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Look inside for your GREEN SHEET Classifieds

INSIDE



Technology takes vet back

The past and present met in a whirlwind of coincidences around Novi resident and World War II veteran Clifford Burk.

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Jobs in transportation

Oakland County hosted its first annual Excellence in Transportation Award ceremony on April 10, with two Walled Lake Schools employees and one Novi Schools employee - bus driver Nancy Putnam - taking home awards.

Page 12A

SPORTS

Wildcats upset Country Day

When the Novi Wildcats lacrosse team talks about who it was who led them to a 10-9 victory over a very, very tough Detroit Country Day team for the first time in the team's short history, who is it they will speak of? Most likely, Shaun Dicken.

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Bowman claims lawsuit patently false

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Novi Expo Center President Blair Bowman asserts a recent lawsuit filed by his landlord is patently false and ignores a prior agreement between both parties.

"We have asked the court to affirm the preliminary development agreement," Bowman said. "We very much are interested in seeing that our rights are protected."

Bowman said the lawsuit filed by the Adell Brothers Children's Trust on March 7 in Oakland County Circuit Court basically claims he never informed the landlord of his possible intention to relocate when

prior court documents show he did.

In addition, Bowman's attorney, Keefe Brooks of Detroit's Butzel Long P.C., said the lawsuit is unfounded because it was filed with no basis and the trust failed to go through with plans for a hotel.

The trust alleges Bowman did not honor his side of the hotel deal.

According to the trust's complaint, as part of a prior settlement agreement Bowman was required to build a 300-unit full service hotel on a section of the property to be attached to, adjoining and servicing an operating Novi Expo Center. The trust was also a party in the hotel, but states in court documents it has fulfilled its obligations.

The trust's court documents state the success of the hotel would be based on Expo Center activity and "unbeknownst to the trust, Bowman organized and formed a new limited liability company."

The trust alleges the company was created to purchase real property for the new Novi Expo Center location, and when the center and Bowman were supposed to be implementing a plan for the new hotel, Bowman was conducting meetings regarding the plan to construct his new center.

The trust claims the amended tenant agreement was breached because of the failed hotel plan.

Bowman said the claim is absolutely false.

The Expo Center president said he sought dozens of different hotel officials about the project who did not express interest.

Bowman said the marketplace did not respond favorably to the plan. He then thought it might be advantageous to scale down the idea from a 300-room hotel to more of a business travel lodge and approached the trust with the idea, but never received a response.

Bowman also strongly denies claims the trust was blindsided by his preliminary plans to construct the new Grand River Avenue and Taft Road convention center.

After his initial lease term expired February, Bowman said the center



Blair Bowman

entered into a unilateral lease agreement with its landlord giving Bowman four additional ten year options.

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Completion of Novi's park project within sight

City still waiting on fate of fire station

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Members of the Novi City Council unanimously approved the take-over of city park improvement projects this week after officials removed Greystone Construction Company from the jobs earlier this year.

The April 15 approval placed the Wildlife Woods and Community Sports Park picnic shelters and restrooms construction jobs in the hands of Liberty Mutual Bond Services - the company insuring the project for the city after the contractor's default.

The approved agreement will allow Liberty Mutual to select a new contractor to replace the James Chen company.

City officials said they anticipate the work will be completed by June 15, within the original plans and specifications, and at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Members of the council were advised to approve the agreement even though the exact work to be completed and the dollar amounts representing the payments made to date and the unpaid balance have not been finalized.

It is estimated it will cost about \$162,000 to finish the \$223,567 job which was approved April 20, 2001.

The advice was given to move the process along and have the two park structures completed for the 2002 Summer park season.

The agreement is subject to approval of the open issues by the city manager and city attorney.

Expected next is the take-over of the \$1.9 million Novi Fire Station No. 4 and Training Center project.

Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson said Liberty Mutual, along with consulting firm ForCon International, is deciding on how it will proceed with the project.

Being placed at the fate of the bonding company's decision has been a nightmare for Rob Siemens, owner of Royal Arc Manufacturing, one of the original subcontractors of the 10 Mile and Wixom roads site.

Siemens' frustration mounts because he has still not received a payment for the more than \$115,000 of work he said his company has invested in the job.

The business owner blames the city.

"The city is still hiding behind the bonding company, and city managers are making a mockery of the whole mess," he said. "We continue to suffer the effects of this mismanaged city."

Siemens said he is considering filing a lawsuit.

"This is continuing to cause us a great deal of pain and suffering, not to mention all of the lost money," he said.

Pearson said he is disappointed Siemens feels this way.

"The process is that we award a contract to a general contractor to complete this work," Pearson said. "We are now in the process of getting a new general contractor through Liberty Mutual. It is not in



Food for thought

So that she can start her own composting program at home, student Emily Hogness scoops up some food material during last Wednesday's Eco-Fest at the Novi Expo Center. Students and educators from local school districts were invited to the Expo Center to learn about the environment in many hands-on activities and how they can lessen their impact on it. The two-day event was sponsored by Bob Sellers GMC, The Novi Expo Center, and Suburban Landscapers.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

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Novi full-day kindergarten in demand

Parents taking their concerns for equal funding to the Novi school board April 18

By Angelo Parlove STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Sue Burke had high hopes that her son, who is entering kindergarten next year, would tackle his first year of formal education as a student at Deerfield Elementary.

Burke wanted to give her child the advantages of the progressive full-day kindergarten program at Deerfield, engulfing him in an alternative educational program practicing all the latest buzz words in teaching, such as multiple intelligence curriculum and multi-age settings.

"There is a different concept of learning (at Deerfield). I got encouraged that my son would be a part of this," Burke said. "You hope the best for your kids. That's the reason why we came to Novi."

Burke's daughter has attention deficit disorder, and her son, entering school next year, is exhibiting signs of the disorder in his behaviors, too. Burke thought the non-traditional learning styles at Deerfield would best suit the challenges facing her child.

So, Burke put her son in the kindergarten lottery at Deerfield, Novi's elementary school of choice, with hopes her child would get the luck of the draw and be one of the 100 kindergarten kids admitted to the district's only full-day program next year.

Siblings of current Deerfield students are automatically placed in the school, and a lottery drawing is held to randomly pick students for the remaining available seats. Students not chosen are then placed on a waiting list.

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Suspected pizza man robbers arraigned

Four Novi men wait for pre-trial

By Victoria Sadlocha STAFF WRITER

Three Novi men were arraigned in Oakland County Circuit Court for the beating and robbery of a Walled Lake pizza delivery driver.

Attorneys for 18-year-old Steven Fisher and 19-year-olds Phillip Cushman and Earl Wise entered a plea of not guilty. The men were all given an April pre-trial date before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Colleen A. O'Brien.

Novi resident Curtis Paul, 18, was also arrested for the incident and is scheduled for arraignment in Oakland County Circuit Court on April 23.

The four men were arrested by Novi police Tuesday, March 12 at about 11:45 p.m. after allegedly beating and robbing a 56-year-old Cottage Inn pizza delivery man.

According to a police report, the



Steven Fisher Earl Wise Phillip Cushman Curtis Paul

delivery driver was punched 10, to 20 times before about \$32 was stolen by the suspects.

The Walled Lake man said he was diagnosed with a fractured nose, received three stitches on his nose, two stitches on his cheek, suffered from a sore right ribcage, a cut elbow and a swollen and bruised eye.

Novi Police Detective Victor Lauria said the four men thought of the plan to order a pizza to a

false address in the 29900 block of Miquelon Court, near 13 Mile and Novi roads, to attack the driver for cash.

Novi Police said the men stole the money so they could eat at Ram's Horn in Waterford.

The four suspects originally fled, but were tracked down after a Novi police dog followed their scent from the scene to the nearby home of one of the suspects where evidence was found, includ-

ing the pizza man's car keys, Lauria said.

All four men were charged with conspiracy to commit an unarmed robbery and committing an unarmed robbery.

Both felony charges carry a 15-year maximum sentence.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net.



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# Firefighters hit the links in fight against cancer

By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

Firefighters help people on a regular basis, and that helping nature doesn't simply shut off when they leave the station. Local firefighters are gearing up for their fifth golf outing fundraiser to raise money for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

Highland Township firefighter Dawn Burnett, who is chairperson for this year's event, said the fundraiser got started by the Milford Fire Department when one of their members was struggling with cancer.

Two years later, the Highland department was asked to join in the fundraiser at a time when Burnett herself was battling cancer. Last year, the Commerce and Walled Lake fire departments joined the outing.

"We're hoping to grow again," Burnett said. She said the more firefighters they have taking part in the organization, the more people they can get to help support the cause.

One of the main reasons the outing benefits Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Burnett said, is because many people don't realize there is a cancer institute in the area.

"A lot of people don't even know that it exists," Burnett said. Burnett said she would drive to Ann Arbor for her cancer treatments, instead of going to Huron Valley-Sinai, which is located in Commerce Township, because she was unaware she could get the treatments there. She said her illness has been in remission for a year-and-a-half.

Burnett said every fire department is touched by cancer in some way and that lung cancer used to be a common form of death in firefighters. She said she didn't realize until she developed the disease how many people around her had cancer themselves or knew someone who did.

"I don't think people realize how common it really is," she said. Burnett said the fire departments raised between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the cancer institute last year and are hoping for at least that much this year.

"Of course, we always want to meet what we did last year," she said. This year's event will be held on May 17 at the El Dorado Golf Course in Walled Lake. Burnett said the goal is to have at least 120 golfers, but they are also looking for people to be tee sponsors and donate prizes.

"Pretty much any way anybody wants to help is a help to us," she said. The cost to golf is \$115 per person or \$440 for a group of four. Registration begins at 10 a.m. and tee off is at 11:30 a.m. Burnett said people who can't join the group for golf, can come for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.

## Police Report

### DAGEROUS BOOTS

A Novi police officer was given the boot by a woman held in the booking department while a dispatcher was also given the boot and was released back to the Michigan State Trooper.

**FAST FIGHT**  
In a matter of minutes two subjects started and ended a fight in the front of a Novi trailer park. On April 13 at about 1 p.m., the Novi Police Department performed a disorderly conduct call from the Old Dutch Farms trailer park on Napier Road.

**JUST CHECKING**  
An officer was dispatched to Rite Aid in Walled Lake April 12 when the manager discovered a man wrote a check for \$18.07 on a closed bank account.

**BOYS CLUB BUST**  
Two 16-year-old Farmington Hills boys were booked and held April 14 at the station because they had consumed alcohol.

Officers were dispatched to Club Liquid when one of the boys passed out in the club. One boy admitted to police that he had been drinking and smoking marijuana.

One boy's preliminary breathalyzer test was .16 and the other's was .056. They were released to their families and the case is now closed.

The 21-year-old Milford man was given a five-day notice to pay for the merchandise he had purchased with the false check. He ignored the notice. However, he told police he would pay the money the next day when police contacted him.

The case is now closed. The 11-hour operation went as well as doctors could hope for, she said.

## COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SUPPORT AVM PATIENT

By Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITER

Wixom resident Jennifer Pettibone is recovering from an operation that may prolong her life after close to 900 residents rallied to her aid in January.

Pettibone, 28, is suffering from a rare birth defect, arterial venous malformation (AVM), that causes tangled veins to grow, burst and then hemorrhage out of control.

She needed financial donations to pay for traveling expenses, which her health insurance would not pay, for herself and her family. Residents helped raise more than the family's \$8,000 goal at a Jan. 20 dining event at the Richardson Center in Walled Lake.

"It was an awesome turnout," said Jodi Nicholas, Pettibone's sister. "It made me feel real good." Pettibone said.

However, her train ride to New York didn't go as well. The motion of the train made her ill on the way to New York. She knew she wouldn't be able to handle the train ride home, so a friend drove her back

# LAKES AREA TIMES

## Community rallies to support AVM patient

"What it's intended to do is buy me more time. But with God, it could be a permanent fix. I don't always go by what doctors say. I leave it to my faith in God."

Jennifer Pettibone  
AVM sufferer

control the AVM, which has taken over her face. Pettibone has undergone countless surgeries in the past 12 years to wipe out the AVM.

However, she underwent a life-or-death surgery in 1996 that removed portions of her face such as her nose, part of her cheek and the upper roof of her mouth.

Most of the facial AVM was removed in the 1996 operation. However, the afflicted vessels continued to recruit and grow at a faster rate.

The tangle of veins in her brain can break at any time causing an aneurysm. The one in her face her doctor nicknamed "the monster" because it grows out of control.

