

50¢

MONDAY

December

Two Sections
12 Pages plus Supplements

the NOVI NEWS

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It's legal reform or insurance rate hikes

 By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

Auto owners in many suburbs face big insurance premium hikes Jan. 1 if state lawmakers continue to deadlock on lawsuit reform.

"The two chairs have taken rigid positions, at least in the tort area," said Sen. William Faust, D-Westland, a member of the Senate-House conference committee. Its negotiations broke down Thursday morning.

"Suburbanites will be subsidizing reductions for the city of Detroit," said Doug Cruce, president of the Michigan Insurance Federation and former state senator from Troy.

"The current law sunsets Dec. 31. Then we'll go back to the old law before 1986," Cruce said in an interview as he shuttled back and forth between leaders' offices.

The result would be territorial ratings: the rate in a zone next to Detroit could be no less than 10 percent below the Detroit rate; the rate in the next zone, 10 percent below that; and so on.

"The overall state variance (for any one company) can't be more than 45 percent," Cruce said.

Detroit has the highest rates, he said, "because in Detroit you're eight times more likely to have your car stolen. The costs of repairs and hospitalizations is 50 percent more."

Some suburbs actually would benefit from territorial ratings. But insurers broke down rates by legislative districts to show that Democratic lawmakers close to Detroit would see fairly big hikes.

"A lot of Democratic lawmakers are in favor of what we have now," said Cruce.

Here are AAA's (1) current annual rates and projections of (2) 1992 rates and (3) the increase for a 45-year-old male driving a 1990 Ford Taurus LX three miles to work:

■ Southern Novi — \$677.80; \$713.40 — up \$35.60.
■ Salem Township — \$761.60; \$778.60 — up \$17.
■ Howell — \$731.80; \$757.60 — up \$25.80.
■ Plymouth — \$706.80; \$713.40 — up \$6.60.

Those rates are for Michigan's largest auto insurer. Charts were unavailable for Allstate, State Farm and other companies but were said to show even larger hikes.

Faust said Sen. Paul Wartner, R-Portage, and Rep. Mary Brown, D-Kalamazoo, deadlocked on the question of tort reform.

"Mary didn't want to hear of it. Paul said you had to have it," Faust said. Brown and Wartner chair the committees handling insurance legislation in their respective chambers.

Tort questions include: a cap on "pain and suffering" damages in lawsuits; caps on attorney fees in "contingency" cases; liability limitations for emergency room personnel; and consumer-chosen limits on coverage, among others.

"That brought down the confer-

Continued on 4



Photo by HAL GOULD

The view from the top

While two-year-old Kristin Engelsen cuddles up to Santa Claus on his throne at Twelve Oaks Mall and shares a few secrets, her

mother, Mary, captures the moment on film. This one looks destined for a place of honor in the family scrapbook.

Superintendent selection on hold

 By SUZANNE HOLLYER
Staff Writer

Anyone who expected to learn on Saturday the identity of Novi's new superintendent was in for a surprise.

A meeting to select the new superintendent was scheduled for Saturday at noon.

But the school board decided to allow both candidates the opportunity to review the proposed contract before moving on in the selection process, said school board Trustee Raymond Byers.

The final selection meeting was cancelled and has not been rescheduled, Byers said.

Board President Stephen Hitchcock, who is an attorney, helped rewrite the superintendent's contract.

The new contract is quite a bit different from

"I could see either man as superintendent."

Robert Schram
School board president

former Superintendent Robert Piwko's contract, Byers said.

"We're just trying to polish the new language (in the contract)," he said.

Emmett Lippe and Jon Reynolds are the two finalists.

Lippe has been superintendent in the Williamston school district since 1976.

Reynolds has worked as superintendent in Waverly schools since 1983. The Waverly school

district is on the west side of Lansing in Delta Township.

The two candidates were selected from a field of 87 applicants.

Both Lippe and Reynolds received high praise from people interviewed last week who have worked with them in their current school district.

Lippe was said to be a hard worker who gets along well with others.

Reynolds, who was also well regarded by his colleagues, was a finalist in the 1980 search for a superintendent that ended with the board hiring Piwko.

Board Vice President Robert Schram said Reynolds was not in the top two candidates 11 years ago. But Schram added that Reynolds has grown as a superintendent.

"I could see either man as superintendent," Schram said.

Pop bomb leaves police guessing

 By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

Was it someone playing with chemicals? Or was it something more?

Novi Police are attempting to identify a liquid substance found in the remains of a 16-ounce Mountain Dew bottle that exploded on the front porch of a home on Serenity.

Police said the homeowner reported that he heard a loud bang shortly after 10:30 p.m. Dec. 7 and searched all over his residence in an attempt to locate its source.

Finally, police said, he found the damaged plastic bottle on his front porch. The bottle appeared to have been ripped apart by the explosion. Police found the unidentified

fluid inside the bottle.

In addition, police discovered two small, ball-shaped pieces of aluminum foil. The foil, which appeared to have been darkened by the explosion, was about two feet away from the bottle.

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said he did not know what the discovery meant.

Although the Mountain Dew bottle exploded, police said there were no visible scorch marks on the porch of the residence. In addition, they reported the bottle appeared to have been placed on the porch, and not tossed from a distance.

Neither the homeowner nor his 15-year-old daughter had any idea who might have left the device on their porch.

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Community Calendar

Today, December 16

Band Boosters: Novi High School Band Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. in room 511 of the high school building.

Players audition: The Novi Players will hold auditions for "Shy," a comedy-drama with parts for both men and women. Come to the Novi Circle Theater in the Novi Expo Center at 7 p.m. The Expo center is located on Mohawk Drive in Novi. Rehearsals begin in January. For more information, call 474-8032.

Tuesday, December 17

Winter concert: The Novi High School Choir Department will present its Winter Concert in the Fuest Auditorium at the high school at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Blood drive: Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Township sponsoring a blood drive. Call 360-3314 for an appointment.

Wednesday, December 18

Planning Commission: The Novi Planning Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Winter concert: The Novi High School Band will hold its annual winter concert at the Fuest Auditorium in the high school at 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 19

Open house/board meeting: The Novi School board will meet

in the Novi High School building. An open house will run from 2-5 p.m. prior to the meeting. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the library of Novi High School.

Historical Society: The Novi Historical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Town Hall next to the library in the city civic center complex.

