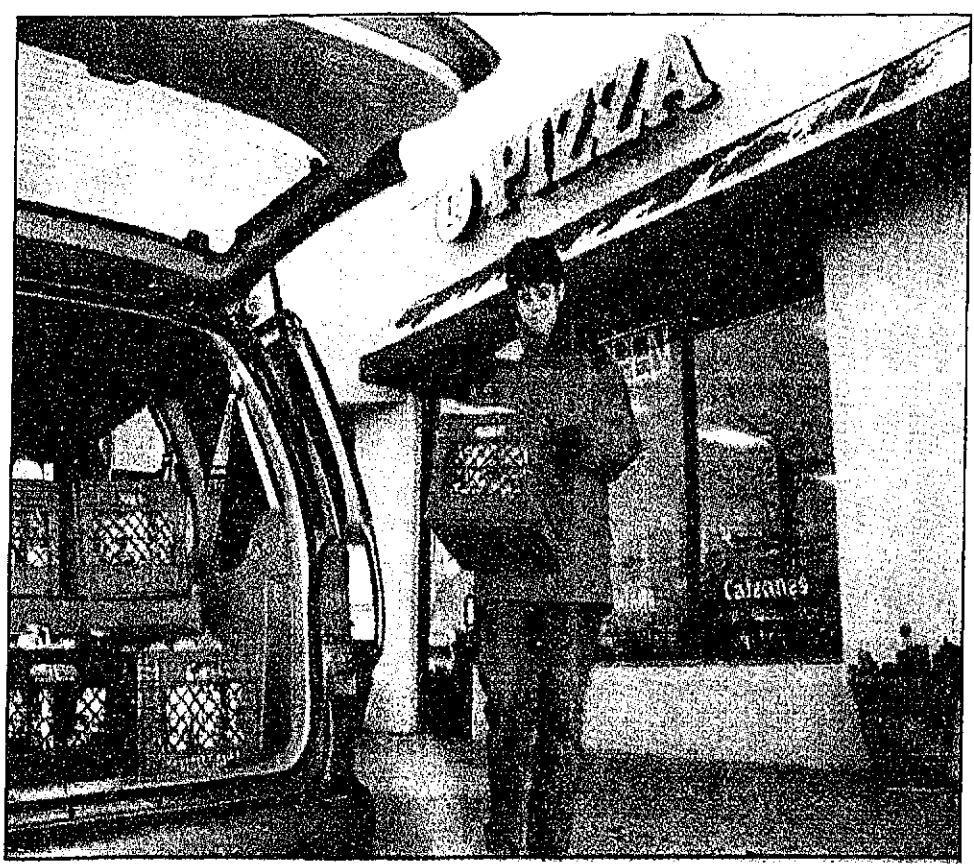
A special section...

The Year in Review

For a cause

Most people when they order dinner over the telephone, expect to be told how much money they owe. In recent weeks at the Novi Pizza Company, customers were also asked if they'd like to donate a can of food for the needy family Christmas programs offered by the Novi Goodfellows and Holy Family Church. In return, each donor was given a free order of breadsticks. It was an offer too tempting for some 460 pizza lovers to refuse. "It was pretty good for the first year," said Novi Pizza Company owner Peter Woolford. "I think the customers were pretty receptive to it. It was usually the regular customers who know us." Woolford owns the business with his wife, Shawn Crosssett, who was busy loading up some of the goods for the church last week.

Photo by TOM HIBBELN



Man arrested for assaulting wife

A 59-year-old Novi man was arrested around 10 p.m. Dec. 29 at Dunham Downs near the corner of Ten Mile and Bagley roads for assaulting his wife.

According to the man's wife, the couple went to dinner that night in Detroit, after which she drove home because he was intoxicated.

An argument erupted during the drive home and the man's wife slapped him. He slapped her back in retaliation.

After the argument ended, the man told his wife that she broke his glasses, and then punched her in the eye with a closed fist, giving her a black eye.

When the couple got home, the man ordered his wife from the car and grabbed her while trying to force her into the house.

She started to scream and the man let her go. When he left, the woman ran into the house and called the police.

During this time the man left. When the Novi police arrived, they searched the area and found the man at the Dunham Downs. He was arrested for domestic assault.

While he was at the Novi police department, an officer investigating the incident showed him a picture of his wife's black eye, which he responded to by saying, "She

Police News

BORIC'S BREAK-IN

Sometime between 10 p.m. Dec. 12 and 10 a.m. Dec. 20, unknown suspect broke into Boric's Bar Cafe at 12821 West Oaks Drive by prying open the rear door.

Once inside the suspect could not locate the owner's cash, but reported the cash register and took \$200 in quarters.

There was nothing else taken at the store, but the suspect went into the bathroom and attempted to gain entry into the Subaru next door by breaking through the wall.

However, a piece of plywood mounted directly behind a sink and toilet in the Subaru, although appeared to have prevented entry into the restaurant.

An employee of the store observed the woman select a Lord and Taylor handbag then return a pair of shoes, without the receipt.

The woman then entered the loss-prevention department and selected two L'Oréal's make-up items. She then purchased one pair and placed the other in the log she was

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS GONE BAD

A 12-year-old Novi man found his yard and vehicles covered with toilet paper and eggs Dec. 20 at his home on the 11000 block of Loma Drive.

carrying and attempted to walk out without paying for it. She was apprehended and arrested.

OUIL
A 21-year-old Livonia man was arrested around 2 a.m. Dec. 19 near the Novi Road and I-96 intersection.

An officer on patrol observed the man's vehicle traveling south on Novi Road wearing its lane and driving left of the center line four times. The vehicle was also traveling faster than the posted speed limit.

The officer stopped the vehicle and upon contact with the driver he noticed a strong odor of intoxicants.

The man said he did not have a driver's license because it was suspended and admitted to drinking too much.

He was given a roadside sobriety test and arrested. While he was at the Novi police department, the man was given a chemical breath test which showed a blood alcohol content of .19 percent and .21 percent.

Novi Briefs

Cable TV hearing

The Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, which serves Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills, will hold a public hearing on cable TV service on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.

The hearing is part of the franchise renewal process SWOCC and Time Warner Cable of Oakland County are currently undergoing.

Money for Motorsports

During the first weekend of January, the Motorsports Museum and Hall of Fame will hold its annual fundraising event, Motorsports Expo '99. As part of the event, a rare race autographed motor sports memorabilia will be held.

Recently, the museum won approval from the Novi City Council to hold the facility, as required by the State Lottery Bureau. The Motorsports Museum has plans to leave its current location and the Novi Expo Center and move to the Michigan State Fairgrounds on Woodward Avenue.

For sale

For repairs to the Novi Police Department building, as approved by voters in November, the Novi City Council recently authorized the sale on the open market of \$3.5 million in city bonds. The city has to pay a \$400 filing fee with the Michigan Department of Treasury for the bond sale.

Michigan National Bank of Farmington Hills was designated as the bond registrar, paying agent and transfer agent. The bonds will mature at times, ranging from the year 2000 to 2018.

Bidding on for city owned land

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Two bidders want to buy a prime acre and a half of downtown land near Novi.

Now, the city's prepared to do some heavy-duty house (trying to get the price higher).

In the running are an existing business at the West Oaks Shopping Center site, Art Van Furniture, but trailing is a second business, Jared Jewelry, that is eyeing the Karemch Drive parcels.

The city asked for a minimum of \$950,000 for the property. Art Van offered \$1.16 million, while Jared Jewelry is willing to pay \$1.2 million.

"Negotiate a dollar value for the land. Not any signage, not any landscaping or anything else," Council Member Bob Schmid said.

These first offers were rejected last week, with the understanding that the council is leaning in favor of Art Van. The furniture store would keep the land vacant and landscaped, but reserve it for

future parking spaces should the firm decide to expand its nearby Scott Shuptrine store.

"Art Van is an existing business intends a clear sight for the property. That is one of the driving reasons they have bid on the property," City Manager Ed Kriewall said. "A new business such as Jared's Jewelry would increase the tax base, council members conceded. But there are other places in Novi to build new retail. Council Member Craig DeRoche pointed out,

somebody wants to come in and build a new structure when there's still maybe space left at Main Street, Novi," he said.

In the 1980s, the city purchased the land as a part of a special assessment district. Two parcels are split by Karemch drive, one is 0.99 acres and the other is 0.44 acres. The money will be used to close out the SAD account.

The land is at the intersection of West Oaks Drive and Novi Road.

Library Briefs

Adult book discussion group

Our January selection is "She's Come Undone" by Willy Lymb. The group will meet Monday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. All are welcome.

Story time notes

Winter Story Times begin Jan. 11. Please call the library for information on the day and time of your child's session.

Library board meeting

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in the library's Local History Room. Community members are welcome to attend.

Senior book discussion group

The January selection for senior booklovers is "Snow in August" by Peter Hamill. The senior group will meet Thursday, Jan. 14, at 12:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Chambers at the Novi Civic Center.

Kids Online: Searching, Safety & Sites

This child-oriented introduction to the Internet focuses on kids' search engines, the importance of online safety, and sites that kids love. The class meets Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 4 p.m. For children aged 8-12; parents are welcome. Please register in advance for all Internet classes by phone or in person.

The Internet: Tools & Tips for Parents

Designed for parents, this overview of the Internet includes suggestions for promoting safe, rewarding online experiences for your family. The class meets Thursday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO LIMITED TAX-SUPPORTED CONTRACT OF LEASE AND OF RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM THEREON

TO THE TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Northville has approved a Contract of Lease (the "Contract") with the 35th Judicial District Building Authority pursuant to Act No. 31, Public Acts of Michigan, 1945 (Act 31), as amended (Act 31). Such Contract provides, among other things, that the Building Authority, which has been incorporated by the Charter Townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth and the Cities of Northville and Plymouth, Michigan, the "Incorporating Units," and each an "Incorporating Unit," will, as a condition to the Contract, lease to the Building Authority, which has been incorporated by the Charter Townships of Canton, Northville and Plymouth and the Cities of Northville and Plymouth, Michigan, the "Building Authority," and each an "Incorporating Unit," all of the real estate, including but not limited to, the building, and all of the fixtures, furniture, and equipment located on the premises, and will, as a condition to the Contract, issue its bonds in the principal amount of NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000 TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT. The estimated cost of the Project not financed with the proceeds of the Building Authority bonds (as set forth herein) will be financed from insurance proceeds and other proceeds available to the 35th Judicial District of Michigan. The Building Authority bonds will mature serially, to be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption from not earlier than 1999 to and later than 2020, inclusive, and will bear interest at fixed rates not exceeding eight percent (8%) per annum on the outstanding principal balance as determined at the public or negotiated sale thereof.

The Contract further provides that the Incorporating Units will lease the leased facilities from the Building Authority and will pay AS RENTAL TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ALL SUMS NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE PROCEEDINGS AND INTEREST ON THE BUILDING AUTHORITY BONDS, TOGETHER WITH ALL COSTS OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE FACILITIES AND ALL COSTS OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, regardless of whether the facilities are completed or uncompleted. The principal amount to be borrowed by the Building Authority will be indebtedness of the City for purposes of satisfying and constitutional debt limitations, and the principal amount, together with the City's rental obligation for payment thereof, may be increased to cover increased costs of the facilities.

CITY CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS
BY VIRTUE OF THE CONTRACT AND ACT 31, ALL OF THE CITY'S REQUIRED PAYMENTS TO THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL BE LIMITED TAX FULL FAITH AND CREDIT GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITY PAYABLE FROM ANY AVAILABLE FUNDS OF THE CITY, AND THE CITY WILL BE REQUIRED TO LEVY AD VALOREM TAXES ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE PAYMENTS REQUIRED TO RETIRE THE BONDS AND INTEREST THEREON, IF OTHER FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE ARE NOT AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, THE OBLIGATION TO LEVY TAXES IS LIMITED BY APPLICABLE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY TAX RATE LIMITATIONS.

THE CONTRACT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE WITHOUT VOTE OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY, AS PERMITTED BY LAW UNLESS A SUFFICIENT PETITION FOR REFERENDUM REQUESTING AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH CONTRACT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVE, SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY, IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN 45 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. If such petition is so filed, the Contract shall not be effective without an approving vote by a majority of electors of the City voting on the question.

This Notice is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 8(b) of the Act 31, as amended. Further information concerning the details of the Contract that should be financed and the matters set out in this Notice may be secured from the office of the City Clerk. Copies of the Contract are on file in the office of the City Clerk, City of Northville, Michigan, for public inspection during regular business hours.

DAPHNE MARSA
CLERK, CITY OF NORTHVILLE
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\$0.15/mile over 30,000 miles

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Program launched to protect children from the effects of natural disasters

AAA Michigan has announced its affiliation with a national program designed to strengthen child care centers against natural disaster.