She is pleased and thankful so many people cared enough to help her when she needed it. "I picked up a virus," Pettibone said. "It could have been in New York or here at home. It made my joints ache and my AVM in my eye hurt even worse. They wanted to make sure it wasn't an infection, but they found out it was just a virus."

Ricarda Schmalzried, Pettibone's friend, said she was also pleased with the community's support. "I think the thing that touched me the most was how her situation touched others lives and made them re-evaluate things that are really important in their lives," Schmalzried said. "She looks at life the way most of us should look at life, and we don't."

Pettibone is grateful for the community's outpouring of help. She also appreciates the help from Schmalzried, who was able to get media attention about her plight, and Purian for his efforts. "Thank you so much for everything," Pettibone said. "Especially for everyone's prayers. Please continue to keep praying. I could definitely feel a difference because of it."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or [ddeel@tlh.homecom.net](mailto:ddeel@tlh.homecom.net).

## WL auxiliary officer fined for run-in with Pontiac Police

By Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITER

Rick Pary, a Walled Lake auxiliary police officer, was arrested in November when he would not lower a blimp at the Pontiac Silverdome, which was a no-fly zone after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Pontiac police instructed Pary, 30, to lower the tethered helium balloon blimp because flying anywhere over the stadium was not allowed for fear of future terrorist attacks.

Pary, who is also an on-call firefighter for Walled Lake, had the blimp raised while he was attending the Lions vs. Packers football game at the stadium Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. According to the police report, Pary stated that he did not agree with the no-fly zone in effect for the stadium area, which included his tethered blimp. He told the officers that he would not lower it.

According to the report, "Rick told the officers to issue him a ticket or arrest him because he would not obey the rule." A police officer lowered the blimp himself and confiscated it. Pary was placed under arrest and transported to the Pontiac Police Department for the booking process.

He was allegedly argumentative but later admitted his guilt, according to police. Pary's case was taken under advisement by Judge Preston Thomas April 5 in the 50th District Court. The case will be officially dismissed if Pary has no further run-ins with the law during the next three months. However, Pary did have to pay a \$350 fine.

Jerry Walker, Walled Lake's director of public safety, said he didn't feel his arrest was a large enough offense to warrant attention. "It wasn't as if he intentionally broke the law," Walker said. "It was a rules violation at the Silverdome itself. It wasn't like he was trespassing or drunk driving or something like that."

Pary felt the issue had been resolved after talking to Pontiac police. Walker said. However, Troy Scott, labor relations specialist with the Michigan Association of Police, does not believe the issue is resolved. "I am totally outraged," Scott said after he read the report. "Police have it hard enough. They deal with the unknown on their job. They should not have to face the unknown with those that they are required to work with."

Scott said the Michigan Association of Police is committed to its members and ensuring their safety. "We represent police officers of the highest caliber who place their character, integrity and professionalism above all else," Scott said. "I would expect that any individual chosen to work with our members, including our Walled Lake members, would be required to submit to an extensive background investigation to ensure that they had not engaged in conduct which is in the police reports."

Scott pointed out the case with Pary goes even deeper within the Walled Lake Police Department. "What I find extremely disturbing about this situation, is that the director of public safety, Jerry Walker, has recently attempted to discipline some of our members as part of an ongoing arbitrary and capricious pattern of harassment," Scott said. "The alleged violations were minor, but without

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## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### 30-year veteran Ogonowski earns WL 2002 honors

By Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITER

And the award goes to — Doug Ogonowski, automotive technology teacher at Walled Lake Western High School.

Ogonowski, who has taught at the high school for the past 30 years, was honored with the Teacher of the Year Award for the district at the April 4 school board meeting.

"I'm really ecstatic," Ogonowski said. "I don't know if it's really setting in yet. But I can't imagine being any happier than I am right now."

He didn't expect to win while he was one of three finalists. "It's a large district and there's an equal number of teachers who deserve this award," Ogonowski said. "I am just honored that I am the one to receive it. It's kind of like the Stanley Cup of teaching."

Larry Barlow, principal, is pleased to have a teacher at his school recognized for excellence. "Doug was everyone's choice," Ogonowski said. "I think the staff especially pleased he was the winner. Doug represents truly what a teacher should be. He reaches so many people and has a long history in our district for doing so many good things."

Ogonowski, who is married to Sandra and has an eighth grade son who will attend the new Northern High School next year, shared his father's passion for working on cars. He loved auto shop in high school and went on to a community college where he got his associate's degree in automotive technology.

He decided he wanted to educate students rather than work in a garage. He graduated with a teaching degree from Eastern Michigan University and later earned his master's degree in education from the University of Michigan.



Walled Lake Western High School automotive technology teacher Doug Ogonowski has been recognized for his superlative instructing abilities. Here he goes over a brake job with student Jeff Buroblewski.

And here I am today, interacting with today's youth," Ogonowski said. "I like watching them mature and grow." His students graduate and many times go on to become professional mechanics or take other jobs within

the automotive field. However, they often come back to see Ogonowski, who was the first to teach them their skills. Ogonowski has taught students' fathers or other relatives since he began his career in the district. "I can go into practically any business or garage and there will be somebody I've had as a student," Ogonowski said. Students work on cars of teachers

and students that actually need repair. Students spend two days a week learning the theory of auto mechanics and the other three days working on cars. Some students later take the Michigan mechanic certification test through the Secretary of State. "It's a great program," Ogonowski said. "Kids love it. It's a motivation for some of them to stay in school and continue to work in school. We expect them to do well."

It's not a surprise to Barlow that students enjoy taking Ogonowski's class. "He's a very, very effective teacher with the world's greatest attitude," Barlow said. Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or [ddeel@tlh.homecom.net](mailto:ddeel@tlh.homecom.net).

## Volunteers show spirit of Christmas a little early for residents

By Tran Longmore and Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITERS

For the ninth straight year, Christmas in April is rebounding community in Oakland County.

On April 27, 1,600 volunteers will donate their time, sweat, skills and creativity to repair the homes of less fortunate residents of West Oakland County. The volunteers, using cash and materials donated by local individuals and businesses, will repair and upgrade 28 homes in Milford, Commerce, White Lake, Highland, Walled Lake, South Lyon, Wixom, Walled Lake, Brandon and Farmington Hills.

\$225,000 of improvements to homes this year. "I've been doing this for a few years, so I'm not surprised by how much is accomplished," said Keyes. "But when I first volunteered, I was stunned by how much work we completed. That's what happens when you get 30 or 40 people working together for a day."

Volunteers, including skill trades workers, will complete basic home repairs including roofing, plumbing, electrical, painting and yard work. They will also install new kitchens, bathrooms, floors, and make some homes wheelchair accessible. Debbie Gordon, a Walled Lake homeowner, said she is thrilled to have been chosen for repairs to her home in a second year in a row. She and her husband are physically disabled and they are grateful for volunteers help. "It's a wonderful program," Gordon said. "It was the most

incredible experience. We could not do these things without them. We could not afford it, and we physically couldn't do it."

Volunteers will paint Dooley's home and perform yardwork, she said. Christmas in April designates a captain who manages the work at each home. Each captain submits a list of repairs to Gene Brinker, Christmas in April vice president in charge of materials. Brinker, in turn, secures donations from local businesses. "Every year, we get more support from local businesses," said Keyes.

donuts. Then they will head out to their jobs. Depending on the work that needs to be done, some teams will finish by 3 p.m. Some groups find more work to do and work into the night. When the teams are finished, they return to Milford High School for a hot-dog meal. Keyes said Christmas in April is still seeking volunteers and donations.

Volunteers are asked to submit an application by April 13. Applications are available online at <http://twp.waterford.mi.us/cia>. To donate call 889-5450. Tran Longmore is a reporter with the Milford Times. He can be reached (248) 685-1507 ext. 22, or by e-mail at [tlongmore@homecom.net](mailto:tlongmore@homecom.net). Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or [ddeel@tlh.homecom.net](mailto:ddeel@tlh.homecom.net).

## SPRING ADDITIONS

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### Community Events

**The Jesus Film**  
 DATE: April 21  
 LOCATION: Lakes Baptist Church, 309 Decker Rd., Walled Lake  
 TIME: 6 p.m.  
 DETAILS: The life of Christ presented on film.  
 PHONE: Don Magee, (248) 624-2900

**Sugarloaf Art Fair**  
 DATE: April 19-21  
 LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, Novi Rd. & I-96  
 TIME: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Now in its eighth year, this show features over 350 nationally recognized craft designers and fine artists from 39 states and Canada. Includes demonstrations and entertainment. Admission is \$6; free for 12 and under; free parking.  
 PHONE: Call (800) 210-9900 before April 12 for discount admission coupons, or visit [www.sugarloaifair.com](http://www.sugarloaifair.com).

#### "Business Roundtable 2002 - Moving Michigan's Economy Forward"

DATE: Friday, April 19  
 LOCATION: Walsh College - Novi campus  
 TIME: 8:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Michigan small-business owners and residents interested in improving the state's economy can help develop legislative solutions during a unique event sponsored by state lawmakers.  
 State Rep. Nancy Cassis is sponsoring the event with Speaker Rick Johnson. The roundtable includes a panel of economic/business experts, as well as a labor leader and school funding specialists.  
 CONTACT: Go to the Web: [www.gop-house.com/cassisroundtable](http://www.gop-house.com/cassisroundtable).

#### Runaway Sale

DATE: Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20  
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi  
 TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

DETAILS: Offered by the church's Women's Service Club.  
 PHONE: Molly Daley, (248) 477-1621

**Spring Classic Car Auction**  
 DATE: Friday-Sunday, April 26-28  
 LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
 TIME: preview Friday noon-5 p.m.; auction Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 DETAILS: The 10th annual RM's Spring Classic Car Auction is the Midwest's largest indoor auction. Over 450 classic, exotic, antique, muscle and sports cars will be auctioned during this exciting three-day event. The auction is open to the public. Day passes are \$8/person and weekend passes are \$12/person. Children 12 and under are free. PHONE: (734) 547-2400 or [mid-gan@mcars.com](mailto:mid-gan@mcars.com)

**Women's Retreat**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 27  
 LOCATION: First United Methodist Church of Northville  
 TIME: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the chapel  
 DETAILS: An opportunity for women to gather for a day of making choices, discovery, and learning through Biblical history.  
 PHONE: Faith McClory, (248) 380-0286

**Bellever!**  
 DATE: Sunday, April 21  
 LOCATION: Novi High School's Fuest Auditorium  
 TIME: 5 p.m.

**10th Annual Charity Auction**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 27  
 LOCATION: Novi Hilton Hotel  
 TIME: The doors open at 6 p.m. with raffle and silent auction followed by an elegant dinner at 7:30 p.m.  
 DETAILS: The Novi Chamber of Commerce's premier event of the year, "A Night to Remember," sponsored by Time Warner Cable and Providence Hospital & Medical Center. Tickets are \$65 per person.  
 PHONE: (248) 349-3743 or visit the Web at [www.novichamber.com](http://www.novichamber.com)

**Spring Concert**  
 DATE: Sunday, April 28  
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
 DETAILS: This free concert of the Novi Concert Band, under the direction of Jack Kopnick, will feature a variety of music from classic overture to reg-time and Broadway.

**Growing Up Gracefully**  
 DATE: Saturday, April 27  
 LOCATION: St. Johns Golf and Conference Center in Plymouth  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Margit Erickson, of Margit Erickson & Co., will again be presenting her popular children's etiquette seminar. Class is limited to 12 children; fee is \$110.  
 PHONE: Margit Erickson & Co., PO Box 841, Northville, MI 48167 or call (248) 471-6170

**The Spring Friends of the Wixom Public Library Used Book Sale**  
 DATE: Thursday, April 25, and Friday and Saturday, April 26-27  
 LOCATION: Wixom Public Library, 49015 Pontiac Trail  
 TIME: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 DETAILS: Hardbacks will cost \$1, paperbacks will cost 25¢, and

trade paperbacks will cost 50¢, in addition to some specially-priced items. During the last three hours of the sale (Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.), books will be "two bucks a bag."  
 PHONE: (248) 624-2512

**Boy Scout Celebration**  
 DATE: May 14  
 DETAILS: There will be a 20th anniversary celebration and a court of honor for Boy Scouts Troop 407. Organizers are looking for individuals who were leaders and scouts from Troop 407 since 1982.  
 Boy Scouts Troop 407, Novi, MI  
 PHONE: (248) 449-5170 to be placed on the invitation list, or e-mail [1407@aol.com](mailto:1407@aol.com).