Friday, December 20

Holiday vacation: Holiday vacation for Novi students begins at the end of the school day today.

Choralaires perform: The Novi Choralaires will perform before the Northville Women's Club at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main, in downtown Northville at 1 p.m. The special program will be a welcome for new members to the group.

Saturday, December 21

Caroling: The Novi High School Choirs will be caroling at the grand piano at Hudsons in the 12 Oaks Mall from 10 a.m. to noon.

Delivery day: The Novi Jaycees will deliver collected items to needy families in the Novi area beginning at 10 a.m. Meet at Jaycee House on Sixth Gate.

Monday, December 23

City Council: Novi city council meets at 8 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas eve: City offices and the Novi public library will be closed.

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day: City offices and the Novi public library will be closed.

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve: City offices and the Novi public library will be closed.

Monday, December 31

Party planning: The parent planning committee of the Novi High School senior all-night party will hold its organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in the Fuest Auditorium of Novi High School. Volunteers are needed to make this all-night party a success. Contributions and donations are also needed. Tickets for the party will be sold at the meeting for \$25.

To get your event listed in the Community Calendar, send information regarding the event, activities to be included, who is sponsoring it, location, time and date, ticket information and the purpose to which any proceeds will be put to the Novi News at 104 Main Street, Northville, 48167.

Plan would 'ship' Novi wetlands to St. Clair

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

As West Bloomfield resident Ken Whitlock sees it, development since 1972 has turned Haggerty from a road into a parking lot. He'd like to see relief in the form of M-5.

To Art Valenti, president of the 125-member Summit Hills Homeowners Association, cutting off the Connector at Pontiac Trail will just create a bottleneck.

"There's going to be a huge, huge, tremendous, tremendous block of cars that will go nowhere," he said.

"A road to nowhere" is what most of those against the Connector have dubbed the project. The two sides met head-on in Farmington Hills Dec. 16 at a public hearing called by the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR is evaluating a Michigan Department of Public Transportation's (MDOT) application for a permit to mitigate most of the 46 acres of wetlands lost to the Connector in St. Clair County.

This long-distance wetlands replacement has been endorsed by

Farmington Hills and opposed by Novi.

"I have two peat bogs. These are the best water systems they have in Novi. All of Summit Hills empties into them. It's a goddamn shame to allow them to be mitigated that land unless you do it on site. We had a big extravaganza. MDOT was there and all the real estate barons. Not an open meeting like this. We got a snow job. The people in southeast Michigan were not told they were going to ship the wetlands to St. Clair County," said Valenti, who is battling to keep M-5 off his property.

"I was asked to hear this guy from Farmington Hills say they're for it 100 percent. The amount of land they're going to lose is infinitesimal. Oh, Farmington wants that road. Put it in Novi. They won't give up one acre of land."

James Concoran, president of the Pleasant Lake Improvement Association in West Bloomfield, agreed that the wetlands should be replaced within the same watershed. His subdivision is adjacent to some of the existing marshes.

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DNR answer to come in February

Continued from Page 1

"The (DNR) wildlife division is supportive of the off-site mitigation. We also issue permits to the wildlife division to do their work and we have to be objective. We have, as best as we can, an objective staff and we're experienced at this," Dave Bastian, DNR water quality specialist.

He added that he has never seen a plan to replace wetlands at a distance greater than five miles before. Bastian said he was not sure if this could set a precedent for both public and private construction.

"The input is excellent. It was good in the fact that we heard from both sides. Quite often the hearings are slanted to one side," he said following the session.

Breathing down the DNR's neck is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has already submitted into the record its disapproval of several elements of the plan. MDOT hopes to recreate the wetlands on a one-on-one wetlands basis while federal standards call for a 1.5-on-one replacement. In addition, the EPA argues that the environmental impact statement for the Connector only stops at Pontiac Trail, when it is likely that the road will eventually push up north to M-59 through a sensitive wetlands and lakes district.

Larry Alber, supervisor of the evaluation and mitigation unit of MDOT's environmental division, said that sites adjacent to M-5 were studied as possible marsh replacement areas but were

rejected due to the costliness of land in this area. In addition, the rolling topography here made it difficult to find property low enough to essentially create a swamp from scratch, he said. To mitigate wetlands, the groundwater table must be accessible.

"The bottom line is we spent nearly five years in studying the project... what we presented here tonight is the most reasonable project we could come up with. I'm not going to stand here and tell you we looked at every site in Novi and Farmington Hills," Alber said.

What MDOT would like to do is replace 3.6 acres of wetlands as water detention sites within the Connector's southern interchange. Another 12.7 acres of wetlands would be built on Detroit

Edison-owned land south of Twelve Mile and west of Haggerty Road. Edison plans to build a switching station there in the near future and MDOT's proposal means that the station will have to take 1.4 acres of wetlands.

The balance of the mitigation—29.5 acres—would be at the state-owned wildlife area, St. Johns Marsh, replacing wetlands lost in St. Clair County before the state regulated wetlands, Alber said.

Novi put forth several local sites as appropriate for the mitigation, but MDOT received them after the permit was submitted to the DNR, Alber said, adding that transportation department doesn't plan to switch its designs, midstream.

Novi Briefs

Strain's hearing adjourned: Band Director Craig Strain's tenure hearing scheduled for Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. was adjourned at the union's request, said Interim Superintendent William Barr. Strain has been accused of sexual misconduct by a student. Barr was unsure when the hearing would be rescheduled. Strain's attorney has not returned repeated phone calls.

Free concert this week: Novi High School's holiday concert, featuring the symphony and concert bands, will be Wednesday, Dec. 18. The free concert features seasonal favorites as well as classical selections in Fuest Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. The evening also includes a sing-a-long.

Best decorations: Now that Thanksgiving is over, it's time to put up the Christmas decorations. The City of Novi began a new tradition last year... judging the homes (houses, condos, apartments) to see who had the best Christmas decorations in the City of Novi. The winners will receive their prizes at the Dec. 23 meeting of the Novi City Council. They will receive custom-designed ornaments. As residents drive around the city, they are being asked to check out the Christmas decorations and nominate their favorites. Call Cindy Stewart at 347-0445 with the addresses and names if you know them. The winners will then be selected from those nominations.

