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Your hometown newspaper celebrating its 50th year serving Novi and the Lakes area

Thursday, June 1, 2006

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50c

Volume 50 Number 52

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE

Paging Mr. Raymond

Jason Raymond had dreams of making it to Washington. While being elected president may be far in the future, the Novi 16-year-old was happy to be chosen as a congressional page for the U.S. House of Representatives.

—Page 4A

THIS WEEKEND



River volunteers needed

Each year on the first Saturday in June, volunteers gather at various sites throughout the Rouge River Watershed to enhance the environment. The River Day 2006 Annual Stream Cleanup will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Rotary Park.

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SPORTS

Play ball!

Most seniors take the time to look back over the season and wonder if they gave it all they had. Matt Simpson just keeps looking ahead.

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Downtown's look evolves

Council gives first green light

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Jackson of Northville's McKenna & Associates says the MainStreet Novi project is moving along nicely. "I want to thank the city for its cooperation," Jackson said at the May 22 Novi City Council meeting. "I think we're in a good position right now."

The approximately 5220-million project to be constructed by Triangle Development will be situated on 17 acres of vacant land south of Grand River Avenue and east of Novi Road.

MainStreet Novi will feature a mixture of retail outlets and residential units. Jackson addressed city council recently to explain Dave Nona's request for some permanent zoning ordinance changes required for the developer to build what he wants.

"We want to change the zoning ordinances to meet the changing demographic trends,"

he said. Specifically, Triangle is asking for an increase in the building height from 65 feet to 78 feet to accommodate a higher first-floor.

It also wants to modify density calculations or number of units per building for its mixed-use buildings and modified room counts for the project.

Parking is also proposed on the first level in the retail/residential mixed-use buildings. Underground parking is planned for the all-residential buildings.

"These changes will help contribute to the vibrancy of the area," Jackson said.

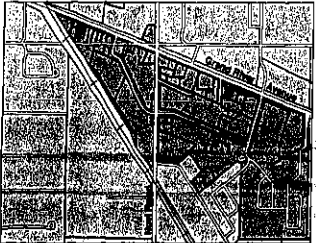
Changes to affect small area

The ordinance changes would only affect the area of the city zoned TC1, which includes property on the southeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue and a small parcel on the northwest corner of the intersection where Fidelity Investments sits.

Triangle is also proposing to

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TC-1 Zoning District



SOURCE: City of Novi



Photo by JOHN NEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School students Brittany Riley, left, Treasa Antony, and Jennifer White, and other members of the Students Promoting Unity and Diversity, work on a series of murals in the school's atrium.

Students help create mural

Atrium mural covers 1,300 square feet

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

It's taken just about a year, but the pieces of Novi High School's new puzzle are scheduled to come together in time for graduation.

The puzzle is actually a 1,300-square-foot mural, currently being painted on the wall of the high school's newly renovated atrium entryway. Designed by a student committee, the mural shows

different slices of life at Novi High School, providing snapshots of academics, athletics and extracurricular activities. Shaped like pieces of a puzzle, the different sections will come together to create one big picture.

When completed, the mural

will include inspirational quotes, and an opposite wall in the atrium will feature the word "welcome" written in roughly 40 different languages representing the languages spoken by students.

A welcoming place

"We wanted to capture the culture of Novi High School," said principal John Lawrence. Novi High School is appreciating its increasing diversity. We wanted to welcome students from all walks of life."

Lawrence commissioned members of Students Promoting Unity and Diversity (SPUD) to come up with a design a year ago. A five-person sub-committee was formed in fall 2005 help create the mural.

"They really couldn't figure out what we should have that would be welcoming to all people," said senior Jennifer White,

a member of the sub-committee. "We were the mavericks. Basically, we did everything."

Planning the design

The sub-committee selected photos from the yearbook of students engaged in different activities, such as athletics and the robotics team, to showcase the different aspects of life at Novi High School. The students worked with Learning Glass, Inc. to bring the concepts to life on the atrium wall.

"It's reflective of the student body," White said. "When students look up, they have something to relate to. It shows they are a piece of the puzzle. It took a lot of work."

SPUD members also had the opportunity Tuesday to climb the scaffolds and do some of the painting themselves, giving

continued on page 3A

Local restaurateur assists area needy with Memorial Day meal

Leon provides 146 free dinners

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Restaurant owner Moe Leon is known for providing a meal to the needy at his restaurants the day before Thanksgiving.