Through a joint effort with the Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), AAA Michigan will take part in a statewide campaign to perform structural evaluations of nonprofit child care centers. Called "Protecting Our Kids from Disasters," the program is designed to make children less vulnerable in

the event of an earthquake, hurricane, tornado, wildfire, or other natural disaster.

Volunteers perform the evaluations, which include: roof, exterior walls, chimneys, porches, and bulletin boards. During a check, assessors of shutter openings, windows. The AAA Michigan program will launch in early 1999, beginning in Detroit and Grand Rapids.

AAA Michigan plans to add additional locations throughout the

state in 1999.

"Depending on the geography of a region, there are different disaster scenarios," said AAA Michigan Vice President and Chief Underwriting Officer Larry Lange. "We want to minimize the risk to children regardless of where they live."

IBHS is an initiative of the insurance industry to reduce thefts, injury, property damage, economic losses and human suffering caused by natural disasters.

For Quick Reprints
Call GREEN SHEET (248) 348-3022
CLASSIFIED

Safety tips for using that snowblower

Like so many other machines and appliances, snow throwers do what they do well as long as they're used properly. Careless use can pose dangers to the operator or bystanders.

According to Howard Doss, safety specialist at Michigan State University Extension Service, most snow thrower-related injuries occur when the operator tries to unclog the discharge chute with the unit running. The user cannot see the whirling impeller blade down in the chute because of the snow clogging it. Prying the clog out by hand, the operator puts a hand into the blade. Serious cuts and even amputations can occur.

"If a snow thrower discharge does get plugged, shut the engine off and wait for all parts to stop moving," Doss advised.

Then remove the key and disconnect the spark plug wire on a gasoline-powered machine before using a stick or some other object to remove the clog, Doss said. If you have an electric snow thrower, unplugging it before unclogging the discharge chute.

The key to operating snow throwers and other equipment safely is to read and be sure you understand the operating and service instruction manual, Doss said. Make sure you're thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the equipment.

Because snow throwers, like lawn mowers, can pick up and hurl objects, clear the area of debris before you begin, and keep bystanders and pets away from the area.

Never allow children to operate potentially dangerous equipment, and make sure adults who will be using it receive proper instruction first.

Check the fuel level before each use and fill the tank, if necessary, before you begin. If you have to add fuel, allow the engine to cool before refilling the tank. Fill the tank outdoors, where gasoline fumes can dissipate readily, wipe off any spills and replace the gas tank cap securely.

If you use an electric snow thrower, check the cord before each use for frayed areas or cuts. Use only extension cords and receptacles specified by the manufacturer. Be sure to keep cords out of the path of the machine.

Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts and stay away from the discharge opening at all times. Wear appropriate winter clothing and footwear. Avoid loose scarves or other dangling articles that could get tangled in exposed chains and sprockets or other moving parts. Be sure that all guards and other safety protective devices are in place before operating.

Stop the engine whenever you leave the operating position, before unclogging the machine, and when making any repairs, adjustments or inspections. Disconnect the spark plug wire on a gasoline-powered machine or disconnect the cord on electric motors to prevent accidental starting.

"The snow thrower has proven itself as a valuable time-, labor- and heart-saving device," Doss observed. "Safe operation is a matter of being an informed and careful user -- reading and following the instruction manual, being aware of the potential dangers and taking appropriate precautions to avoid them."

Obituaries

JOHN J. MANICA

John J. Manica, a former owner of the Northville Hotel & Bar, died Dec. 20 at Woodward Hills Nursing Home in Bloomfield Hills. He was 81 years old.

Mr. Manica was born Sept. 19, 1917 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was a resident of Southfield for ten years and a former resident of Northville and Detroit. He graduated from the University of Detroit in 1937.

Following his retirement from the Northville Hotel & Bar, he served as business manager of his son's medical office.

Nicholas Manica. Also surviving is his brother, Nicholas. He was preceded in death by his brother, Joseph.

Mr. Manica was a member of the Northville Rotary Club, the University of Detroit Alumni Association, and the Titan Club.

Visitation was Dec. 23 at Lynch & Son Funeral Home. The funeral was Dec. 24 at the St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church, 20521 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48203.

Northville launches contest to name school

By WENDY WHITE Staff Writer

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, it's time to play Name That School.

It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make history, folks, by offering an identity to the school on the hill.

Come the summer of the new millennium, the current Northville High School will be transformed into a middle school.

The staff and students from Cooke Middle School will then take over the halls, taking their Raiders nickname and colors of red, black and white.

They won't be bringing their name with them, though, and the school district is looking to the community to submit ideas for new names.

"Even though it's one of two mid-

dle schools, it's public to the community. With its location in the heart of the town I think it's important to involve everyone in naming the school," said Cooke principal Jeff Radwanski.

"We want to get as many entries as we possibly can."

Before you start writing, though, consider the rules of the game as set forth by the Northville Board of Education.

The school can't be named after a person. Entries must be confined instead to reflect geographical, geological or historical characteristics. Geographical names may take into account the earth's surface, climate, plants, animals, resources or physical characteristics that pertain to the site.

Names in this category may note such things as the building's location within Northville or the fact

that the school is located on a hill, the highest point in Wayne County.

Geological names may reflect things like the formation of the earth and its development.

Monroe Elementary School, for example, is named after the glacial sediment it's perched on.

Historical names may commemorate significant people or things related to the site, such as Meads Mill Middle School's title.

Principal Radwanski also suggests that the community consider that senior citizens will be an important part of the new middle school, invited to walk the halls for morning exercise and enjoy snacks made by Life Skills students.

"I hope it will be a place where seniors can mingle with students. We took the current Cooke building back from what was the Senior Cit-

zen Center. We still want them to be part of us. I'm hoping that will come out in the ideas," Radwanski said.

The principal said some of the enthusiasm about the new school was lost when construction delays to the new high school threatened to postpone the middle school's move.

Now, construction is back on track and the move is expected to be on target for the summer of 2000.

"I think we had more excitement at one time. It was delayed when the high school was delayed. We're hoping this contest will start building excitement again," he said. "Let's face it, it's not everyday you get to name a school. This is something that will live on probably forever."

You must be a Northville School District resident or employee to enter the contest, which runs from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10.

All appropriate entries will be voted upon by the Cooke student body, staff and parents. Then, the three entries which receive the most votes will be presented to the board of education for consideration.

Radwanski will drive the winner to lunch in his 1971 Cadillac, along with the Board of Education President, Superintendent and PPSA President.

Entries should be mailed to Dr. Jeffrey Radwanski, Principal, Cooke Middle School, 21200 Tish Rd., Northville, MI 48167. e-mailed to radwanski@ckoff.northville.k12.mi.us.

Court house construction soon to get underway

By CHRIS C. DAVIS Staff Writer

Representatives from the five communities served by 35th District Court paved the way for construction to begin, probably sometime in late February.

The biggest sign of relief for those gathered around the table came in knowing bids returned for the estimated \$7.5 million project were very close to budgeted amounts. Livonia-based Bedyk Brothers was awarded the general contract for the project.

Those on the bonding committee saw fit to only approve one of the

five "extra" elements proposed for the project. Pivotal discussions eventually provided for a fourth, prisoners-only elevator to be added to the plan at an additional cost of \$62,500.

At the same time, the committee turned down proposals to give a finished look to the magistrate's office, provide for audio-visual recording and give a special coating to woodwork in the facility.

The committee tabled a proposal to add lighting protection to the courthouse until further information could be gathered.

Northville Township finance director Thelma Kubitsky, Plymouth Township building inspector Charles McLaharty, Canton Township director of finance Tony Mangione, acting Plymouth city manager Paul Siroczek and Northville city manager Gary Wood.

It was the elevator question which captured the attention of committee members, who poured over the question for more than 90 minutes. Most of the support for the elevators came from judges Ron Lowe and John MacDonald, as well as court supervisor Kerry Erdman, who said in court security needed to

be of the utmost importance when designing the structure.

Erdman recalled his experience at 36th District Court in downtown Detroit. The building housing the courtrooms was constructed during 1940s, and as such, had logistical flaws in its design, he said.

At 36th District, it wasn't uncommon for prisoners, court staff and members of the public to need to ride elevators elbow-to-elbow, Erdman said. The combination tested the limits of safety.

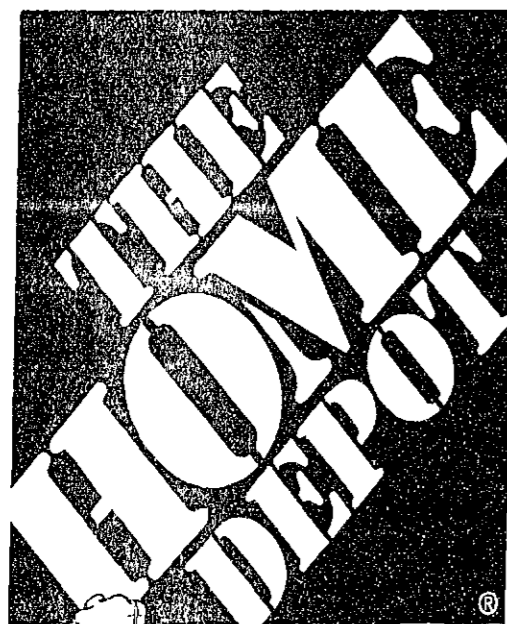
"If they had to do it over, I'm certain they wouldn't have designed the court the way they did," Erd-

man said.

Lowe agreed. He said that even though 35th District didn't usually handle as many violent offenders as 36th District did, 35th District was still a place where a lot of cases were seen.

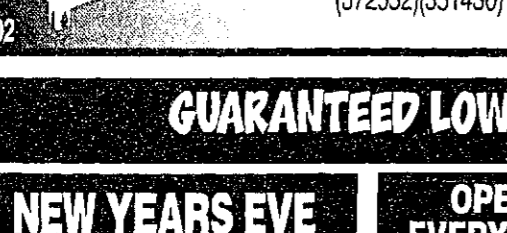
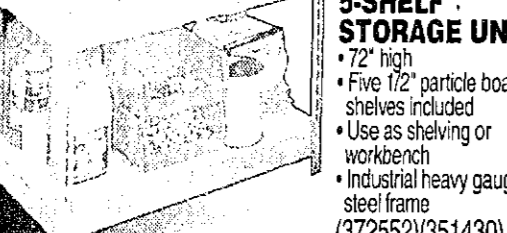
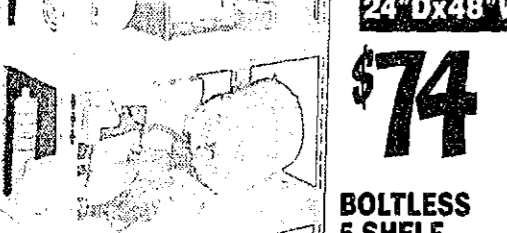
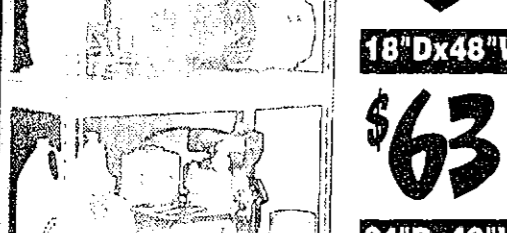
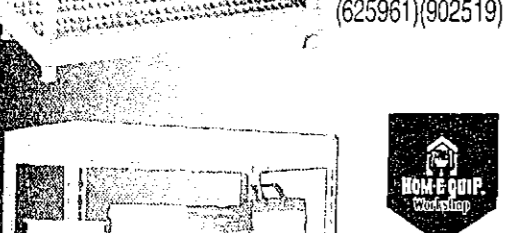
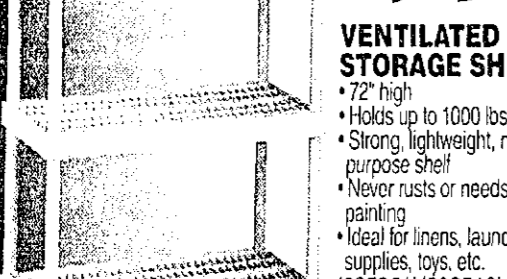
The original 35th District Court was destroyed in an accidental fire caused by a lightning storm in the summer of 1997. The current court property is being leased to the court by nearby Unisys.

The work is tentatively scheduled for completion around March of 2000.