The Grand Tour: City officials and the business community gathered at the new Novi Expo Center recently for a tour of the facility. The site is the future home of the Motorsports Hall of Fame Museum, the Novi Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Novi Players.

Plans are already under way for the Motorsports Hall of Fame's Pre-Grand Opening Celebration and Auction. The Jan. 11 event will feature music and dancing at the Expo Center. For tickets, call 349-RACE. Hosting the tour were the City of Novi, JCK & Associates, building owner Frank Adell, the Motorsports Museum, the Novi Expo Committee, the Novi Chamber of Commerce and Thompson Brown Realtors. Participants nibbled on refreshments provided by Victor's, the Sheraton Oaks, the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Diane Risko.

Senior party planning: 1992 Novi High School senior party planning committees are being formed. All adults interested in making the party a spectacular event should contact Kathy McCarthy, 348-6525, in the evening or Lisa Willard, 478-7087, in the evening.

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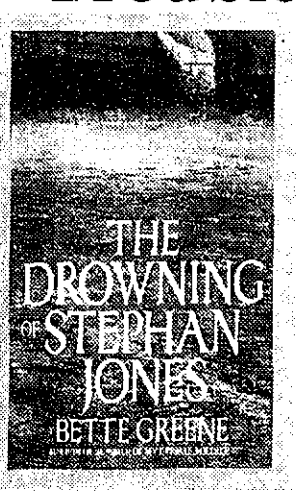
Watch out, Famous Amos. Parkview Elementary third grader Kyle Packard's cookies, pretzels and muffins sold so well Dec. 12 that he decided he needed more dough. Money, that is. The young entrepreneur kept raising his prices.

It was all part of a lesson in supply and demand and old-fashioned economics. Parents were the customers. The kids controlled the market.



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

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SUGAR LOAF SKI AREA	18 miles NW of Traverse City	616-228-0700
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Happy Holidays

Phone modem called from car

A resident on Lonsdale Ave. reported Dec. 10 that her laptop phone modem was stolen from her vehicle.

The woman told police she parked her 1988 Chevrolet at her residence at 6 p.m. Sunday and returned at 2 p.m. Monday to discover the incident.

Police said the driver's side door of the vehicle had been tampered with, but there was no visible damage.

MDOP: A resident on Hampton Hill was the latest in a series of residents reporting a broken window.

Police said that sometime between 11 p.m. Dec. 9 and 4 p.m. Dec. 10, the window was apparently broken by a vandal with a slingshot or pellet gun.

Novi Police

A small pellet was found in the living room of the home.

ATTEMPTED AUTO THEFT: A resident on Beachwalk reported Dec. 12 that someone damaged his car in a theft attempt.

The man told police he parked his 1986 Pontiac Firebird at the location on Beachwalk for several days and that he suspects it every morning. At approximately 8 a.m. Dec. 12, he

said, he inspected it and noticed that both doors were unlocked and partly open.

He said he then noticed that his steering wheel column was broken and had two wires sticking out of it. He said he further noticed that pieces of his steering column were lying on the floor of his vehicle.

Nothing was reported stolen from the vehicle.

BREAKING AND ENTERING: A con-

struction foreman at a site on Wellington Drive reported Dec. 12 that someone broke in and stole a telephone answering machine.

Police said the front door of the trailer had been pried open.

LARCENY: A resident on Sunrise reported Dec. 12 that someone stole 10-15 Christmas bulbs from the front of his house.

Police said the incident occurred between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. The residence is directly in front of a school bus stop.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Volunteer Notes

Hotline for volunteers: The need for donations and volunteers by non-profit organizations is greater than ever during the Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

Recognizing this need, Allnet Communications Services, Inc. will use the Allnet HelpLink Hotline, to connect potential volunteers with non-profit agencies in need of help, according to Allnet President John Zmo.

The Allnet HelpLink Hotline is a toll free number featuring recorded messages from non-profit organizations. During December, organizations with special needs for the Holiday season will be highlighted. Volunteers to help distribute food baskets, donations of children's gifts, clothing, food and other items are in high demand.

"Simply pick up a touch-tone phone and dial 1-800-U-R-VITAL to learn about agencies which need volunteer help or are seeking donations," explains Zmo. "And what better way to get into the holiday spirit than by doing something for those in need."

A caller can choose between twenty-five different agencies serving the tri-county area, listen to the recorded messages and leave a message to be followed up on by the agency. New agencies are featured each month, making the system capable of serving 300 non-profit organizations each year.

Non-profit agencies interested in being highlighted on the Allnet HelpLink Hotline should contact Linda Buss, Allnet Public Relations Department at 433-4195.

Insurance may shift into higher gear

Continued from Page 1

ence committee in my judgment. On other areas, we made good progress. Tort is the whole background.

"Tort is where Republicans say the greatest savings can be achieved. Democrats are committed to guaranteeing benefits. The only way to reduce rates is to reduce benefits."

"I was willing to look at tort. There

are abuses in the system. I was not willing to give up" Faust said.

Conferees continued to talk in corridors and offices throughout Thursday, which was to have been the last day of session. Instead lawmakers

It would be ironic if the conference committee produced nothing because the procedure was an

unusual one, designed by Cruce himself before he left the Senate in April.

He got the Senate to pass SB 124, an 11-dotting, innocuous measure. Brown got the House to make equally innocuous amendments and pass its version.

That put the matter into a confer-

ence committee, where all the hearings and writing took place. Wartner chaired the panel after Cruce's departure.

Insurers and Republicans generally supported tort law changes. The Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, a plaintiffs group which supports mostly Democratic candidates, opposed tort changes.

