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Main Street too hot for fire station

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

For sale, to the highest bidder, the Novi Fire Department headquarters.

The city is hoping to get at the very least \$1.1 million for Fire Station One at 12975 Grand River, now standing out as a bit of an architectural sore thumb in the midst of the trendy Main Street development.

Clearing way for the future of the new downtown Novi is one reason for selling the building, one of the city's four fire stations, explained City Manager Ed Kriewald. The second is simply that more traffic is making it difficult for paid on-call firefighters to even get to the station.

Fire Chief Art Lenaghan said the changes in the intersection with the creation of Main Street and the new signalization have been a "big problem."

"One of the major concerns we have is that people have to get into the station to get the trucks out. We've had one of our people in an accident waiting at the traffic light. Somebody hit him in the rear end of the car," Lenaghan said.

"It's also increased traffic with

"There's really no relief in sight."

Art Lenaghan,
Novi Fire Chief

the Main Street development. There really is no relief in sight."

Plans call for a new Fire Station One to be built on city-owned land at Eleven Mile Road and Delval Drive. This is the site of the Novi Department of Public Works yard and the projected location of a new fire department training building.

In 1996, voters approved a \$2.225 million bond issue, part of which is designated for the training center. A new Fire Station One would be built in conjunction with the training center.

Lenaghan said the \$1.1 million sale price is anticipated to cover the costs of rebuilding the station.

With further growth in the town center area, city officials have discussed moving the DPW yard out to the city's West Road waste water treatment plant, but the fire station will still be needed on

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Police investigate holiday murder

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

Tamara Pittao was supposed to arrive Nov. 26 in Illinois for Thanksgiving dinner with her family.

She never made it. The 30-year-old Novi woman, formerly of Northville, was found dead in her Pavilion Court Apartment Thursday morning by Novi police. Her family had called them when she hadn't arrived as expected.

Police said an autopsy revealed the cause of death as blunt force trauma to the head and are treating it as a homicide.

Pittao, who had long blond hair and stood 5 foot 7 inches tall, lived with her 2-year-old daughter in the apartment and was going through a divorce. Police said there was no sign of forced entry. The daughter was in the custody of her father at the time of the woman's death.

Relatives, friends, co-workers and neighbors were all questioned by police in order to gain insight into the days and hours before Pittao's death.

Novi police and Michigan State Police Crime Lab in Northville are



Tamara Janelle Pittao

investigating the crime. According to police, it will be some time before all the evidence is processed.

Police are asking if anyone happened to see the woman in the week preceding her death or knows any information about the apparent murder to call the Novi police at 318-7100.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Makin' a list

Describing in exacting detail what she wants for Christmas this year, seven-year-old Kristen Hougen sits in the lap of Santa Claus

Monday evening at the Novi Civic Center. Santa was part of the city's Light Up the Night kick-off to the holiday season.

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Mom gets probation

Kathi Herren sentenced for assaulting daughter in July

By WENDY PIERMAN MITZEL
Staff Writer

"Seventy-five percent of that was lies," said James Herren last week after a judge lectured his wife on her irresponsible behavior.

Kathi Herren, 32, was at 52-1 District Court Nov. 26 to be sentenced for her conviction on misdemeanor assault and battery charges earlier that month. A jury found Kathi Herren guilty of slapping her 14-year-old daughter on July 19, although she maintained she was trying to discipline the unruly girl for smoking and dis-

obeying.

Kathi Herren was placed on two years' probation by Judge Brian MacKenzie, ordered to attend family and outpatient substance abuse counseling, forbidden the use of alcohol and other drugs, required to submit to random drug testing, and ordered to place any money earned from telling her story to the media in an escrow account for use for counseling fees or her daughter's education.

But MacKenzie first gave Kathi Herren a sermon, questioning her use of alcohol and marijuana in

front of her child and pointing out previous decisions to decline family counseling when police have been called to the home.

The night in question was not about discipline, MacKenzie said.

"The evidence ... establishes without question that on the night of July 19, 1997, you were intoxicated and while under the influence of alcohol, you battered your daughter," he explained.

"You told my probation officer you had no idea why your daughter was acting out in this way," MacKenzie said. "... Ms. Herren I

believe the answer to your question about your daughter's behavior can be found in your behavior that night. Exposing her to your uncontrolled, intoxicated

demeanor combined with your unwillingness to consider the consequences of that behavior is a substantial part of the reason (she) behaves the way she does."

But while Kathi Herren refused to comment during or after the sentencing, her husband James was clearly angry.

"This was not a fair trial," he

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Repeating history

Clad in Native American and Pilgrim costume, students of Darlene Grabowski's Orchard Hills Elementary School class put on a theatrical performance of their Thanksgiving Day production last Tuesday afternoon. See story page 14A.

Student exposed himself to boys

A 10-year-old Novi boy was suspended for three days from Novi Meadows after being accused of exposing himself to fellow students Nov. 14.

According to police, the boy was seen by five other boys in one of the bathrooms. His pants were down around his knees and he exposed himself to the boys, Novi Assistant Principal Greg Carnaroli said.

Despite the boy's protest he had only been zipping up his pants coming out of a stall, he was suspended based on the number of witnesses. Carnaroli requested the matter be turned over to Novi Youth Assistance.

INDECENT EXPOSURE

An unidentified man was seen masturbating in front of the Novi High School wrestling room window where a group of cheerleaders practiced Nov. 26.

According to police the man is described as a 5-foot 7-inch male, approximately 30 years of age, wearing navy pants and leather jacket.

DRUNK DRIVING

Police arrested a 29-year-old Novi man for drunk driving Nov. 23 after watching his Ford Taurus swerve across Hagerty Road south of Nine Mile Road and drive onto the shoulder.

An officer pulled the car over, immediately sensing the man was intoxicated. He asked in slurred speech why he was being stopped.

Police News

and told police he drank about five beers. He failed several sobriety tests and had a blood alcohol content of 0.20 percent, twice the legal limit.

QUICK CASH

Two black males allegedly stole \$550 from a restaurant cash register Nov. 24.

Police said the manager of the Big Boy restaurant on Hagerty Road told them the two men placed a carry-out order for chili and opened the drawer of the register as an employee left to relay the order.

A customer witness the men reach over the counter, take the money and flee in a green Chrysler New Yorker.

POT POSSESSION

A 19-year-old Livonia man was cited for possession of marijuana and narcotics paraphernalia Nov. 27.

A Novi police officer was on his way into the Speedway gas station at Nine Mile Road when he spotted two men in a car talking a marijuana cigarette. One man handed over the drug and was ticketed and released.

NOT ALL OF IT

A 48-year-old Novi woman was arrested for shoplifting Nov. 29.

Yorkshire was spray painted with red paint overnight.

On Nov. 17, unknown suspects stole two new rims and tires from a 1988 Plymouth Horizon parked on Lakeside Court and replaced them with older, worn out tires.

TRAIN TAKER

An unidentified man was seen stealing a collector's train from a display table at the Novi Expo Center Train, Dollhouse and Toy Show Nov. 22.

Police said a vendor saw the man take a train from a display and place it in a bag. As the man went to leave the building the vendor ran after him and retrieved the train. However, he was unable to detain the man any further before security arrived.

Police said as vendors took inventory that night, several other display trains were reported missing, including a \$700 Lionel Train engine and \$300 passenger cars.

The man is described as a white male in his 30s with grey hair and a mustache standing about 5'10". He also had a small tattoo on his left hand.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Department at 348-7400.

Novi Briefs

Goodbuyers

In less than three hours, the Novi Goodwill Show sold out 1,500 copies of The Novi News and raised \$2,000 for local needy families, including Louisa Peterson said.

"It went so quickly, I just can't believe it," she added.

"What a great way to start the holidays."

After the papers were gone, Peterson said she suggested to the volunteers: "Go back and take money and give them vendors."

Novi firefighters hit the streets on Nov. 29 to collect the cash. Peterson husband Bob is president of the Novi Goodwill Show. Her personal favorite volunteer job for the holiday project is shopping for the holiday gifts.

Attention Novi music fans: In mid February, a 14-screen United Artists theater complex is slated to open in the northeast corner of the Novi and Hagerty Road in Commerce Township. The 14-screen complex is the first new construction in the town since 1960 and will have 21 new theaters. The new complex will also have a family with only one show, see these high-tech theaters on the scene by department, when they don't know a thing about them, she laughed.

Many big screens

Attention Novi music fans: In mid February, a 14-screen United Artists theater complex is slated to open in the northeast corner of the Novi and Hagerty Road in Commerce Township. The 14-screen complex is the first new construction in the town since 1960 and will have 21 new theaters. The new complex will also have a family with only one show, see these high-tech theaters on the scene by department, when they don't know a thing about them, she laughed.

Time served

These Novi Law Department investigators conducted their seventh year job anniversaries in October. Michael Mesiti, Brian Shaw, Stephen Skaglin and Robert Peterson.

In addition, Auxiliary Troop 1001 and Wallace has been on the job for four years.

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HEALTH NOTE

by Dennis E. Engerer, P.T.
and Patricia Westebur, P.T.

THE CHARLEY HORSE

While most people associate the popular term "Charley horse" with a cramp specific to the leg, the cramp can occur in any muscle in the body. In fact, the phrase may be used as a blanket term for any type of muscle spasm. What causes Charley horses? They may be triggered by impact injuries or they may arise during activities in which muscle cramping might occur (such as running). Some people can also attest to the fact that Charley horses occur when they sleep in an unusual position that cuts circulation to an area and deprives it of oxygen. Even an electrolyte imbalance, which deprives the body of such important elements as calcium and potassium, can cause muscle spasms.

If you suffer from an unusual amount of cramping or muscle spasms, call Northville Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Inc. at 349-3816. Our team of therapists develops customized programs to treat individual problems resulting from injury, illness, the aging process, or developmental problems. We also work closely with referring physicians and provide timely initial evaluations and routine progress correspondence. Located at 215 E. Main St., Suite B, we have early and late business hours, including weekends.

P.S. Treat a Charley horse with an application of ice to reduce swelling, quiet pain, and relax the spasm.

349-3816
215 E. Main St.
Suite B

Novi Briefs

The following is a complete list of the emergency calls of the Novi Fire Department for the week.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

Medical, 22341 Cranbrook, 3:45 a.m., Squad 3.

Medical, 44601 Williams, 6:16 a.m., Squad 1.

Fire alarm, 27650 Novi Road, 6:24 a.m., Engines 1, 2.

Medical, 43055 Crescent, 9:18 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 45182 West Road, 11:21 a.m., Squad 2.

Medical, 43055 Twelve Oaks Crescent, 12:42 p.m., Squad 1.

Injury accident, Hagerty and Twelve Mile, 5:09 p.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 30040 Ardmore, 9:22 p.m., Squad 2.

TUESDAY, NOV. 25

Injury accident, Eight Mile and Super Road, 6:28 a.m., Squads 1, 2.

Stove fire, 1436 Nardin, 11:30 a.m., Engine 4.

Injury accident, 21185 Hagerty, 1:25 p.m., Squad 3.

Medical, 30551 Twelve Mile Road, 6:51 p.m., Squad 1.

Injury accident, Meadowbrook and Grand River, 7:02 p.m., Squad 1.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

Injury accident, Ten Mile and Novi Road, 9:25 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, Twelve Oaks Mall, 12:40 p.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 21057 Hagerty, 4:04 p.m., Squad 3.

Medical, 21057 Hagerty, 4:25 p.m., Squad 3.

Injury accident, Ten Mile and Meadowbrook, 6:19 p.m., Squad 1.

Injury accident, 27500 Novi Road, 8:03 p.m., Squad 1.

THURSDAY, NOV. 27

Medical, 22699 Garwater, 8:51 a.m., Squad 3.