Last weekend, he extended his charitable efforts by serving 146 meals to homebound seniors and needy families on Memorial Day. The meals were served to people in Commerce Township,

Walled Lake and Livingston County and included baked chicken, potato salad, corn and a roll.

Leon was approached by Margaret Davey, executive director of the Livingston County and Commerce/Walled Lake Senior Nutrition Programs, about providing the holiday meal.

"He was more than happy to help out and see his plan in motion to hire extra staff to help prepare the meal.

Davey is currently preparing a grant proposal to the Area Agency

on Aging so she can provide meals to the needy in the entire west Oakland County area.

"If I get the grant, I'll be able to provide meals for Novi, Walled Lake, Commerce, Highland and White Lake," Davey said.

Davey said Novi residents will need a new person to organize their Meals on Wheels program next fall. The contract with the current provider, Mercy

continued on page 5A



Photo by PAM FLEMING

Joe Horn of White Lake Township delivers a hot meal to Phyllis Ramsey of Walled Lake on Memorial Day. Horn was one of about 20 volunteers who took meals to homebound people in Livingston County, Walled Lake and Commerce Township prepared by local restaurateur owner Moe Leon.

Photo by MATT DORAN/Novi News

Novi resident Michael Farley, pictured in his Livonia eBay sales store, said it took him nearly 50 years to write his recently published book, 'Mid Life Crisis: Our Lady of Perpetual Maximum Security Parochial Day Care, Ockham's Razor, Rock & Roll and Other Strategies for Success,' the book is a humorous take on midlife.

Farley laughs at midlife crisis

Novi author pens humorous take on midlife crises

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Just what is a midlife crisis? According to Novi's Michael G. Farley, it means something different to everyone, but the answer often involves "passion and fulfillment."

Farley ought to know. He is the newly published author of 'Mid Life Crisis: Our Lady of Perpetual Maximum Security Parochial Daycare, Ockham's Razor, Rock & Roll, and Other Strategies for

Success.' The book is a humorous take on midlife crises, Farley said, and it evolved from extended liner notes he wrote for songs he was composing for a band he is in, also called "Mid Life Crisis." The liners get longer and longer until they grew into the basis of the book, he said.

Various publishing agents described the book as narrative non-fiction, "a memoir" and a "self-help" book.

Farley said. One even said "Who knows?" when asked to categorize it. "That tells me it's valuable," said Farley, who spent 20 years working in marketing and now teaches part-time at the Birmingham campus of Michigan

State University's graduate school of advertising.

"We remember what's different," he said.

Getting through midlife

"I was most likely in crisis far before mid-life," joked Farley, who will turn 50 this summer.

"I guess I'm a kid," he said. "There's that core of adolescent knucklehead that's with us for all time. I think the only way I ever got out of trouble was being humorous about it." Farley lives with his wife, three teenage daughters, his mother-in-law and the female family dog.

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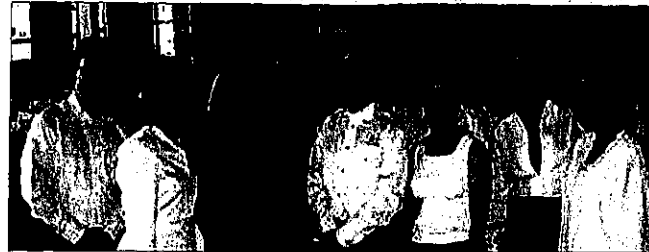
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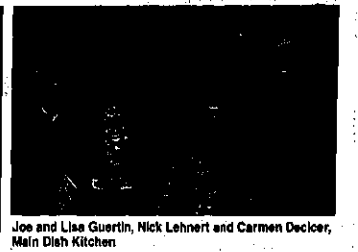
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BE SCENE IN NOVI



Greg Chapman, Smith Barney; Nora Champion, Novi Chamber of Commerce; Jason Baldea; Sue Shields, Novi Chamber of Commerce; Art Johnson, Johnson's Printing Services; Keith Wilson, Bob Sellers Pontiac; Anita Dellicolli, Cityscape Architects; Karen Anderson, Smart Office Systems; Kathleen Beagan-Miller, Cort Relocation Central; Eddie Borque, Lucky's; Chrlaty Seaberg, Republic Bank.