**AAU Baton Twirling Qualifier**  
 DATE: Saturday, June 1  
 LOCATION: Sara Banks Middle School, Wixom  
 DETAILS: The Michigan AAU Association Baton Twirling Championships for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) is the official Michigan qualifier for the 2002 AAU National Baton Twirling Championships to be contested at the AAU Junior Olympic Games, August 7-11 in Knoxville, Tenn. Spectators are welcome to attend the contest which begins at 9 a.m. Admission the day of the contest is free.  
 PHONE: For more information, contact contest director Rhonda Muscaro at [TwirlM@aol.com](mailto:TwirlM@aol.com) or visit the AAU Web site at [www.aasports.org](http://www.aasports.org).

Prevention. The seminar is free.  
 PHONE: Alesha Alasich, (248) 858-7969 or Libby Habontz, (248) 858-1284.

**Our Children's Health at Risk**  
 DATE: Friday, May 10  
 LOCATION: Oakland Schools Kiva, Waterford  
 TIME: 8 a.m.-noon  
 DETAILS: To counter the rising rates of obesity in Michigan's children, Healthy People, Healthy Oakland and the Obesity Initiative in association with Oakland County schools is sponsoring a seminar. The morning will tackle the health implications of obesity and why schools are the best place to start in beating the mounting obesity rates. Also, the seminar will include an overview of the School Health Index, a self-assessment and planning tool regarding healthy living practices for community schools developed by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention. The seminar is free.  
 PHONE: Alesha Alasich, (248) 858-7969 or Libby Habontz, (248) 858-1284.

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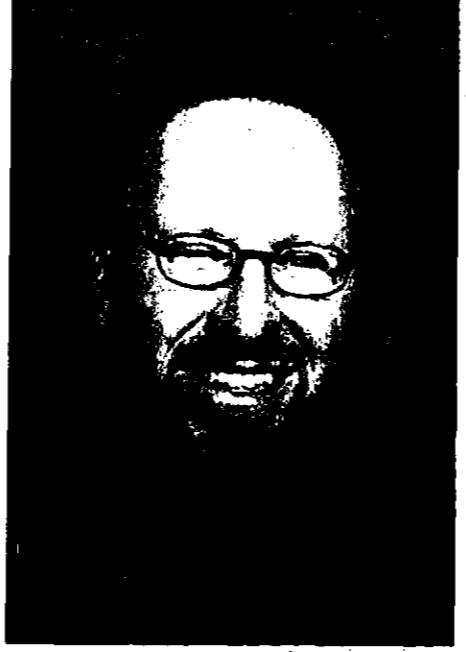
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## Technology takes Novi WWII veteran Burk back to his past

By Angelo Parlove  
 STAFF WRITER

The past and present met in a whirlwind of coincidences around Burk's visit to the Filipino wedding. In early March, San Francisco resident Mauro Alfical Jr. was setting up his new Web site regarding his upcoming wedding with Jean Lopez. Testing to see if his Web page worked, he entered a basic search on his last name, Alfical, which turned up a link to Burk's memoir on the Novi High School Web site.

Alfical Jr., amazed to find a detailed account of his parents' wedding almost 57 years ago, contacted Burk at his home.

"I was rather surprised by all this after all these years," Burk said. "There is a lot of intrigue and coincidences."

Alfical Jr. and Lopez then asked Burk to attend their upcoming wedding in Dagupan City, Philippines, on April 20. Because of his age, Burk no longer travels and cannot attend the ceremony. However, Burk's son, Clifford Burk Jr., will make the voyage overseas to represent his father and the 341st Airdrome Squadron at the couple's union.

"I would love to go to the wedding, but I'm not up to it," Burk said.

Burk also sent the Alfical family the original typewritten invitation he has kept for the past 57 years, as well as other pictures taken in

the Philippines in 1945. "I thought they would enjoy it and should have it," Burk said.

Since Burk attended the Filipino wedding in 1945, the Alficals had 10 children, including Mauro Alfical Jr. The entire family immigrated to the United States in 1976, with four of the brothers serving in the U.S. Navy. All surviving family members are returning to the Philippines for the April 20 wedding.

Mauro Sr. is now 80 years old and lives in San Diego.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at [aparlove@bt.home.com.net](mailto:aparlove@bt.home.com.net).



Photo by John Heider  
 Cliff Burk takes a look at some of the documents from a WWII wedding he was involved with in the Philippines. The son of the couples wedding he attended in the mid-40s has invited Burk to his wedding in the Philippines this month.

### So Proudly We Hall

Novi High School will be recognized in Lansing for its Web site, "So Proudly We Hall," which honors Novi World War II veterans while teaching students to become local historians. The project will be awarded \$1,000 by the Michigan Education Association at the seventh annual "Showcasing Public School Success" at the Lansing Center on April 25. "So Proudly We Hall" is one of seven school projects in Michigan being honored at the event.

The Michigan State School Board and Superintendent of Michigan Schools Tom Watkins will present the check at an awards dinner, which will be attended by World War II veteran and Novi resident Clifford Burk, former Novi High School student Steve Swires, Novi mayor Richard Clark, Novi parent Pat Holt and Novi High School teacher Gary Kelly.

"We are totally excited for the city, the school district and the veterans with this prestigious award," said Kelly, "So Proudly We Hall" project director.

The Web site, which is composed of the oral stories of Novi's World War II veterans, was created by Novi High School students last year. Volunteer students interviewed the veterans, capturing on audio tape, as well as producing written transcripts, the personal stories of more than 30 local heroes who participated in history's largest global conflict.

The goal of the project, which was initiated by Novi mayor Richard Clark, was to recognize the city's past heroes, as well as teach students oral history techniques as they become local historians.

"So Proudly We Hall" can be reached on the World Wide Web at <http://www.novihigh2.com/ww2>. All recorded tapes of these interviews are archived at the Novi Public Library.

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## Homeowners on opposite sides of bridge repairs

By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of a Commerce Township subdivision are fighting to get two crumbling bridges repaired while trying to keep from fighting with each other.

Members of the Mount Royal subdivision association and other homeowners were present at the board's April 9 meeting to discuss their desire to become a special assessment district (SAD) in order to have the township repair bridges on Creedmoor and Pulvadera streets in the lower section of the subdivision. The streets in that section of Mount Royal are private, and the township won't pay to fix the bridges unless there is a SAD.

The bridge on Pulvadera has already been closed to traffic after the Commerce Township fire department and Walled Lake Schools notified homeowners they won't take their vehicles over the bridge. Residents claim the bridge on Creedmoor is also in need of emergency repair.

"I think the concern is of how much disrepair is the bridge on Creedmoor," said Supervisor Tom Zoner.

Zoner said he was reluctant to approve the creation of the SAD at the meeting because there wasn't

much information available as to what type of work would need to be done on the bridges and how much it would cost.

Township engineer Jay James said a structural engineer would have to determine whether the bridges are able to be repaired or if they would need to be completely replaced with brand new bridges.

Some residents talked at James' suggestion that the bridge would have to be made into two lanes instead of one, which they are currently.

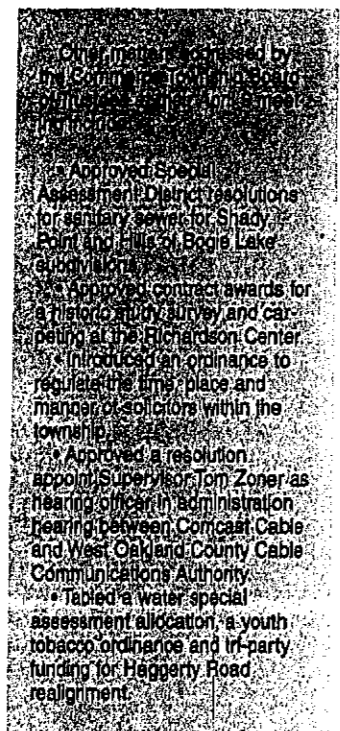
Zoner said the SAD would require the township to bring the bridges up to a safe standard.

"A one lane road may not be considered a safe standard," he said.

Several residents of upper Mount Royal were at the meeting and weren't in favor of the SAD because they don't use the roads in the lower section of the subdivision. They also said few residents of upper Mount Royal were at the homeowner's association meeting when it was decided to ask for a SAD.

Zoner said when the association comes to the board of trustees with a request, the board can only assume the group speaks for the wishes of the entire subdivision.

"That may not be the case," Zoner said. The board decided to table the



Erin Johnson is a reporter for the *Millford Times*. She can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 21 or by e-mail at [erinjohnson@homecomm.net](mailto:erinjohnson@homecomm.net).

## Trustees want 2.5 mills for police, fire

By Erin Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

Commerce Township voters may be asked to approve a 2.5 mill request in August to generate funds for more police officers and full-time firefighters.

The millage recommendation was made to the board of trustees at their monthly meeting on April 9. A 10-member Quality of Life committee made the recommendation as the culmination of months of research on the issue.

The members, who all live in Commerce and have varying backgrounds, met with police and fire department officials, surveyed residents and researched other communities.

The committee found, that compared to other communities in Oakland County, the police and fire departments are both under-staffed. The committee recommended there be at least

one police officer for every 1,000 residents for a total of 30 officers. Commerce is currently patrolled by Oakland County Sheriff deputies who are contracted by the township.

For the fire department, it was suggested that during the next 10 years the number of full-time and paid on-call firefighters increase so that all of the township's four fire stations be manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The committee would also like to see the department have advanced life support equipment and training for medical runs.

"I think the board has been undecided on that largely because we have the hospital (Huron Valley-Sisal) in our community," said trustee Cheryl Magaski.

She said with the hospital in such close proximity, it isn't clear whether firefighters need to be prepared for advanced life support.

Board members also asked questions about how the committee reached their recommendations and if they considered alternatives other than the ones presented.

Committee members told the board Commerce is the fourth lowest taxing community in the county, asking for just more than 3 mills from residents. The new millage would last for 10 years and is expected to create approximately \$3.4 million in the first year.

Supervisor Tom Zoner said the board would consider the language for a millage at their discussion meeting April 23.

The board of trustees next meeting is May 14.

Erin Johnson is a reporter for the *Millford Times*. She can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 21 or by e-mail at [erinjohnson@homecomm.net](mailto:erinjohnson@homecomm.net).

## Lange leaving district after 15 years

By Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITER



Lois Lange, director of community relations and personnel for Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, will be retiring from the district June 7 after nearly 15 years of service.

Lange, who worked for Howell Public Schools before beginning her career in Walled Lake, took her current post in 1987. She was hired as the public relations director, but in 1992 she also accepted the role of personnel director.

She will be retiring in order to marry and move to Heidelberg, Germany with her new husband.

"I feel fortunate to go from a job I love to a new adventure," Lange said.

It was her love for writing that eventually led her into the public relations field where she would write news releases and other material.

She said she has enjoyed her time in Walled Lake.

"I've always enjoyed work in public education," Lange said. "I think public education is so important. Working for the students and

Germany. Her first priority will be to learn German in order to communicate with locals.

"It should be interesting," Lange said, "especially given the fact that I don't speak the language."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the *Lake Area Times*. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or [ddeel@homecomm.net](mailto:ddeel@homecomm.net).

"I've really enjoyed working with the people. I was able to work in what I believe is a wonderful school district with the best board and administration in the state."

Lois Lange  
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

### Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way Volunteer Center of Oakland, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes Awards, which rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Awardees will be recognized at the HomeTown Heroes Luncheon on Wednesday, June 5, 2002 at The Community House in Birmingham.

NAME OF NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ IF GROUP/CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATEGORIES:  DIRECT SERVICE  SENIOR  ENVIRONMENT  GOVERNANCE  FAITH-BASED BUSINESS  
NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization) AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL ATTENDING (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, on 200 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual or business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitments, and contributions to the community. For Business Champion nominees, please indicate the name(s) of the community organization(s) that has benefited from these efforts. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple papers. Optional: include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business Champion nominees, include a photo of person participating in the volunteer activity. Entries must be received by Friday, May 17, 2002. Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes Awards, c/o United Way Volunteer Center, 50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48312 • Fax: 248-476-8099. For questions or further information go to [www.untchwayoakland.org](http://www.untchwayoakland.org) call 248-874-1823.

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# Novi dispatchers saluted for a job well done

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Behind every good Novit officer is a well-qualified dispatcher guiding them through their day and giving them the information they need to execute runs effectively.

"The officers trust them very much," said Janet Hottum, Novi Police Department dispatch shift leader. "They really have to have common sense and good judgment."

"This is because not only are the Novi Police Department's dispatchers responsible for directing the community's officers while giving them every detail they need to know before, during and after approaching a scene, but they are also responsible for many more urgent tasks."