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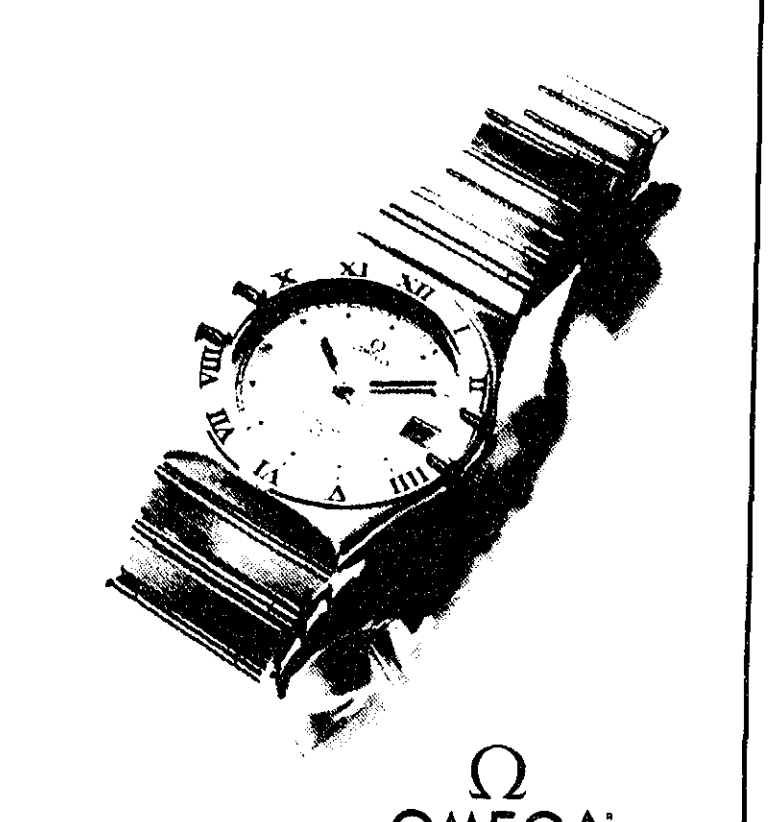
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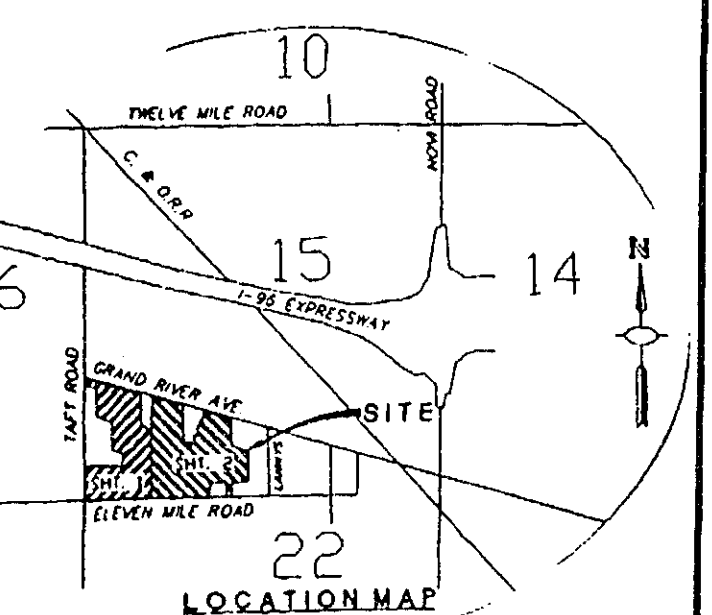
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Holiday Hours: Sunday 12-5; Dec. 16-19 and 22, 10-8 p.m.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Assessor's Plat of the property described below has been filed with the City Clerk for the City of Novi. The Assessor's Plat will remain on file at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, 48075, until January 15, 1992. Any time until such date any person or public body having an interest in any lands affected by the plat may bring suit to have such plat corrected.

"Assessor's Plat No. 1," a part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 15, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, beginning at the Southwest corner of Section 15; thence N 01° 40' 54" W, 500.00 feet along the West line of Section 15 (portional centerline of Ten Mile Road); thence N 87° 37' 28" E, 450.00 feet; thence N 01° 37' 21" W, 167.00 feet; thence N 73° 25' 14" W, 145.56 feet; thence N 01° 44' 08" W, 306.01 feet; thence N 73° 12' 08" W, 189.28 feet; thence N 01° 40' 54" W, 451.44 feet; thence S 88° 32' 06" W, 132.00 feet to the West line of Section 15; thence N 01° 40' 54" W, 119.25 feet along said West line of Section 15 to the centerline of Grand River Avenue; thence S 73° 48' 03" E, 174.35 feet along said centerline of Grand River Avenue; thence S 00° 43' 03" E, 52.26 feet to the South line of Grand River Avenue (50 foot half-width); thence S 73° 48' 03" E, 263.48 feet along said South line of Grand River Avenue; thence S 00° 22' 27" E, 399.41 feet; thence S 49° 37' 39" E, 157.65 feet; thence N 00° 22' 27" E, 518.73 feet to the centerline of Grand River Avenue; thence S 73° 48' 03" E, 414.37 feet along said centerline of Grand River Avenue; thence S 00° 22' 27" E, 527.18 feet; thence S 73° 50' 08" E, 130.70 feet; thence N 00° 22' 27" W, 219.85 feet; thence S 73° 50' 08" E, 58.70 feet; thence N 00° 22' 27" W, 100.00 feet; thence N 18° 29' 47" E, 149.14 feet to the South line of Grand River Avenue (50 foot half-width); thence S 73° 48' 03" E, 382.40 feet along said South line of Grand River Avenue; thence S 02° 34' 29" E, 326.10 feet; thence S 73° 50' 08" E, 220.00 feet to the West line of Mary's Orchard Subdivision, Liber 70, Page 26 Oakland County records; thence along the West and North lines of said subdivision for the following seven courses: S 02° 34' 29" E, 431.26 feet and S 87° 37' 28" W, 200.00 feet and S 02° 34' 29" E, 200.00 feet and S 87° 37' 28" W, 50.00 feet and N 02° 34' 29" W, 200.00 feet and S 87° 37' 28" W, 200.00 feet and S 02° 34' 29" E, 260.00 feet to the South line of Section 15 (portional centerline of Ten Mile Road); thence S 87° 37' 28" W, 1571.33 feet along said South line of Section 15 to the point of beginning. Containing 49.8645 Acres.



GERALDINE STIPP,
CITY CLERK, CITY OF NOVI
45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD,
NOVI, MI 48075
347-0576

(12-16, 12-28-91 & 1-2-92 NR, NN)

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INDICATE THE NUMBER OF CASES OF EACH ITEM YOU WISH TO BUY FOR THE HUNGRY

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- () Kroger Peanut Butter \$18.00 case
- () Welch's Grape Jelly \$19.35 case
- () Ragù Old World Style Spaghetti Sauce \$20.44 case
- () Healthy Choice Chicken Noodle Soup \$14.40 case
- () Kroger Instant Potatoes \$14.03 case
- () Beech Nut Baby Food \$ 7.20 case
- () Juicy Juice (Grape Juice) \$12.83 case
- () Sunshine HiHo Deluxe Crackers \$25.50 case
- () S-M-A Infant Formula \$24.86 case
- () Kroger Toasted Oats Cereal \$16.50 case

Gleaners values the above food industry associates for their involvement in our continued efforts to Help Feed the Hungry.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ case(s) of food as a tax deductible contribution to Gleaners Community Food Bank to Help Feed the Hungry.