Joe and Lisa Guerth, Nick Lehnert and Carmen Decler, Main Dish Kitchen

Hold'em Casino Night:

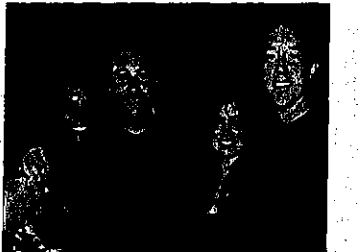
The Novi Chamber of Commerce held its second annual Hold'em Casino Night at Lucky's May 20. Sponsors included: JPS Marketing Communications; Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC; Fox Run Erickson Retirement Communities; St. John Providence Park Hospital; Twelve Oaks Mall; National City; Community Financial Credit Union; Hotel Baronette; Petland-Twelve Oaks; Michigan CAT; Republic Bank; and Telcom Credit Union.



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Stacy and Scott Stern, Cheryl and Lou Karan, St. John Providence Park Hospital



Stacy and Scott Stern, Cheryl and Lou Karan, St. John Providence Park Hospital



Nancy O'Kronley, Nancy Rozum, Jo Alley & Sharon McGregor, Lakes Area Chamber



Peggy Hayes, Twelve Oaks Mall, Dan Jones, Twelve Oaks Chevrolet; Dan Jones, Twelve Oaks



Patrick Mondro and Valeria McDonald, National City Bank



Lee Bonner, Betsy Richards, Mark Hourigan, John Thomann and Matt Ownby, Novi High School Instrumental Music Department

Novi High School Bandquet:

Novi High School Instrumental Music Department celebrated the end of the musical season at their annual Bandquet at Baker's of Milford May 21. The event was organized by Band Booster parents Brian and Pam Diephuis, and all band members were recognized for their participation in the 2005-6 season.



Dan Spry and Rachele Folino



Jim Brunner

Relay for Life:

The annual Relay for Life fundraiser to fight cancer was held at Ford Field in Northville on May 20. Over \$215,000 was raised.

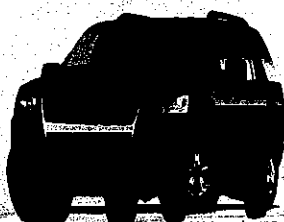
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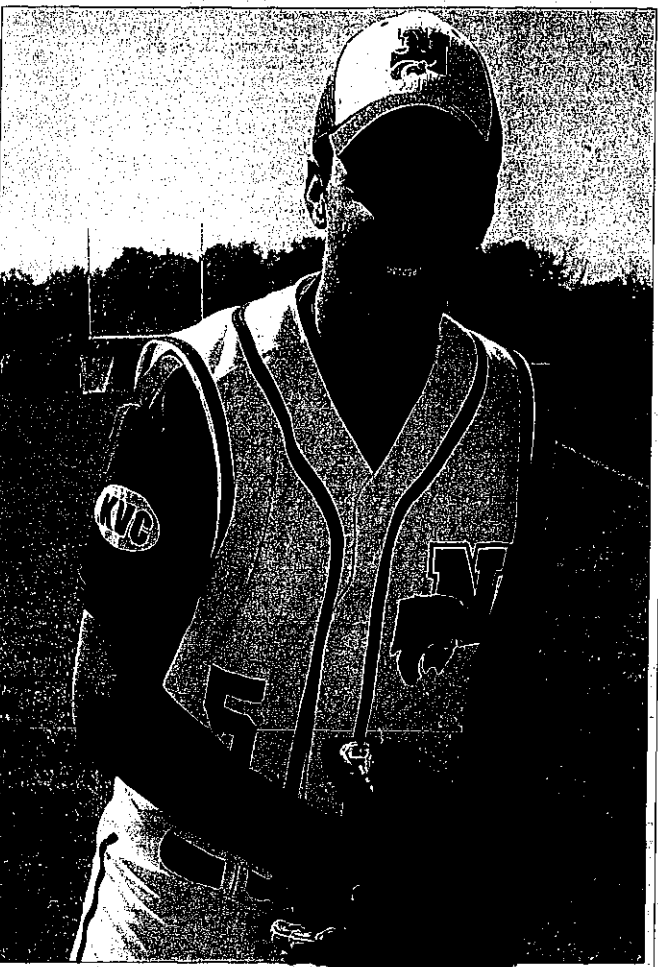