Medical, 41709 Kenilworth, 10:05 a.m., Squad 2.

Medical, 21643 Bashian, 10:42 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 21843 Chase, 11:25 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 30040 Ardmore, 9:22 p.m., Squad 2.

Medical, 41930 Canterbury, 11:28 a.m., Squad 2.

Medical, 24500 Meadowbrook, 3:37 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 25300 Constitution, 7:59 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 23583 Stonehenge, 10:17 a.m., Squad 3.

Medical, 42875 Grand River, 12:04 p.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 27600 Novi Road, 1:30 p.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 24500 Meadowbrook, 1:35 p.m., Squad 1.

Trash fire, Haverhill and Fourteen Mile, 5:31 p.m., Engine 2.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

Medical, 21111 Hagerty, 4:23 a.m., Squad 3.

Bunking fire, 43243 Crescent, 3:02 p.m., Engines 1, 2.

Investigation, 43363 Crescent, 3:05 p.m., Engine 1.

Investigation, 43530 Crescent, 3:21 p.m., Engine 2.

Investigation, 43075 Crescent, 3:22 p.m., Response 507.

House fire, 44505 Twelve Mile Road, 5:02 p.m., Engines 1, 2.

Medical, 297 Herning, 10:58 p.m., Squad 2.

Medical, 29736 Macquarney, 11:32 p.m., Squad 2.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

Medical, 41840 Manor Park, 12:33 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 45182 West Road, 5:10 a.m., Squad 2.

Fire alarm, 43135 Crescent, 6:30 a.m., Engines 1, 2.

Medical, 24500 Meadowbrook, 8:02 a.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 24500 Meadowbrook, 8:24 a.m., Squad 1.

Injury accident, Grand River and Meadowbrook, 12:54 p.m., Squad 1.

Medical, 41550 Grand River, 7:45 p.m., Squad 1.

House fire, 44749 Ford Way, 9:03 p.m., Engines 1, 3.

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Send in picks for holiday contest

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Not just Santa Claus should be keeping an eye out for those who deserve prizes this holiday season.

Residents are encouraged to submit nominations for the City of Novi Homeowners' Association's annual Holiday Decorating Contest, which has become a popular local tradition.

Many Novi families go all out for this annual competition, from stringing a garland of lights across their yard and home to installing animated St. Nick's and spotlighted nativity sets.

This year, each homeowners association will choose the winners from that neighborhood. But the push is also on to recognize dazzling residences that are not in subdivisions, as well as members of the business community.

"The goal is to get as many businesses recognized as possible," CNHA president Ruth Ann Jirasek said. The deadline for submitting nominations is Dec. 19.

Winners will be honored at the Novi Civic Center on Dec. 22 and will take home prizes, like City of Novi tree ornaments.

If you're not a member of a neighborhood association but would like to nominate a Novi home or business for the Christmas Light Judging Contest, fill out the below form and mail it or drop it off by Dec. 19. There is no limit to the number of nominations that will be accepted:

Attn: Lori Martin, Novi Public Relations Director

Christmas Holiday Light Judging Contest

Novi Civic Center

45175 W. Ten Mile Road

Novi, MI 48375

Nominee's Name

Address (or location of home)

Nominee's Name

Address (or location of home)

Nominee's Name

Address (or location of home)

Nominee's Name

Address (or location of home)

Police log fingerprint scan grant

Fingerprinting a suspect won't be a dirty job any more in Novi.

Novi has won a \$35,800 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, to be supplemented by \$3,900 of the city's money, to purchase Live Scan Fingerprint Equipment.

The high-tech process enables the police to electronically fingerprint someone and get back identification and possible criminal information within seconds, Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer explained to the Novi City Council last week.

"No more rolling fingers over a white card," he said.

"The hand is scanned electronically and it transmits it electronically to the state and county."

The council authorized the local ten percent match needed to release the grant money.

Under the current system in Novi, fingerprints are taken, shipped off to the state police for analysis and then sent back to the police station. Cards bearing each set of fingerprints are kept on file at the local police department, as well as at the county and state law enforcement levels. With electronics, a match can be made without leaving through cards.

Computers immediately analyze the prints, which permits the police to identify suspects while they're still in custody.

"It's a much faster and speedier process," Shaeffer said.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department, as well as the Southfield and Troy police departments already use the technology. By year's end, 11 local departments are expected to be connected to the system.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

In tune with the season

Singing Christmas and holiday favorites, members of the Novi Middle School Select Choir perform Monday evening in the Novi Civic Center during the city's holiday kick-off celebration.

The Novi Youth Theatre also gave a quick performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" so audience members could get a sneak peek of the Dec. 12, 13, 14 performances.

Local performers to show holiday spirit

Plenty of seasonal entertainment is happening in Novi this month, enough to put everyone in good cheer.

This weekend, the Novi Choralaires will perform their Christmas concert three times. On Friday, at 7:30 p.m., they'll be at the Farmington United Methodist Church at 33112 Grand River Avenue in downtown Farmington. Saturday, they'll appear at the Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 4410 Ten Mile Road in

Novi, also at 7:30 p.m. Finally, on Sunday at 4 p.m., they'll be in town at the Church of the Holy Cross at 24505 Meadowbrook Road.

Tickets for the Choralaires are \$5 and are available at the Novi Parks and Recreation desk and at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Novi Homebound Seniors Program and the Novi Youth Assistance.

For a little Dickens, see "A Christmas Carol" as performed by the Novi Theatres at the Novi Civic

Center on Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Also, Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$8 for adults and \$7 for kids and seniors. Purchase at the Novi Civic Center Parks and Recreation Department by Dec. 12 and tickets are discounted by \$1.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, the Novi Concert Band will hold its Christmas Concert at the Novi Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Jack Kopnick at 347-0400 and leave a message.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Katherine Herren listens to 52-1 District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie's sentence of two years probation.

Donate toys for needy tots

The Northville/Novi Coalition of the Toys for Tots campaign is hard at work again this year, and is now one of the area's largest community groups.

The Toys for Tots program is sponsored by Rotary Clubs and the U.S. Marine Reserve. Generous individuals are urged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to one of the several drop-off points around the area. The Marines will collect the toys and distribute them to needy families later in the month.

This year, the Toys for Tots program celebrates its 50th anniversary. The organization was founded in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks, who collected 5,000 toys for distribution around the Los Angeles area. Singer Kenny Rogers is the national spokesperson for Toys for Tots this year.

Last year, the Southern Michigan

Toys for Tots chapter ranked fifth in the nation, distributing 250,000 toys to children throughout the region.

In addition to donations, help is needed in several areas. People can become involved by providing a toy collection site or by assisting in the transportation and storage of toys. Especially helpful would be warehouse space of approximately 1,000 square feet or more for one week.

In-kind products such as printing or postage are always needed, or interested contributors could help by sponsoring an office or house party.

Families making cash donations of \$100 or more are admitted to the program's 100 Club.

Call Rebecca Yarbrough at (248) 477-6449 for more information on how to become involved.

Court sends mom to counseling

Continued from 1

said, while standing outside the courthouse. "There was so much reasonable doubt in that trial it wasn't even funny."

James Herren maintained most of what MacKenzie said about his wife was false. "What it amounts to is harassment," he said.

He also said their new lawyer plans to pursue an appeal, a request for a new trial and other court action. If his wife would have testified on her own behalf, things would have been different, he contended. But they had no idea her former lawyer wasn't going to put her on the stand.

Kathi Herren's new attorney, Frank Yumantzi, tried to explain to MacKenzie the mother was doing the best she could.

"Ms. Herren raised this child for the first ten years of her life on her own," Yumantzi said.

But a sour relationship between Kathi Herren and her daughter's father, an alcoholic, upset the young girl who began to take "abuse" with her mother, he said. Although she tried to help her daughter, the two formed an ongoing "coalition."

"This is a mother who attempted to get this child on track," Yumantzi said.

MacKenzie said he didn't feel Kathi Herren was an evil or malicious person.

"I believe that you wish the best

"The court perceives this as an opportunity to change a negative lifestyle."

Judge Brian MacKenzie, 52-1 District Court

for (your daughter) when you are older and not acting emotionally. I believe that there is genuine love between you and your daughter," MacKenzie explained.

"The court perceives this is an opportunity for you to change a negative lifestyle, which has not only impacted on your children, but upon you," he said.

The case made news last month throughout the state and on national television news programs. It called into question a parent's right to discipline a child.

"The issue was about did she have the right to discipline her child and that's yes," said Dan Wilson of Parents for Children, a 120-member group backing Kathi Herren. Several members of the group were on hand sporting buttons in support of the mother.

"They turned it into her personal life and used that against her ... Everyone that comes before Judge MacKenzie is an alcoholic," Wilson said.

Rosemary Davis of Orionville was in the courtroom for another

case, but said something needs to be done to allow proper discipline to take place without the threat of police stepping in.

"The whole system is out of control, the way it allows parents to sue children and children to sue parents. There needs to be limits set," she explained. "You pick your fights. This certainly can't be a consistent way of dealing with behavior."

The case began July 17 when the mother of a friend of the girl called Novi police to report domestic violence incident. According to the police report, the daughter and her step father had a disagreement earlier in the day, and upon returning about 9:30 p.m. from a friend's home, the daughter and both parents got into another argument which allegedly involved screaming and the breaking of a screen.

Kathi Herren allegedly then began to hit her daughter who was on the floor near the stereo glass. The girl suffered two cuts on her legs, according to the report, and then was struck by Kathi Herren as she lay on her bed crying.

The daughter told police she climbed out her window when her parents fell asleep and told a friend about the incident. The friend woke her mother who called police.

According to police who arrived at the residence on Cassia Road about 2 a.m., the daughter showed signs of swelling around one eye and had a scratch on her head. She also had a significant bruise on her leg.

But Kathi Herren had a different version of the story. She told police she went to bed and her room for smoking cigarettes and went into the room when she heard her daughter punch the wall. She claims the girl called her names, so she grabbed the girl's pony tail and told her to stop. Her daughter then struck out at her, she told police, so she hit the daughter with significant force.

Police noted Kathi Herren made repeated statements about being fed up with her daughter's disrespectful and poor attitude and that she felt justified in striking her daughter.

Police also noted Kathi Herren said she had about 3 to 4 beers throughout the evening and that the officer could smell intoxicants on her breath. Kathi Herren was arrested for domestic violence that morning and taken to the Novi police station.

control

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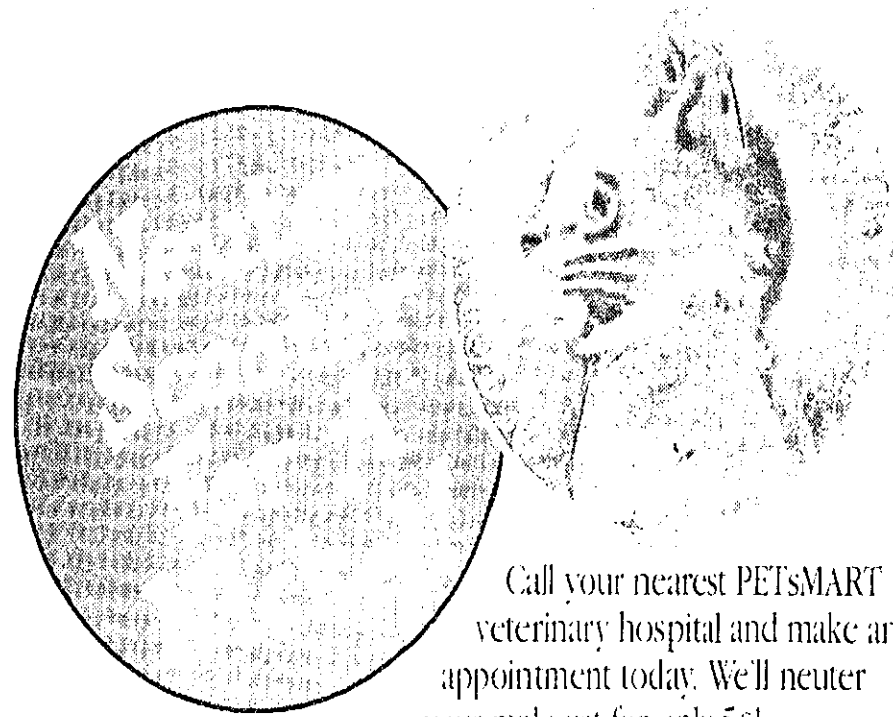
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Novi may sell Main Street Fire Station #1

Continued from 1

Eleven Mile Road to serve the downtown area and eastern Novi, Krawall said.