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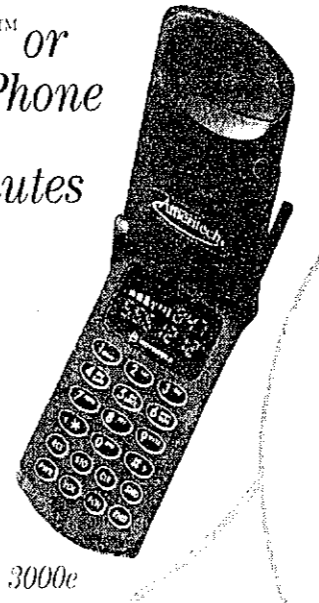
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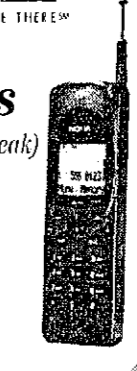
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City officials working to resolve Y2K

By JEREMY McBAIN Staff Writer

While the rest of the nation worries if its computers will shut down in the year 2000, Novi city officials will be working throughout the next year to fix the problem.

Lauri Locelli, network administrator for the city wide network, said Novi will not shut down. Teams are already working on the problem, she said.

Computer experts say some computers, especially older machines, are not "compliant" with the year 2000. Older machines recorded years as two digits only, so the experts are unsure what will happen when they come across a 00 year. The date turnover may cause some computers to get the date wrong in some cases the computer may shut down.

For a computer to be "year 2000 compliant," it must be able to handle the date change at the end of the millennium.

Computer scientists are saying, if the computers are not fixed a variety of problems could occur. Some even say it will create a worldwide computer shutdown at the turn of the millennium.

To combat this year 2000 problem in the City of Novi, a committee was formed that has been testing and renovating the city's network.

Locelli said the committee has identified problem areas and has tried to think of every scenario that could cause the computers to shut down. It is also taking steps to fix the problems.

So far, the biggest problem Locelli has found is that when the clocks on the computers try to flip over to the year 2000, they turn to the year 1980 instead. She added, "There is so many different problems that could happen."

So far, she said two-thirds of the computers in the city wide network have been tested and the rest will be completed before the end of 1999.

The city's 9-1-1 emergency dispatch center shouldn't experience problems. Joe Burchett, police department dispatch manager, said a year 2000 compliant system is scheduled to be installed sometime in February.

The year 2000 problem was not the reason the system was replaced, but believes it was more for mechanical reasons, but the new system should take care of the problem, he said.

The city's current 9-1-1 dispatch system is too old. "You can't buy (replacement parts) for it because it is not even made," he said.

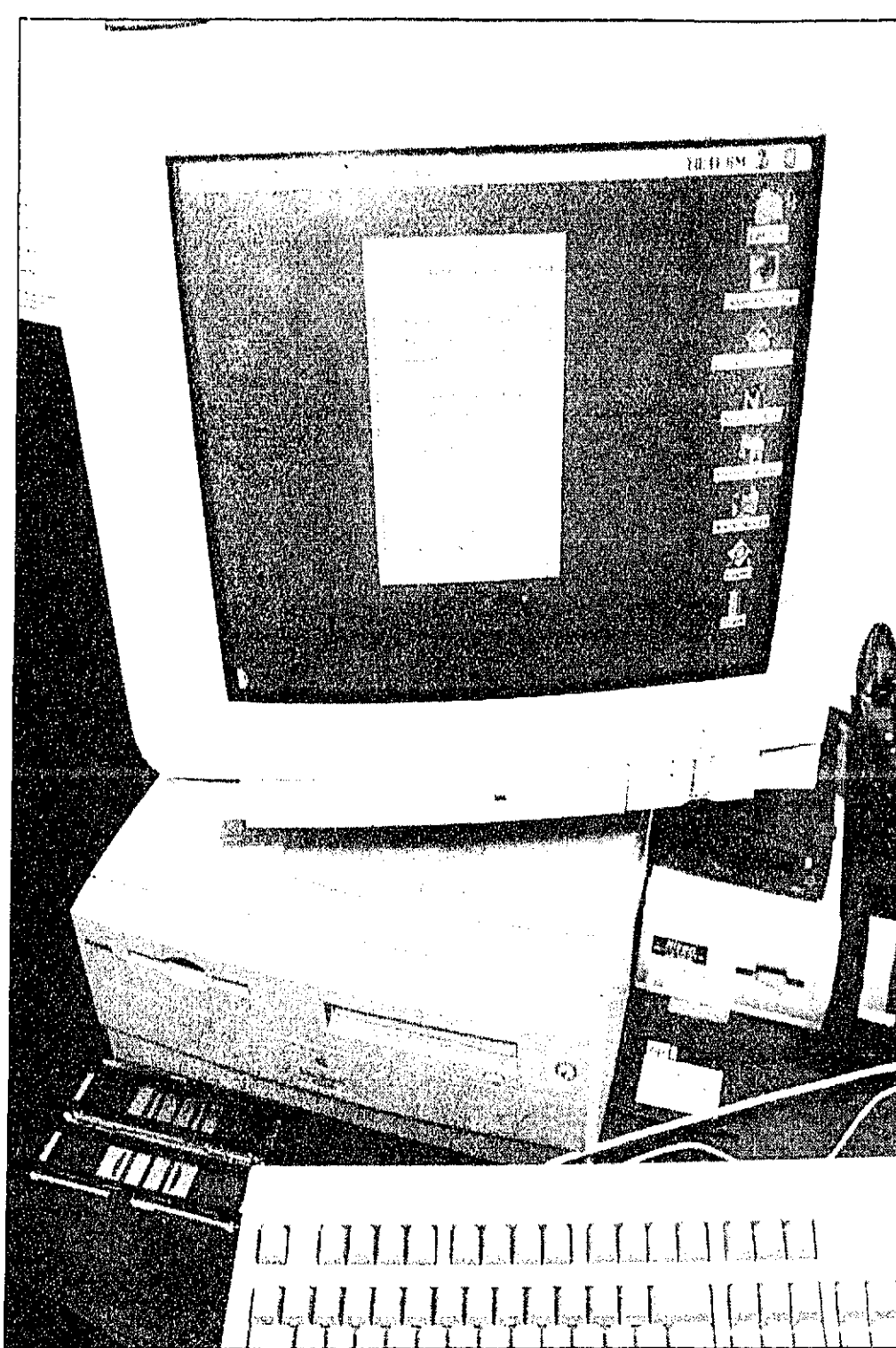
Locelli said the only major city department that still needs an upgrade is the Building Department.

"Even if that does not get done, that is not going to put them out of business," she said.

So far the upgrades have cost the city around \$15,000.

Locelli said she is not worried about the change of the millennium.

"I feel better now about it than I did four months ago," she added.



Will they still run a year from now?

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Utilities say power will stay on

Take heart. While many people worry about impacts of the year 2000 on computer systems, utility companies are making sure their systems will run smoothly.

Scott Simons, spokesman for Detroit Edison, said the electric company has been looking at the year 2000 problem since 1997 and is spending \$15 to \$75 million to make sure the power stays on. "We are not expecting anything out of the ordinary for the year 2000," Simons said.

Simons said in the past few weeks Detroit Edison has tested four power plants and will be putting all of its plants through a full range of testing in 1999. There have been no problems uncovered by the testing so far.

Amy Messano, spokesperson for Michigan, said the gas company is also working hard to keep its systems running smoothly during the millennium change. MichCon has invested \$6 million in its year 2000 program, she said.

"We have teams of employees working on all of our systems. We are confident we will have no disruptions," Messano said.

She said the teams have inventoried all of the company's systems and are planning certification testing.

Additionally, Sara Snyder, spokeswoman for Ameritech, said 300 employees have been hired by the telephone company just for its year 2000 project. The phone company has spent about \$250 million on it.

Snyder said Ameritech has had its team of employees working on the problem since 1996.

"We are, in fact, going to finish with the process early," Snyder said. She said Ameritech should wrap up preparing its systems in late January or early February, leaving the rest of 1999 for testing.

However, while these utility companies are confident they will have all the year 2000 bugs worked out of their systems, some are preparing for the worst.

Messano said the gas company has created backup plans and backup supplies are being gathered and stored at several local warehouses.

Plus, MichCon is setting up alternative ways to communicate with its repair trucks in case radio transmissions are interrupted.

"We are identifying different scenarios," she said. Simons said that while the electric company does not anticipate major problems with its systems at the start of the year 2000, "We can't guarantee 100 percent power delivery."

Consultant says, get ready for one-week camping

Get ready for a one-week camping trip on Jan. 1, 2000.

Don't plan an airline flight that day. And if you happen to be in eastern Europe, Latin America or a third world country, your camp out may last much longer.

The reason is Y2K - the widespread expectation that computers will malfunction because they record the year by the last two digits, and they can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000.

The computer may not know the difference between 1900 and 2000. For example, a person born in 1944 may be told by a computer he is 44 years old, not 56. Credit card bills could be shown as not having

been paid for 100 years.

The solution is to write computer programs so that they record all years with four digits. But that might involve changing programs written in computer "languages" that are rarely used any more.

The GartnerGroup, which specializes in research, suggests what the average homeowner should - and shouldn't - do as the year 2000 approaches. Excerpts from its report "Year 2000 Risk Assessment and Planning for Individuals":

"A 'bomb shelter' mentality is not called for." Don't withdraw all your money from banks or liquidate investments.

• Prepare for localized failures for a limited time - think in terms of a snowstorm of several days. Have two weeks' salary in cash.

• Have up to five days supplies of key consumer items - medications, non-perishable food, household supplies, batteries for lights and radios. If you depend on food stamps or the Women-Infant-Child federal program, you should be especially cautious. The old propane gas stove may come in handy.

• Don't count on your grocery store being open more than a couple of days if there's a crash. The food industry is among the worst prepared for Y2K.

• Stock jugs of water.

• Fuel up your vehicle. Have an adequate supply of home-heating fuel delivered in late 1999.

• Retrieve all your e-mail messages.

• Send your mail and packages early.

• Obtain hard (paper) copies of your Social Security records, pension and savings plans.

• Avoid air travel around Jan. 1, 2000. If air traffic control systems fail, an airport's ability to handle flights could be reduced by 80 percent.

• Have your medical and dental checkups in advance.

• Ask your local city, township or village if it has made preparations. You may have to hunker down. For example, do they have cellular phones and mobile backups for emergency services?

GartnerGroup has surveyed thousands of enterprises and generally finds that large companies are preparing, but smaller companies and many governments are not. In general, the U.S., Canada, Australia and the northern European countries will be in better shape than Mexico, Central America, South America, eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Municipal League advising caution responding to questions

By TIM RICHARD Staff Writer

City hall will hesitate when you ask if it's ready for the Y2K problem.

That's on the advice of attorneys. "They don't want mayors, city managers and public safety directors to make promises they may be unable to keep on Jan. 1, 2000 - the date their computers might, perhaps, crash."

Attorneys advise us to be wary of the statements we make. The city is exempt from suits (under an ancient legal doctrine), but personal suits can be filed against you for misleading statements. "James Amin advised a roomful of municipal and university officials.

Amin is director of administrative services for the city of Ann Arbor. He was among a panel of speakers at the University of Michi-

gan's Nov. 30 outreach program with the Michigan Municipal League.

"Even the director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department says to keep a water supply on hand," Amin added.

No one predicted western civilization will grind to a halt. But many computers are programmed to read a two-digit number for the year and can't tell the difference between 1900 and 2000. So even where changes are being made, everyone needs to be prepared.

U-M is urging municipalities to make all employees aware of the situation, list all possible problems, design and test solutions. A consulting firm said that as of Nov. 17, some 35 percent of all institutions and 29 percent of governments hadn't even started preparations. A mere 7-10 percent had

tested their equipment.

Wayne County, for example, reported it has "an aggressive schedule" but is a year behind that schedule. Likely to be affected: traffic lights, pension payments.

Those preparations involve asking vendors and repair companies tough questions - which they will evade answering - about whether the equipment they're selling and repairing is Y2K compliant.

"There are days when I feel my neck is stretched to the other end of campus. I will not be celebrating 2000," confessed Jose-Marie Griffiths, U-M's chief information officer and executive director of information technology.

Griffiths' special problem will be the \$1 billion medical center on U-M's North Campus - power supplies, insurance records, laboratory specimens, payrolls, logistics for

medical students.

"We have lots of biomedical specimens stored in controlled environments," she said. "We're looking at survival systems."

"It takes three months to get people to do the assessment," she added, advising officials that they already should have started preparations.

Griffiths had a taste of the problem last September when the Northwest Airlines strike prevented many faculty and students from returning to campus.

Officials from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Oakland University, Pontiac, the Conference of Western Wayne, Detroit, Western Michigan University and several outstate cities fired questions and war stories at the speakers.

"In Washington, D.C. there were claims that over half their fire engines wouldn't start."

"Now we have to ask our vendors who repair our radios, is your repair service Y2K compliant?"

"Many vendors absolutely refuse to make any kind of assurance of Y2K compliance. Many will tell you to buy \$600,000 or \$700,000 of new equipment."