"The staff of 17, including four shift leaders and two trainees, is in charge of incoming calls, including multiple lines of fire, police, 911 and non-emergency."

"Calls are taken for Novi fire and police, South Lyon fire and police and Lyon Township fire. Dispatchers are also responsible for other incoming calls including Twelve Oaks Security."

"There are a whole lot of different factors," Hottum said.

"While on a 12-hour shift, Novi's dispatchers are also monitoring the stations holding cells, interview room, booking area, lobby, parking lots and other areas via a security camera monitoring system while running property and person checks on the department's dedicated fire computer system."

"The system also provides information on missing people, school weather reports, and who are wanted, gang and terrorist information and sex offenders."



Photo by John Heider

Novi Police Communications Dispatcher Tracey McDonough works on finding LEIN information for patrol officers Monday morning at her Novi Police Department office.

The constant monitoring and receipt of differing calls keeps all dispatchers continually busy.

Novi Police District Manager Joe Burchett said that many people don't realize either the number of sophisticated computer programs learned to perform the job of a dispatcher.

All members of the department go through a 16-week training program. Dispatcher Tom Viers has been with the department for four years and said he loves his job.

"Nothing is the same," Viers said. "It is different every day. You never know when something is going to happen."

"Nothing is the same. It is different every day. You never know when something is going to happen."

Tom Viers  
Novi Police Department dispatcher

here for us work for the citizens." Dispatcher Tracey McDonough has been with the department for four years, and in addition to all her other duties, searches females brought into the station when no other female officers are in the station.

"This added responsibility is performed by all female dispatchers. Burchett is very proud of the efforts of the department and is especially happy to salute each member of

the dispatch team for their hard work this week because it is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

The week of observance, held from April 14-20, is an annual celebration. "It is a way to recognize 911 people," Burchett said.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 365 or at vtsadl@home.com.

### Novi Police Department Dispatch Statistics

In the month of March dispatchers received:  
4,929 Calls for Service\*  
17,144 Telephone Calls  
1,012 Calls for 911

During the First Three Months of the Year Dispatchers Received:  
49,789 Telephone Calls  
2,930 Calls for 911

Year-to-Date  
14,373 Calls for Service Total

\*Calls for Service equals police and fire dispatch calls for Novi and South Lyon and fire only for Lyon Township.

"If we can, we want to help them." Hottum said. "That is what we are

### Library Lines

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The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call 349-0720.

learned in our Internet classes on Thursday, April 25, from 1-3 p.m. During this two-hour session, you may choose to work on any Internet skills you wish, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. Please register in advance by calling the library.

**SAFE ON MY OWN**  
Pamela Schweinmann, R.N., talks with children about staying safe at home and around the neighborhood on Saturday, May 4, from 1-2 p.m. Phone safety, fire safety, and home-alone skills are just a few of the topics she'll cover. For ages 8 and up; no registration required.

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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Windsor E.V. Lutheran Synod  
Sunday School 9 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class & Room  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Thomas E. Schaeffer, Pastor - 349-0565

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
200 E. Main St. or Union - (248) 349-2011  
Worship & Church School: 9:30 a.m.  
Chalice and Avonlea of All Services  
Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.  
Single Place Ministry - Thurs. 7:30 a.m.  
New Members Welcome - Pastor  
Rev. James Russell, Associate Pastor

**CHURCH OF TODAY WEST (Unity)**  
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Meadowbrook Elementary School - Hatted Lake (South of 13 Mile on Meadowbrook Road)  
(248) 409-8900  
Services on 10 AM  
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Minister: Barbara Cleverger

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770 Taylor, Northville  
MEADSBROOK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Sunday 7:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.  
Church School: 9:30 a.m.  
Religious Education: 3-9:55 a.m.

**NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
4191 W. 16th Mile - Meadowbrook  
349-2820 (Ext. 11)  
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.  
Nursery Care Available  
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High & 6th Street, Northville  
Church: 349-3140 School: 349-3146  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
Contemporary Service: 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

**MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
21555 Meadowbrook School - 816 1/2 Mile  
Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Church School: 10 a.m.  
349-545-1783  
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Noel Hunt  
Ministerial Music: Stephen Belski

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
349-1144 8 1/2 Mile & I-24 Road  
Worship Services: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. (includes nursery)  
Summer Services: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (includes nursery)  
Rev. John Kelly  
Pastor

**COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**  
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Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister  
(810) 225-2882  
saulsuno@yahoo.com

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4532 11 Mile Rd. North  
Daycare: infants & toddlers, including day school  
9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.  
Sun School: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
349-3477 D. Scott Elliott, Pastor

**ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI**  
4525 10 Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48374  
Saturdays 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Reverend James F. Crook, Pastor  
Pastor Office: 349-2778

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
217 N. Wagon  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Wed. Youth Meetings: 7:30 p.m.  
Bays Bible Club: 7 p.m., Potluck: Girls 7 p.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
24553 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375  
Masses: Sat 5:30 p.m. Sun 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.  
Holy Days 9 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.  
Father: Joseph J. Horan, Assoc. Pastor  
Father: Joseph J. Horan, Assoc. Pastor  
Parish Office: 349-2847

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Pastor: Matthew M. MacInnis - 248-477-0295

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2nd mile west of Novi Rd.  
Dr. Richard J. Woodward, Pastor  
Rev. Anne Schaeffer, Associate Pastor  
Worship & Church School: 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
Pastor Office: 349-2847

**ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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(248) 694-3817  
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The Rev. Leslie Harding Vicar

**OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**  
23893 Beck Rd., Novi - S. of 10 Mile  
Adult Bible Study & Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m. Junior Church: 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Church Service: 6:30 PM  
www.oaklandbaptistchurch.org  
Pastor: - Timothy WATTE  
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**WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Pastor: James H. McGillicuddy Senior Pastor: 248-374-7400  
Services: 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery Provided  
Contemporary Services: 6:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Services: 7:00 p.m.  
Live Service Broadcast: WJXD 500AM 11:30 a.m.

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL**  
10 Mile between Taft & Beck Novi  
Phone: 349-1175  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery

**IMMANUEL CHURCH**  
Sundays at Hickory Woods Elementary  
30555 Novi Rd.  
(Between 12 and 14 Mile Rd.)  
Sunday 11:00 a.m.

### Your Church Directory could be here!

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### Novi City Briefs

**BORDERS GIVEAWAY**  
Enter now through April 28 to win a Russell Watson prize package at Borders in Novi. The winner chosen at the 9 p.m. Sunday, April 28 Russell Watson listening party will win one framed autographed poster. The store will be playing Watson's new compact disc, titled "The Voices." Other prizes will be given away during the event, including imprinted polo shirts, exclusive posters and Watson's Trump Casino Public Broadcasting Service special on videotape. For more information, call 248-977-0780.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY**  
Novi area residents are invited to drop off their hazardous waste 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at Wixom City Hall. Residents are invited to bring used computer equipment, oil-based paint, household and automotive batteries, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs and other common household chemicals to the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County sponsored event. Wixom City Hall is located at 48045 Pontiac Trail, between Wixom and Beck roads. For more information, call (248) 208-2270 or visit www.RRRASOC.org.

**NOVI CONCERT BAND**  
Members of the Novi Concert Band are reworking their instruments in preparation for their upcoming Spring Concert. The 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28 event at the Novi Civic Center will feature pleasurable selections bringing an evening of enjoyment for all who attend. The concert is free and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Jack Kopnick at (248) 932-9244.

**T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST**  
The city of Novi is looking for creative youngsters interested in designing a camp T-shirt for more than 350 Lakeshore campers and camp staff. The winner chosen from all drawings submitted by boys and girls ages 6 through 12 will receive one free 800 camp session and a free shirt. All entries must be submitted to the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on 8.5-inch-by-11-

inch paper with the child's name, address and phone number on the back of the entry. Officials ask that a black marker or ink pen is used and that designers stay away from thin lines. The deadline for the contest is 5 p.m. May 3.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
Volunteers are needed for the second annual Spring Fucst Farm Clean-Up. Preservation Novi is organizing the 9 a.m. to noon May 18 event in observance of Community Pride Day. Event organizers promise there will be something for everyone to do, whether you are 4 or 94. Many of the duties will include outdoor spring clean-up type work. Coffee and doughnuts will be supplied to all in attendance. For more information or to register, call the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at (248) 347-0400.

**RECOGNIZING VIETNAM VETS**  
Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark announced Sunday, June 30 will be Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. A 1 p.m. ceremony will take place in the Novi Civic Center and will be open to the public. Clark said the Vietnam War is the war of the forgotten and it is now time to set the record straight. Any Novi veteran interested in participating in the event is asked to call (248) 347-0400 for the necessary information.

mony. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**  
The City of Novi is looking for interested businesses and community groups who would like to participate in its annual Memorial Day Parade. Now is the time to register for the 2002 parade, which will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, May 27. Participants will have the opportunity to design and create their own floats, making the celebration extra special for the community.

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-Earl Philbrick, WIRELESS MAGAZINE

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-Paul Schindler, TV-14 DVD REVIEW

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STAR GRANT	STAR GRAFT	STAR GRANT 21
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHWIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR COMMERCIAL	STAR WEST RIVER
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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 02-008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Romisch Construction Group is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a construction trailer from the date of the meeting until October 1, 2002. The trailer will be located at 46475 Desoto Court, Unit 6 at the Beck North Corporate Park (Design Research Engineering).

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on April 24, 2002 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to April 24, 2002.

SARAH MARCHIONI  
CITY CLERK/PERMIT SECRETARY  
(418-02 NN 1104965)

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY  
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NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY REQUEST FOR BIDS COMPUTER PURCHASE

Novi Public Library will receive sealed bids for the purchase of seven (7) laptop computers (of two different specifications). Bidding documents and specifications are available at Novi Public Library Reception Desk. The bids will be accepted until 12 noon prevailing eastern time, Monday, May 6, 2002. Bid documents may be turned in at the Novi Public Library reception desk. All envelopes must be clearly marked "computer purchase" and must bear the name of the bidder. All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. Address all bids to:

Novi Public Library  
Attention: Katie Bell Moore, Specialized Services  
45245 West 10 Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375

Novi Public Library reserves the right to accept and make the award in any manner deemed by the Library, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the Library.

KATIE BELL MOORE  
HEAD, SPECIALIZED SERVICES  
(418-02 NN/NN 1104646)

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Comparison chart

Model	SABRE	SEARS CRAFTSMAN
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Mower Deck	42 in.	42 in.
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• Tight 14-inch turning radius  
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LT180  
• 17-hp overhead-valve V-Twin engine  
• Two-pedal automatic transmission  
• 48-inch Convertible Mower Deck lets you mulch, bag or side-discharge (bagger sold separately)  
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Thursday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

# Village Oaks principal retiring

Brown focused on building school's "family atmosphere"

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

After 31 years at Village Oaks Elementary in Novi, principal David Brown looks ahead to his future with fond memories of his school's staff and students of 31 years.

On the last day of school on June 13, Brown will walk out the front door of Village Oaks for the final time as principal. He will cross beneath the school's slogan, "A kinder, gentler school," that flows over the building's front door in bold letters for all to see, reading his first few steps of retirement.

With students heading out the front door in anticipation of long summer days, that final school bell will close Brown's 34-year career at Novi Schools.

"People feel connected at Village Oaks. It has a caring, loving and safe environment," said Emmett Eppes, superintendent of Novi Schools. "Brown provides a lot of this continuity."

Brown first came to Novi Schools in 1968 when he started the district's first elementary physical education program at Orchard Hills Elementary. He then moved to Village Oaks when the building opened in October 1971, splitting his duties as the school's principal and gym teacher.

In Brown's first year as part-time principal, the new school had 175 children enrolled. By the following September, the Village Oaks student body was over 260 children, and Brown was made the full-time principal for the new and growing school. Today, the building welcomes more than 400 students each morning.

"I had it to do all over again. I'd do it the same way," said Brown. Village Oaks' only principal in its 31-year history. "It's been a rewarding and fulfilling experience."

## Open house

The Village Oaks PTO will host an open house for Brown at the school in honor of his retirement on Wednesday, June 12 from 7-9 p.m.

Brown collected on the beginning days of Village Oaks, days when the playground had only two swings, one slide and no grass.

"We were a new school with a new principal, no school history and without an established reputation," he said. "We were an unknown quantity."

Thus, it was Brown's job to guide the pieces of success into place for the new Novi elementary school. And his first action: encourage parental involvement.