"That property has become very valuable," he added.

Main Street developers Evergreen III have already voiced an interest in purchasing the Grand River Avenue property, but others developers have been talking at the time, too.

Whether it is the highest bidder for the site, Krawall anticipates that they'll tear down the fire station. But any development will be under the conditions required by the city's town center zoning.

Most likely they will knock it down and make something more suitable. It just isn't the right

an alternative," he explained.

Since 1995, a portion of the fire station's land has been held in a 20-year lease by Evergreen III, for use as a parking lot.

Built in 1981, Fire Station Number One is 10,200 square feet on a lot approximately 117 feet by 270 feet.

Not included in the sale will be the furniture, telephone system, diesel generator, kitchen, radio and cable TV equipment, washer and dryer, shelves, and anything else the department can carry over to the new site. The building is a

weekend home base for paid out call firefighters who sleep over at the station.

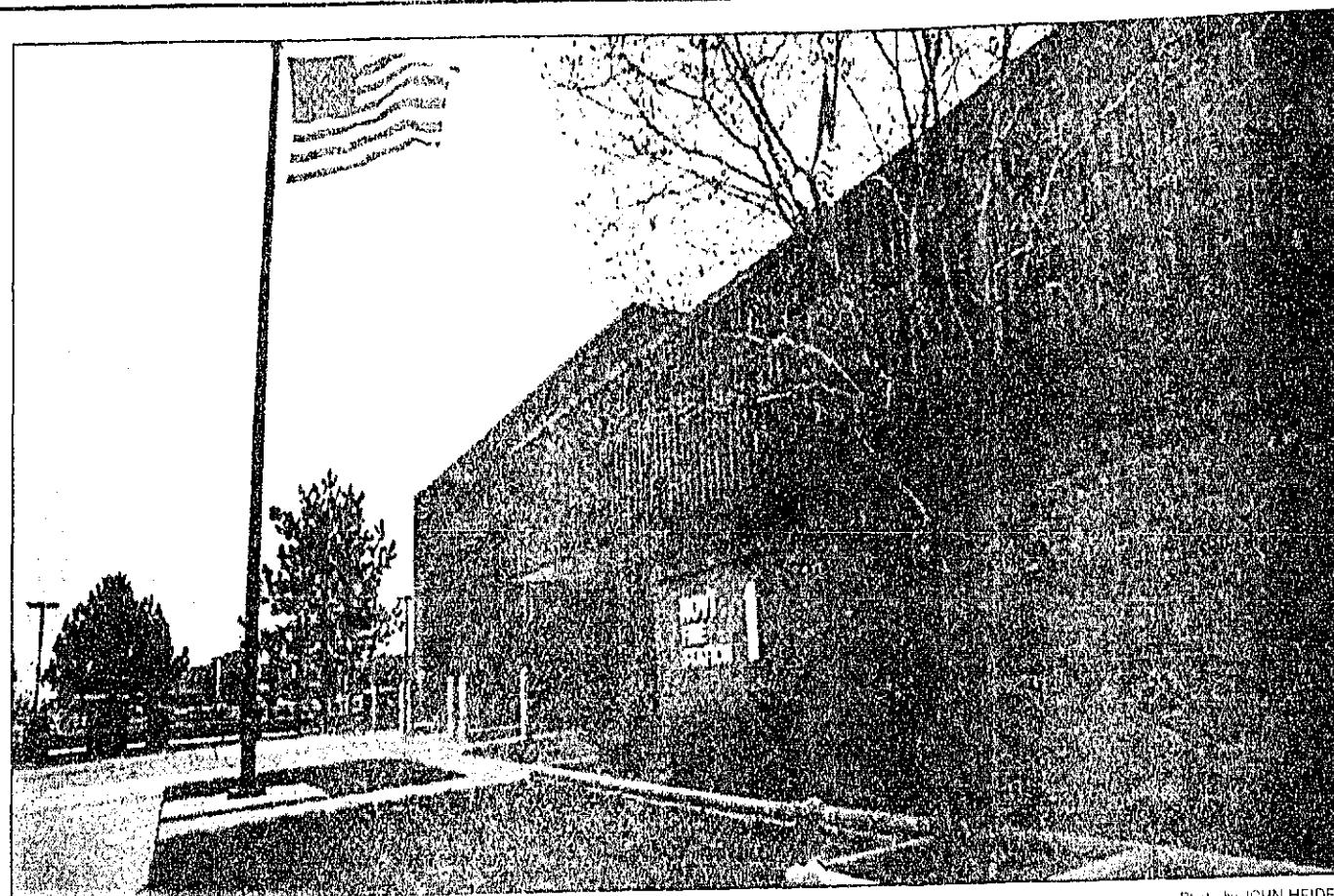


Photo by JOHN HEDDER

Novi's Fire Station Number One is cramping the style of the new Main Street project, say officials, so they may sell the property.

Winter brings with it a whole list of unique safety tips

Employing proper safety steps when using auxiliary home-heating equipment is probably the most important measure you can take to keep your family secure and warm this winter.

Jerry Bash, AAA Michigan's Community Safety Services manager, says that heat sources such as space heaters and heat tapes

pose several dangers: they can cause fires, carbon monoxide poisoning, and even electrocution.

In 1996, there were 14,639 residential fires across Michigan which resulted in 113 deaths. This represents more than half of the total number of all Michigan fire-related deaths last year.

AAA Michigan alone receives

more than 100 homeowner claims each year because of space heater damage.

Bash recommends these steps to help avoid a winter home fire:

- Have your furnace and chimney inspected annually and cleaned and repaired as needed.
- Always follow manufacturer's guidelines when using an alternate

heat source, such as kerosene, propane or electric heaters. Never leave a space heater unattended and keep it well away from curtains, carpets, and walls.

- Follow instructions and guidelines for using heat tapes.
- Never use an open flame to thaw frozen pipes. Hot liquids are a good alternative. If concerned

about a pipe freezing, open the tap to a steady trickle.

- Never heat a home with a gas oven.
- Use ceiling fans to distribute warm air.
- Insulate and properly maintain smoke detectors on all living levels.

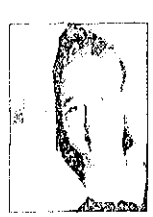
Last year, 45 percent of all Michigan residential fire locations

did not have detectors.

- Never overload electrical circuits. Replace cracked or frayed electrical cords.
- Have wood-burning stoves installed by a professional.
- Protect seasonal dwellings by draining water pipes and adding environmentally safe RV antifreeze to drain traps.

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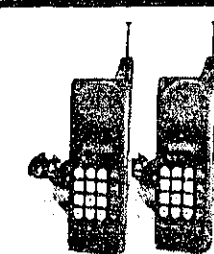
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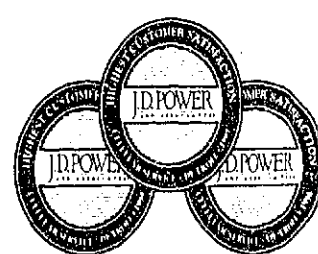


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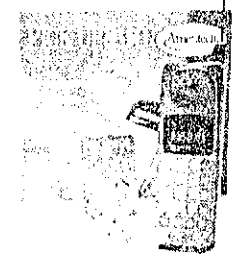
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Keep holiday eating on healthy course

The biggest cooking days are descending upon us, so ask yourself the tough questions now before the holidays (and your appetite) reach the point of no return.

Now is the time to choose to eat sensibly during the holidays and all year long. It will include taking time to prepare for eating successfully during this festive time.

Set and relax for a moment. See yourself selecting a balanced menu of foods that include a variety of healthy meals, along with a few culinary delights. Decide not to ignore the part of you that does not want to gain five to ten holiday pounds. Continue your exercise program and keep eating foods like apples and broccoli. Limit your baking to just a few family favorites and modify recipes by reducing fat and sugar

by half. For example, the popular chocolate-chip cookie recipe calls for two sticks of margarine or butter. By cutting down to one stick, the cookies pull up a bit more and actually taste better.

Another good idea is to look for recipes that have already been modified. Successful recipe modification is by trial and error; it may require repeating the recipe to get the taste right.

The most holiday common pitfall, weight gain, can be easily avoided by simply deciding to apply healthy eating habits.

Gale Cox, a registered dietitian, coordinates nutrition programs and conducts one-on-one and group counseling sessions at the Botsford Center for Health Improvement in Novi.

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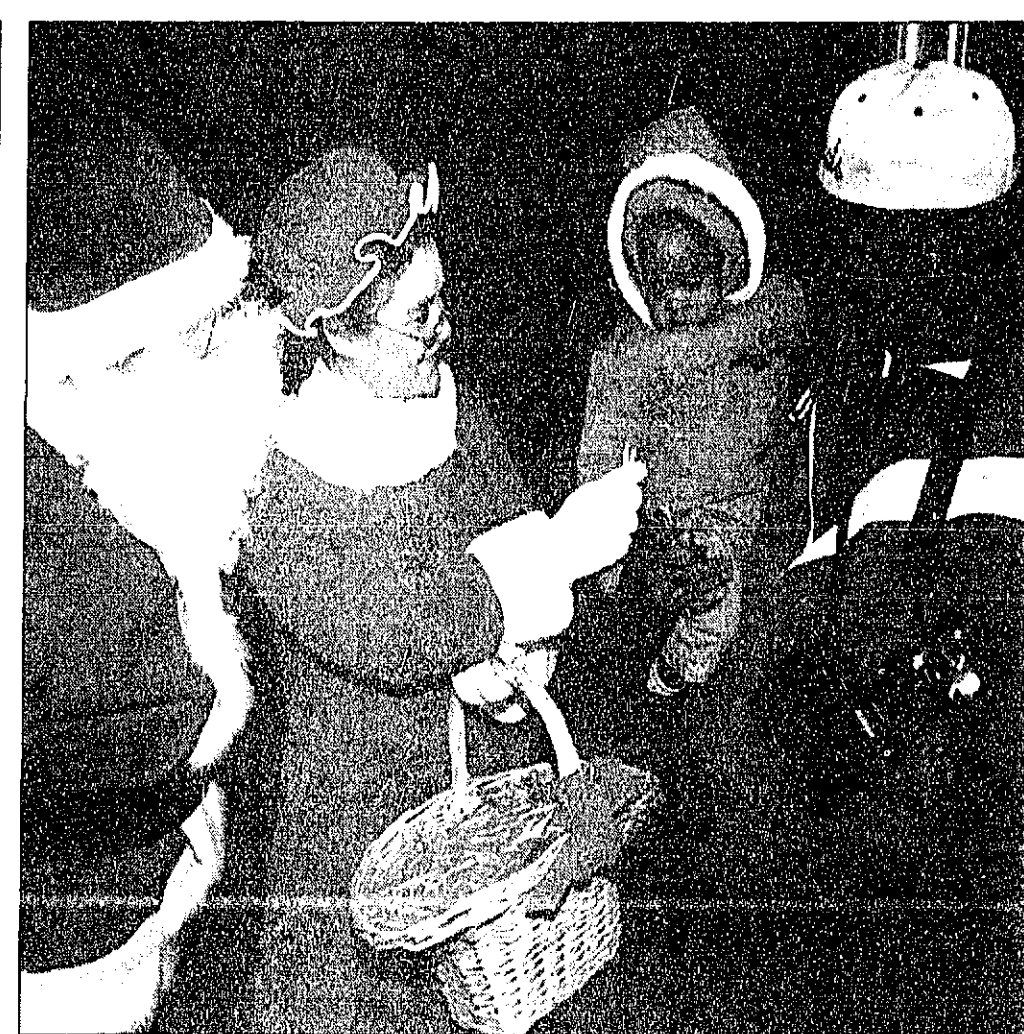
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Novi, Novi Town Center • (248) 349-8090
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Sterling Heights, Eastlake Commons • (810) 247-8111
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Photos by JOHN HEDDER

Main Street wonderland

At left, fifteen-month old Katie Bartholomew, daughter of Novi City Clerk Toni Bartholomew, gets a quick visit from Santa Claus during the city's first-ever Holiday Walk last Tuesday night on Main Street. Santa had gifts and hugs for all that stopped by the Novi

Fire Department on Grand River after the lighting ceremonies. Above, Tremia Wilkerson gets a treat from the hard-working Mrs. and Mr. Santa Claus during Tuesday night's City of Novi Holiday Walk down Main Street. With Tremia is her grandfather Tony.