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Gleaners Community Food Bank and mail with this coupon to: 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, Michigan 48207.

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Holiday
Season

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the NOV NEWS
104 W. Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
(313) 349-1700

As We See It

Council overreacted, but made right choice

For all the haranguing that the Ed Kricewall and the city's consulting engineers, JCK & Associates, took last Monday for their involvement in the engineering of the Novi Expo Center, you'd think they'd collaborated to bring a toxic dump site to the city.

That's nowhere near what happened. In reality, JCK donated \$6,000 in preliminary engineering service to help convert the privately owned building, formerly the Mohawk Liquor warehouse and headquarters, into the city's new convention center, and expressed an interest in completing the job.

The often harsh criticism that JCK took for proposing to work on the once-vacant building was undeserved. The firm's request to finish what it started was not unreasonable. The project needs to be on a fast track to be ready for conventions which have already been booked there in 1992, and a firm like JCK, with intimate knowledge of Novi's regulations and procedures, would prove expedient.

Council members who opposed JCK's proposal were right to protect the city's integrity, as directed by the recently adopted code of ethics. And the city's stance of not spending money on the Expo Center is clear. However, we feel some on the council may have been too severe in their reproach.

We find it hard to criticize those on the council who supported JCK's involvement in the project because the conflict is so minor. There is only indirect gain for the City of Novi in that a thriving Expo Center will fill the area hotels and restaurants, and eventually boost tax revenues.

And as for JCK & Associates, Council

We are certain that there are a number of competent engineering firms that could take on this project and bring it in under deadline. JCK is not the only engineering firm with an intimate knowledge of Novi, of that we can be sure.

A good government should be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. And with a burgeoning crisis of confidence in government around Michigan and the nation, it's important to us that our city's government maintain its reputation for integrity.

We believe the Expo Center project can become a beacon for Novi, and an integral part of future plans for the downtown area. It's important then that it not be tarnished in its infancy.

Phil Jerome

Government

Member Joe Toth put it appropriately when he said, "I don't think [JCK President Joe Kapelczak] is going to retire on this one job." The engineering work to be done on the 350,000 square-foot building involves few structural changes. Much of the work to be done is cosmetic.

We do agree, though, with those on the council who cited the "appearance" of conflict. Even a peccadillo such as this one could be brought back to haunt the city at a later date. Ideally, JCK & Associates should have sought council approval before it did volunteer work on the project.

My suspicion is that there were some who wanted to bar

that you get invited to somebody's house from 6-8 p.m. on the first Saturday in December. People get all dressed up. There's wine punch and hors d'oeuvres. And then you mingle.

There are usually six to eight parties going on at the same time, but you only get invited to one of them and you're supposed to stay where you've been invited.

I rather like the event and look forward to it every year. But I was particularly looking forward to this year's party because the Mother's Club either fooled or decided to let bygones be bygones and invited Chris Gatzky, my brother David and myself to the same party.

For the record, we were invited to the party hosted by Tom and Linda Handyside and co-hosted by Ray and Roxanne Casterline, Ed and Candy Krtich, and David and Kathi Jerome.

Frankly, I never thought Chris, David and I would ever be invited to the same party again. What happened is that all three of us were at the same party several years ago, when Chris and David perpetrated a small feat of derring-do. I thought it was funny so I wrote about it in my column much to the consternation of at least a few Mothers Club members.

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5A
MONDAY
December 16,
1991

Ban lifted - amigos reunited

Geer but I love the holidays. Life is such a social whirl. Take last Saturday, for example — the night of the Northville Mother's Club's annual Holiday Open House.

They call it the Northville Mother's Club because that's the way it started out. But now there are a lot of Novi mothers in the club as well, so it's really kind of a bi-community event.

The Holiday Open House is a swell affair. What happens is that you get invited to somebody's house from 6-8 p.m. on the first Saturday in December. People get all dressed up. There's wine punch and hors d'oeuvres. And then you mingle.

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Sports Brief

Novi 60, Walled Lake Western 42: In a Kensington Valley Conference and Western Lakes Activities Association basketball matchup, Novi crushed visiting Walled Lake Western 60-42.

The game was never in doubt for the Wildcats, rated as one of the top teams in the KVC, as the Warriors never got closer than nine points. Junior guard Dave York led Novi in the opening game victory with 14 points.

The 'Cats will hit the road as they battle Baseline rival Northville tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Novi will play its second game of the KVC season Friday, away, against Hartland, also at 7:30 p.m.

Obituaries

Fern Ferguson

Mrs. Fern Ferguson of Novi died Nov. 21, in her home. She was born April 6, 1919, in Big Springs, Nebraska.

She was a member of the First Methodist Church of Ferndale and sang on its choir. She also taught Sunday school for 30 years.

Her survivors are her husband Hugh, her children Janice Ferguson of Coldwater, Sue Gaynor of Novi, Reid Ferguson of Phoenix, Ariz., and Kristie Ferguson of Novi; her sisters Ardye Spaulding and Betty Curtis; her brother William Bell and her five grandchildren.

Her funeral was at First Methodist Church of Ferndale Nov. 25. She was buried at Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley with the Rev. George Spencer officiating.

James H. Cooper

James H. Cooper of Novi, 60 years old, died in Georgian Bloomfield Nursing Home in Bloomfield Township Dec. 8. He was born Aug. 4, 1931, in Waterford Township to Myrtle Cooper of Romulus.

He is a past member of Four-Square Masonic Lodge in Detroit and an Army veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was also a member of Teamsters Local No. 337.

The funeral was Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. at Lynch & Sons (Richardson-Bird Chapel) in Milford with the Rev. Randy Greene officiating.

Survivors are his wife Barbara; his children Laura (Mike) Luke of New Hudson, Sheryl (Bruce) Carter of Milford, Stephen (Elizabeth) Cooper of Royal Oak; his grandchildren Sarah Carter, Erin Carter, Daniel Luke and Allison Luke; his mother Myrtle Cooper and his sister Jane Barbee of Taylor.