"The parents wanted to participate, so they didn't have to deal with the fear of the unknown as much," Brown said. "Once they got to see the teachers in action, they were less anxious and more confident of the school."

Since then, Village Oaks has built its identity from the ground up on community involvement.

Village Oaks PTO president Alison Murray said there is a "family atmosphere" at Village Oaks and lends this positive building aura to Brown's leadership.

"He knows the name of every child in the building, but it's more than the name; he gets to know the children," she said. "It's rarely at his desk. He's always interacting with children, parents and staff."

Dee Weber, who worked as Brown's secretary at Village Oaks for 23 years before retiring in 1997, agreed.

"You could talk to him about anything," she said. "If you had a problem, you could knock on his door, sit down and he'd listen to you."

Brown said promoting this family atmosphere was a top priority. "Parents are always welcome," he said. "We have strong and involved parent groups. That is our reputation. People are proud of Village Oaks and its reputation. Our parents know us and are our best supporters."

The elementary principal underwent prostate cancer surgery in 1997 and triple bypass heart surgery in January 1998, forcing him to temporarily resign from his position. He soon recovered and received a clean bill of health. Brown returned to the helm of Village Oaks after asking Novi Schools to rescind his resignation in November 1998.

Brown graduated from Point Loma University in San Diego in 1958 and worked for General Motors for six years before choosing to switch careers. He decided education was in his future.

"I had a desire to work with children," he said. "It is one of the best decisions I've ever made. It has been much more challenging and enjoyable."

For retirement, Brown plans to remain in Novi. He hopes to spend his extra time with his four grandchildren and playing tennis.

"Novi will be my home," Brown said. "I certainly will miss the school and the kids."

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at [aparlove@nl.homecomm.net](mailto:aparlove@nl.homecomm.net).



Retiring Village Oaks Principal Dave Brown talks to students Chloe Henderson and Aidan Rickel last week.

"He knows the name of every child in the building. But it's more than the name; he gets to know the children."

Alison Murray  
Village Oaks PTO

# Foundation raises funds for wishes

By Anna Troppens  
STAFF WRITER

"If the child can dream it, we try our best to make it come true." Jeanette Porter, public relations manager for the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan, said her organization granted the wishes of 381 seriously ill children last year. This year, Make-a-Wish Foundation officials expect to grant even more requests.

Wishes vary, although a little more than half of them are Disney-related. Porter said Make-a-Wish enables many children to visit Disneyland or Disney World, take Disney lunch and sea cruises and similar events.

"It (a Disney adventure) is just a dream come true for a lot of kids," she said.

Another popular request from children is for all types of computers, complete with certain screens and software. In addition, young people wish to meet famous people such as in Sync, Britney Spears and the World Wrestling Federation's "The Rock."

Some children ask for shopping adventures so they can purchase clothes or electronic equipment. Porter continued.

And others make more unusual requests. Make-a-Wish enabled a girl to travel to Canada to visit polar bears in Manitoba.

Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan relies on fund-raising to help it grant these wishes. Its third annual Walk for Wishes at Kensington Metropark is coming up, and the foundation is hoping for lots of participants. The 2001 event boasted 381 walkers.

Last year's Walk for Wishes at Kensington Metropark raised just under \$100,000, she said. This year's goal is to raise over \$100,000.

Each participant in this year's walk is encouraged to collect at least \$125. The walk will take place Saturday, April 27. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Martindale Beach area of Kensington Metropark in Millard. The four-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m.

The course is accessible to everyone and will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers.

Many children whose wishes were granted will walk with their families as part of the Dream Team. Porter said. The Dream Team will lead the walk and serve as inspiration for the event.

"There is a misconception that Make-a-Wish grants only the dreams of children who are terminally ill. This is not true."

"We are an organization that is about hope," she said.

"To have a child's wish granted by the foundation, a referral is needed from a health care provider or a parent. The person making the referral fills out forms, and a team of volunteers is assigned to work with the family.

The volunteers meet with the family and the child to find out what the young person enjoys and what dream he or she has, Porter said. Then the volunteers work with staff from the Make-a-Wish Foundation to make the wish come true.

UAW-GM is the primary sponsor for the Walk for Wishes. The organization will help a boy named Erik from Redford visit Walt Disney World Resort this September.

Make-a-Wish maintains three offices that serve Michigan — one in Livonia, another in Okemos and one in Grand Rapids. These offices serve the entire state, according to Porter.

The Michigan chapter began in 1984 and has granted more than 3,000 wishes to children. Almost 85 percent of the organization's expenditures are for program services.

Forms are available for printing at the Make-a-Wish Foundation's Internet Web site, [www.wishmich.org](http://www.wishmich.org). Walkers can also register by calling (888) 857-9474.

Anna Troppens is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach her at (248) 437-2011 or e-mail her at [atroppe@nl.homecomm.net](mailto:atroppe@nl.homecomm.net).

## Obituary

Pietro "Pete" Adamo

Pietro Adamo, of Novi (formerly of Harper Woods), died April 13. He was 96.

Mr. Adamo was a member of the Knights of Columbus 3rd degree Vismara Council, St. Vincent de Paul, and an usher at Our Lady Queen of Peace for 50 years. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 35 years.

Survivors include his loving wife, Catherine "Kay" (Tony) Pasquocci, two grandchildren, Anthony Pasquocci and Joanna (Curt) Stoller, one great-grandson, Lucas. He was also the loving brother of Connie Orlando and Vita Nannini.

The funeral liturgy was Apr. 24 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook, Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Cemetery. Memorial donations to Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 2929 E. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI, 48202 or The Cappuchins, 1820 Mt. Elliott Avenue, Detroit, MI, 48207.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800.

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Notice is given that the following storage units will be sold to the highest bidder by way of open bid no earlier than 9:00 a.m. on May 6, 2002 at Shurgard Storage located at 1909 East West Maple Rd. Walled Lake, MI 48390 (248) 669-4020

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Unit 5018 Wise: Chairs, Army Trunk, Desk, Bookcase, Stack Washer/Dryer

Unit 1122 Ojeskina: Leather sectional, tables, recliner, lamps, tiller, 100 gumball & candy machines

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# Area bus drivers recognized as team leaders by Oakland County

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County hosted its first annual Excellence in Transportation Award ceremony on April 10, with two Walled Lake Schools employees and one Novi Schools employee taking home awards.

The event was hosted at Walled Lake Central High School, representing 11 school districts in Oakland County. Novi bus driver Nancy Putnam, Walled Lake bus driver Sharon Provins and Walled Lake mechanic Duane Cohorst each received a 2002 Excellence in

Transportation Award.

Award winners were nominated by their co-workers, with the final winners chosen by a committee of Oakland County transportation directors.

"These awards recognize a job done way in excess than normal," said Novi Schools Transportation Director Dan Tooman. "These winners are exemplary of their department, and their peers have seen this."

Each participating district with under 50 employees was given one award to the top team leader in their transportation department, with two awards given to departments

with over 50 people.

Putnam has been navigating Novi's busy streets as a bus driver for the past 28 years.

"Putnam's my quiet leader. She sets the example," Tooman said.

The Novi bus driver was surprised by the 2002 Excellence in Transportation Award.

"I was honored to be thought of like that," she said. "I have nice kids on my runs. And when traffic flows, it is just a nice job."

Cohorst said he always tries to accommodate the Walled Lake bus drivers down to the smallest of details, such as fixing broken wiper blades, flat tires and exhausted fasteners in a timely and efficient manner.

"I thought I was just doing my job," Cohorst said. "It's an honor to know that your peers would vote for you and recognize what you do."

Provins was selected in part for her efforts to operate a concession stand in the Walled Lake Transportation Center. Between her morning and afternoon bus routes, she sells snacks and drinks to her fellow transportation employees. Profits from the concession stand go to fund holiday parties and supplies for her department, as well as put on luncheons for the staff.

Over 200 people attended the 2002 Excellence in Transportation Award ceremony last week.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@tl.homecom.net.



Long-time Novi Public Schools Transportation Department driver Nancy Putnam recently won driver of the year for Oakland County schools.

Photo by John Heider

"These awards recognize a job done way in excess than normal... These winners are exemplary of their department, and their peers have seen this."

Dan Tooman  
Novi Schools transportation director



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Walled Lake School District Transportation Department employees Duane Cohorst and Sharon Provins were recognized by Oakland Schools for their efforts recently.

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## Take a walk in a whale

By Diane Dempsey Deel  
STAFF WRITER

Residents will get an amusement park thrill as they experience Whale World at Novi Christian

School in Novi.

The school at 45301 W. 11 Mile Road will be hosting a traveling whale exhibit April 20-27. It is being sponsored by the Novi Christian Home School program.

Residents will be able to learn about whales hands-on as they walk through a 72-foot inflatable blue whale. It is a computer-controlled sound system that is complete with electronics and pneumatics for animation of organs. They will also discover what it would be like to walk through a live, pregnant whale.

Adults and children will be able to learn about different types of whales such as Beluga, Sperm, Humpback, Dolphin, Orcin, Blue and Narwhal. They will also be able

to experience a museum quality 52-foot replica skeleton.

Jay Thomson, school administrator, said he was able to get the \$40,000 exhibit at the school because he helped invent the display.

"The original display was created by Jacques Cousteau," he said. "They created a giant fiber glass whale which is in France."

Thomson, while working for Dynamic Display, helped turn the fiberglass design into an inflatable replica of Cousteau's version. The display company is also famous for creating many of the floats at the Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade, he said.

"It allows us to bring in complete whales without knocking walls into the gym," Thomson said. "It's a

one of its kind in the world. It's really amazing."

He is excited to be able to bring the whale exhibit to the local community. He hopes everyone everywhere will take advantage of the rare treat.

"We've been in high gear trying to make it happen," Thomson said. "It's an outstanding design that's a

For adults and \$25 for a family. For more information call (248) 349-9411.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddcel@tl.homecom.net.

## State keeps promise to hike per pupil spending in public schools

State lawmakers have fulfilled their promises of putting \$6.700 behind each public school student in Michigan in 2003, a \$200 increase over the current year in the per student "foundation allowance" that goes to local school districts.

Michigan legislators were able to keep that promise — approving the K-12 school aid budget, 75-26 in the House and 35-2 in the Senate on Thursday, April 11 — by implementing Gov. John Engler's plan for early collection of school taxes.

Beginning in 2003, the six-mill education property tax collected by local units — now split between collections in July and December — will all be gathered entirely in July, and it will continue to be collected in July in future years. To off set the cost of early collection to taxpayers, the plan also gives a one-time, one-mill break on those education property taxes.

Altogether, the budget puts almost \$12.7 billion to education in Michigan. That's a 10.5 percent increase over current year figures, but the increase is due mainly to a shift of federal grant money from the state Department of Education to the school aid budget.

The state's general fund contribution to school remains unchanged for the coming year.

Although promises were kept, the bill has its controversial elements.

Rep. Patricia Godchaux (R-Birmingham) delivered an angry speech about the package on the floor of the house prior to its passage.

Earlier versions had included a proposal by Godchaux's to help higher spending school districts, but the verbiage was stripped from the final compromise.

Although school aid has been rising for lower spending districts, wealthier districts — so called "hold harmless" districts, because they were allowed to continue collecting additional taxes after the passage of Proposal A in 1994 — have been unable to keep up with inflation in recent years. And many report the problem has produced budget deficits and trimming of programs.

Godchaux's proposal was to allow such districts to better keep up with rising costs by allowing them to override rollbacks in these extra millages.

Increasing her anger was the fact wording was included in the bill to allow districts to use general fund

money to repay bonds. Previously under Proposal A, she said, there has been a strict "drawal" between money spent for school operations and for capital improvements.

"There are people in this room who say Proposal A was perfect the first time and I am consistently told we can't touch Proposal A," Godchaux said on the House floor. "This bill goes further. The school aid funds are to be for education, not capitalization... I don't want to hear anyone who votes for this bill tell me that we can't touch Proposal A because we are ripping the shreds out of it."

To keep per pupil spending at promised levels, some special programs were cut, including several new programs. Chipped from the budget was \$45 million for the recently instituted Parental Involvement in Education grants, aimed at working with parents through early education programs.

Gene also is \$45 million for the early reading Literacy Achievement Program.

By Mike Molot  
HomeTown News Service  
mmolot@homecom.net

## Police: WL auxiliary officer fined over run-in

continued from page 3

merit. The current situation, involving the "resisting and obstructing" Pontiac Police officers, is extremely egregious on the part of any individual wanting to work in a law enforcement capacity that demands the public trust.

Walled Lake residents deserve more from people who are trained to protect them, he said.