Take care with decorations

Whether the festive sparkle comes from inside or outside the house, a check of electric lights before installation can help give homeowners peace of mind during the holiday season.

Claudia Gabay, Detroit Edison's corporate lighting consultant, said safety should be the No. 1 concern when using seasonal lighting.

"With everything going on around the holidays, it's easy to forget to check decorative lights and other trimmings for safety hazards," Gabay said. "After a year in the basement or attic, cords can crack. A few minutes of checking for potential hazards can possibly prevent a fire or worse."

When lights have frayed wires, damaged sockets and cracked or missing insulation, they should be thrown away, Gabay said.

To reduce the possibility of electrical shock or fires, look for

Underwriters Laboratory label before stringing lights and setting up other decorations.

Gabay warned that some light sets may be stamped with bogus UL labels and not designed for safe operation. If you're suspicious about a low price on light sets, she said, compare the UL label with another on a name brand set.

Home decorations also should make sure lights are used as they are intended by their manufacturers - either outdoors or indoors, Gabay noted that a touch test also can help expose potential danger.

"If indoor lights are too hot to the touch, I wouldn't use them," she said.

Cable said the holidays can be safer for everybody by following these tips:

INDOOR LIGHTING

• Do not overload electrical circuits.

• Use no more than three sets of standard lights on each extension cord.

• Do not insert new bulbs or change fuses when light sets are plugged in.

• Keep lights away from carpeting, furniture and drapes.

• Turn off decorative lights before you go to bed or leave home.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

• Use only outdoor extension cords with molded plugs and sockets.

• Keep all electrical connections off the ground and hang sockets downward to prevent water from seeping into them.

• Do not run lighting cords through clear or window openings where they can be damaged.

• Cover outdoor plugs and connection joints with plastic wrap and seal the ends with electrical tape.

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Obituaries

JUDITH ANNE McDONALD

Judith Anne McDonald, 46, died Nov. 23 at her residence in Novi. She was born Sept. 26, 1951.

She is survived by her husband, Brian; daughters, Melissa and Meghan; sons, Patrick and Michael; parents, Raymond and Geraldine McGowan; Charles and Marie McDonald, parents of her husband; sisters, Barb, Edie, Mary, and Dorothy; brothers, Ray, Craig, and George.

Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 29 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

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

Memorials to the Judith A. McDonald Memorial Fund, c/o O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 11555 Grand River, Novi, MI 48375 would be appreciated.

ANN ELIZABETH LIEN

Ann Elizabeth Lien died Oct. 23 at her residence in Novi. She was 88. Mrs. Lien was born June 27, 1909 in England, to Angus and Rebecca (Olliver) Earl.

Jaycee's gather donations

In Novi, you can count on the Novi Jaycees preparing holiday baskets for the needy.

For over 20 years on the Saturday prior to Christmas, the

She moved to the area in the 1930s. Mrs. Lien and her husband owned and operated a chain-plating company where she officiated as corporate vice president. Her memberships included St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Northville, the Ladies Guild, and Meadowbrook Country Club.

Mrs. Lien is survived by daughter, Donna Leavenworth of Buchanan, Mich.; sisters, Alpha Fickes of Flushing and Kathy Fickes of Saginaw; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George, in September 1986. They were married in July 1939. Also preceding Mrs. Lien in death were one son, one brother, and one sister.

Services were held on Monday, Oct. 27, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Northville. Pastor Thomas LaBelle officiated at the service. Interment was in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi.

Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home Inc. of Northville.

Memorials to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI 48167 would be appreciated.

Jaycees have delivered baskets filled with clothing, toys, canned food and perishable food to over 40 families in the Novi area who would otherwise have no holiday in their home.

This year, the Jaycees are asking area residents and business owners who would like to make a cash donation to send their donation prior to Friday, Dec. 5, to the Novi Jaycees, P.O. Box 249, Novi, MI 48376. Call 348-NOVI and a member of the committee will return your call.

DR. ROBERT J. BARBER

Dr. Robert J. Barber (D.D.S.) of Northville died Nov. 26 at the age of 65. He was born in Birmingham on Dec. 21, 1931, to Alvin and Alice Barber.

He was a 1950 graduate of the University of Michigan Dental School. He practiced dentistry in the area from 1960 to his retirement in 1993. He was a member of the American Dental Association, American Dental Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Dental Association.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara of Birmingham; daughters, Anne (Kathleen) of Novi, and Amy (Barbara) of Westland; two brothers, William A. of Farmington Hills and Edward Y. of Farmington Hills; and seven grandchildren.

Services were held on Monday, Dec. 1, in the Church of the Holy Cross of Novi with Father Leslie J. Harding officiating.

Memorials to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 Elm St., Northville, MI 48167 would be appreciated.

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

Memorials to the Judith A. McDonald Memorial Fund, c/o O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 11555 Grand River, Novi, MI 48375 would be appreciated.

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HELEN B. BEPWOORTH

Helen Betty Beppworth, 73, of Farmington Hills died Nov. 24 at Angela Hospice in Livonia. She was born July 11, 1924, in Canada.

She is survived by daughter, Judith A. (Gail) of Farmington Hills; sons, Robert, William (David) and Paul; and youngest son, Ronald (David).

Services were held on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Church of Holy Family, Novi, with Father John Biele officiating.

Arrangements were made by Henry Scarpino Funeral Home Inc., Farmington Hills.

Memorials to the Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated.

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

Memorials to the Judith A. McDonald Memorial Fund, c/o O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 11555 Grand River, Novi, MI 48375 would be appreciated.

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

Twelve Mile home ravaged by early morning fire

A Twelve Mile Road house rented by a family of seven, including five children, was partially destroyed by fire Saturday.

The Novi Fire Department got the call at 6:03 p.m.

No one was home at the time and the fire, which started in the living room, left about \$40,000 to \$50,000 in damage to the property, said Fire Chief Art Leung.

There was extensive damage from heat and smoke.

There was a partial basement and it burned through the floors and walls, he said.

The residence, occupied by the Frank O. Shea family, is at 14505 Twelve Mile Road, on the south side of the road and west of Dixon Road.

While arson is not suspected, arson investigators from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department were called in to help determine the cause of the fire.

They are expected to determine the cause and also estimate the damage.

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

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

Public Access

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

MONDAY, DEC. 8

10:00 a.m. — INFO TV-12 News
10:30 a.m. — The Cutting Room
11:00 a.m. — Christian Singles Today

11:30 a.m. — Cosby and Company
12:00 p.m. — Motorsports
12:30 p.m. — INFO TV-12 News

1:00 p.m. — Adventures with Private Pete
1:30 p.m. — Women on the Move
2:00 p.m. — Financial Strategies

2:30 p.m. — Farmington Hills Hockey Mile Tier 2 Grizzlies versus Flyers
3:00 p.m. — (cont'd)

3:30 p.m. — Farmington Hills Hockey Mile Tier 1 Fireflies versus Penguins
4:00 p.m. — (cont'd)

4:30 p.m. — Good Health: Nursing
5:00 p.m. — Who, What, Where, Y
5:30 p.m. — Ask the Pharmacist
6:00 p.m. — Let's Talk with Ben Marks

6:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
7:00 p.m. — Critter Connection
7:30 p.m. — INFO TV-12 News
8:00 p.m. — Women on the Move

8:30 p.m. — A Little Christmas
9:00 p.m. — (cont'd)

9:30 p.m. — Groove Session: Don Williams Nelson

10:00 a.m. — (cont'd)
10:30 a.m. — Legislative Forum
11:00 a.m. — Law Talk: Joseph Antonelli

11:30 a.m. — (cont'd)
12:00 p.m. — Summit University
12:30 p.m. — (cont'd)

1:00 p.m. — (cont'd)
1:30 p.m. — Drawing Men to Christ
2:00 p.m. — (cont'd)

2:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
3:00 p.m. — (cont'd)
3:30 p.m. — (cont'd)

4:00 p.m. — (cont'd)
4:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
5:00 p.m. — (cont'd)

5:30 p.m. — (cont'd)
6:00 p.m. — (cont'd)
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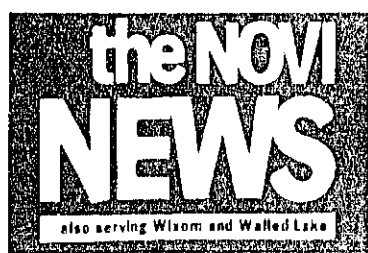
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The Northville Record

Food & Wine Bazaar

Curvager's of Fine Wine & Spirits



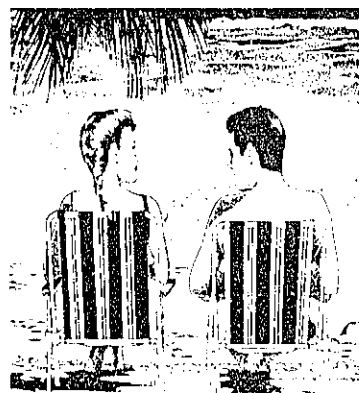
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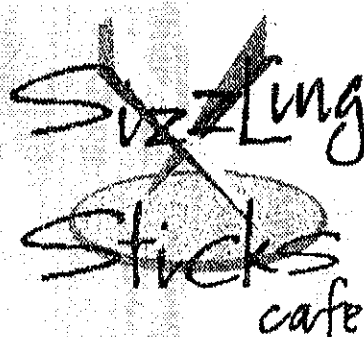


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Back Country Fly Fishing in Beautiful Islamorada, Florida

A hosted, guided weekend of salt-water fly fishing for Redfish, Bonefish and Baby Tarpon (and maybe snook, sea trout, permit, shark...)



Trips depart Detroit Metro Airport on Friday afternoon, and return late Monday Evening. Groups forming now for February through April Departures.

Airfare • Ground Transportation • Lodging • Breakfast & Lunch • Guides



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Work: _____

HOMETOWN

Limit 1 entry per person • Prize given by random drawing • HomeTown Newspapers employees/families are not eligible to win prizes • All entries must be received by 5 pm, December 18, 1997 • Original Entry Blanks only. No Photo Copies.