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As We See It

Did architect get a little carried away with design

It would probably be inappropriate to say that the architect for the new elementary school in Novi, to be constructed at Eleven Mile and Wisconsin roads, went a little overboard in the design of the building. It would likely be out of line to say he got carried away.

Rain wild would be closer to the truth. Went nuts would be more like it.

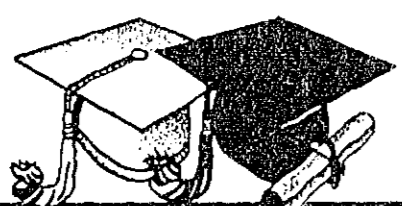
Among the features included in the architect's \$12.5 million design, unveiled last week before the Novi Board of Education, were a large flower fountain located in a cement pond and stream in the courtyard, a flock of bird statues simulating a duck coming in for a landing, a large mural-like "diorama" illustrating a wetlands habitat, and paw prints embedded in the concrete.

Asked to put a price tag to such items individually, Novi's Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Jim Koster was loath to make an estimate. And we can understand his reasons. The building has yet to go out to bid for construction, so the cost of those design features might well be seen bring differing proposals.

Nonetheless, we trust cooler heads on the school board and in the administration will prevail before the build actually does go out for bids.

We certainly want the elementary school to be built there to be a high-quality, first class educational facility, a building in which teachers can get the best out of their students.

But throwing taxpayer dollars at fountains and ponds and courtyards and duck sculptures doesn't seem to



Education

Blank walls.

Then the students can do their own pictures to illustrate the make-up of wetlands and hang them on those blank walls for display. Students can do their own sculptures or drawings of ducks landing and put them in the courtyard for parents to view.

Students could paint their own paw prints and paste them all over the building, from the sidewalks to the ceilings.

And yes, they could even do their own flower fountain as well.

Who knows, they might learn more from drawing and painting them than they would from just looking at them.

We'll give it a trendy edu-speak title, like "continuing participatory educational wall design" or "student-oriented room divider architecture" and then everyone will be duly impressed with the cool new thing Novi schools is doing in its elementary building.

Letting you keep track

Okay, you pay your bills and you think you have good credit. Then, a loan officer at a local bank pulls up your credit report and tacked onto it is a glaring error you never knew about, maybe due to a typo or a computer glitch or a bogus bill. Your loan's denied and your face is red.

Everyone's heard these modern-day horror stories. So has Northville High School biology teacher Bill Dicks. But Dicks, a Novi resident, decided to call another Novi resident, State Rep. Nancy Cassis, when he learned that getting an annual copy of your credit report, your personal, intensely private, totally marketable financial record, now will cost you \$8.

That's because the federal government passed a new law, the Fair Credit Reporting Act. If you're on welfare, or unemployed, or you think information in your credit report may be fraudulent, or you were denied a loan, a reporting agency is still required to give you a free copy.

But if you simply want to carefully keep track of your financial reputation, it'll cost you.

So Dicks asked Cassis to look at the issue, because he'd had a bad experience with an error in credit card numbers that put an inaccurate black mark on his credit report. Cassis came up with House Bill 5726, that would entitle everyone to one free copy of their credit report each year, upon request.

The bill was passed by the house but languished at the state Senate. Cassis plans to reintroduce the legislation in 1999.

Violators of the proposed law would

be liable for either \$1,000 in damage or any penalty authorized under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce backs the idea, because the chamber's pushing for fewer personal bankruptcies. By requiring credit agencies to provide a free copy, Chamber Vice President Nancy McKeague said, it will encourage people's efforts to be more fiscally responsible.

Opposing the bill is the Associated Credit Bureaus of Michigan, represented by lobbyist James Cavanaugh. For small credit reporting companies, the \$8 fee is reasonable to defray the costs. Free reports would be a financial burden for these firms, he said.

Maybe. Especially if each and every consumer writes in for a free report. But we expect most will not.

And even if it costs money for credit reporting agencies to distribute the reports, so what? Yes, credit reporting is a service that makes it faster and easier to get loans. However, these are companies that make their bread and butter off of each of our personal financial reputations. We have absolutely no say in the matter, no claim of privacy when it comes to this issue. But we should have the right to see what's being said about us, at no charge.

We hope that Cassis's legislation becomes law in 1999. Moreover, this is the way we like to see state government work. An involved and aware citizen, like Dicks, has a valid concern and brings it to his or her elected state official. Action is justified and the legislator moves ahead, drafting a bill. This is representative government at its best.

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, label, and relevance. The weeks 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
Or send E-mail to: novinews@online.com

A hit around Christmas tree



Michael Malott

Sometimes, its exactly what the child has been asking for. Other times, it's something they didn't even mention.

For my daughter, Samantha, this year it was books and CDs - no surprise there. And for Zachary, who always finds some excuse to put on a pair of boots, the fact he wouldn't take off the snakeskin cowboy boots Grandma got for him came as no shocker.

But for 6-year-old Charlie, his affinity for the little tool set Mom and Dad gave him was an interesting turn of events. It wasn't on his list. While out shopping, Mom remembered he'd once asked for it a long time ago.

And at almost got overlooked in the pre-holiday rush. Set in a corner it almost didn't get wrapped.

This is a real tool set, mind you, not toys - hammer, pliers, a set of screwdrivers, a socket wrench set, each with their own neat little place in a plastic case.

It's the perfect set for a 6-year-old, who's getting to the point in life where he should start learning how to tear things apart - defrost appliances, old machines, disassembled bikes. It's part of the process of learning to be a good mechanic. I started doing exactly the same sort of thing when I was about his age. Of course, I never learned to put things back together... but that's another story.

Charlie quickly got it in mind that we ought to build something. A bird house, he suggested. Mind you, with trips to the grandparents' house and visits from relatives, there was little time to start a construction project, even one as small as a birdhouse.

I kept him busy as long as I could by asking him to draw

plans. Then I gave him a practice board - you know, a handful of nails he could practice hammering and several screws for him to try driving.

Sunday morning, Charlie was hard at work thracking away at that practice board, enough to make a non-too-happy-about-it Mom. I had to explain it to him later.

"Dear sweet woman that mom is, she's still a girl and girls just don't understand construction noise. To us guys, construction noise is like music and we love it. To girls, it's just noise. It disturbs them and wakes them up."

Now, I know this is a terribly sexist thing to tell a 6-year-old, but he's a bright lad and he can always figure out when Dad is pulling his leg. He immediately recognized this for the gospel truth it is.

Sunday evening, we finally showed off the relatives and could get down to some hardware carpentry. In a pretty short period of time the little guy, with the help of his younger brother, came up with a pretty impressive version of a birdhouse.

It was good enough that Mom started putting in orders for more bird feeders and bird houses, as if this were the model some kind of little bird subdivision.

Then Charlie noticed a problem. I told you he was a bright lad.

While cutting out the wood for the project, I hadn't quite finished the door. Using a two-and-a-half inch sawing drill bit, my careless ran out of charge about half way through the job.

"Not to worry," I told him. "We'll change it up and finish that later."

After the birdhouse was all nailed together, Charlie began to worry that the drill might push the circular chunk of wood from the doorway inside and that we might not be able to get it out.

"That's okay," I told Charlie. "Maybe the birds will use it for a dinner table."

"The birds?"

"Maybe it will be their TV stand."

"Birds don't have TVs."

"Then how do they play Nintendo?"

"Dad, birds don't play Nintendo. They don't even know which buttons to push."

Michael Malott is the Managing Editor of The Novi News and The Northville Record.

In Focus

By John Heider



Up on the roof top

Construction continues on Novi's new Middle School at Eleven Mile and Wisconsin

How many gave a Furby?



Chris Davis

Elmo and the Rubik's Cube?

Speaking of which - this was the first time I can remember where I saw a retailer throw a TV advertisement for its "After Christmas Blowout Sale" on the tube before noon on Christmas. Apparently corporate America is convinced you'll spend, spend, spend on all the wrong stuff, then spend, spend, spend more. Forget the day after Thanksgiving...let's hear it for the day after Christmas!

There appears to be a certain segment of the population which can't find anything better to do with its time than to blow a hissy fit because "EGAD" someone wished you a Merry Christmas in a school building. I mean, how insensitive can you get, right? The next thing you know, someone may actually bid you a Happy Hanukkah, or a nice Easter! Maybe even a blessed Ramadan! Heaven knows (perhaps...reference to the divine...sorry) we can't have religion and schools intertwined because that might offend someone.

So here's a little something I came up with that's sure not to cause a stir, no matter what your religion or lack thereof. "Have a rotten day that's void of anything which may cause a stir beyond that of the superficial." Is that benign enough?

• New Year's Eve for 1999 is already mapped out, but I'm torn between scheduling some major blowout party for 2000 or just staying in a bomb shelter waiting for the sky to fall. This much I know: I won't be flying anywhere that day, nor will I be in an elevator at around midnight.

• An excerpt from the Newbywed's Guide to Living: No matter what you may share as a couple, do yourself a big favor and don't "borrow" your wife's toothbrush.

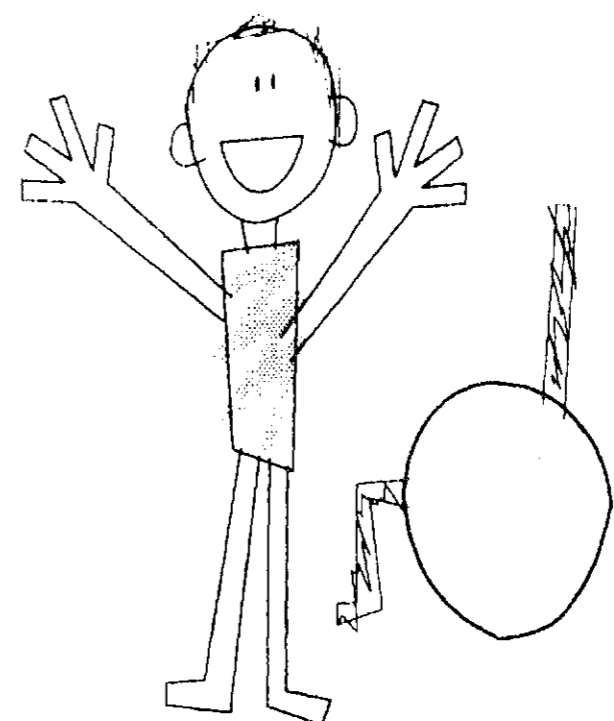
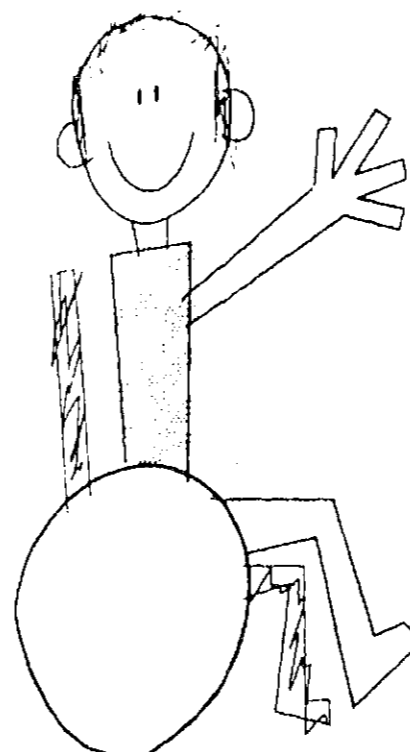
• I talk periodically with Tim Richard, whose experience as a government correspondent for the HomeTown Newspapers is well-regarded. I was both surprised and happy to learn that Tim not only continues to read Mad Magazine, but considers Mad one of the most honest publications out there. Based on Mad's coverage of this whole Clinton impeachment, I'd have to say he's right.

• Show of hands: does anyone really care if the NBA work stoppage forces the cancellation of the season? I get the feeling that unless you live in Chicago or Salt Lake City, you really don't care if the work stoppage forces the NBA to fold forever. Which reminds me - I've got to believe Major League Baseball likes this, because it puts that stupid 1994 World Series cancellation further in the rear view mirror...

...and the award for Friendliest Staff In A Small Business goes to Meadowbrook Art Center in Novi. Over the years, I've had about a dozen items framed at the shop. This year, it was a holiday gift. It was done in time to be put under the tree. Despite being swamped, the staff found a way to take the time and give me personal service. Take note, humbuggo companies.

Chris C. Davis is a staff writer for the Novi News and Northville Record.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ANNUAL RETURN VINCENTI FOUNDATION

Pursuant to Section 6040(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, notice is hereby given that the annual return for the calendar year 1998 of the Vincenti Foundation, a private foundation, is available at the Foundation's principal office for inspection during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by any person who requests it within 180 days after the date of this publication.

The Foundation's principal office is located at 411 E. DuRoi, Novi, Michigan 48275, and its phone number is (248) 476-7747. The principal manager of the foundation is John Vincenti.