"What's even more egregious is the disrespect toward police officers who were enforcing the law that was implemented as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, in which so many police

officers lost their lives."

Nevertheless, he plans to request that the Walled Lake City Council investigate the matter further.

Pary was selected to be an auxiliary officer in late summer and was attending the reserve officers police academy when the incident occurred, Walker said. He graduated from the academy in December.

He was chosen to work with the force because he has lived in the area for years and has always been a reputable person, Walker said.

"We do background checks and judge each person individually after the necessary training and certification

through the state of Michigan," Walker said.

Auxiliary police officers are the second person in the car with full-time officers, who are in direct control, he said. Some auxiliary officers later become full-time officers. However, Pary has no plans to become a full-time police officer.

"It's not his intention or his goal," Walker said. "He just wants to give back to the community."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddcel@tl.homecom.net.

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### Students collect over 2,000 books

#### Novi Middle School rallies for area children's hospitals

By Angelo Parlove  
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Middle School wrapped up its winter book drive, with the school's seventh- and eighth-grade students collecting over 2,000 children's books.

The hilly collection of new and gently used books will be donated over the next month to Michigan children's hospitals, including Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia and Botsford General Hospital.

"We wanted to benefit others and encourage reading," said Kimberly Johnston, Novi Middle School eighth-grade teacher and book drive coordinator. "We wanted to put a smile on

faces and brighten their day." The drive began on Feb. 25 and ended on March 29, with students collecting appropriate books for children from 3-8 years old. In its second year, the event doubled last year's winter book drive total of 1,000 books.

"Reading is fun and an escape from reality if your reality isn't very good," Johnston said.

Johnston said the students rallied around the book collection. Eighth-graders Nick Wright and John Favotte wrote and performed an original rap song, "Got Books," in the school cafeteria to promote the event. "They felt good to make a connection to the outside world," Johnston said.

Furthermore, it helped the Novi Middle School kids to appreciate life a little bit more.

"It reminded them that they're in a pretty good position because they're not in a hospital room," Johnston said.

Many Novi businesses, including Sartino's Restaurant, the Novi Pizza Center, Novi Bowl and the Novi Ice Arena donated gift certificates to be given away as prizes to participating students. Also, many parents purchased and donated gifts to be used as giveaways.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@htl.homecomm.net.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Middle School teacher Kimberly Johnston, center, and students Elena Lyons, Angie Dietz, Sona Kotecha, Brad Cullen, Erica Howard, Dana Koenig, Ishann Sandhu and John Brisbin pose with some of the 2,000 books they've collected and will donate to Detroit-area hospitals and their young patients.

### Six file petitions for OCC Board of Trustees

Six candidates — two incumbents and four challengers — have filed nominating petitions to run for two seats on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees this June. Incumbent trustees Sandra Ertter and Jeanne Torow have filed to retain their seats. Challengers include Phillip Alachian, Rose Couture, and Sandra Tyndell, all residents of Royal Oak, as well as Fumiee resident Michael McGuinness.

McGuinness, 18, is a graduating

senior at Walled Lake Central High School and will start college this fall at Oakland University as a political science major.

Alachian is a Certified Public Accountant who previously served on the OCC board since 1978. She has served as the board's chair, vice chair and secretary and is the board's senior member.

Towar, current chair of the OCC Board, was first elected in 1996. She worked in the business office at the Royal Oak campus of the community college and served as president

of the classified workers' union. Tyndell, 51, previously worked in the administration at the University of Detroit.

Ritter is a retired vice principal from the Waterford school district who has served on the OCC board since 1978. She has served as the board's chair, vice chair and secretary and is the board's senior member.

Towar, current chair of the OCC Board, was first elected in 1996. She worked in the business office at the Royal Oak campus of the community college and served as president

of the HomeTown Communications Network, the company that owns this newspaper.

Filing deadline was April 8. Candidates had until April 11 to withdraw. Ballots for election are for six-year terms, which begin July 1. The election is June 10.

By Mike Malott  
HomeTown News Service  
mmalott@homecomm.net

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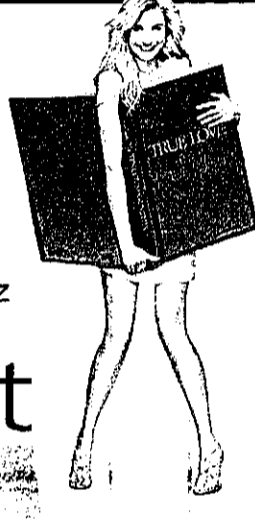
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## Novi News

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

### Here's your chance to change state's economy

As the former editor of a business publication, I've got a soft spot for, rather, a keen interest in what's happening in the business world. It plays such a crucial role in all our lives - whether or not you're a business owner - that it makes sense to follow it closely.

An excellent opportunity to do just that is taking place tomorrow. That's when "Business Roundtable 2002 - Moving Michigan's Economy Forward" is taking place. It's from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Walsh College - Novi.

This is an excellent opportunity for small-business owners and residents alike to have a say in the creation of legislation that can help improve our state's economy. The roundtable is sponsored by state lawmakers Rep. Nancy Cassis and Speaker Rick Johnson.

There's also quite an impressive list of economic and business experts making up the roundtable panel:

- Doug Roberts - state treasurer
- Patrick Anderson - BBK-Anderson Economic Group
- Dale Eckstein - AFL-CIO
- Dr. Donald Grimes - Sr. Research Associate, Labor and Industrial Relations - University of Michigan
- Jim Donaldson - VP of Business Development, MEDC
- Thomas Walton - General Motors

■ Brian Whitson - Oakland Schools

The keynote speaker for the event is Tom Walsh, a columnist with the Detroit Free Press.

For an area that has been and is still exploding with small-business growth, this roundtable is a great vehicle for you to find out where Michigan's economy stands currently and, more importantly, where it's heading in the future.

And the best part about it is that it's not a lecture - it's a roundtable. That means your input is welcome and necessary.

"Instead of waiting and hoping for the economy to turn, we are tapping the best resource to help empower Michigan to move forward," said Cassis of the citizen-driven event. She is the House tax policy chair.

Brainstorming. That's the key word here. These folks want your input. If you're a business owner, you're on the front line doing battle day to day. You see the good and the bad of our state's legislation and how it impacts your business. This is your chance to let legislators know what you think (and how you'd change things).

Likewise, residents play just as vital a role in the state's economy. Your input in that capacity is needed as well.

Yes, running your business is your top priority, but see if you can sneak away for less than five hours tomorrow. It'll definitely be worth your time and effort. Your contribution may help your business and others prosper - and that's something we all need to be concerned with.

Call (517) 373-0256 for registration information. The cost is \$40 per person (food/materials).

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at [cstone@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:cstone@ht.homecomm.net).



Cool family fun

Caroline Rayburn steadies her daughter Hannah, 4, during Public Skate at the Novi Ice Arena. Joining them is daughter Gariel, 6, left. The ice arena has open skating times usually seven days a week from noon to 1:50 p.m.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## LETTERS

### The rest of the kindergarten story

The Deerfield Community Council Board is concerned with misinformation regarding kindergarten programs in Novi and our neighboring communities. In response to the guest editorial printed in the April 11, 2002 Novi News, we would like to share some additional facts. After contacting the school districts listed in the above-mentioned editorial, we concluded that the information presented was misleading.

Deerfield Elementary offers a full-day kindergarten curriculum. Farmington Public Schools also offers a full-day curriculum-based kindergarten program. Both programs are offered at no charge to participating families. The school districts of Berkley, Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills offer enrichment programs, not full-day curriculum-based programs. While an enrichment program is an option to extend the traditional half-day kindergarten, it does not build upon the kindergarten curriculum. It is inaccurate to compare these tuition-based enrichment programs to what is offered at Deerfield.

We feel that the suggestion to charge tuition for a full-day curriculum-based kindergarten is inappropriate for a public school system. To change Deerfield's program to one that is open only to those who can afford to pay would take the "choice" of Deerfield away from many Novi families. The lottery system continues to be the most equitable manner of selecting students.

The April 11 editorial mentions that

Deerfield is successfully applying a multiple-intelligence's curriculum. It also indicates that there are 79 students on the waiting list for the 2002-2003 school year. This is a testament to the success of the program. Given these facts, we feel that our collective energy should be spent increasing the availability of a curriculum-based full day kindergarten program at all Novi elementary schools.

**Deerfield Community Council Board**  
Cathy Schramm  
Katie Racon  
Lynda Favotte  
Karen Wood  
Sheri Glampaa

### Slow down!

I'm very sad. Tonight I came home to Novi to find two beautiful ducks who had been living in neighborhood ditches and yards, nesting for the season, dead in front of my home on Meadowbrook Road - killed by a speeding motorist not obeying the residential 30 mph limit on Meadowbrook. At 30 mph you could have avoided this tragedy. And you did a double sweep on this one - the mate was killed also.

Meadowbrook is a residential road. Walking to a mailbox is a dangerous journey. Walking or biking on that road is life threatening.

Residents have had dogs and cats killed, and the drivers leave the scene as if it was a wild animal and not someone's

family pet. Please use caution and stay at 30 mph on Meadowbrook. I'm tired of putting dead animals in my garbage.

Sandy Mitchell  
Novi

### Share your opinions

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

**Mai:**  
**Letters to the Editor**  
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[cstone@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:cstone@ht.homecomm.net)  
**Fax:**  
(248) 349-9832



### Denver serves as an excellent example of regional cooperation in support of culture

My older son, Scott, is a second year resident in internal medicine in Denver. Kathy and I went to visit him about a month ago. We came away much impressed with the vibrant arts and cultural scene in the Mile High City.



Phil Power

Although the Denver Art Museum does not have half the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts, it was absolutely filled with school kids and teachers and with senior citizens. The zoo is similarly well attended, as is the well-regarded Natural History Museum.

Upon checking around, I discovered that the real reason the Denver area is doing so well for all its citizens is regional cooperation. The six counties in the Denver area have banded together to fund their arts and cultural institutions with the proceeds from a sales tax. A little over half of the money goes to the Big Four institutions, but a bunch goes back to local arts and cultural groups in the participating counties.

It's a lot like the plan sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Cultural Coalition that would ask voters in Oakland and Wayne counties to consider a 0.5 property tax millage to raise around \$45 million a year. Two thirds of the money would go to 17 regional

arts institutions - including the DIA, Detroit Zoo, Cranbrook Art Museum, Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, the Holocaust Memorial Center and Meadowbrook Hall - with the remainder going to local arts institutions. For a home with a taxable value of \$150,000, the increased tax amounts of \$37.50 per year.

A similar plan was narrowly defeated two years ago in November. Sponsors of the plan initially hoped to get it on the August primary ballot for lots of good reasons. There's less clutter and cheaper TV advertising rates than in November, and the lively gubernatorial primary race is supposed to attract a big Democratic and female voter turnout - both groups are presumed to be more pro-culture than Republicans and males.

But last week the Oakland County General Government Committee voted to table the issue until its June 3 meeting, reasoning that adding arts and culture to the August primary ballot might jeopardize votes on other vital local services. To their credit, Oakland County officials are meeting promptly after the May 29 election to put an item on the August primary ballot.

At their June meeting, they should vote definitively to put the initiative to a November vote, if only to give the proponents (and opponents, for that matter) time to raise money and educate the public about the pros and cons of the idea.

In my own view, this is one of those sensible measures that merits support, if only because the survival of our precious cultural institutions has over the years been threatened by withdrawal of state support from Lansing. After all, places like the DIA and the

Zoo contribute enormously to the quality of life in this region. They help local businesses attract highly educated workers and they contribute to keeping skilled graduates in Michigan after they leave college.

Sure, any tax increase - \$37.50, more or less - is a hit to the budget. And certainly, some of the institutions that will benefit already charge admission. But the funds from this proposal will go to pay for price-discounted programs for kids, teachers, seniors. Without the additional support for arts institutions from the millage, families hoping to go to the Zoo for a Saturday outing, for example, will pay a lot more than they do now. And, for those of a parochial frame of mind, much of the money will go back to local arts and culture groups.

It's recently become fashionable to be stingy handed about public expenditures to improve the quality of life for all. Let the users pay for it" goes the beguiling line. Well, if the only people who are going to pay for the DIA or Henry Ford Museum are just the people who go there in any given year, over the years were not likely to have a DIA or a Henry Ford Museum around for us to use.

At that point, the tough-minded among us will no doubt be the first to ask loudly and crossly just who lost the DIA or Henry Ford Museum. I hope there will be people around who tell 'em to look in the mirror.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at [ppower@homecomm.net](mailto:ppower@homecomm.net).