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Day care children
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Outstanding youth soloist
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DIVERSIONS:
Symphony, chorus
perform together-5B

THURSDAY
December 4,
1997



Northville's Brickscape Gardens also offers a wide selection of artificial trees for the Christmas season.

Tree Spree

'Tis the season when families pine to spruce up their home for the holidays

Joe was a cement worker who emigrated from Italy in 1955.

Two years later Paolo DiRado got into the Christmas tree business with a few of his Italian buddies.

"They all did cement work together and would go in on a tree lot," Joe DiRado said of his father's seasonal business.

Joe estimates that his father has sold well over 20,000 trees in the more than 40 years he has operated in Dearborn and Detroit.

"I decided to make an extra dollar," the elder DiRado said in broken English. "I buy for \$2 each and sell for \$7 to \$9."

Most of the time, DiRado said problems arise because people don't think the trees look that big on the lot. Once home, it's a different story. Sometimes, the customer will come back and ask him to cut the tree down.

Once, a few years ago, DiRado had three young women come in to buy a tree. They picked out the biggest, bushiest tree on the lot. DiRado tried to tell them it would never fit through a regular-sized door, that they'd have to have double doors to get it into the house. A short time later the girls' father came back with the tree and exchanged it for a smaller one.

"We got lots of laughs out of that one," DiRado said.

In the four decades that DiRado has sold trees, he's found that the best days are the cold ones. In fact, the colder the better.

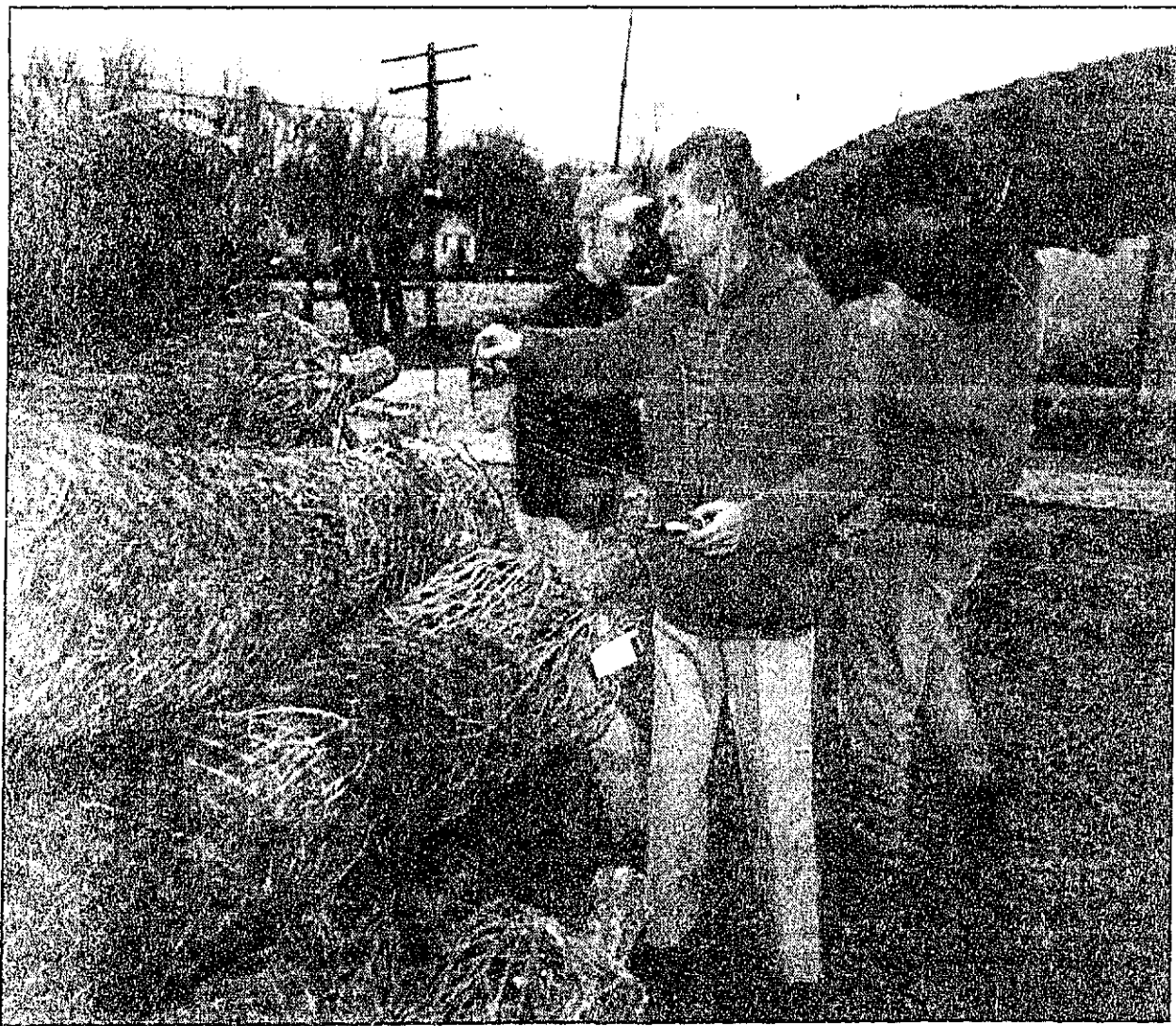
"People buy quicker," he said. It seems most people come from a mall or store directly to the tree lot and are not dressed appropriately.

"Sometimes they look at the trees from the greenhouse and point at the one they want," said Joe.

When DiRado first started selling trees, they were more natural and untinted. Tinting, which contains a preservative to help with needle retention and adds a more seasonal shade of green to the tree, didn't start until about 1965.

"It took a while for people to get used to it," DiRado said.

There is a wide range in the shades of green among the many varieties of trees available and most are not what



Veteran Christmas Tree salesman Paolo DiRado checks out a just-off-the-truck shipment of Michigan Scotch Pine and Norway Spruce trees which arrived at Brickscape Gardens this past week.

A Christmas tree in the making

Once upon a time, all Christmas trees were cut from natural stands (or straight out of the forest). These wild trees looked nothing like today's professionally-grown and sheared trees.

Today, of the 33 million trees sold every year, over 90 percent are shipped or sold directly from U.S. Christmas tree farms.

Typically, the growing process begins in a nursery where seeds are planted and the trees are grown till they become 2-year-old seedlings. The seedlings are then transplanted to Christmas tree farms.

Growing Christmas trees is a year-round job. It takes an average of seven years for a tree to

reach sale height. During that time, the tree must continue to be shaped and pruned to produce the fully shaped trees that are delivered to retail lots.

The Christmas tree also may face many hazards during its growth period - too much or too little sun or rain; destruction by insects, disease, hail or fire; overgrowth of brush, vines and weeds; even theft.

Finally, selected trees are tagged, cut, bundled and loaded onto a truck or railroad car for the journey to a retail lot.

-Michigan Christmas Tree Association

people consider to be Christmas green.

Many families have come to know DiRado over the decade he has been associated with his son's business, Brickscape

Gardens on Brickscape Drive in Novi. One little girl gets her parents to bring DiRado tobacco because she knows he smokes a pipe. Others have brought cookies.

It's kind of like bribing Santa, but DiRado doesn't even have to unwrap a tree to know whether it's a good one.

"He's unbaited so many trees over the years, he can just tell,"

Joe said.

One of Joe's tips on buying a tree from a lot is to get to know the people who are selling the trees.

"You really want to trust the people you are buying it from," Joe said.

Bending a needle or two is still a good way to tell if a tree is fresh, but Joe also suggests pinching a few bud tips.

"Sometimes there's an indication there how much water is still in the tree," Joe said.

Once you've selected a tree and brought it home, keep it someplace cool, not in the sun.

"Right before you put it in water, make a fresh cut in the bottom and put it in the receptacle," Joe said. "There are also additives you can get (to put in the water)."

Where to go for your Christmas Tree:

Trim Pines Farm, Inc.

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, concolor fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir

4357 East Baldwin, Holly
(810) 694-9958
Noon-dark weekdays
9 a.m.-dark weekends

Sun Tree Farms

Scotch pine, blue spruce, Fraser fir

104 Judd Road
Saline
(313) 429-3666
9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends
10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

Broadview

Christmas Tree Farm

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Austrian pine

4380 Hickory Ridge Road
Highland
(248) 887-TREE
9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Mosher's Tree Farm

white spruce

7155 N. Territorial
(Six miles west of US-23)
Dexter
(313) 426-5271
1 p.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends

Braun's Tree Farm

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Fraser fir, balsam fir

796 Warren Road
Ann Arbor
(313) 663-2717
3 p.m.-dark Wed., Th., Fri.
10 a.m.-dark weekends
or by appointment

Waldock Tree Farm

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, concolor fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir

3390 Dutcher
Howell
(517) 546-3890
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun.

Urquhart's Tree Farm

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Fraser fir

230 S. Steinbach Road
Dexter
(313) 475-1500
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun.
Or by appointment

Thornhollow Tree Farm

Scotch pine

44387 Hull Road
Belleville
(313) 699-3709
10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays
9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends

Arend Tree Farms #1

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Austrian pine, Fraser fir, balsam fir, S.W. white pine

Chelsea
(313) 475-7584
9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm #1

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, Austrian pine, concolor fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir, black spruce

4780 Seymour Lake Road
Oxford
(248) 628-8899
Noon-dusk weekdays
9 a.m.-dusk Sat., Sun.

Candy Cane Christmas Tree Farm #2

Scotch pine, blue spruce, white spruce, white pine, concolor fir, black spruce

2401 Farnsworth Road
Lapeer
(248) 628-8899
9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends

Stanczyk Tree Farm

Scotch pine, white pine, Douglas fir, Fraser fir

7355 Fish Lake Road
Holly
(248) 634-8102
10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekends

Pleasant Knoll Tree Farm

Scotch pine, blue spruce

3080 Oak Grove Road
Howell
(517) 546-2954
10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends

Members from the community visit day care center

By JEANNE CLARKE
Special Writer

A program entitled "World of Work: Occupational Volunteers" was presented at A Growing Place last month. Many individuals and city groups came in and talked with the children, one of which was Dr. Studer of Brierley Veterinary whose presentation was about "Paws for a Cause" and the care of animals. The Novi Fire Department presented the children with coloring books and fire chart lists. Officer June Mullins of the Novi Police Department arrived with "Mugsy" and the Community EMS gave the children a tour through an ambulance and demonstrated how to make a 9-1-1 call correctly.

Throughout November, Thanksgiving plans were much in evidence with turkey games, Harvest Bingo, walks covered with attractively designed pilgrims, turkeys and more. In addition, youngsters made turkey noodle soup, pumpkin bread, crafts that included attractive Indian necklaces, and laminated placemats with a Thanksgiving theme to take home.

"The ABC's of Christmas" will be presented by the nursery children on Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 6:30 p.m. In addition to the program in December, the youngsters will be making gifts, cards and ornaments. They will also be learning holiday songs and fingerplays.

Holiday parties are scheduled for Dec. 18 and 19. The children will continue with the study of "Christmas Around the World."

School will close at the end of the day Dec. 19 and resume on Monday, Jan. 5, 1998.

The Preschool/Daycare will have a holiday party complete with a sing-along and refreshments on Dec. 18. Parents, siblings and grandparents are invited.

This group will have a holiday break starting Dec. 22-27. It will reopen Dec. 29-31. The preschool will again close Jan. 1, but will reopen Jan. 2. For additional information, call 471-2333.

NOVI YOUTH ASSISTANCE

Novi Youth Assistance has been named as one of the recipients of the proceeds from the Novi Chorale's concert. The group works with both parents and children in the area to combat juvenile delinquency.