Published December 31, 1998

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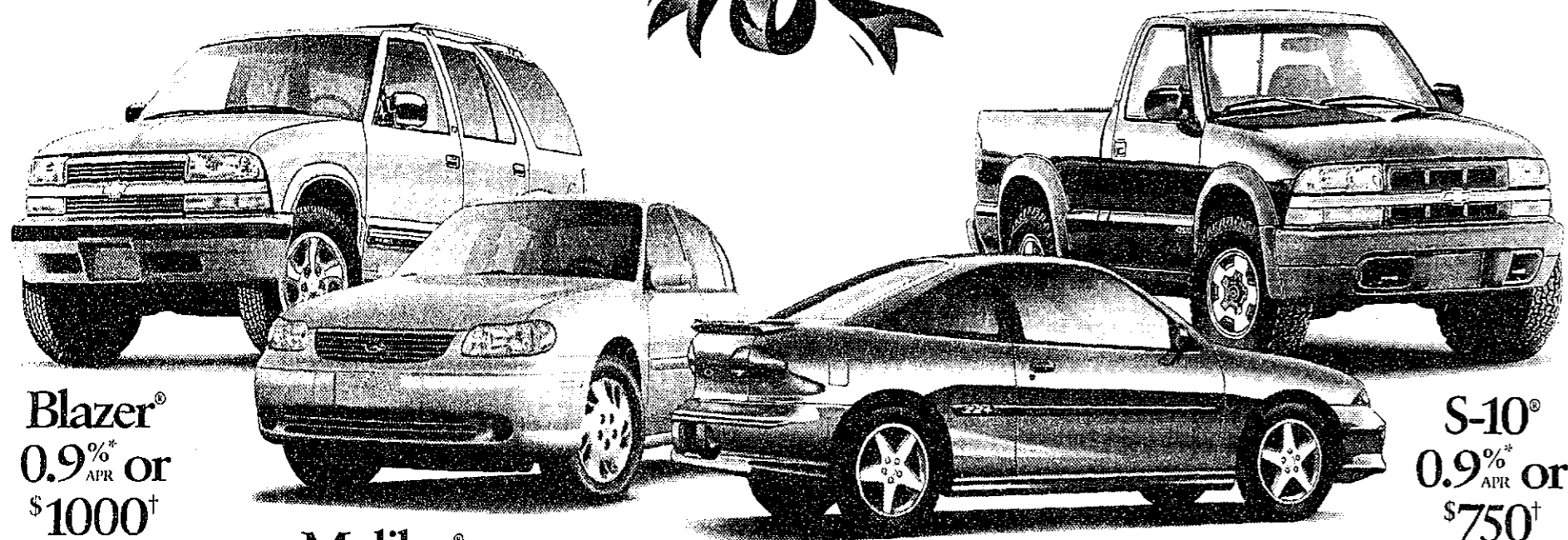
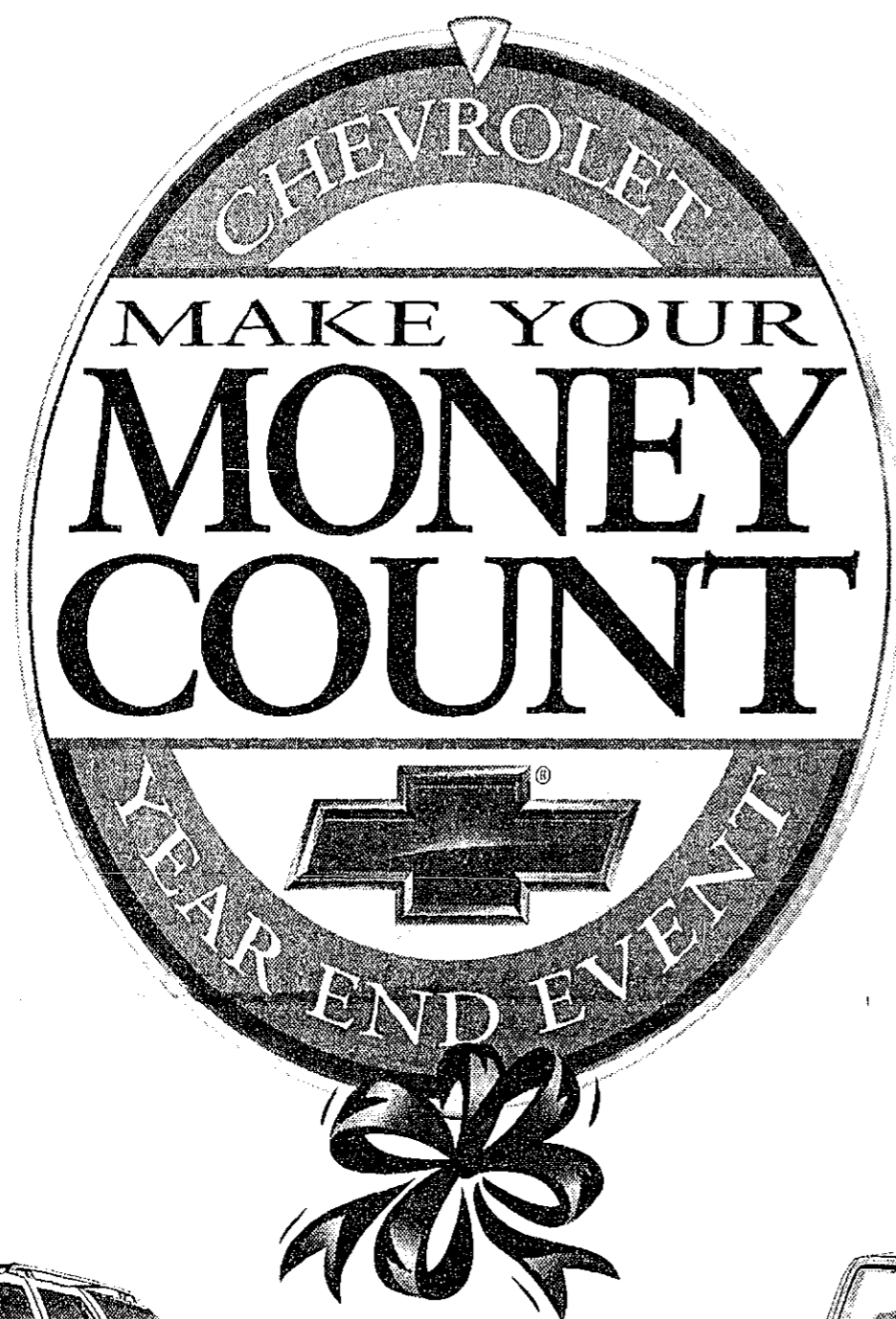
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Bouchard, Buffa are frontrunners

As the campaign to select a successor to fill the office of Oakland County Sheriff — left vacant by the death of John Nichols — heats up, two frontrunners are emerging.

They are State Sen. Michael Bouchard of Birmingham and Under Sheriff Henry Buffa of Rochester Hills. Another contender is Thomas Quisenberry, chief of staff in the sheriff's department.

The process of selecting a new sheriff was expected to begin Monday, when the committee charged with appointing a successor met to discuss procedure and protocol.

On the committee that will tap the new sheriff are Oakland County Clerk William Caddell, Prosecutor David Goreya and Probate Judge Eugene Arthur Moore. Caddell predicts the process could take a month or more.

Each committee member has already received numerous calls on behalf of prospective candidates.

"I'd say I've had at least a dozen calls. And I tell everybody the same thing. We're not ready to talk about candidates yet."

Bouchard is a former police offi-

Nichols given full honors during funeral procession

Continued from 1

When Nichols was elected sheriff in 1984, after serving for seven years as chief of the Farmington Hills Police Department, the county's law enforcement agency was ready for some new leadership and major changes, Patterson said.

Each committee member has already received numerous calls on behalf of prospective candidates.

"I'd say I've had at least a dozen calls. And I tell everybody the same thing. We're not ready to talk about candidates yet."

Bouchard is a former police offi-

cer whose name is mentioned so frequently that candidates are already lining up to campaign for his senate seat, if he indeed becomes sheriff. A special election would be held if Bouchard changes jobs.

And if Bouchard's successor is a state representative, that will trigger another special election to fill the other vacancy.

Buffa hasn't said he wants to be Oakland's next sheriff, but if he

does, he will have support from Clarkson businessman Rudy Lozano. An Oakland County Road Commissioner, Lozano was Nichols' friend and a fundraiser for the late sheriff.

"John Nichols told me he wanted Buffa to succeed him. I promised the sheriff I'd give him [Buffa] my political and financial support," Lozano said.

The committee of three could in theory appoint a new successor

this week. Caddell said he researched the topic and the constitution requires that the county's clerk, prosecutor and chief probate judge appoint the successor.

"I don't specify a time frame, nor does it require that we interview candidates," the county clerk said.

"But there's little doubt we'll take our time and go about picking a successor with deliberate and suitable process."

Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act, any meeting between two of the three committee members is a quorum and therefore must be advertised and open to the public.

"So if I see one of those other committee members in the hallway, I turn and get the other way," Caddell said.

"I don't think you'll be seeing us have lunch together for awhile. I don't even make direct phone calls to those guys."

He added that a cut-off date for candidate to submit resumes is anticipated, after which the most qualified will be interviewed.

House fires disrupt holidays for three local families

Continued from 1

causes, gutted 40 percent of the double-wide mobile home while its owners were on vacation. Losses are in the \$60,000 range.

"The way I understand it, the people were away on a cruise. A relative was there to take care of the pet. The pet was unburnt," Lenaghan said.

Because the area is not on city water, a tanker with water was brought in to combat the blaze. The fire department was on the scene for three hours.

"They knocked the fire down quickly, but then you have to clean up. We try to straighten it up as best as we can," Lenaghan explained.

On Sunday, another fire broke out at 9:06 p.m. in a unit at 43100 Twelve Oaks Crescent, the apartment complex adjacent to the shopping mall. The resident, Suzanne Michael, had turned on the self-cleaning function of the

oven and a pan left inside ignited, causing a fire that spread to the ceiling.

"The pan took off and generated a lot of smoke," he added. "With a building that's six stories, it's a bit of a problem. The smoke detectors all go off at once."

The resulting smoke caused some damage to the apartment unit.

The fire chief's advice to residents is to create their own emergency plan that identifies potential exit routes in the event of the fire. In addition, a place outside should be designated where all members of the family will meet after evacuating a burning building.

And don't forget to make sure that all smoke detectors in your home are working, Lenaghan said.

"I actually recommend not having the fire in the first place," he added.

Novi is short anywhere from eight to 16 officers, Shaeffer told the council. This is calculated on the

number of police per 1,000 residents. Novi has 1.27 officers per 1,000 citizens, while the research recommended anywhere from 1.5 to 1.7 officers per each 1,000 residents.

"Chief, I continually have some problem with what you continually put forward. These studies all say we haven't got enough police ... The inference is you have to have the same number of officers per 1,000 in any city and that doesn't make sense to me," Schmidt said.

Based on consultants' studies from 1996, a 1997 FBI study and a 1998 Oakland County study, Novi is short anywhere from eight to 16 officers, Shaeffer told the council. This is calculated on the

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Locals work to reform credit law

Continued from 1

whose firm, Cawthorne, McCollough and Cavanaugh, represents the Associated Credit Bureaus of Michigan.

"It would have a bigger impact on the smaller businesses. The Big Three can handle it, believe me," Cavanaugh said.

"That's going to impose quite a burden on our membership. Most of them subscribe to the Big Three, a lot of them are family-run or smaller businesses. It would add a tremendous cost that would be borne by those of us who apply for a mortgage or loan."

As included in the federal law, the fee assessed for a copy of the credit report defrays the costs to the company for handling over the document, Cavanaugh said. The \$8 is waived if the applicant is on public assistance or unemployed.

Nancy McKeague, Vice President for Human Resources for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber hopes offering free access to credit reports will encourage consumers to manage their finances and not become overextended. The chamber would like to see a reduction in personal bankruptcies, which adversely impact creditors large and small.

"I'm hoping that people who think they might be in trouble would want to check their credit reports. By removing the cost, it helps someone who might have credit problems," McKeague said.

If a consumer has already been turned down for a loan or other credit and asks a credit agency for their report to determine the

grounds of the rejection, the agency is required under federal law to hand over the document for free. But McKeague said it makes good sense to make sure the information is sound before running into a problem.

"We did hear from several people who thought it was very embarrassing to walk into an auto dealership and be denied credit. There was an embarrassment as well as the mere fact that all of us would like the security of knowing that the credit report is accurate," Cassis said.

"It's not a bad deal, considering that the government charges most of us for a public record," he added.