### Lost details in Michigan's new, higher jobless benefit bill carries costs for workers

As Michigan's new unemployment benefit levels take effect, on the signing of recent legislation by Gov. John Engler, there will surely be a lot of self-congratulation among lawmakers about what has been done to help jobless workers.

The motivation, sponsors said, was to help those who have found themselves out of work in the current economic downturn, since much of the slowdown came in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

But before anyone in Lansing sprains an arm patting themselves on the back, folks back home would be well advised to take a close look at all the little details included in the bill.

The improvement in benefits comes with a cost. Many of the little start going out to the laid-off worker. Why this is an issue isn't clear. Severance pay is voluntary for companies. The law doesn't require it. Still, firms have shown a willingness to hand out such compensation despite the fact that they know the jobless worker will head straight to the unemployment office to apply for benefits. Doubtlessly, they include that in their calculations of how much to give.

Throughout the debate, the Chamber has argued that "if you tax something, you get less of it." It was pointing out that higher costs for unemployment compensation could discourage hiring.

But the philosophy applies to severance pay and other rewards for hard work and loyalty. Tax it and you get less of that too.

There are a number of other little amendments to the law. A laid off works obligation to accept "suitable work" is increased. Requalification requirements are increased when an employee quits voluntarily or is fired for misconduct. In other words, they'll have to work longer at their next job in order to collect should they be laid off again later.

The new rules also shift the "burden of proof" to the worker in cases of a voluntary quit. In other words, in a dispute, the worker would have to prove the job loss was really the result of a lay off. That could be very difficult to do, especially if the notice of a lay off is given verbally rather than on paper.

In the end, it doesn't sound much like a program intended to help folks harmed by the aftermaths of terrorist attacks. It sounds like simple horse-trading. Benefits had been frozen since 1995, and it was time to adjust them for inflation, the business community wanted something in return. Nothing wrong with that. Happens all the time in Lansing.

But it doesn't qualify as altruism. And lawmakers should keep in check their claims about what they are doing to help the jobless.

Mike Malott reports on the local implications of state and regional events. He can be reached by phone at (517) 548-7125 or by e-mail at [mmlott@homecomm.net](mailto:mmlott@homecomm.net).



Mike Malott

provisions that were included in the final version received little attention from the press. The wrangling was so contentious over what the maximum benefit should be and the proposal, eventually dropped, to add a "waiting week" that it was difficult to focus on the other little details.

Granted, lawmakers did hike the maximum weekly benefit from \$300 to \$362. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has estimated that alone will carry a cost of \$225 million to the unemployment trust fund.

### Readers need information to make decisions

I'm a journalist - a reporter, or what some call a muckraker.

Number one, however, I am a human who cares about people. I don't like writing stories that make the people the story is about feel sad, humiliated or hurt.

I don't want to ever hurt anyone with my printed words. Not even when the person is wrong. After all, they might have a mother or father who will be embarrassed.

I hate writing stories about people who are murdered or missing. I think about the trauma their loved ones are going through, and I worry about having to further distress family members with my telephone calls.

I also felt sad writing about Bill Benigo, the captain who was on administrative leave with the Walled Lake Fire Department. I knew a lot and wrote a little about the investigation surrounding his exit. Why? Because I value what I do, and I want to do my job accurately. Therefore, I couldn't write a story based on hearsay.

I like nice, happy stories such as Doug Ogonowski's, who won Teacher of the Year for Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.

I just wrote another story that I had to put a lot of thought into. I felt rather sad working on the story about Rick Pary, an auxiliary officer who was arrested in November for flying a blimp over the Pontiac Silverdome during a "no fly zone" after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Believe me, I thought a lot about how he would feel when he picked up the paper and how he must feel about everyone reading it. I thought about how his own family may feel embarrassed or angry when they read it.

However, it was a story that needed to be told. As a journalist my first concern is for the residents of Walled Lake and Wixom. They have a right to know if a person chosen to protect them had allegedly obstructed police in his spare time.

I give residents information for them to digest. They can then decide for themselves what they want to do with that information. They can write letters to city council members or to the newspaper editor about issues they read about. Or they can do nothing at all. The choice is theirs. They get to determine for themselves if it's something they think is important to concern themselves with.

Residents are the ones who go to the voting booths to decide which government officials they want to stay or go. I give them information to help them make educated determinations.

I think that why our forefathers put freedom of the press right up front in the Constitution as a First Amendment right. They knew the written word has the ability to keep officials on their toes and on the straight and narrow path.

I believe in and love what I do for a living. I

wouldn't want any other job. In the arrested auxiliary officer story, I don't really blame Pary for his conduct. We all have things in our past we are not proud of.

Besides, anyone can apply for a position with the police department. It's their right. However, I do question officials' judgment with their selection process.

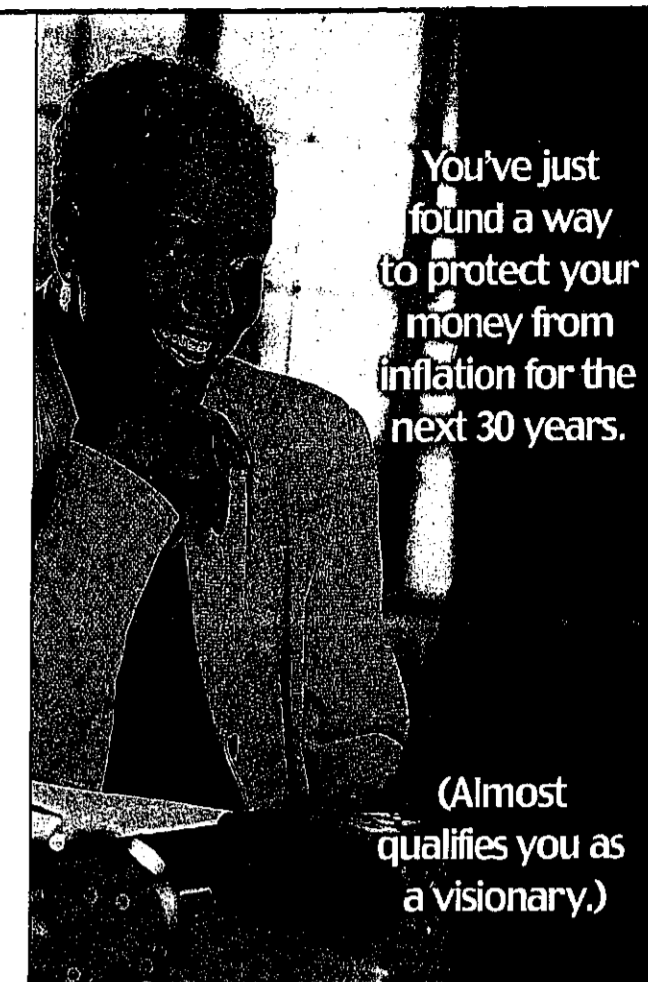
After all, Pary was arrested for not listening to police about lowering a helium blimp inside a no-fly zone, which was only two months after terrorists attacked the United States. Everyone was scared and traumatized by the attacks. Officials were trying to protect people attending the game from future terrorist acts.

That's why it doesn't make sense to me why Pary wouldn't listen to police who were just trying to uphold the law - especially if he was studying to be an auxiliary officer. It also doesn't make sense to me why he is still on the force expecting residents to listen to him, although he didn't listen to authority himself.

There's one more thing. Think about all of the firefighters and police officers who lost their lives in the World Trade Center disaster. Why didn't Pary honor those heroes by honoring the no-fly zone during the nation's crisis?

Of course, there's a lot I still don't understand as a journalist, reporter or muckraker. Nevertheless, I'm just doing my job.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lakes Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or [ddee@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:ddee@ht.homecomm.net).



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### Park Project: Completion in sight

continued from front

The best interest of our taxpayers and our Fire Department to be able to complete this work by walking away from the protection afforded by the surety, Liberty Mutual.

Batson explained the city's only contract was with Greystone Construction. And, since defaulting after completing about 28 percent of the job, the city has never through the steps which are in accordance with performance bond.

"That process moves slower than you want, but it is what we must use," Batson said.

The assistant city manager and Batson had a contract with Greystone, not the city of Novi.

During a meeting last week, officials held appointments to discuss Liberty's proposed ratification agreement between subcontractors and Greystone.

Batson said 11 subcontractors agreed to the ratification agreement.

Before Greystone failed to fulfill its obligation, the 10,960-square-foot complex was supposed to have been completed by the first day of May. The completion date was later changed to the end of August.

Since last fall, companies owned by James Chen have been named in lawsuits and here at the end of failure to pay or perform obligations by not only the city of Novi but 10 tenants of its Main Street development.

Richard E. Johnson, attorney for James Chen, said he has been contacted by the city of Novi and Madison Heights School District, Bloomfield Hills, White Lake Township and an unnamed number of subcontractors associated with a number of unfinished projects.

Batson said he has the fire station was approved by voters in November 1996.

### Kindergarten: Full-time classes in demand

continued from front

However, wishful thinking proved useless for the Burke family. They are 48th on a waiting list of over 70 families hoping to get their child into Novi's school of choice.

"I just," said Burke. "There was nothing wrong with the lottery, it was fair."

Thus, her son is planning on attending Orchard Hills Elementary in September 2002.

Burke may have lost the fair lottery, but her fight for equality is only beginning. She is taking on the district-wide battle against what she claims is an unfair allocation of dollars towards the Deerfield kindergartners that shortchanges the almost 400 other students entering school for the first time next year.

Currently, Deerfield operates four full-time kindergarten classes, while the district's other elementary schools maintain two full-time teachers, each running two half-day classes. With each kindergarten student receiving the same state aid dollars — regardless of their enrolled status — the extra costs of operating the Deerfield program is absorbed by the Novi Schools' general operating fund.

Burke said it is unfair that about one-fifth of Novi's kindergartners receive about twice as much funding as the other stu-

dents.

"I want equity," she said. "I want equal amounts for the other students."

The concerned mother is now heading up the Committee for Continued Improvement and taking her case to Novi Schools' Board of Education meeting at 7:30 p.m. on April 18 at the Educational Services Building on Taft Road.

James Roster, Novi Schools' assistant superintendent of finance, said there is currently not enough space to offer full-day kindergarten programs at each school.

"You would have to add at least two more classrooms at Orchard Hills," Roster said. "The board has to look at space and dollars."

However, Roster said space for these programs may be available after the completion of the major building renovations at the elementary schools beginning this summer as part of the \$75 million bond proposal passed last June.

Burke is especially concerned with this uneven allocation of dollars because Novi's kindergarten teacher and para-professional to student ratio (1/25) is comparatively higher than other Oakland County school districts (see chart). The 1-to-25 ratio is set by Novi Schools' teacher contract. She would like to see additional funds spent on classroom aides.

"They're spending over double

per student at Deerfield, and they're telling me that they can't afford to give my child a para-professional in the classroom," Burke said. "This is so grossly fair that I can't believe they've gotten away with it."

Burke said there is a need for the extra professional hand in the kindergarten classrooms in Novi and is worried her son won't receive the individual attention needed when many children enter school at a variety of intelligence levels.

"How can one teacher meet the needs of 25 kids when they come from drastically different places," Burke said. "You need to promote early intervention. It sets the tone for the rest of their education."

Rita Traynor, Novi Schools' assistant superintendent, said it would be ideal to have classes smaller than the current ratio, but that the 1/25 seems to work well.

"Teachers would welcome (para-professionals), but then it is a matter of effectively you use them," Traynor said.

Burke and the Committee for Continued Improvement hopes the Novi Schools Board of Education see eye-to-eye with these issues and adds para-professionals to the Novi teaching staff for next school year.

"This is a matter of finance and a matter of priority," Burke said. Emmett Lippe, Novi Schools'

District	teacher and para pro /student ratio	half or full day program	cost to parents for school year
Novi	1/24, max 1/25	half full	free free
Birmingham	2/24 now 2/24 now	half full	free \$3,440
Berkley	1/17 or 2/over 17	half full	free \$2,808
Northville	1/21 now	half full	free not offered
Farmington Hills	1/23 now 2/18 now, only offered @ 1 school	half full	free \$2,400
West Bloomfield	1/20 now	half full	free \$2,684
South Lyon	2/22 nowhalf	(2 full, 1 half days) full	free not offered

superintendent, said the board of education might look into seeing if the district can offer full-time kindergarten programs in other buildings for the upcoming school year.

Lippe said the first steps in expanding the full-day program across the district would be to form a committee of parents, teacher and administrators at the end of the school year to look at the structure of the Deerfield program over the past two years.