Some say M-5 is the way to go

Continued from 2

"If you move the wetlands, you're losing groundwater recharge for people who have wells. It's a unique ecosystem," he said.

But John Marshall of Commerce Township reinforced Whitlock's point that traffic in the area is out-of-control.

"I know subdivisions, condominiums and apartments that have taken up far more wetlands than this road's going to take up. . . I-275 (extension) was shot down by a small vocal group. We've done some surveys ourselves. The residents that are out there say we need some relief," Marshall told the DNR.

Novi resident Jim Bundoff's Twelve Mile Road property will be in the middle of the M-5 cloverleaf. He's now in court with MDOT over the property condemnation. Bundoff said he supported the mitigation plan.

"There were no wetlands here until they built 696. All of a sudden, that all became wetlands. That was not a wetland in 1924. When you worry about wetlands and you put freeways in, they'll build themselves," he argued.

Also lining up with the Summit Drive residents are the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, the Detroit Audubon Society and Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield.

Representatives of these groups argue that more far-reaching issues are at stake.

Loran McEwen, board member of Concerned Citizens of West Bloomfield, says M-5 will lead to more urban sprawl and the further deterioration of the metro area's core cities.

"This project has taken on a life of its own. As the economy in the state and the nation steadily worsen, decision makers at both levels appear to be proceeding with this project, which will drain away more than \$78 million in tax dollars with

absolutely no thought to other priorities for this money," she said.

McEwen suggested as an alternative that the present Haggerty Road be upgraded and the remaining tax dollars be shifted to aid the homeless, hungry and sick Michigan residents.

Detroit Audubon Society Executive Director Jack Smiley called the project "reckless development."

"It is not in the public interest to construct the road. The no-build alternative is the best alternative, followed by a possible widening of Haggerty Road," he said.

"The people in the urban center are homeless and have Third World living conditions. It is foolish to even consider any expansion of a highway system when we can't take care of what we have. Reasonable people realize this will lead to future road construction."

Mental patient transfer criticized

A bipartisan group of state senators is protesting Gov. Engler's effort to transfer patients out of state mental hospitals into community facilities.

"Halt the precipitous transfer and placement of clients," says the proposed resolution sponsored by two Republicans and 10 Democrats.

Among local co-sponsors is Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

The key to reversing Engler's strategy are the two GOP names —

chief sponsor Jack Welborn of Kalamazoo and co-sponsor Phil Arthurhult of Whitehall.

Arthurhult chairs the committee — Government Operations — which will handle the resolution. And as majority floor leader, he is No. 2 in rank in the Senate.

For years an Engler loyalist, Arthurhult was critical of Engler's appointments to the Natural Resources Commission, too.

The Welborn resolution says

transferring patients out of state institutions causes "major upheaval to individual clients and their families and requires great prudence and sensitivity."

"The Senate and House are presently studying the policy, practice and future direction of deinstitutionalization and are investigating the services offered by county Community Mental Health Boards . . .

"Actions of the Department of Mental Health in implementing new service district guidelines 43 days

prior to the expiration of the public review and comment period are contrary to director (James) Haverman's claim that the department is engaging in careful planning with full input from the public."

The resolution urges the administration to "restore admissions to state mental health facilities based on service district guidelines in effect July 11, 1991" until lawmakers receive DMH's plan for alternative programs.

December Special

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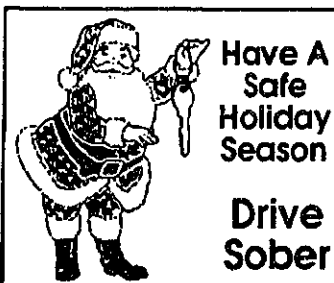
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 of 10 Mile
 347-4499



CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF RE-ADOPTION ORDINANCE 91-81.10

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance 91-81.10, an Ordinance to add Section 33-774 to the Novi Code of Ordinances to order the Traffic Engineer to erect Stop Signs at the following designated intersections:
 New Court and East Lake Drive
 Lashbrook and East Lake Drive
 This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency ordinance which is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and takes effect immediately upon adoption. The Ordinance was re-adopted on December 9, 1991, and the effective date is December 9, 1991. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk.
 GERALDINE STIPP
 CITY CLERK
 (12-16-91 NR, NN)

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- Use of our indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool and fitness center
- Includes 6 cocktails per couple - cash bar available
- Hors d'oeuvre reception including gulf shrimp, stuffed mushroom caps, Oyster Rockefeller and more

• Four course meal
 - Lobster bisque or beef barley soup - Specialty house salad-
 Entree (choice of one per person) Filet mignon, Prime Rib, Salmon
 with dill sauce or Swordfish- Baked potato with chefs choice of
 vegetable- Assorted miniature desserts- Live entertainment and
 dancing- Champagne toast at midnight- Party favors -Total pkg.
\$230 per couple

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All couples purchasing this pkg. will be entered in a Grand Prize Drawing
 1st Prize - \$250 Cash
 Room or dinner party packages also available. For reservations/information call (313) 349-6666

27790 Novi Road; Novi
 On Twelve Oaks Mall Service Drive

FOOD CREATIVE DINING

B
MONDAY
December 16, 1991

Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

Alsace region yields wines at good values

Alsace is the most beautiful wine region in France. Almost isolated, Alsace is situated between the Vosges Mountains on the west and the Rhine river on the east.

The best-kept secret in wine is the dry, fruity, long-lived white wines of Alsace. They accompany the great cuisine of 36 Michelin-starred restaurants in Alsace — a greater number than anywhere else in Europe.

Recently, we discussed Alsace wine with Etienne Hugel, whose family has made wine continuously since 1639.

"We have produced Alsace wines in Europe's favorite battlefield for over 350 years," said Hugel. "Imagine our task. Each time the Alsace region exchanged its relationship with Germany and France, we had to start over."

"As a consequence of having our boundaries changed so often, the wines of Alsace lost their identity. We sell dry, French wines in a German-style bottle made from grapes that sometimes sound French (pinot blanc) and sometimes sound German (gewurztraminer)."