The Chorale will perform on Friday, Dec. 5, at Farmington Methodist Church; Saturday, Dec. 6, at Faith Community Presbyterian Church; and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m. at Holy Family Church on Meadowbrook Road. Tickets are available at the Novi Parks and Recreation Office or at the time of the performance for \$5.

This concert is a gift from the Chorale to the community and a way of traditionally starting the Christmas season. Attendance at the event has grown every year.

The Youth Assistance program was recently honored by the Novi Rotary Club with a Mayor's Recognition presented by Mayor Kathleen McCallen.

An Open House at new location of the Another Way Pregnancy Center, a Victorian-style house in the heart of downtown Farmington, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2-5 p.m. The center was originally located on Ten Mile near

Novi Highlights

leen McCallen.

The group also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion Auxiliary for its assistance in the annual Girls State program.

A new community program, PLUS, is now being organized by caseworker Claudia Walter. It was delayed due to a lack of leadership and volunteers to act as mentors.

At its first meeting, Mary Schulerbauer of Oakland County and several volunteers discussed the aims and goals of the PLUS program, which is being chaired by Deb McFarland.

The annual Bowl-A-Thon will be held on Friday, March 7. For further information or to arrange individual or team bowling, call the office at 347-0413.

Don't forget to drop off your extra pennies at the office for the holiday project, helping needy children in Novi. Other canisters are located at the high school and several business locations.

ANOTHER WAY CENTER

An Open House at new location of the Another Way Pregnancy Center, a Victorian-style house in the heart of downtown Farmington, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 2-5 p.m. The center was originally located on Ten Mile near

Haggerty in the First Baptist Church, but due to lack of space, a move was in order. Space was needed for board meetings, Bible studies and training sessions. The new location provides a home-like atmosphere in which to interview the women who come for help. A dedication service and prayer was given recently by Pastor Gary Ellinger.

The mission of Another Way Pregnancy Center is to reach out, not only to teens, but to all women facing unplanned pregnancies. The program offers information, material assistance, spiritual help, emotional support and job counseling. Another Way will provide these services for anyone regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, age, marital status or income level.

Several churches have helped with special projects. For instance, St. Patrick Church in Union Lake presented a Starlight Cafe program to benefit Another Way. The youth group from Grace Community Church in White Lake helped with the renovation of the new home.

During the summer months, Another Way held a fundraiser called Walk Another Way III and raised \$5,974 from the walkers and sponsors. Call 471-5858 to become a board member or participate in management.

The center needs donations of cribs in good condition with slats no more than 2 3/8 inches apart. Also, cribs and large cribs are also needed.

MEADOWBROOK CHURCH

A holiday sale "Treats and Treasures" will be held at the Meadowbrook Congregational Church on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church is located on Meadowbrook between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Available will be "little treasures," such as antiques or maybe something new like china and glassware.

To save time during the busy season, holiday cookies will be made available for sale along with other specialty baked goods. Also available will be Christmas decorations and holiday arrangements. Jewelry will also be available. Cuts will also be on sale, which will include a new bagel slicer. There is no charge for admission to the sale.

The traditional Harvest Dinner was held Nov. 23 with a holiday

program presented by the children. On Nov. 27, the church had their "Biblically Sound and a Telling Man" at their traditional Thanksgiving eve worship service.

Christmas devotionals with a hot soup lunch will be included in the Dec. 7 Christmas Workshop, which will follow the worship service.

There will once again be a small tree designated as the "Tree of Warmth," which will accept gifts of hats, scarves, socks and mittens, or gloves. These items will be given to those in need.

During the Advent season, the church's school will be sponsoring a service project: baptizing the children of Indian Trails Mission in Mesa, Ariz. Students will be filling white boxes with non-holiday and non-perishable gifts for children ages 4-12.

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information regarding addresses for church information, call 471-2333.

CHURCH OF TODAY, West (Unit)

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.churchoftoday.org

WALLED LAKE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

3000 Walled Lake, Walled Lake, MI 48091. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.walledlakefirstbaptist.org

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.stjohnlutheran.org

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3000 Walled Lake, Walled Lake, MI 48091. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.goodshepherd.org

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2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.firstchurchofchrist.org

NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

4100 Northville, Northville, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.northvillechristian.org

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4100 Northville, Northville, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.noviunited.org

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.meadowbrook.org

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL

10 Mile between 10th & Back, Novi, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.holycross.org

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1700 Farmington, Farmington, MI 48334. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.wardevangelical.org

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI

4200 St. James, Novi, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.stjamesnovi.org

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

2400 Meadowbrook, Farmington, MI 48334. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.holyfamily.org

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD) NOVI MEADOWS SCHOOL

On 10th Rd. near 11 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.victorylutheran.org

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4300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.stannes.org

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CHURCH OF TODAY, West (Unit)

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.churchoftoday.org

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.firstpresbyterian.org

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.ourladyofvictory.org

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.stpaulslutheran.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

4100 Northville, Northville, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.firstunited.org

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2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.firstchurchofthenazarene.org

SPIRIT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH E.L.C.A.

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.spiritofchrist.org

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2300 West 10 Mile, Farmington, MI 48334-1100. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.stjohnsepisopal.org

OAK POINTE CHURCH

Northville High School Auditorium, 8 Mile & Center St., Northville, MI 48161. Phone: 471-2333. Fax: 471-2334. Website: www.oakpointe.org

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Church Notes

Several holiday events are planned at the **DETROIT FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**, 21260 Haggerty Road north of Eight Mile in Northville.

First there will be a children's Sunshine Choir presenting the musical adventure "Mission Possible" at the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, Dec. 7. Seating is limited.

The Detroit First Church Sanctuary Choir will present "O Come Let Us Adore Him" at both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Dec. 14.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, at both 8:30 and 11 a.m. there will be "A Family Christmas Service."

The Christmas Evening Candlelight Service will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Rev. Robert Hoskins, director of distribution for the Book of Life program, will be the guest speaker at **NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**, 4155 Six Mile Road in Northville Township, on Sunday, Dec. 7.

Rev. Hoskins ministered as an associate pastor for two years before going into evangelism. As an evangelist he held crusades in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. Both Rev. Hoskins and his wife, Kim, are from missionary families.

The Book of Life program, which includes a plan to reach entire nations with the Gospel through the public school systems and was developed by children's evangelism, is a harmony of the Gospels in story book form that chronicles the life of Jesus and includes study questions.

The public is invited to hear Rev. Robert Hoskins at both the 9 and 10:45 a.m. services.

For more information, call 348-9800.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 261 Elm Street in Northville, will present the third "Live Nativity" on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The performance will be held in the gym and refreshments will follow in the parish hall. The first 200 children will receive a free gift. Admission is free.

For more information, call the church at (248) 349-3140.

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 21355 Meadowbrook Road in Novi, is holding a Treats and Treasures sale on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Holiday cookies and other baked goods, Christmas decorations, jewelry, and treasures, and more will be featured. There is no admission fee.

For more information, call the church at (248) 348-7757.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, 24505 Meadowbrook Road in Novi, has planned an informal evening for inactive Catholics who are interested in returning to the Church on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 349-8847.

All Come To Share (ACTS) at **NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, 41671 West Ten Mile, meets on Wednesdays, beginning with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and followed by classes, Bible study and movement, and by chanted, choral and bell choirs for all ages.

The Advent and Christmas Celebration Schedule continues with "Helter Skelter" on Dec. 7; a children's program, "Emanuel - God With Us," on Dec. 14; and "Divine Contact" on Dec. 21.

For more information, call (248) 349-2652.

CHURCH OF TODAY, WEST, which meets at Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook in Novi, has services at 9 and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

The Lesson for Dec. 7 will be "Joy," delivered by Minister Scott Katch-Stein.

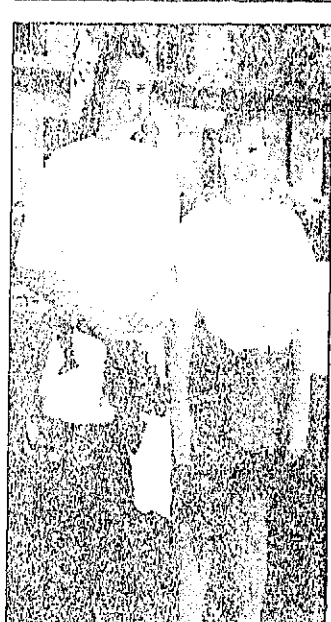
For more information, call the church at (248) 449-8900, or check out its website at: <http://www.cotw.com>

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE, 777 West Eight Mile Road in Northville, has returned to three worship services at 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.

Over 350 members of the vocal and instrumental choirs accompanied by organ, keyboards, percussion and narration will present "No Other Name" on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 5 and 7 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 349-1144.

Kudos



Melissa and Rebecca Roemer

Novi residents MELISSA, 13, AND REBECCA, 11, ROEMER were among dozens of middle school youth from North Park United Methodist Church who walked to raise money for drug awareness programs. Members of the Farmington Hills congregation supported the youth as they raised the money through pledges made in bags they sold.

The youth created T-shirts and discussed drug awareness in the communities as they prepared for the walk. The funds raised were divided between the communities represented by the middle school youth who attended the Sunday class, including Novi, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Canton, Milford and Walled Lake.

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MAKE A WISH FOR ME
SWF 39, 5'8", blonde hair, hazel eyes, outgoing, happy, romantic, enjoys quiet nights at home, spending time with friends and family, doing out, seeks honest, employed, SWM, age appropriate, Ad# 1115.

KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS
Protestant SWF 18, 5'10", good-looking, funny, sensitive, enjoys sports, quiet times at home, good conversation, seeking attractive SWM 25-35, for nothing relationship, Ad# 1271.

FRIENDS FIRST
Catholic SWF 30, 5', blue-eyed, blonde, humorous, energetic, enjoys bowling, softball, family time, spending time with friends, quiet times at home, seeks down-to-earth, physically fit, Catholic SWM 30-38, Ad# 1123.

FULFILLING DREAMS
Catholic DW 40, 5'5", blonde hair, hazel eyes, N.S., loves the outdoors, ancient ruins, log cabins and art, seeks, seeking spontaneous, independent SWM, to share life, Ad# 6006.

SWEET HONEY
SWF 31, 5'1", shy, single mom, enjoys outdoors, concerts, hockey, seeks DW 40, under 40, to share same interests, Ad# 2394.

FAMILY FIRST
Hardworking SWM 31, 5'6", loves country living, horseback riding, nature, animals, fishing, camping and reading, seeking romantic, honest, trustworthy SWM, 30-45, Ad# 2395.

EASY TO TALK TO
Pretty, full-figured DW 32, 5'9", blonde hair, blue eyes, one child, home owner, seeking SWM 25-40, who has a good sense of humor and appreciates country living, Ad# 8154.

A LOT TO OFFER
Professional DW 40, 5'6", 190lbs., fit, reserved, financially secure, lives in Northville, MS, enjoys sports, soccer, the outdoors, dancing, movies, quiet nights, seeks SWM 34-47, Ad# 3876.

DARE TO CARE
Self-employed DW 30, 5'7", brown hair, enjoys bowling, golfing, playing music, seeking SWM 30+, for friendship, Ad# 8741.

ANYTHING IN COMMON?
Catholic SWF 26, 5'7", N.S., from Brighton, enjoys movies, hiking, reading, long walks, quiet times, seeks honest, caring, humorous SWM 25-35, Ad# 5769.

RIGHT DIRECTION
Professional SW mother of three, 43, 5'2", enjoys movies, reading and art, seeks, seeking professional SWM 37-45, N.S., children okay, Ad# 5555.

HAS EVERYTHING BUT YOU
Pette, educated SWF 39, 5'1", N.S., blonde hair, blue eyes, enjoys picnics, travel, golf, rollerblading, Royal Oak area, seeking a college-educated, professional SWM 35+, N.S., Ad# 7270.