Proponents of the free report argue that the firms are making money gathering records about private individuals, who should then be able to access these records. But Cavanaugh said the bureaus are providing a service for which they should be paid.

"It costs money to put it together. The reason they do compile this information is so that I can get a home loan or a car loan," Cavanaugh said.

"They speed up the ability to get an aid not just to consumers, but to businesses because it speeds up transactions such as mortgage and

loan applications. Violators of the proposed law would be liable for either \$1,000 in damage or any penalty authorized under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Dicks said he hopes his idea eventually becomes law. But Cassis did all the work, he added.

"Nancy was really the one who put in the energy and effort and followed through with it," Dicks said.

Communities differ over drain problem

Continued from 1

any 1997 communication sent by the city.

"We've answered some of Northville Township's questions. We're waiting for them to come back. We haven't heard from them for some time," Nowicki said.

Last year, Novi's consulting engineers JCK & Associates had determined that Quail Ridge was not constructed to design standards, Nowicki said, adding that it was determined Quail Ridge residents were causing some of the problems.

"If they were serious about solving a problem and looking for mutual cooperation, they would contact us," Nowicki added.

Northville Township public services director Don Weaver could not be reached for comment.

Lorenzo pushed for action by the City of Novi, but her fellow council members contended that it is up to the township to take the initiative.

"This city did step up and was responsive to the original request. Since February 1997, Northville [Township] did not pursue the issue," Novi Mayor Kathleen McEllen said.

"We have made some proposals and they did not care to pick it up. I feel the City of Novi has been very responsive and the other municipality did not follow through. We told them what we'd do for them. Nobody asked us."

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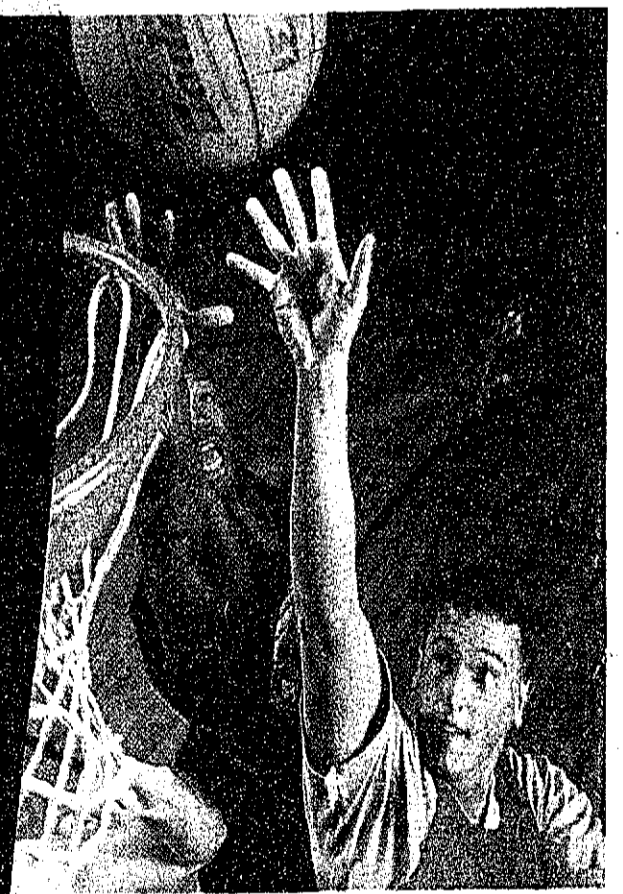
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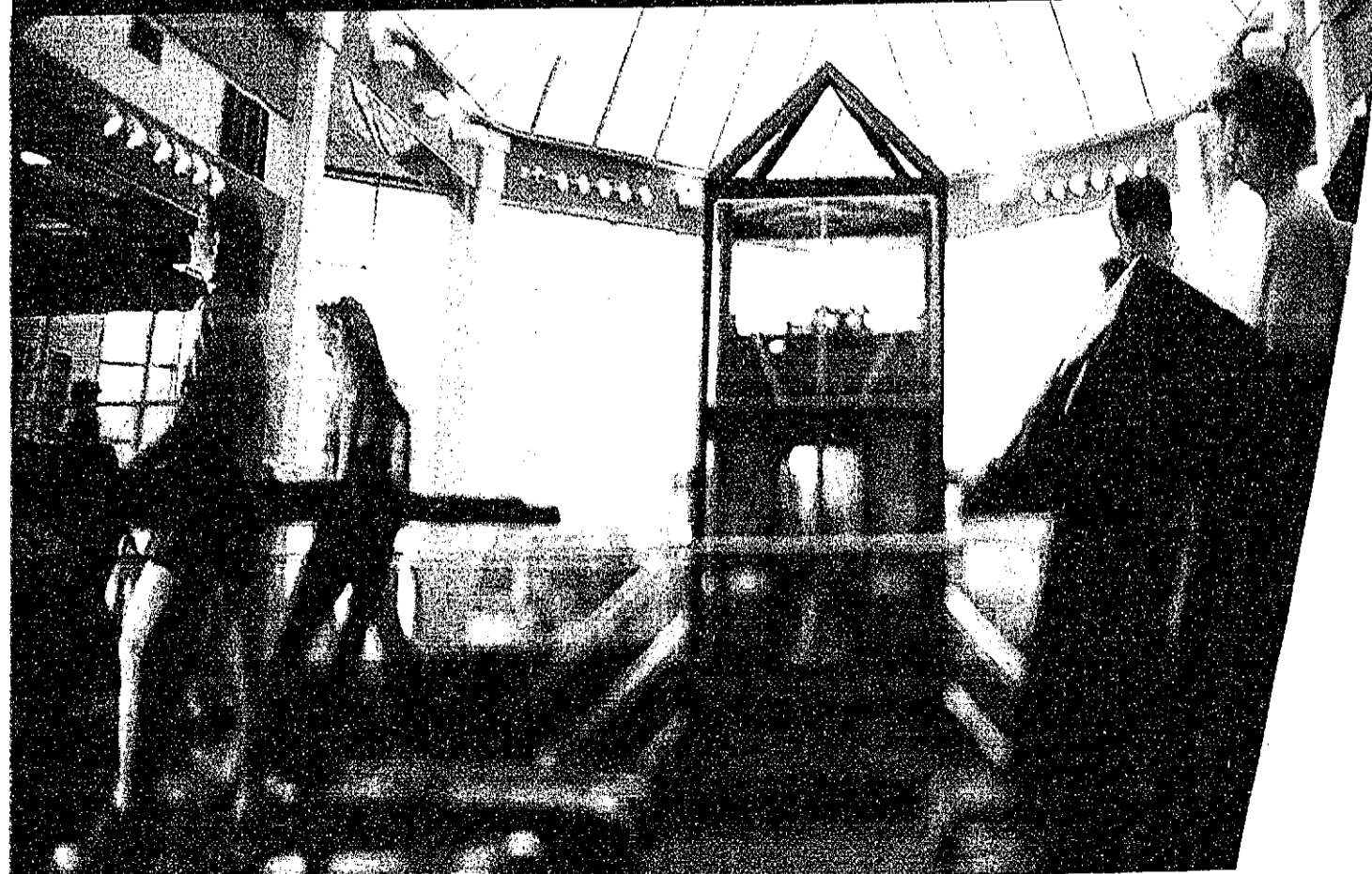


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NEWS

Living

HIGHLIGHTS:
Michigander Smockers
elect new officers-2B

REUNIONS:
Area high schools
hold reunions-3B

SINGLES:
Area groups offer a
variety of activities-1B

DIVERSIONS:
Plymouth Community Chorus
will hold auditions-4B

B
THURSDAY
December 31,
1998

Art for the Holidays

Local woman's
work featured
in magazines

By Carol Dipple
Feature Editor

It's been a busier year than usual for Prudy Vannier.

First, she had Christmas twice - once in the spring and then again last week at its regularly scheduled time.

Having written for "Better Homes and Gardens Decorative Woodcrafts" magazine for years, it was probably just a matter of time before the magazine decided to profile the Northville artist.

"Better Homes and Gardens" decided to feature Vannier in the Christmas issue of their "Decorative Woodcrafts" magazine. To do that, planning began a year in advance.

Although the details were finalized earlier this year in January, by the end of February, Vannier began to have second thoughts and was just about ready to back out.

The idea of taking all her holiday decorations out of the attic just for the three-day magazine interview and photo session and hauling them back to the attic until December was more than she wanted to bother with.

But during a phone call to the magazine's editor, she was told that all she had to do was get the decorations down from the attic and they would make the selection and do the decorating.

The Better Homes and Gardens staff came in from Iowa. They had the greens shipped in from Oregon.

Vannier was used to having head and shoulder photos taken which accompany the many articles of her designs published in about half a dozen trade magazines but this was the first time for a real photo session.

Although the photographer took about 150 shots, it boiled down to just a few because there were pineapples in the background which, in almost every shot, looked like they were coming out of Vannier's head.

She saw the proofs in August just prior to the piece being sent off for publication.

"It was stressful but fun," she said. The crew worked straight through so Vannier's children, Ryan, 24, Christian, 23, Jaime, 20, and Kate, 17, went out for submarine sandwiches.

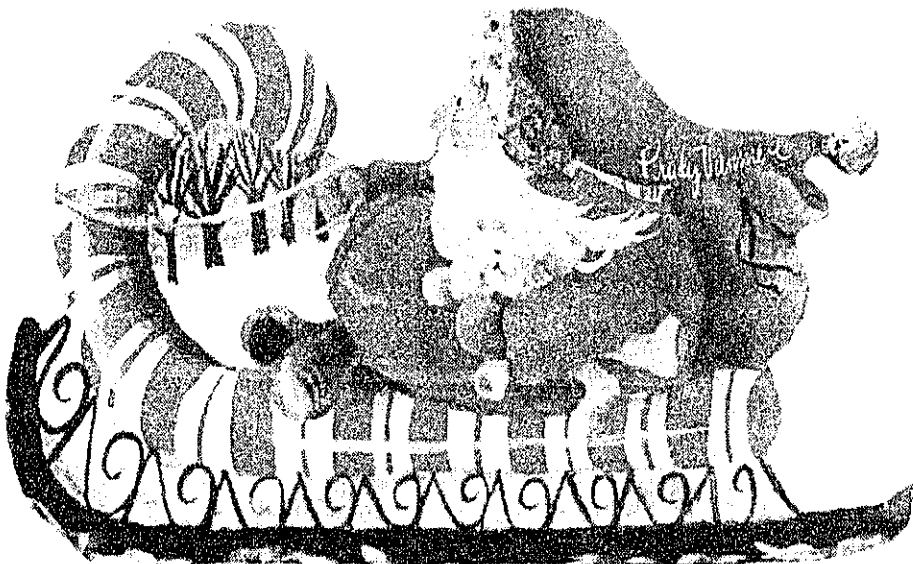
Once the crews left, she couldn't wait to get the seasonal decorations back in the attic and get her house back to normal.

Later in the year, the Society of Decorative Painters, of which she is a member of the local chapter called Village Painters, asked her to submit an ornament to hang on a Christmas tree at



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Prudy Vannier got her start about 10 years ago at Tivoli Fair in Northville. She recently was featured in "Better Homes and Gardens Decorative Woodcrafts" magazine.



Prudy Vannier was asked to design this ornament to hang on one of the Christmas trees at the White House.

the White House.

The specifications for the 200 ornaments needed to do the tree was that they be no bigger than 6 inches by 8 inches with a light background. The tree's theme was sports equipment.

Vannier design a wood ornament with Santa

riding a candy cane sled. One side of the ornament is painted, the other side is signed by Vannier and dated. It is kept in Washington. Vannier and her husband Jim were among those invited to the White House to view the tree a couple of weeks ago.

Vannier was invited to White House on one other occasion, but she didn't go.

"I always wished I had, so this time we're going," she said of their first trip to Washington.

Vannier had been asked by the Society of Decorative Painters to design ornaments on other occasions. The first was several years ago for a tree in the Smithsonian, which she plans to see for the first time on this trip.

She also designed an ornament for the Blair House in Washington, and ornaments which were added to wreaths that were given to visiting diplomats, as well as china Easter eggs for President and Mrs. Bush.

For Vannier, normal around her household, which was established in Northville in 1976, is teaching two classes a week to Japanese women who are here for a few years with their husbands who are employed by the automotive companies.

"They like to learn American painting," she said. "Over the years they have set up the rules. When one leaves, she picks the project, and one of her friends fills her spot. I always have a full class. It's perfect."

Vannier also teaches classes at Witcraft in Livonia.

She has a publishing company which other artists use to have their patterns printed.

Vannier was recently asked by the Japanese Association of Decorative Painters to design something Christmasy for a jewelry box, which they mailed to her.