Most French wine regions use two or three grape varieties planted on a single soil type. Alsace has seven wine grape varieties (syvaner, riesling, pinot gris, gewurztraminer, pinot blanc, pinot noir, and muscat d'Alsace) planted on a patchwork of granite, sand, clay and chalk soils that allows each variety to be appropriately matched by type.

Hugel emphasizes that to appreciate Alsace wines, the consumer must understand the grape varieties, the unique northern climate and the region's extended growing season.

"The best introduction to Alsace wines is pinot blanc," said Hugel. "It is versatile and affordable, great with food and is styled like a chardonnay without being too aromatic. Pinot gris is more complex — a step up. This wine shows exuberant fruit, not wood. Gewurztraminer has lively spice aromas and flavors that complement smoked salmon and oriental cuisines. Ultimately, people should enjoy the elegant balance and finesse of riesling, the king of Alsace varieties."

Hugel insists that the key to producing fresh, balanced Alsace wines is the long, cool growing season. Grapes can hang on the vine until biological maturity is attained. This slow ripening explains how Alsace wines maintain crisp acidity, retain fresh fruit and achieve the body of world-class wine.

The wines of Hugel are bottled by increasing quality and labeled "Hugel," "Cuvee Tradition" and "Jubilee." The day-to-day process of vinification and maturation is undertaken entirely by family members. Contrary to popular opinion, the aging potential of the great Alsace white wines is limited only by the lifespan of the cork.

WINE SELECTIONS OF THE WEEK

The Alsace wines of Hugel are served in every Michelin three-star restaurant in Germany, Italy and France. That is just about the best recommendation a wine producer can have. The 1989 Pinot Blanc "Cuvee Les Amours" Hugel (\$15) shows lively fresh fruit qualities with an attractive steeliness. The 1988 Tokay Pinot Gris "Cuvee Tradition" Hugel (\$22) boasts a touch of spice in the nose and a rich palate impression backed by solid fruit. It was an excellent accompaniment to Pike Quenelles with Crayfish Sauce served at the Golden Mushroom. The 1989 Gewurztraminer, Hugel (\$20) has typical aromas of spice and lychee fruit complemented by good balance and body. This Alsace wine is particularly adaptable to oriental cuisines.

SHOPPING FOR THE CHEF

Here are some suggestions for holiday gifts

By MARY BRADY
Special Writer

Bah humbug! The time to buy Christmas presents is upon us. The push is on to find the perfect gifts for family and friends.

The spirit of the season dissipates with the mere thought of what to buy. Most of the time it is a last-minute, expensive, nonsense offering that causes post-season depression when the credit card statement comes.

For those who are fortunate enough to have gourmet cooks to procure gifts for, the offerings available are enormous. I took a poll of chefs, gourmet home cooks, customers, culinary students and various others involved in the wonderful world of cooking. Their answers will help you decide what to get for your cook.

Anna Skupski, the manager of the new Kitchen Glamor in the Novi Town Center, has the world at her fingertips when it comes to cooking equipment. She has used about every pot and pan, utensil, appliance and gadget known to modern day cooks. Her suggestion for the gourmet is an electric Gaggia Cappuccino/Espresso machine. Imagine the fun. At \$175.99, the Gaggia is a coffee lover's dream. Just think, after an elegant meal, of sipping rich, sumptuous Cappuccino.

This machine is durable and easy to use. Pretty much, plug it in and go. It is pump-driven with turbo frothers. Sounds like an expensive sports car. The cleanup is nil.

Anna also suggested Trident knives for the starting chef. New to the line are the lovely carrying cases now available. And for the home enthusiast she recommended an electric ice cream maker as a fun addition to the kitchen.

Ronnie Cambra, owner of the Kitchen Witch in Northville, submitted some superb ideas: "A good cookbook is always appreciated."

Favorites this season are the beautiful picture books available on French cooking and chocolate. Something new is the "Menus and Music," a cookbook/cassette combination. Choose the type of music that suits you and turn to the corresponding chapter in the cookbook. Sounds interesting. The tunes range from old to present-day and are performed by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

According to Ronnie, Tom MacKinnon wants one of the chef pewter wine corks that just came in. She says that pepper grinders and gourmet peppercorns are definitely popular this year.

Kathie Briggs and her husband, Bill, love to cook and eat. Kathie and I chat about food and restaurants each time she is in. We compare notes on this cookbook and that new piece of equipment. I'll run into the kitchen, grab the latest Culinaire and we'll flip through the pages "oozing" and "aahing" over the glorious color photos.

She didn't hesitate when I asked her what was on her wish list for Christmas. A "good" saute pan. "One that is just big enough for two veal chops." Cuisinart or Chantal are excellent choices. They conduct well and will last a lifetime. Or a stockpot that is large enough to make a decent amount of stock. Her cookbook choice is Patricia Wells' "Simply French." "It is perfectly beautiful," she said.

Last, but not least, she would like an exquisite robe to lounge in after a day of cooking. I think silk is in order, Bill.

Now for some professional opinions. Ed Janos, executive chef at Too Chez, wants a F. Dick Sausage Stuffer from J.B. Prince. The catalog description reads like a jet plane. "Stainless steel cylinder and base plate, plastic piston, plastic-coated gear box and support rods. Piston provided with a patented air valve. Fast back stroke. Four stuffing tubes included." All this for a measly \$800. If Santa is good to you, Ed, can I share?

Mike Haggerty, chef/owner of Minchelle Lamour in West Bloomfield, would be happy with a few new Brigard chef coats. Brigard is a French company with offices in New York. They are known for their fine line of chef's uniforms, made from the finest Egyptian cotton. They fit like a glove. A frog could pass for a prince in one.

The cost? \$125 for the low-end jacket. I certainly wouldn't cook in one of these; they are for dress-up.

His son, Eric, the main cook, wants a professional



Photo by RICK BYRNE

The Gaggia espresso maker comes highly recommended by the staff at Kitchen Glamor in Novi

Cuisinart. I don't blame him. They make life a lot easier.

My sous-chef, Laura Merglewski, would love a set of professional pans for her kitchen. "Once you get used to the restaurant quality saute pans it is hard to use the 'home cook' variety," she says. Calphalon is her choice. She would also like some specialty cutlery.

Kelli Lewton, executive chef for the Miesel-Sysco Company, wants some Misono Japanese ice carving chisels. They go for about \$1,500. Good luck, Kelli.