TRUCK: Coleman fastest guy over quarter mile page 2B

BASEBALL PHOTOS: Wildcats end regular season at home page 3B

SPORTS

1B Novi News (248) 349-1700 www.novimichigan.com (248) 349-8822 Thursday, June 3, 2009



Wildcat baseball outfielder Matt Simpson is hoping to end his senior year with a run into the playoffs. Photo by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

The future is bright

■ Brian O'Leary, 'Cats soccer boasts young talent every year

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

If Novi girls soccer coach Brian O'Leary isn't excited, the magic police are going to bust through its front door in search of the crystal ball he must have hidden in his home.

That's the only possible explanation for O'Leary's foresight of which freshman and sophomore soccer players will eventually grow up to help lead his varsity squad -- isn't it?

"Ideally a team would have five seniors, five juniors, five sophomores and five freshmen," O'Leary said. "That way graduation never hurts you."

"For the most part, the teams I have had for the past six years have mostly been like that." And O'Leary hasn't necessarily been counting how many of any class he has on his team during any given season. Instead, during tryouts, he watches for the best players on the field and he selects them, regardless of grade.

It's a strategy that has worked well for the Wildcats. Two years ago the team graduated -- such standouts as Mo. Perak and Nikki Herrmann. Last year they lost Ms. Soccer Kristi Timar and standouts Sarah Schmitt and goalie Kim Herbst after winning a state title. This year, they'll graduate four seniors: Lauren Marchionni, Katie and Kelli Walker and Lauren Trober. Three of them are going to Division I schools to play soccer next year.

But the Wildcats, like it or not, have players already in place to fill their shoes.

"It's exciting to know that I'm a part of such an outstanding program as a freshman," said defender Rachel Bandt, who could likely fill in for Marchionni next year. "I'm happy I made the team."

Novi has plenty of underclassmen willing to get their shot. The most notable is Erin Zorio, a freshman goalie who had double-digit shutouts this year for the Wildcats. Also playing roles for the Novi varsity squad are Jenna Ciccio (sophomore midfielder), Shannon Coody (sophomore defender), Katie Chalkos (sophomore defender), Jamie Frato (sophomore midfielder), Veronica Salens (sophomore midfielder), Kelsey Laux (sophomore midfielder), Megan Burns (freshman forward) and Barndt (freshman defender).

Once upon a time, All-State players Stephanie Crawford and Emily Estbrook, juniors this year, were also underclassmen stepping into roles. Hermann, Pawlak, Timar and Schmitt -- among others -- also played varsity as underclassmen.

"We've been pretty good so far with younger players who step up and take the spot of people who graduate," O'Leary said. "We've lost some fantastic players through graduation every year. The next year there's a freshman or a sophomore who steps up and fills the void very well."

With so many freshman and sophomore players waiting to play behind the all-state status of the team's stars, it's not always easy to find time to get them into the game.

O'Leary gives each of the underclassmen the choice to either get lots of playing time at the junior varsity level or come up to varsity and learn to play with and against some of the state's best.

Most players, but not all, choose varsity.

"It is an honor and it is very exciting to be an underclassman on this team, and I think it brings out the best in me," said Jamie Frato. "It forces me to concentrate and play up to the level that is expected, and play up to the potential that is expected of me."

I feel playing the same position as Division I athletes will make me a better player in the long run. It is my goal to play college soccer as well, and I feel I can learn a lot from the Division I players we have on our team."

Just because they are underclassmen doesn't mean the young Wildcats won't get playing time. Crawford scored over 20 goals her freshman year and Estbrook has been a factor in every game since coming up to varsity two years ago.

It's a risk that a player has to decide to take.

"It's up to them if they want to try to improve their game through practice with the very talented players that are on the varsity team already," O'Leary said. "I've had some pick JV for their freshman year and not compete with the varsity. I let them make that decision."

O'Leary is a rare coach at the varsity level. Most commonly pick seniors and juniors over underclassmen in order to let the younger players develop at the lower levels of competition.

"I've heard that theory before and I've heard coaches say they don't like bringing younger players up," O'Leary said. "I don't care what grade they're in. I have talented players come out and I take the top 20 or so best players. That's how I make the team."

And with 41 undefeated games -- including one tie against Northville last year -- since their last defeat, the way O'Leary assembles his team might just be the right one.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gen.net.com.

