

# SUNDAY STAR

THE TOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR 106 YEARS

September 30, 2007

## ender takes ize for martini



Geslak

errie  
ing  
e-win-  
old  
stu-  
ks at  
ar  
ntly  
er's  
after

OR MORE, SEE BRIAN GARTLAN AND CARLY  
CLE ON A4.

## untry market nds season

By Brian Gartlan, The Star

shoppers will be able to enjoy two extra  
ng this year.

Country Market announced Thursday  
ll provide fruits and vegetables for nine  
pen the initial Oct. 14 finale.

open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays at  
s streets in  
istoric dis-

### What's in season for October?

Apples, bell peppers, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, grapes, greens, herbs, horseradish, lettuce, melons, okra, onions, pears, peas, plums, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, rhubarb, spinach, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and turnips.

houses, which allows them to continue  
cal produce," she said. "It will be a great  
ence."

reached at bgartlan@starnewspapers.com

NEW LENOX

## Local author, local focus



Photos by Mary Compton/The Star

New Lenox author Norm Cowie shows off one of his books to a class at Martino Junior High School in New Lenox.

## Author seeks tips from young readers

By Susan DeMar Lafferty, The Star

Norm Cowie rarely gets a writer's block. But after five months of struggling with his latest book, "Not a Typical Vampire Story," the New Lenox author turned to the experts. He asked Martino Junior High School students to critique his first five chapters of this humorous book on vampires.

Cowie, who has penned a few books, columns and short stories, is writing his first book for young adults. "It's the hardest thing I've ever written," he admitted.

He spent the day at the New Lenox school, observing and talking to students, who were happy to oblige.

"Who's your favorite character?"  
"What do you think of the title?"

"Do you think it's funny?"

"Am I describing your world?" Cowie asked.

Pacing between two classrooms, yukking it up

with the kids, he sounded more like a stand up comic. As students offered opinions and asked more questions, Cowie shared some secrets of the book and his life as a writer.

He purposely created their favorite character, Trug, as ugly boy, "because I like him so much and wanted readers to like him and have sympathy for him," he explained.

The characters will grow and change as they deal with the conflicts in the story, Cowie said, as he revealed a bit more about what happens next.

He chose vampires because they are a "hot" market, and mixed them with humor because "who doesn't like humor?"

"If you really love to read, you will love to create stories," he said. He doesn't usually plan his books in advance, but rather he "just starts typing" on his laptop and allows the characters "to take on a life of their own."

He didn't think about



Students Mary Kate Bjorklund, Dayna Denro and Brianna Flewicz listen to Cowie speak at Martino Junior High School.

becoming an author until he got a laptop because he types faster than he writes. His style mirrors Douglas Adams, of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxies," he said.

But as much as he loves Ernest Hemingway by rejected 100 times before it was published, he pointed out.

very good day job" as the vice president of an electrical supply house.

While he has published

Susan DeMar Lafferty may be reached at slafferty@starnewspapers.com or at 708-802-8805.