SPEAKS HER MIND
SWF 37, 5'6", blonde hair, hazel eyes, employed, enjoys sports, car racing, movies, bowling and dancing, seeks sincere SWM 35-40, Ad# 8087.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
Self-employed DW 60, 5'2", from Brighton, enjoys traveling, animals, sports, being outdoors, seeks friendly SWM 55-65, for friends-first relationship, Ad# 1924.

ALL THIS AND MORE!!
Attractive DW 29, 5'5", blonde hair, green eyes, enjoys fishing, bowling, golfing, dancing, seeks friendly SWM 35-45, for friends-first relationship, Ad# 1924.

JOYS OF LIFE
WWWCF 39, 5'4", outgoing, friendly, likes bowling and horseback riding, taking walks, seeks honest SWM 36-43, who has a strong belief in God, Ad# 1030.

WHISTLE OF THE WIND
Self-employed DW 60, 5'2", from Brighton, enjoys traveling, animals, sports, being outdoors, seeks friendly SWM 55-65, for friends-first relationship, Ad# 1924.

SINCERELY
DW 58, 5'3", enjoys choir, crafts, cooking, dining out, movies, seeks SWM 60-75, for companionship, Ad# 1221.

GIVE ME A CALL
DW 28, 5'5", employed, lives in Grattan, enjoys camping, bowling, fishing with children, seeks friendly SWM for friendship, first, possibly more, Ad# 5810.

ADORABLE
Full-figured, employed DW 30, 5'2", who enjoys camping, planning flowers and reading books, seeking honest, sincere and non-judgmental SWM 30-45, who likes children and quiet time, Ad# 1234.

ATTENTION GENTLEMEN...
DW 48, 5'9", blonde hair, brown eyes, outgoing, friendly, enjoys reading, movies, walking, basketball, seeks humorous, honest DW 45-55, with similar interests, S. Lynn area, Ad# 1004.

MALES SEEKING FEMALES

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GOD LEADS MY WAY
Born Again DW 41, 5'4", 5'6", blonde, blonde, professional, lives in Brighton, loves youth ministry, Bible study, and a little of everything, seeks SWM 34-45, with same interests, Ad# 1985.

GODVALES
DW 50, 5'3", loves the outdoors, golf, swimming, fishing, hiking, walking, movies, dancing, piano, enjoys skating, seeks male, honest SWM 45-57, Ad# 1127.

CHEERFUL LIFE
Professional, full-figured DW 52, 5'6", brown hair, enjoys country music, dancing, traveling, hiking, traveling, for companionship, Ad# 1959.

A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
Catholic DW 41, 5'3", resides in the Ann Arbor area, desires, more children, enjoys an active lifestyle, including traveling, seeks SWM 38-45, Ad# 8760.

FRIENDS FIRST
DW 40, 5'5", blonde hair, hazel eyes, affectionate, trustworthy, caring, likes movies, reading, puzzles, seeks SWM 30-40, with like interests, for long-term relationship, Ad# 2244.

INTELLIGENCE
Friendly, professional DW 33, 5'9", enjoys children, animals, the outdoors, seeking family oriented, Catholic SWM 32-40, Ad# 5228.

FLIRT THE HOOK!
Cute SWF 22, 5'7", blue-eyed blonde, outgoing, playful, seeks SWM 25-35, for friendship, Ad# 1144.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME
Personable SWF 37, 5'7", from South Lyon, employed, seeking SWM, for friendship, Ad# 1144.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME
Professional, full-figured DW 30, 5'2", N.S., humorous, enjoys rollerblading, swimming, water skiing, the outdoors, seeks, looking for an active, intelligent, outgoing, childless SWM 25-35, Ad# 1615.

SPECIAL LOVE TO GIVE
Are you a Christian? Do you give out of love? The Christian 45, 45, long for the laughter of children, looking for a 5 man late 30s to 40s, with character, integrity and humor, serious inquiries only, Ad# 3865.

AVID READER
Protestant SWF 22, 5'5", participates in Bible study, enjoys walks, concerts, movies, collecting records, seeks Protestant SWM 25-33, with mutual interests, Ad# 1997.

YOU JUST MAY BE THE ONE
Catholic SW 30, 5'2", blonde hair, outgoing, down-to-earth, lives in Howell, seeks mature, married Catholic SWM 22-35, who loves children, Ad# 2221.

FRIENDS FIRST
Kind-hearted DW 50, 5'5", from Ann Arbor, enjoys dancing, camping, family and friends, seeks professional SWM 37-45, N.S., children okay, Ad# 5555.

HENRY AND A MONTY
Catholic WWF 65, 5'7", from Oakland County, enjoys the theater, dancing, crafts, home life, swimming, seeks SWM 64-70, for companionship, Ad# 8439.

FALL IN LOVE
Outgoing, honest SWF 38, 5'2", blue-eyed blonde, enjoys soccer, sports, activities, seeks SWM 35-45, for friendship, Ad# 8910.

READY FOR A FAMILY
DW 38, 5'3", full-figured, brown hair/eyes, freckles, enjoys cooking, dining, gardening, nature, movies, animals, seeks positive, honest, reliable, caring, patient, strong SWM 35-46, N.S., Ad# 2222.

ATLAST LOVE
Cheerful SWF 38, 5'4", full-figured, never married, participates in choir, Bible study, enjoys golf, bowling, walking, bike riding, animals, seeks warm, caring SWM 34-49, Ad# 1359.

ARE YOU MY TEDDY BEAR?
DW 48, 5'1", full-figured, hardworking, professional, from Plymouth, enjoys fishing, hunting, motorcycle, mountain walks, seeks faithful, loving SWM, under 52, Ad# 1949.

SINCERE HEART
Catholic DW 48, 5'5", honey blonde, green eyes, fun-loving, from Brighton, seeks SWM 45-55, to enjoy life with, Ad# 2149.

LOVES ANIMALS
SWF 49, 5'3", blue-eyed blonde, sincere, down-to-earth, intelligent, likes the outdoors, nature, the mountains, beaches, cooking, movies, seeks kind-hearted, honest, family SWM 45+, for friendship, possibly more, Ad# 5111.

LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP
Outgoing DW 30, 32, 4'10", full-figured, N.S., employed, interests include hiking, hunting, motorcycle, mountain walks, seeks SWM 30-45, N.S., Ad# 9420.

WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU
Protestant DW 53, 5'10", N.S., educated, warm, fun, witty, enjoys dining out, cooking, day trips, music, seeks professional SWM 45-55, for possible long-term relationship, Ad# 3324.

LET'S GET AWAY...
DW 45, 5'4", blue-eyed blonde, hobbies include bowling, golf, rollerblading, skating, dining out, movies, seeking honest, loyal SWM 43-53, for monogamous relationship, Ad# 3485.

MALES SEEKING FEMALES

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EXTRAORDINARY
Handsome SWM 36, N.S., attentive, creative, honest, witty, enjoys animals, cooking, country life, educational programming, seeks adorable, genuine, smart SWF, Ad# 4321.

APPRECIATES HONOR
DW 39, 5'11", 170lbs., handsome, romantic, outgoing, seeks attractive, honest, slender, SWF 30-39, for friendship, laughter, possibly more, Ad# 5678.

GET TO KNOW ME
SWM 38, 5'11", outgoing, kind-hearted, handsome, enjoys outdoors, animals, movies, seeks SWF, under 37, to share same interests, Ad# 4735.

HELLO SUNSHINE
SWM 29, 5'10", enjoys bowling, movies, going out, seeks SWF, age unimportant, Ad# 7080.

MAN OF INTEGRITY
Catholic SWM 34, 5'6", N.S., friendly, outgoing, likes road trips, movies and dining out, seeks never-married Catholic SWF 30-37, without kids, for nice relationship, Ad# 2263.

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL
Protestant DW 63, 6'5", N.S., light, bright, energetic, fit, caring and romantic, likes sports and traveling, seeking N.S. SWF, under 64, to share a possible relationship, Ad# 2358.

THE SEARCH IS OVER
SWM 31, 5'7", blonde hair, blue eyes, outgoing, great sense of humor, lives in South Lyon, interests include the movies, sports, concerts, seeking physically fit, muscular SWF 18-44, Ad# 3716.

HIRING TO SEE BEGINNINGS
Protestant DW 44, 4'11", 225lbs., brown hair, hazel eyes, good-looking, enjoys sports, camping, the outdoors, seeks Protestant SWF, under 41, who is caring and family-oriented, Ad# 212.

STRAIGHTFORWARD TALK
Pleasant, childless SWM 32, 6'2", never married, new to Michigan, likes movies, sports, concerts, looking for a nice, childless SWF 18-44, 5'7", for dating, possible relationship, Ad# 2122.

BEST THERE IS
Young-at-heart DW 42, 4'11", 6'8", 180lbs., red hair, outgoing, friendly, enjoys conversation, fishing, camping, seeks SWM 26-41, for possible relationship, Ad# 673.

MIR NICE GUY!
SWM 19, 6'5", redhead, hazel eyes, enjoys dining out, dancing, going to the beach, seeks SWF 18-24, with mutual interests, Ad# 5495.

SERIOUS ONLY
Catholic SWM 34, 5'10", 180lbs., brown hair, green eyes, enjoys traveling, dining out, movies, music, would like to meet Catholic SWF 22-35, N.S., who is marriage minded, Ad# 673.

Movies

'Midnight' features unusual mix of characters

Academy Award winner Clint Eastwood directs Academy Award-winner Kevin Spacey and acclaimed talent John Cusack, as well as an outstanding ensemble of supporting actors, in the filmed adaptation of author John Berendt's best-selling novel about a sensational murder trial in the genteel town of Savannah, Georgia, and the havoc it plays with a subtle and intricately structured way of life.

In 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil,' John Kelso (Cusack) is a young writer from New York who has been sent to Savannah on behalf of *Time* and *Country* magazine to cover a very prestigious Christmas party. This elegant, lavish and stylish event is given each year by Jim Williams (Spacey), one of Savannah's most prominent and colorful citizens. Williams is an antique dealer, collector and restoration specialist who has built his wealth through the reconstruction and sale of the numerous 18th- and 19th-century homes which elegantly form the city's historic squares. His own home, Mercer House, is located on the corner of Monterey Square and was built in 1860 by General Hugh Mercer, whose great-grandson was popular songwriter Johnny Mercer. The house is an elegant, stately Southern mansion.

John Kelso's assignment seems straightforward. He will simply immerse himself in Savannah's gracious Southern atmosphere and describe the colorful history of Mercer House. He will highlight the party preparations and Jim Williams' exclusive guest list. Finally, he will attend the elegant black-tie event and report on the festivities.

Unfortunately, things don't quite work out that way.

In a sequence of events set in motion following his courtly Christmas party, Jim Williams is arrested for murder. Claiming self-defense, Williams has shot and killed his live-in lover, Billy Hanson (Laurie R. King), who is a history of irrational, often violent behavior.

John Kelso's *Time* and *Country* magazine article soon evolves into a book about a startling murder trial in an unexpected setting, with Kelso the outside observer, though not quite the objective eye he hopes to be.

Williams, now jailed, sets up his office in his cell and calmly continues to do business. He is certain that a jury of his peers, aware of Billy Hanson's explosive, unprovoked, irrational behavior, will find Williams innocent on the grounds of self-defense. But Savannah is wrestling with the question of who Williams' peers might actually be. Are they the neighbors who hoped each year for the richly engraved invitation to Williams' annual Christmas soiree, or are they a far less conventional group?