Vannier turned it into a tea box decorated with cheerful elves serving tea which could be used at Christmas, filled it with tea, and mailed it back. They photographed it, translated her instructions into Japanese and mailed her back the box to keep along with a copy of the magazine which has the photo of the tea box on the front cover.

Vannier has an art degree in print making but she wanted to be an at-home mom.

About 10 years ago she got her start at Tivoli Fair in Northville exhibiting and making door and mailbox signs with her sister.

She got burnt out with the production painting involved with craft shows after a couple of years and went into designing, publishing and teaching.

"When this came along it was perfect," she said.

Vannier puts out one book a year with new designs but is creating new patterns all the time. She just started a subscription club where members get an exclusive pattern once a month.

"I'm always having to create to keep it going," she said.

She taught at William Allan Academy in Northville for quite a few years and now teaches at Witcraft in Livonia. She also travel teaches at trade shows and at chapters of the Society of Decorative Painters across the United States and taught in England this past summer.

"One of these years I'm sure I'll be in Japan teaching," Vannier said.

To accommodate the growing business, she has hired an office manager, bookkeeper, accountant, typesetter, and art director.

"There's not enough days in the week to get all the painting done I'd like to get done plus teach and run the publishing business," she said. "You just keep adding staff."

Going in a different light now, Vannier has been designing clothing - embroidered designs on shirts and printed t-shirts including one for the Ann Arbor Botanical Gardens.

"That's been fun because it is a little different avenue than I've never done before," she said. "It's always fun to try new things."

Vannier doesn't do just Christmas items, she also does fruits and vegetables.

She has also been asked to do a jewelry line with elves and since the article in "Better Homes" hit the newsstands, a company has approached her to do design a flag. She may also be designing nutcrackers for the year 2000.

"I don't want to be known as the elf lady or as the fruit lady," she said.

Northlight Books will publish a collection of her designs which will be released in the spring.

"I've enjoyed every single minute or I wouldn't be doing it," she said.

Singles

SINGLE PLACE, an adult ministry for single people at First Presbyterian Church of Northville, meets Thursday evenings in Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Every Sunday, the group worships at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by brunch at the Northville Crossing Restaurant, 18900 Northville Road, at 12:30 p.m.

On Dec. 31, the group will meet for a New Year's Eve party at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Milford from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

On Jan. 7, Single Place will present "Another Look at Singleness" with David Blake at 7:30 p.m. or an open forum on "Meet Someone through the Singles Ad" with facilitator Dianne Griswold at 8 p.m.

The cost is \$4. An upcoming Growth Workshop entitled "Intimacy & Communication" with Pam Jacobs will meet on Jan. 14, 21 and 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Advance registration cost is \$25.

Jacobs, who is on the faculty of Eastern Michigan University and is in private practice in Ann Arbor, will include an overview of the concepts of intimacy and communication and how they relate, assessment tools to help identify strengths and weaknesses with intimacy and communication, strategies to enhance intimacy and communications skills and exploring tools to develop effective communication and to develop meaningful intimacy in the three-week workshop.

A Ballroom Dance class with Bob Kobra, former Arthur Murray instructor, will meet Jan. 17 through March 28 at 7 p.m. at the Northville Park & Recreation Center. The cost is \$47 in advance or \$49 at

the door.

Kobra will teach the Fox Trot, Rumba, Waltz, Bolero, and the Tango and Swing dance steps.

Upcoming activities include Dinner at Mama Mia Restaurant in Livonia on Jan. 2 followed by a dance at St. Robert Bellermine in Redford; Dinner and Blues beginning at Diamond Jim Brady's on Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. before heading across the street to Oxford Inn; Games and Late Sandwiches at a members home on Jan. 16 at 8 p.m.; the carpool leaves for the Gem Theatre and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" on Jan. 23 at 4:30 p.m.; and a Dinner at McVee Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 followed by a Bethany Together Dance at Divine Providence Church in Southfield at 8 p.m.

On Sunday evenings, Single Place meets for coffee and cards at 6 p.m. at Tuscan Cafe, 150 N. Center Street in Northville.

A Walk in the Park is scheduled every Saturday at 10 a.m. in Heritage Park between Ten and Eleven Mile in Farmington Hills.

For more information, call Single Place at (248) 349-0911.

SUBURBAN SINGLES, meets at Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph Road south of Eight Mile in Redford, on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. The event is open to the public ages 21 and up. No jeans allowed. Cost is \$4 or \$3 before 8:30 p.m.

Every Sunday the group meets at Bonnie Brook from 7 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$4 or \$3 before 7:30 p.m.

For information, call the Suburban Singles hotline at (313) 842-0443 or (313) 842-7422.

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES of Ward Presbyterian Church, Six Mile Road west of Haggerty in Northville Township, invites you to join over 550 single adults every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Rev. Paul Clough delivers messages to help you in your single life struggles. Coffee, donuts, conversation and Christ are always present.

SPM has a program and activity for every age group and life situation including Uniquely Single for never been marrieds, New Start for widows and widowers, Grief Support for those experiencing loss from death or divorce, and People Active in Christian Study, a study group.

Single Parents meets on the first and third Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in Parlor Room C317. There is also a Wednesday evening discussion group which meets at 7 p.m. in the SAM office.

Talk Talk Talk It Over hosts speakers on a variety of topics on the second and fourth Friday of each month. On Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Knox Hall, the guest speaker will be author Ken Davis.

Davis has spent 15 years working in Youth for Christ, and in the last 20 years has become one of the nation's top motivational and inspirational speakers. He is also a best-selling author and has received national critical acclaim including "Book of the Year" award and the CBA Gold Medallion Award.

Indoor volleyball meets Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. at the church. A \$1 donation is suggested to help maintain the equipment.

Bring Your Own Sneakers to Livonia YMCA on Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. for a variety of activities including

tennis, walleyball, volleyball, swimming and line dancing. Cost is \$6/adults, \$2/school-age children.

GLAD in Concert will be Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be taken. The vocal group GLAD has been performing a mixture of pop, adult contemporary, and jazz flavored styles for 23 years.

Free child care will be available during the concert.

A 1999 Winter Divorce Recovery Workshop for divorced or separated persons will be held February 11 to MARCH 25 on seven consecutive Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Knox Hall.

The cost for the workshop is \$25 if you pre-register, \$30 for those who register the first night of the workshop, or \$15 if you are repeating. You may register by mail, at the Single Point Ministries office, on Sunday morning, or on the first night of the workshop. To facilitate registration, arriving by 6:30 p.m. the first night is recommended.

Free child care for infants through sixth grade will be available.

For more information, call (734) 374-5920.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONAL, is a social group for singles ages 25 to 45 who can participate in over 350 activities each year.

Upcoming activities include: Euchre, Pinochle and Dinner at Tom's Oyster Bar every Monday at 6:30 p.m.; Wallyball every Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.; 6th Annual New Year's Eve Party/Dance at Botsford Inn on Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.; and Single Mingle Dance at DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel in Novi on Jan. 2 at 8 p.m. FSP hotline is (248) 851-9909.

Smockers elect new officers for 1999

By JEANNE CLARKE
Special Writer

The Michigan Smockers held their annual Christmas meeting/party on Dec. 10 at the Novi Library. During the meeting, they worked on a project of stamping on velvet, followed by lunch at the Country Epicure.

Members exchanged \$5 sewing-related gifts such as fabric, notions, etc.

Outgoing president Janet Host was presented with a special gift for all of her work this past year. Her summary of the year's activities of the many programs and activities included making and embroidering a fingerie bag, fabric stenciling techniques, lattice smoking, making a tea cozy and a knitted doll coat, smocked eggs, doves, and embroidered tea towels.

In addition, everyone worked through the year on the perennial loss games that will be given to parents suffering the death of an infant at Hazel Hospital.

Many members enjoyed the Embroidered Angel Seminar with Sharon Schlemmer on Nov. 14 with dinner following.

Elections were held in December and results are as follows: president, Sharon Schlemmer; vice president in charge of programs, Wendy Otto; secretary, Nancy Young; treasurer, Pat Cousins; librarian, Kelly Nawrocki; hospitality, Pat Easton; publicity, Lois Nelson; historian, Peggy Petersen; and newsletter, Janet Host.

Starting in January the club moves to only one meeting a month beginning on Jan. 18 at the Novi Library at 10 a.m. Plus also include starting a three-month project of a pillow sampler with several different stitches to be learned.

Each meeting includes a Show and Share where those attending bring to the meeting a project they have been working on at home as well as a snack. Guests are welcome as the group would like to share their interest in smocking with those who have not yet learned the craft. Guests may attend the first meeting without charge, after that the cost is \$2 a meeting plus the cost of a kit if one is used.

Anyone who is interested in additional information, can contact the Novi Library at 349-0720.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends is a self-help organization for families who are grieving the death of a child and are living in the lakes area as well as Novi.

The group meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Richardson Center located at 1485 Oakley Park Road in Commerce Township near Walled Lake Central High School.

Chapter leader is Wayne Loder, formerly with "The Novi News," assisted by Pat Loder, who was formerly the Deputy City Clerk in Novi.

December was especially a busy time for them and also one of the most difficult times for families facing this type of situation. To assist the members of this organization, several programs were available starting with the sixth annual Lake's Area Candle Light Memorial Service that was held on Dec. 8 at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church on Commerce Road.

About 130 attended the special nonsecular service.

Parents who attended were asked to bring a picture or memento of the child they were remembering for the display at the memorial table. The program included special readings or poems read by mothers who had written them or were appropriate to the occasion.

Denise Kurovski sang several songs including "Precious Child," "We Will Remember You," and "If I Had Only Known." Wayne Loder read "A Candle of Remembrance." There was also a roll call of all the children being remembered. A time of sharing and refreshments followed the program.

This local service was followed by the second worldwide candle lighting service on Dec. 13, which was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate as National Children's Memorial Day. The worldwide candle lighting started at 7 p.m. On the Internet, the web site chat room was open for 24 hours as the candle lighting went from New Zealand time. Over 400 messages were received from around the world.

Anyone wishing information on the local chapter, can call (248) 684-4234.

NOVI YOUTH FORUM

The first meeting of the new year for the Novi Youth Forum will be on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 9 a.m. at the Novi Police Department in the second floor classroom.

The guest speaker will be Diane Duthie who is the project director

of the Southwest Alternative Middle School. The Forum continues to have representatives from youth-oriented groups and agencies in not just Novi but also Oakland County attend. Membership has been from both the public and the private sector. If you are not presently receiving a notice of meetings and are involved in working with an organization that is interested in improving services for local youth and their families, you might want to contact one of the steering committee members. They are Kevin Hebert, of the Youth Bureau of the Novi Police Department; Claudia Walter, caseworker, Novi Youth Assistance; or Bob Stech, director of community education. The Forum presents an opportunity for those in their organizations to share their objectives, goals, needs, and perhaps, difficulties while carrying out their wishes to assist the youth in Novi. Needs have been identified, coordination of available services and perhaps development of ideas to improve situations have been found through the networking program. Each person attending shares upcoming events or possibly the need for assistance in programs. Anyone attending can then offer suggestions, etc. Special speakers

Novi Highlights

are present from time to time to outline their programs for those attending who may not be aware of them. Some of those have included Terry McCauley of Twelve Oaks Mall who presented a video on shoplifting and distributed copies of "Rules of Common Courtesy." Al Sutterfield of Brighton Hospital, Jean Couturier of Oakland County Health Division, Beth Belter of Community that Cares, Estralee Michaelson of Farmington Training Center, etc.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The holidays have been busy at First Baptist Church of Novi, which is located at Tall and Eleven Mile roads, along with the ministries.

A new, lighted sign was recently dedicated in memory of Bill and Bea McQueen who were life-long members of the church. Over 40 members of their family including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were present for the dedication ceremony and the dinner that followed.

In November the annual Harvest Dinner was served at the Novi Christian School with over 250 in attendance. Following the dinner, a program was presented by the various ministries. This included not only the Praise Team from the church, but also the Home School Ministry, the Care Ministry, and the School Ministry, including grades kindergarten through sixth grade, with an ending presented by the high school students.

For Christmas the church was decorated with many, many red poinsettias given in memory of family members, etc.

The morning Praise and Worship service included special music by Rev. Berry of Calvary Christian Center who played guitar and sang selections including "Fires of Praise," and "My God is Real." Scott DeAngelo sang "My Deliverer." The children's program followed led by Donna DeAngelo.

The Annual Christmas Party was a family affair and held at the church with refreshments, carol singing and playing Bible Pictionary.

Last Sunday Pastor Elbert presented his Christmas message entitled "What God Gives His Children for Christmas."