Play ball! Novi senior Matt Simpson has made a career of playing his best

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Most seniors take the time to look back over the season and wonder if they gave it all they had.

Matt Simpson doesn't. Truth is, he really doesn't have time. Playing three sports for the Novi Wildcats has been time consuming enough. To try to relive each of those games in his mind would be a Herculean task.

Instead, Simpson just keeps looking ahead.

"I just want to finish my senior year on a high note," he said. "We haven't had a great baseball season, but we can still win."

The Wildcats baseball team, which Simpson plays on in the spring season after standing out on boys soccer in the fall and playing basketball in the winter, has had some hard losses knock them down. Simpson is one of the senior leaders who helps them get back up again no matter how bad the Wildcats have been beaten.

"He was really flying. He dives and makes the catch about an inch off the ground. It's one of the greatest catches I've ever seen a high school player make."

Rick Green
Novi Baseball Coach

"There's not much going on in school right now, so that's not a priority," said Simpson. "Baseball is really the only thing I have left. It's really the only thing I'm

looking forward to each day."

Though the Wildcats have struggled to the worst record under the guidance of head coach Rick Green, there have been some very bright moments.

Green said it has been refreshing to see players make outstanding plays this year and Simpson has been one of them.

"We were playing against Milford and there was a short hit that Simpson didn't get that I thought he could have tried a little harder for," Green said. "It wasn't much later that there was another play, almost identical to it, and Simpson breaks out into a full sprint. He was really flying. He dives and makes the catch about an inch off the ground. It's one of the greatest catches I've ever seen a high school player make."

Simpson recalled the moment as well, saying he was motivated by Green.

"I don't like when people think I could have tried harder," Simpson said. "I wasn't

continued on 3B

Novi Wildcats have tough pairings this weekend in state finals tennis tournament

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats tennis team knew going into their regional it would be tough to keep their fourth-place ranking in the state playoffs for Division I teams.

In last regional prowled Catholic Central, a squad ranked seventh that was quite capable of winning the tournament. But Novi didn't let a change of venue due to bad weather or the possibility of losing their ranking shake them. They went out, played, and won the regional tournament for a berth to the state finals this weekend in Midland.

Now, Novi coach Jim Hanson said, it doesn't matter where they're ranked or if

they're able to maintain it.

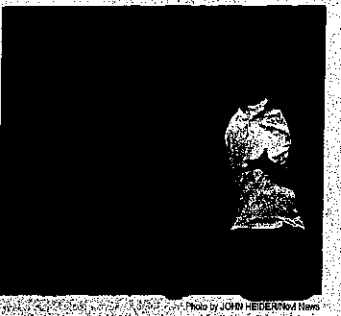
"We want to go and play our best tennis," Hanson said. "Our goals were to win the KVC and to qualify for the state finals. We've done that."

Everything else, as they say, is just icing on the cake for the Wildcats.

Novi will have their hands full with some of the talent the state has to offer. Handling the best players in the state will be Roshan Ramachandran at one singles.

The Wildcats will be represented by Vivek Athalya at two singles, who earned a bye in the first round and will play Adam Moehle of Grand Blanc in the second round. The winner will play the winner between Patrick Ruzicki of Gross Point South and Salim's Zach Celmer.

The boys continue in the third singles flight with Kyle Goodman not playing until the second round, when he meets Ulrica Eisenhower's Adam Barth. The victory between them will play the winner of the matchup between Samir Kay of Pontiac (ranked sixth) and Mt. Pleasant's Jordan Kryscio.



Wildcat Kyle Goodman hits a forehand shot back to his opponent during the regional playoffs in Farmington. Photo by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

continued on 2B

Home Owners... How Much Electrical Service Does Your Home Require?

Homes built in the 1940s and 50s generally had 60 amp of electrical service installed to the home. This in itself does not mean that the electrical service is unsafe. 60 amp service is typically fine for a small house with two people living in the home. The electrical service can become an unsafe issue when the home owner replaces a 15 amp glass fuse with a 20 amp or larger size fuse. This will allow the circuit to draw more electrical power than it is intended. This will cause the wires to overheat and create a possible fire hazard. Another concern today for 60 amp service is the total limitation of electrical power that can be used in the home with multiple appliances running at the same time. With modern electrical appliances, and our current lifestyles, homes can demand higher electrical usage than 40 or 50 years ago.