I can offer a variety of recommendations. Cooking classes are an excellent choice. Kitchen Glamor has a wonderful variety of one-day sessions. Flyers are available in the stores. Schoolcraft College offers classes geared for professional and home cooks. Call the continuing education office for more details.

Restaurants are getting into the act too. Les Auters in Royal Oak features Master Chef Jeff Gabriel as its instructor. Kathie just finished one and gives Jeff an A-plus.

In January I will begin teaching a few classes that will feature hands-on experience in a professional kitchen. The classes will be limited to 10 so that individual attention can be given. Menus are designed according to the wishes of the students. Pupils then prepare a five-course meal and invite "company" to dinner.

At the end of a busy day, the meal is served with wine to the cooks and their guests. In the past this has been the most popular and pleasurable of my classes.

My choice of a class would be to return to Ireland for

another six weeks of classical cookery. Master Chef Peter Timmons was great.

The Food and Wine Library in Ann Arbor offers a variety of unique and valuable cook books. Jan Longone is proprietor extraordinaire. She offers for sale some of the oldest cook books in the world. She is extremely knowledgeable about each and every one.

I recently purchased a complete set of the Time-Life series of Cooking Around the World. It was the last one available in the United States, maybe the world. I am enjoying them. The Wine and Food Library is located in Ann Arbor. Visits are by appointment only. A shopping spree here takes all day; the choices are mind boggling.

For those who are into eating rather than cooking, a rare opportunity recently became available. The Michigan Culinary Team has four practices open to the public. The \$30 ticket includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for two hours. Pieces that will be entered in the October 1992 Frankfurt, Germany, World Culinary Arts Salon will be on display. Team members will be available to talk about the competition. A set of four tickets is available for \$100 and is tax deductible. This is a great and reasonable gift. Contact me at 380-8460 for tickets.

A final idea is to give your gourmet's gift certificates to their favorite eateries.

Happy and swift shopping.

Northville resident Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's in the Novi Town Center.

Chef Mary Brady

Florida fish are for those with a 'sweet' tooth

I have spoken of Foley's in Boston, the wonderful fish house, on several occasions. It is so much fun to order from them. I feel like a kid in a toy store.

Well, there is now another toy store to go to. Mr. Seafood, located in sunny Pompano, Fla., has been added to our order sheet. Peter Jarvis calls each Monday with his list of fares.

At first, I would just order the more "usual" or "recognizable" varieties, because if people are not familiar with a species the chance of them trying it are fairly nil. I have found this to be so true with fish. Americans still eat less fish than any other flesh protein.

Many of us remember the obligatory Friday night fish dinners that usually consisted of fried fish and chips or frozen cod fillets soaked in milk to rid them of their fishy smell. For the last several weeks we have offered fresh grouper, mahi mahi, and snapper. Red snapper is generally acknowledged as the most favored and is difficult to buy due to the "blackened" phase that we experienced several years ago. Yellowtail snapper is becoming popular now.

Snappers are so named because they shut their mouths with an energetic snap. The flesh is firm and white. When possible it is best to purchase the fish whole. The skin is a beautiful red which intensifies with cooking. Whole fish may be broiled, baked, grilled or steamed.

The flesh of the grouper closely resembles snapper. Although their weight ranges from two pounds to hundreds of pounds, most of the commercial catch is in the fifty-pound area. The larger the grouper, the coarser the flesh.

Anyone who has ever spent time in Florida has eaten grouper. A groupers sandwich is the state's mainstay. Grouper is mild in taste so it lends itself to many presentations. We prefer to cook it Italian style, dipped in tosa batter, quickly sauteed then finished in the oven. Accompanied with homemade cheese tortellini and a fresh tomato basil sauce it is wonderful.

Mahi mahi is growing in popularity. Mahi, or dolphin fish, is not related to the true dolphin which is a mammal and a protected species. It is also referred to as dorado. Mahi,

when cooked properly, has pink flesh which is mild and sweet. Our version was simply grilled, served with basmati rice and garnished with Florida fruit — oranges and grapefruit.

Two simple but elegant sauces finish the plate, a beurre blanc (white butter sauce) and beurre rouge (red butter sauce). The presentation was visually outstanding and the mahi delectable.

I hesitated to order pompano because the price is much more than what I like to commit to. The more my cost, the higher the selling price. But I couldn't resist. The worst that could happen is that I'd be forced to eat it myself. No such luck. We sold out the first night. Pompano is noted for its rich sweet flavor. Sumptuous is more the word. What a treat.

We cooked it in a traditional manner, en papillote or baked in a parchment case. The case keeps the moisture in and also allows the addition of vegetables and herbs to steam along with it. Our version included Julienne leeks, carrots and mushrooms. Just a touch

of white wine was added along with fresh chopped herbs. When the fish was served the packet was opened at the table and all those magnificent aromas rushed out. Heavenly.

Stone crab claws never made it to the specials board. Our regulars know that I bring them in every 10 days or so and place their orders ahead of time. Even though I add on an extra they never seem to stay around for more than a few hours.

I'm sorry to keep using the word "sweet" to describe the above Florida fish but there is no other way to convey what my taste buds remember. As a testimonial I saw Michelle, who "hates" fish, take second bites during our show and tell session. We are expecting another shipment from Peter this week.

As a final note I like to relay a "restaurant" story. I took Tuesday off. It was my second day off since we opened. Laura, my sous chef, takes over the expediting position at night. Joe, a former student at Schoolcraft and now a valued employee, runs the floor. Joe was so good in the dining room class that he took my spot when I went to Singapore. Pat, my day

sous chef, handles the lunch. The place is in good hands.

Well, anyway, I had to stop in just for a moment to wish an employee good luck. It all started three weeks ago. A couple of the wait-staff wanted to play Secret Santa. As it was explained to me everyone's name goes into a bag and each person pulls a name. You are then to buy your pick a gift. There is a \$10 limit.

How creative can you be with \$10? There was some moaning and groaning and then someone had a great idea. A waitress had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. We all waited anxiously for the verdict and when the test came back positive we felt devastated. In addition to the illness she was faced with a month off work and no insurance.

Why not give our secret santa money to her? We did on Tuesday. It was very emotional. When she started to cry so did most of us. I am very proud of each and every one of my staff for the wonderful thing you did. You're to be commended for your kindness and generosity. Thank you.