In addition he made several announcements of events coming up that included that Josh Rescobar and Gary Elmer, Jr. would be leaving this week to attend World of Life Bible Institute in New York.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, there will be a New Year's Message and Communion Service. On Jan. 17, Mr. and Mrs. Don Elle will be in the morning worship service with their family Tom, Phil, Christi and Dave, and their daughter Debbie who just passed the Michigan State boards and became a licensed EMT. The Elle family attended Novi Christian School with Mr. and Mrs. Elle on staff several years ago before moving to Russia as missionaries. Friends who knew them at that time are invited to the service and the potluck which follows.

On Jan. 24, the State of the Church message will be given at the annual business meeting in the evening.

Novi Highlights is written by Jeanne Clarke. Should you wish to contact her with information for this column, call 624-0173.

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Weddings



Lynda and John Lambert

Lynda Christoph and John Edward Lambert were married on May 24, 1998 at St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Christoph of Brighton, formerly of Northville. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith of Southgate and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert of Jenison, Mich.

Rev. John Feydel presided over the double-ring service. The bride was given in marriage by her parents. She wore a traditional style, plain, silk gown with full cathedral-length skirt and short sleeves. The bodice had embroidered daisies with very little beading. The cathedral-length veil was of handmade Belgian lace. She carried a bridal bouquet of white and purple tulips, daisies, and lilies.

The maid of honor was Anissa Bristol, formerly of Northville. Bridesmaids were Kathryn Morris, bride's sister; Laura Mahnik,

bride's sister; and Robin Toepfer, college friend of the bride.

The best man was Ronald Ortolan, friend of the groom. Grooms men were Craig Lyon, friend of the groom; Matthew Withers, college friend of the groom; and James Lambert, cousin of the groom.

A reception for 150 guests was held at the Dearborn Inn in Dearborn.

The couple honeymooned at Negri and Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

The bride received both bachelor of science and master's degrees from Michigan State University and is employed as an assistant manager in the public relations department at Ford Motor Company.

The groom received a bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University and is a professional trainer of Arabian show horses.

The couple will reside in Milford.



Laura and Glen Stroup

Laura Lynn Bendena and Glen John Stroup were married on July 11, 1998 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pinkney, Mich.

The bride is the daughter of Lawrence and Carolyn Bendena of Pinkney. The groom is the son of Egan and Lorraine Stroup of Kentwood, Mich.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents. Father Ken Coughlin presided.

The bride wore an off-the-shoulders, ivory gown with an empire waist with pearls, sequins and lace underlay. The veil was hand-made by the bride's mother and had a lace and satin underlay encrusted with crystals, ivory pearls and pearl beads.

She carried a cascading bridal bouquet of yellow roses, lilies, daisies, ivy and astromeria buds.

The matrons of honor were Rebecca Novak and Lisa Higgins. Bridesmaids were Melissa Clark, Melanie Watkins, and Laurie MacLag.

The best man was Jeffrey

Engagement



Renata Dos Reis/Steven Allen

Richard and Patricia Allen announce the engagement of their son, Steven Scott, to Renata Valeria Americo Dos Reis, daughter of Leicia Pena and Dayr Reis of La Crosse, Wis.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Central High School of LaCrosse, Wis. She received a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Michigan in 1998. Renata is pursuing a nursing degree

through the University of Michigan's Second Career Nursing Program.

The bridegroom-elect is a graduate of Northville High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan. Steven is an engineer at Ford Motor Company.

A December 1998 wedding is planned.

Reunions

PLYMOUTH-CANTON HIGH SCHOOL: Class of 1979, 20-year reunion, Aug. 7, 1999, Holiday Inn-West, Livonia. Call (734) 397-8766.

WALLED LAKE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL: Class of 1979, 20-year reunion, Aug. 14, 1999, DoubleTree Guest Suites in Southfield. Call (248) 366-9453.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: Class of 1969, 30-year reunion, Oct. 2, 1999, DoubleTree Guest Suites in Southfield. Call (248) 360-7004.

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Health

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NEWS
8B
THURSDAY
December 31,
1998

Health Column

Think before picking up that shovel

Normal: With the arrival of the season's first significant snowfall, Michigan residents will be forced to make the decision to shovel or not to shovel.

Dr. Barry Franklin, director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at William Beaumont Hospital and official spokesperson for the American Heart Association, says new information about heart disease should make people think before they decide whether to pick up a shovel.

"In persons who are normally inactive with known or hidden heart disease, snow shoveling can trigger heart attacks and even sudden cardiac death."

The American Heart Association says that, if you are middle aged or older and haven't been physically active, you should be extremely cautious. Don't lift a heavy shovel piled high with snow. The combination of sudden physical exertion and the cold increases the heart's workload. It's natural for the blood vessels to temporarily narrow when in cold weather. The cold can be even more dangerous if vessels are already narrowed due to fatty deposits. Too much strain on the heart during these conditions could cause a heart attack.

"Several years ago, researchers at Beaumont

Hospital found that the heart rate and blood pressure responses to shoveling heavy wet snow often approached and exceeded the same responses during maximum exercise testing," said Franklin. "And, within 2 minutes, most subjects had already exceeded their upper heart rate limit for aerobic exercise training. It is no wonder that each year many middle aged and older individuals experience cardiovascular complications during snow shoveling."

Hypothermia also is a danger we should guard against. Hypothermia is a drop in body temperature to a subnormal level and it is potentially fatal. Symptoms are slowed breathing and heartbeat, lack of coordination, confusion and drowsiness.

Here are some more tips from the American Heart Association for younger healthy individuals, who make the decision to shovel snow.

- Wear several layers of clothing instead of one heavy layer.
 - Put on a hat or scarf because most heat is lost through the top of the head.
 - Protect ears and hands too, because they are most susceptible to frostbite.
- Before going out to shovel snow, the American Heart Association suggests that you

should see a doctor first if you:

- Have a heart condition and were advised to participate only in medically supervised physical activity.
 - Experience shoulder or arm pain during or soon after exercise.
 - Have developed chest pain within the last few months.
 - Tend to experience lightheadedness or chest pressure, or falls due to dizziness.
 - Experience heart rhythm irregularities or palpitations.
 - Feel extremely breathless after mild exertion.
 - Were told by a doctor to take medicine for high blood pressure or a heart condition.
 - Have a family history of premature (early) heart disease.
 - Have bone or joint problems that could be made worse by shoveling snow or performing other strenuous activities.
 - Have some other physical condition that might need attention.
- For more information about year-round safe physical activities, contact your nearest American Heart Association or call 1-800-OKA-HAUSA (1-800-242-8721).

Health Notes

Bones in Motion

Individualized programs geared for people seeking to prevent osteoporosis or alleviate its effects. Learn how to exercise safely and effectively while strengthening bone mass. Nutritional counseling for osteoporosis also included. Program is conducted by an exercise physiologist and registered dietitian. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

Japanese Childbirth Education Class

A registered nurse and a Japanese-speaking translator offer information on what to expect during labor and delivery. Methods to help the mother through the birth process are also presented. A \$150 fee and registration required. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information, call (248) 477-6100.

Kinetics I and II

This eight-week course offers a light fitness program for individuals who have difficulty with daily activities as a result of musculoskeletal or endurance limitations. Fees: Kinetics I, \$80; Kinetics II, \$70. Registration required. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

Nutritional Tune-Up

Need to get your diet in gear? How about a nutritional tune-up? Focusing on vegetarian, low-fat, low-cholesterol, prenatal nutrition, sports nutrition, weight loss, diabetic menus and more. A \$30 fee for individual consultation with a registered dietitian. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For information, call (248) 477-6100.

Premarital Counseling

State laws now require that couples who are applying for a marriage license receive counseling on the transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. A physician will sign the certificate required. Meets from 7-8:30 p.m.: \$25 fee/couple and registration required. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information, call (313) 537-1110.

Sibling: It's My Baby, Too

Children (ages 3-6) learn about their new baby sibling through videotapes, coloring books and role play. Classes offered monthly; \$10 fee and preregistration required. Botsford's Health Development Network, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

Walking Clubs

Botsford General Hospital sponsors two free walking clubs. Laurel Park Mall (Six Mile and Newburg roads) available at 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Free blood pressure provided by Botsford for walkers on the fourth Monday of every month, 8-10 a.m. Livonia Mall (Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads) beginning 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Free blood pressure checks provided by Botsford for Walkers on the third Wednesday of every month from 8-10 a.m. For more information, call Botsford's Health Development Network at (248) 477-6100.

Weight on the Run

Learn about effective, safe exercise and nutritious eating. Conducted by an exercise physiologist and a registered dietitian, this 12-week program starts with a fitness assessment and nutritional consultation, followed by three weekly monitored workouts and additional nutrition counseling. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For more information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

Hot Flash Study

Women who suffer from multiple daily hot flashes associated with menopause are being sought to participate in a nationwide study to assess the safety and effectiveness of an investigational hormone replacement skin patch to treat hot flashes. Women may be eligible if they are between the ages of 45 and 65, have not had a menstrual period in six months, or a hysterectomy. For more information, call 493-6580.

Well Child Clinic

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an HMO or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 12 locations throughout Oakland County.

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

An appointment is required. For more information, call the North Oakland office, Pontiac, (248) 858-1311 or 858-4001; South Oakland, Southfield, (248) 424-7066 or 424-7067; or West Oakland, Walled Lake (248) 926-3300.

• Healthy Cooking Demos: "Best Beef Recipes." Tired of the same old recipes? This session will give you just the right seasonings. Meets at 7 p.m. There is a \$6 fee and preregistration is required. Botsford's Health Development Network on Grand River, Novi. Call (248) 477-6100 for information or to register.

Referral service

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

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

The service is free of charge and can be reached by calling 1-800-968-5595. The staff of Physician Referral Services can help locate physicians by specialty or location, finding an office close to your home or work. They can even match individuals with physicians who participate in particular insurance plans. Callers can also receive information on support groups, health education classes and lectures.

For referral services, call 1-800-968-5595.

Prostate Cancer Meeting

These meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Hills. For information call (248) 424-5543.

Body Fat Analysis

Have your body fat analysis done by a registered dietitian. Full printed report with recommendations for exercise and diet to promote health. Please Call (248) 424-3903 for appointment and fee. The program will be held at Providence Medical Center-Farmington Hills/NW, Mission Health Medical Center-Livonia, Providence Medical Center-Providence Park in Novi, and Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Baby Beepers

Monthly beeper rentals available. Stay in touch with your labor partner. Call (248) 424-3332 for information and fee.

Managing Your Blood Pressure

Free blood pressure checks, open to the public, are being held in the emergency room of Providence Medical Center-Providence Park in Novi, Monday-Friday, from 9-11 a.m. No appointment necessary.

Weight on the Run

Conducted by an exercise physiologist and a nutritionist, this 12-week program starts with a fitness assessment and nutritional consultation, followed by three weekly monitored workouts and weekly nutritional support.

Day and evening classes available. A \$300 fee includes enrollment in the class "ABC of Weight Loss." Botsford Center for Health Improvement-TRACC, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi.

For more information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

Childbirth Education

A six-week series designed to prepare the pregnant woman and her support person for the birth experience is being offered at Providence Medical Centers throughout Oakland and Wayne counties. A tour of the birthing area is included. Childbirth refresher and Caesarean birth classes are also offered.

Cost: \$65. For more information or to register, call 1-800-968-5595.

Diabetes Education

A comprehensive program which includes self-monitoring of blood glucose, diet and meal planning, disease management with exercise, potential complications of the disease, and presentations by a pharmacist and a podiatrist.

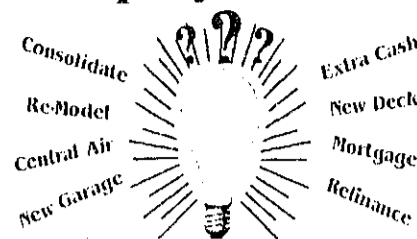
Date: Continuously revolving six-week program held on Monday evenings. From 6-8:30 p.m. at Providence Medical Office Center in Novi, Ten Mile and Haggerty roads. Fee: \$20. To register call (248) 424-3903.

Martial Arts for Special Children

Conducted by a black-belt martial arts instructor, a physical therapist and an exercise therapist for children ages 5-16 with special needs such as cerebral palsy, A.D.D., or sensory integration dysfunction.

Continuously revolving eight-week course held on Friday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. at Providence Medical Center-Providence Park in Novi. The cost is \$100. Call 1-800-968-5595 to registersdes, improves breathing and promotes relaxation.

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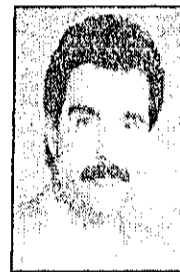
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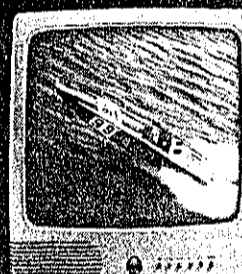


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