Modern appliances which draw larger electrical demands include: electric stoves/ovens, electric clothes dryers, and central air conditioners. These units can draw as much as 30 amps each. Therefore if your home is limited to a 60 amp service to the home, then you can easily see why fuses blow and breakers will trip. This in itself identifies the overall electrical service to the home would be understated. Other modern electric appliances include:

microwaves, electric hot water heaters, window air conditioners, sound/speakers, computers, televisions, audio components, amplifiers, hair dryers, curling irons etc. These items place an overall larger demand on the electrical service coming into the home today than in the past. All these items require that the home be sized appropriately for the electrical demand that your family can place on the service, with various items being used simultaneously.

Generally homes today are recommended to have a minimum of 100 amp service to the home for modern demands of today's family lifestyles.

The service size should be based on the electrical requirements for all electrical appliances installed, based on how many appliances could be running at the same time, and the number of people in the home that could be requesting electrical demands at the same time. This total should be used to determine and identify the electrical requirements for the home.

Many homes today have 150 amp or 200 amp service. In addition if your family has hobbies which require additional electrical needs, such as a welder, or a pottery kiln, a home based computer network, or a financial instrument with a home floater, etc., then these demands for electricity should also be considered for determining the home's electrical requirements.

Here are some increased risk items to remember:

• Increasing the number of circuits, receptacles, lights without considering the overall additional draw on the electrical service to the home

• Adding additional 20 or 30 amp appliances without upgrading a small electrical distribution panel

• Smaller rated fuses/breakers are replaced with higher rated fuses/breakers

• More electrical demands from various smaller appliances due to family growth, hobbies, and lifestyles

As a simple example for how a circuit can draw more electrical demand than intended it is as follows:

If you should plug in a standard home clothes iron and a microwave in a kitchen outlet on the same circuit, and have them all operating together, the circuit could draw more current than intended and therefore trip the breaker or blow the fuse. If this happens often and the homeowner decides to replace this with a higher rated fuse or breaker, then this is a potential for over heating the wires and creating a fire hazard.

Ensure that your home has the proper sized electrical service for the demand your family requires. Call us so we have your home checked for your home's electrical demands and service.

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Randall Peterson is a Certified Home Inspector with Title 19, Post-800 Accreditation, NRECA's 2005 Home Inspector, Western, Oakland, and Livingston Counties.

ADVERTORIAL

Utopia Salon and Spa

AT A GLANCE

Utopia Salon and Spa
 ■ Owners Tita Daskal and Kelly Sesi
 ■ Currently at 182 East Main Street in Northville
 ■ New location immediately next door at 170 East Main St.
 ■ Targeted Moving date August/September
 ■ Lower Level Utopia Underground
 ■ First Floor Spa and Beauty Bar and Boutique
 ■ Second Floor Exclusively Hair
 ■ Regional platform salon for Redken.
 ■ Call 248.465.7700 for appointments

If you think you can't afford the hottest salon in Northville, think again. Utopia, the area's premiere salon and spa, is raising the bar with an expansion next door. The inspiration for their latest venture comes from dynamic owners, Kelly Sesi and Tita Daskal, who seem to know exactly what the public wants when it comes to a salon/spa.

As Tita Daskal notes, their growth will reach beyond their walls. Not only is the salon changing, it's changing Northville as well. "We've brought the industry to another level... What we're doing here is very much like New York."

Targeted moving date for the new facility will be in August/September 2006, which will be at 170 East Main Street, next to their current address. Their new location will provide a greater opportunity for clients to try their services.

Going underground
 Utopia Underground is one of the most exciting features of this new venture. The brainchild of Sesi and Daskal, it will occupy the lower level of the three-story building. Utopia Underground will offer clientele the chance to visit the exclusive salon at reduced prices.

"This is where our newly-talented hairstylists will have a chance to work on clients under our supervision at a lower cost," according to Kelly Sesi. "This not only gives our newly-talented staff experience, it gives the community a chance to try our services."

Utopia Underground will be a destination for the entire family as a time and money saver. Children's haircuts will be priced at \$15, women's at \$25, men's \$20, tints \$30, and highlights for \$45 at Utopia Underground only.

"We have a name in the community. Those who think they can't afford us can come to the hottest, trendiest salon in town," Sesi added.