Over the coming months, Savannah provides the stage for a murder play generated by Williams and relieved through some of the city's more eccentric inhabitants. The situation becomes increasingly entangled, as gossip and Savannah's unique approach to social disorder and problem solving leave their stamp on events.

Williams' attorney, Sonny Seiler (Jack Thompson), is the lead in a haunting proposition for Sonny during football season, since Seiler is a rabid fan and the proud owner of a tiger, building mascot to the University of Georgia football team. University of Georgia victories and losses on the gridiron have a way of influencing Seiler's effectiveness in the courtroom. Fortunately, a win over Notre Dame comes at a pivotal moment in the trial.

Joe Odum (Paul Hipp) is a free-spirited ex-attorney who enjoys



Jim Williams (Spacey) and John Kelso (Cusack) star in the film, directed by Clint Eastwood.

One of the tenants in Odum's part-time residence, Mandy Nichols (Mandy Patinkin), is a quiet, reserved, and independent, clever girl, whose honesty, attractiveness and down-to-earth nature are a great help to Kelso as he tries to unravel the many layers of Savannah's social structure.

Then there is Mervyn (Tom P. Hall), a connoisseur brought in by Williams to help bolster his defense. John Kelso discovers that Mervyn conducts his business just before and after midnight in

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Health Column

HIV children suffer in more ways than one



Janet R. Gilsdorf

Since 1981, more than 8,000 individuals infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, have been reported to the Michigan Department of Public Health.

At a rate of 87.5 infected individuals per 100,000 persons, Michigan ranks 34th in the country. This low rate reflects the fact that AIDS was late, and slow, to come to Michigan.

Although the majority of infected individuals are adults, a few are children: 54 HIV-positive infants and toddlers between the ages of newborn and 4 years old have been reported in Michigan, 32 between the ages of 5 and 12, and 50 between the ages of 15 and 19.

Children become infected in a variety of ways. Most of them are born to HIV-infected mothers and acquire the virus around the time of birth. Others are recipients of HIV-contaminated blood products. Very few children or adults have been infected by this route since screening of donated blood began in 1985. Children also may acquire HIV infection through sexual

abuse by HIV-infected adults. HIV-infected children often live in complex social situations. Their biologic parents usually are infected themselves and live fairly disorganized lives characterized by unemployment, poverty, unstable housing and single parenthood. These parents may also suffer from drug and/or alcohol abuse, and may be unable to care for their children.

A fairly high proportion of HIV-infected children are placed in either foster or adoptive families. Irrespective of the social situation, many families living with HIV experience a significant amount of social isolation.

In spite of widespread educational efforts, a considerable amount of fear continues to exist about the potential spread of the HIV virus.

Because this virus is spread primarily by sexual contact or by significant blood exposure as may occur through the use of shared needles during illicit intravenous drug use, the probability of the spread of the HIV virus from a child to either another child or to an adult is extremely small. Unfortunately, the children of HIV-infected persons often suffer from the social stigma that is targeted toward their parents.

HIV infection affects children in unique ways compared to adults. For reasons that are not entirely clear, some infected children experience severe immune system failure very early and may develop

the symptoms of AIDS - including growth failure, central nervous system disease, or opportunistic infections such as pneumocystis pneumonia - as early as 4 months of age. Other infected children may remain either totally or relatively asymptomatic with only minor immune system failure for up to 10 years. In general, however, children usually manifest the symptoms of AIDS sooner after they acquire the infection than adults.

HIV-infected children are more likely to develop severe infections from the viruses and bacteria that cause only minor infections in healthy children. Compared to adults, children are less likely to develop either AIDS-related blindness from cytomegalovirus infection or Kaposi's sarcoma, a common malignancy among HIV-infected adults. These children, however, commonly have poor growth and either fail to meet the normal developmental milestones - such as sitting, walking or talking - at the appropriate ages or they may lose these abilities as their central nervous system infection progresses.

The treatment of HIV infection in children is more complicated and fraught with more unknowns than is treatment of adult patients. Many of the newer antiviral drugs, which hold promise in slowing the progression of HIV infection for adults, have not been adequately tested in children. Currently, the appro-

priate dose of these newer drugs is not known for very young children.

In spite of all the questions about therapy, there are many important things that can be done for children infected with the HIV virus. Many of the opportunistic infections such as pneumocystis pneumonia, toxoplasmosis and mycobacterium avian intercellulare may be prevented through prophylactic antibiotics.

Furthermore, other childhood infections may be prevented by the use of routine immunizations, although vaccines containing live viruses such as oral polio, mmr (measles, mumps and rubella) and chicken pox are either not used at all or used only cautiously in HIV-infected children.

In addition, optimal nutrition for HIV-infected children reduces the probability of growth failure. The progression of HIV diseases may be slowed through the use of new combinations of antiviral drugs, although information on this for children is minimal so far.

Finally, families may be given social, emotional and economic support as they struggle to provide comfortable and meaningful lives for their children who are living with AIDS.

Written by Janet R. Gilsdorf, M.D., who is affiliated with the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, University of Michigan Medical Center.

'You' need to be more informed on health

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

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

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

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

In addition to traditional sources of health information, the Internet now offers thousands

of sites containing a wide variety of medical information, including descriptions of diseases, wellness sites, and health support groups. A recent search of the topic diabetes using the Alta Vista search engine resulted in a listing of 50,000 sites on the World Wide Web.

But given all the sources of information, how do you as health consumers determine which source is offering quality information? Of course, your first recourse should always be your health professional. But what about all the print and electronic forms of health information?

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

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

gan.

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

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

The consumer collection is backed up by a large medical collection which is housed in the same facility. The library is staffed by medical librarians who are trained to assist you in finding information from the most appropriate source to answer your questions. The Botsford Library is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Deborah L. Adams, MLS, AHIP, is the director of the Library and Media Center at Botsford General Hospital and current president of the Michigan Health Sciences Libraries Association.

Health Notes

Blood Donors Wanted

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, in conjunction with the American Red Cross of Oakland County, is recruiting donors for its holiday blood drive on Friday, Dec. 12, from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the hospital's Conference Center.

Some areas of the country use more blood than they collect and Southeastern Michigan is one of those areas.

Hospitals of Southeastern Michigan provide some of the most advanced medical procedures in the country. As a result, blood and blood product needs of patients in Southeastern Michigan is greater than our inventory. Therefore, our blood supply must be supplemented by other Red Cross regions.

During the next several weeks special circumstances will interrupt our blood supplies from other regions. We need blood donors to overcome this deficit.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good general health. The donation process takes a little more than an hour.

Community members can pledge a blood donation by calling the office of Community Health at (248) 360-3314. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged to prevent lengthy waits.

Marty Agents, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital blood bank group leader, urges area residents to become donors. "The importance of donating blood during this critical time cannot be stressed enough. We need your blood donation to overcome a blood shortage. Collections from O donors must increase to meet our needs," he said.

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.

Low Impact Aerobics

Improve your overall fitness level through a 55-minute workout utilizing lower-impact aerobic movements. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:55 p.m. \$50 fee and preregistration required. Botsford Center for Health Improvement-trace, 39750 Grand River Ave., Novi. For information and to register, call (248) 473-5600.

Powerstop

Want to stop smoking once and for all? Tried other programs and still can't quit? Here's the program for you. And you're in control - you set the "quit date" and we'll provide you with the support you need to overcome the physical, psychological and emotional withdrawal issues. Learn about stress management and how to successfully start a healthier, smoke-free life. This individual counseling program features a one-hour private consultation with a smoking cessation counselor, workbook cassette tapes and five follow-up phone calls. There is a \$75 fee and registration is required. For more information and to register, call Botsford Hospital at (248) 477-6100.

Walking Clubs

Botsford General Hospital sponsors two free walking clubs. Laurel Park Mall (Six Mile and Newburgh roads) beginning 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.

Caregivers Program

"Caring for Dementia Patients," a free program for individuals caring for adults with Alzheimer's disease or closed-head injuries, co-sponsored by Botsford's Geropsychiatric Services and the Detroit Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Topics covered include overview of dementia, managing difficult behaviors and coping skills for caregivers. Held on Monday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Botsford General Hospital's Conference Room 2-East B, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. For information and registration, call (248) 471-8723.

Diabetes-Cize

A 10-week comprehensive exercise program co-sponsored by Health Development Network and Botsford Cardiovascular Health Center. This program will help people with diabetes better control blood sugar levels and improve cardiovascular fitness. For information, call (248) 477-6100.

Diabetes and You

This six-week class explores all areas of diabetes self-care. Preregistration and fee required; some insurances cover class fee. Classes are held at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills, and the Botsford Center for Health Improvement, Novi.

For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

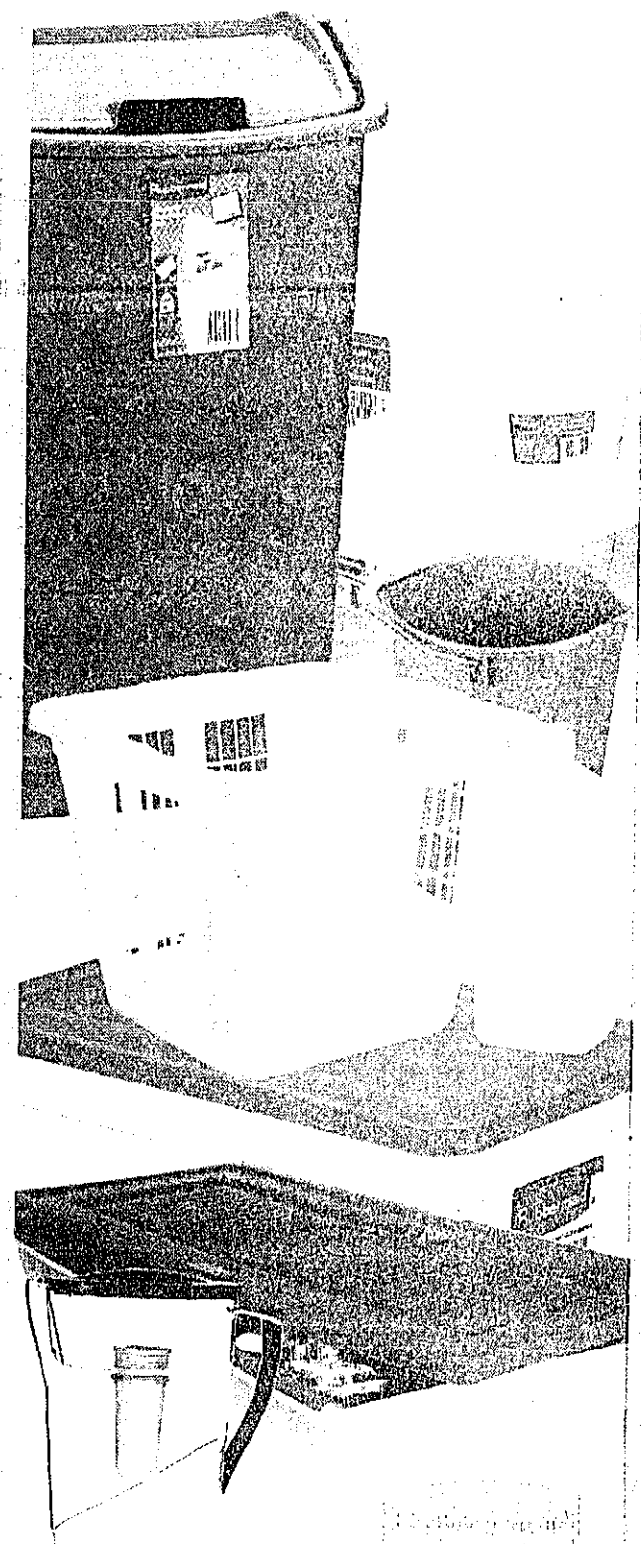
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