Upscale
 For those who currently enjoy the luxurious elegance of Utopia Salon & Spa, rest assured, they have a pleasant surprise for the remaining two floors. Sesi invites clients to see for themselves once the project is complete; however, the look and feel (and, of course, service) will be that of an upscale hotel.

The first floor will contain the spa. The nail rooms for manicures and pedicures will be separate for discreet service. The first floor will also contain their beauty bar, where they'll carry exclusive lines of makeup like Paula Dorf and the Art of Shaving, perfumes as well as other boutique items. Why not get your holiday shopping done early with their gift concierge?

"We'll get the gift ready ahead of time. Just tell us what you want, from \$25 to \$500... and it'll be wrapped and ready to go," said Daskal.

Facials and massages will be performed on the first floor. It must be true that our skin has over 20,000 pores, because each and every one of them will tingle after a facial with Utopia's Josephine Fashak. Their ECHO2 facial - short for exfoliation, cleansing, hydration and oxy-

genation - transforms the skin through a process using pure oxygen gas along with Vitamins A, C & E. This stimulates the production of new cells, leaving skin feeling soft and supple. Step by step Josephine's nurturing and capable hands will put you in, well... Utopia. The salon recently gained additional popularity by a visit from the Spy Spa in *Esquire Magazine* which raved about facial services.

Upstairs
 The second floor will feature the hair design exclusively. The owners prove once again they are on the cutting edge by providing hi-tech tools including flat screen televisions at every station and laptops for clients to use during their downtime on services such as color and highlights. Each stylist will also follow her appointments on a palm pilot. Hair color will be performed in the Redken state-of-the-art color lab. The new work stations were created with input from their stylists.

"We listen to employees. For example - what do you like, what works and what's comfortable?" said Daskal.

The salon staff receives continuous education from locations all over the globe including New York and Europe, as well as in-house education from Bumble and Bumble, Redken and others.

Other exciting additions include makeup artist Angela who has worked with many exclusive makeup lines as a freelancer. Sesi raves about her eyebrow sculpting. If makeup artists aren't occupied, complimentary five-minute makeovers are available from the talented staff like Daniela Maculli who know how to make glamour fun. Utopia can make wedding parties even more memorable with specialized treatment in house or on location.

Clients are frequently rewarded with discounts for other services at the salon. Specials will be held every month. During June, they'll feature Father's Day promotions with selected items 20 percent off. Handicapped facilities will allow full access with an elevator as well as front and rear entrances to the new location. Look for a huge grand opening party in October.

Visit their Web site at www.utopiasalon.com. Call 248.465.7700 for appointments.

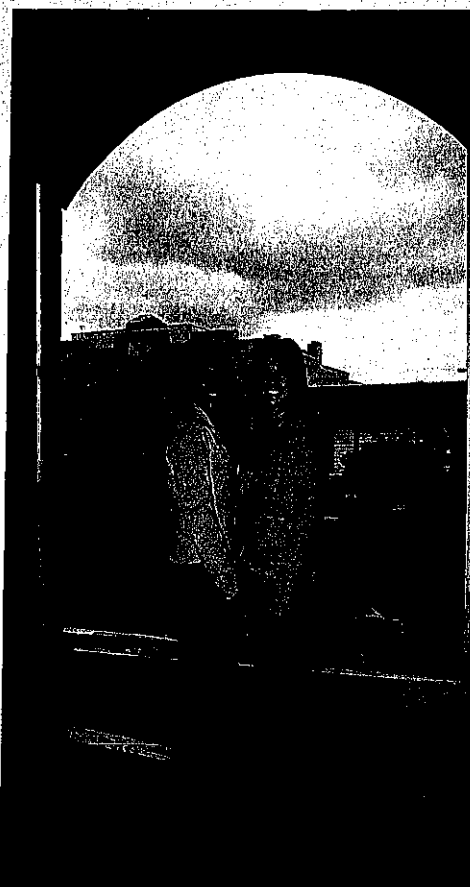


PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/Grand News 94000
 Utopia Day Salon owners Kelly Sesi, left, and Tita Daskal stand in the second story of the new salon that's being built next door to their 182 E. Main St. location. The new salon will open later this summer.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/Grand News 94000
 Northville's Utopia Salon owners Kelly Sesi, left, and Tita Daskal.

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