"Deerfield was a test to see if parents would go for a full-day program or stay with the half-day," Lippe said. "We found there is a number of parents who have interest in a full-day program."

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at [aparlove@nl.homecomm.net](mailto:aparlove@nl.homecomm.net).

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

## Main Street to face ambitious project

Milford Downtown Development Authority is hoping to pave a beautiful new ground

By Annette Jaworski CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just as a flower needs someone to plant it, every gardener knows that a garden requires lots of hard work and planning. It's no different in the Village of Milford, which takes great pride in the beauty of its community.

For those who wonder about the many improvements in recent years, chances are the Downtown Development Authority or DDA, is behind it in partnership with volunteers and other organizations.

DDA Director Ann Barnette notes that the many significant improvements to the community should serve as encouragement to residents as the village undertakes one of its most ambitious tasks, the revamping of the Main Street sidewalks and roads this year.

The temporary inconvenience to residents as the village undertakes one of its most ambitious tasks, the revamping of the Main Street sidewalks and roads this year will be well worth the results, she assures.

As the center goes, so goes the rest of the community, said Barnette. Any improvements to the downtown area help the community to become stronger economically.

"The benefit will be for those 30,000 cars a day that come through our village. It's important that we put our best foot forward. Downtown is the heart of the community," said Denise Tyler, Chairperson of the DDA.

It's important that residents know the source of funding for planned or completed improvements, they believe. No tax dollars outside of the DDA District are used on these projects.

And due to the incredible generosity of volunteers, a lion's share of these endeavors has been completed with private donations. Barnette credits the Board of Directors for accomplishing incredible acquisitions when they're needed.

"When we do spend, we try to do it wisely. We continually search for grants or try to combine with public or private entities," she said.

Good examples of this include the DDA sponsored Center Street Park, which was created entirely by donated labor and material with wonderful results.

"Absolutely an incredible effort," said Barnette. Seventeen years later, the project is ready to be updated.

The largest undertaking to date was the Mill Pond Project and North Milford Road. The streetscape was funded entirely through grants, private donations



The gazebo at Mill Pond is one of the improvements made possible by the efforts of local business people, Village government and the Downtown Development Authority.

### THE DDA AND ITS IMPACT

These improvements, major or minor, taken in totality, really transform the community. People prefer to act, play and shop in an aesthetically pleasing environment." —Marc Weinbaum, member of the Board of Directors

"I've seen it grow from an organization with no money, begging for volunteers, to what it is today. And at the end of every project, the community is always grateful and appreciative." —Karen Dierkes, member of the Board of Directors.

"We've tried to make this project (Main Street '02) as perfect and unobtrusive as possible...I don't know that the public realizes how much planning, hard work and effort are put into these projects, so that it impacts people as little as possible." —Dale Feigley, member of the Board of Directors.

### reminds Michigan residents and business to call MISS DIG before beginning construction or excavation projects this spring.

MISS DIG is Michigan's one-call utility notification system. By calling a toll-free number each participation utility will mark where underground lines and cables are located so they can be avoided during construction.

"All it takes is one simple call and homeowners and businesses can avoid the potential hazards of breaking a utility cable or pipe," said Johnson, R-Holly. "By calling MISS DIG and having them mark underground utilities you can ensure safety on the work site, help utility companies maintain uninterrupted service to customers and protect the environment."

The MISS DIG System Inc. was established by five Michigan utilities companies in 1970 as a pilot program in Oakland County. The goal is to reduce underground utility damages, prevent injuries and save lives. Participating utilities include underground telephone and telegraph, gas, electric, water, sewer, and storm lines and drains.

### Moore one of Detroit's most influential businessmen

Northville businesswoman Joan Moore has been named as Crain's Detroit Business as one of Detroit's 100 Most Influential Women. Moore is president and founder of The Arbor Consulting Group. More than 300 nominees were submitted by Michigan executives.

April is Raise the Flags and Dig Safely Month, state Rep. Ruth Johnson announced.

The special designation

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## Novi Expo Center: Blair Bowman claims landlord's lawsuit is patently false

continued from front

According to lease documents, it is stated "in the event that tenant (Bowman) shall commence operations of an exposition center following expiration of the initial term of the lease within a 10-mile radius of the premises, then, to the extent permitted by law, for so long as tenant operates such an exposition center within that 10-mile radius, landlord agrees that it shall not operate any portion of the leased premises as an exposition center or otherwise operate an exposition center in competition with tenant within that 10-mile radius."

Bowman feels that paragraph alone, not to mention many other ref-

erences to other center uses, shows the plan to build a new center is allowed and not a surprise.

The lease agreement also states Bowman may change the use of the premises during his extended lease period which Bowman is now in.

Bowman also said there has been a "painful" amount of communication going back and forth between both parties about a possible relocation.

The trust is seeking damages in excess of \$25,000 as well as equitable and declaratory relief.

Robert Carson of Carson Fischer plc, attorney representing the Adell Brothers Children's Trust, declined comment.

It had filed a lawsuit against

"We have asked the court to affirm the preliminary development agreement. We very much are interested in seeing that our rights are protected."

Blair Bowman  
Novi Expo Center president

reached between both parties in Oakland County Circuit Court. Pursuant to the settlement, the litigation was dismissed with prejudice by consent and stipulation.

Bowman said as long as plans proceed as expected and on schedule he hopes to break ground on the new Novi Expo Center late this year.

As for the fate of the existing center, Bowman said he intends to pursue the reuse of the property in accordance with the boundaries set by the lease and settlement agreements.

Victoria Scutcheo is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at [vscutcheo@nl.homecomm.net](mailto:vscutcheo@nl.homecomm.net).

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me as (n):

Individual  Walk Child/Family member  Team Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

\*All walkers must register individually.

\*Teams are considered as five or more individuals and must state the Team Name at the time of registration

I am unable to participate. Please accept my enclosed donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check (make payable to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan)

Credit Card Type of card:  MC  VISA  Discover  Card

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Register for the Walk by:

Online: Download the registration form at [www.wishmich.org](http://www.wishmich.org)

Fax completed form to: (517) 347-2720

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This SWF 38, is searching for a SWF 35-55, who is compassionate and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

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SWF, 38, seeking SWF, 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

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SWF, 38, 5'7", down but up, brown eyes and combed-out hair. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

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SWF, 47, who is 5'7", 120lbs, outgoing, romantic, and very loving. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

**COMPROMISE LADY**  
SWF, 38, looking for a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

**CHRISTIAN VALUES**  
SWF, 27, 5'6", brown hair, medium build, described as very feminine and attractive. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

**SHARE MY WORLD**  
SWF, 33, 5'10", 120lbs, outgoing, romantic, and very loving. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

**AWAITING YOUR RESPONSE**  
SWF, 38, 5'7", 120lbs, outgoing, romantic, and very loving. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

**OUTGOING & ROMANTIC**  
This SWF, 42, is searching for a non-smoking SWF, 35-45, who has to be a good, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

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SWF, 43, who is 5'7", 120lbs, outgoing, romantic, and very loving. Seeking a SWF 30-40, who is fun, outgoing, intelligent, and caring. Please contact me at 248-481-6153.

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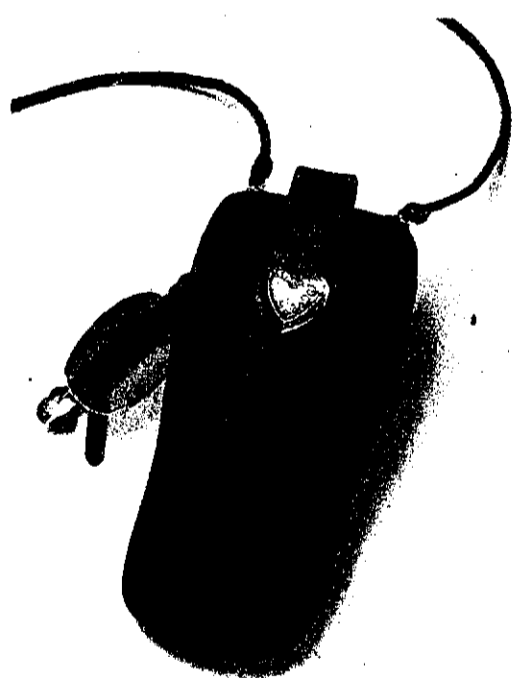
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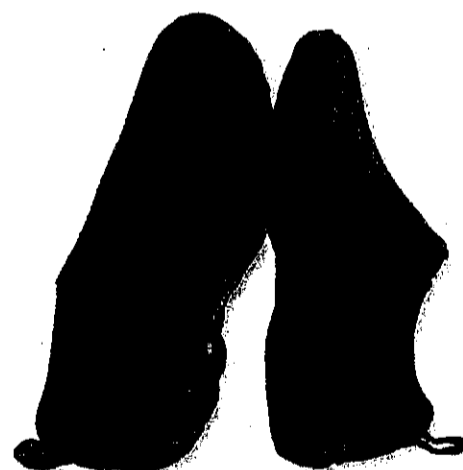
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# There's a first time for everything!

## Novi's lacrosse squad notches its first-ever win over Country Day

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

When the Novi Wildcats lacrosse team talks about who it was who led them to victory over a very, very tough Detroit Country Day team for the first time in the team's short history, who is it they will speak of? Most likely, Shaun Dicken.

Dicken, who comes onto the playing field standing 6-foot-4, turned on the afterburners and charged into the fray, collecting three goals in the final two minutes of the contest — including one with only 11 seconds remaining to win the game — to lead the Wildcats to a come-from-behind

**"Shaun really took over. We got the ball and he started going hard to the cage. Country Day was having trouble keeping up with him, and he wanted it bad."**

Dave Wilson  
Lacrosse Assistant Coach

10-9 victory over their rivals.

"His stick is just 40-inches long," assistant lacrosse coach Dan Wilson said. "He just tucked it in between

his shoulder blades and went. With his size, he is hard to knock down and he has the ability to hide his stick well."

Dicken, an attacker for the Wildcats, notched five goals throughout the contest as he and his squad came back from a 9-6 deficit with under two minutes remaining in the contest to notch the victory.

"In the past we were never able to do this," Wilson said. "We have a lot of seniors and a lot of guys with experience. We just pointed out a few things they were doing wrong and gave them a push in the right direction. They really wanted it and went after it."

Dicken scored the final goal to steal the win away from Country Day with just 11 seconds remaining in the contest after scoring one with

one minute, 59 seconds left in the game and another at 1:21. Drew Doll scored a goal with just 47 seconds remaining in the contest to tie the game before Dicken sealed it.

"Shaun really took over," Wilson said. "We got the ball and he started going hard to the cage. Country Day was having trouble keeping up with him, and he wanted it bad."

Also scoring goals for the Wildcats were Aaron Marion, who notched two goals and two assists; Doll, with two goals; and Kirk Stafford, who collected a single goal in the winning effort.

The Novi squad went into the half trailing Country Day 5-3 before a

couple of changes by head coach Stan Zyzdel helped the Wildcats get back on track.

"Coach Stan made a key decision in the second half to move one of our defenses (Dave Cian) to the face-off wing and move one of our mid-fielders onto defense for the face-offs," Wilson said. "It didn't necessarily mean we won face-offs. It just prevented Country Day from winning cleanly and gaining possession. We really made them work for it."

The Wildcats will have resumed action after facing Troy Athens Monday (after the Novi News went to print) before hosting Ann Arbor Pioneer Saturday at 1 p.m.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A Novi infielder trips over a Lakeland softball player stealing second base during the Wildcat's home game last week.

## Softball girls earn big wins over Lakeland

By Brian Doyle  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi softball team opened up their season with a doubleheader against the Lakeland Eagles last week. Novi lost the first game 2-0, but benefited from some strong defensive play and took the second game 4-1.

In the first game, Novi's defense was very strong, but they couldn't get their offense going. The team had zero errors, which is a vast improvement over last year since they had 50 errors in the first 10 games.

"It's a big difference from last year," Novi coach Sunny Litteral said. "It's just a completely different looking defense."

Kendall Hobart led the defense from the mound and let in only two hits that game. Hobart also had a good game offensively and went two for three with a stolen base. However, Novi could not get anything going offensively and failed to score.

"We just couldn't put the bat on the ball," Litteral said.

As a result, the first game went by quickly with a lot of three-up, and three-down innings.

**"Everybody's doing what they're supposed to do. We played good defense and made things happen."**

Sunny Litteral  
Softball coach

The second game was a different story. Liz Stevens sparked the team's offense and Hobart kept the team solid on the defensive side.

"Our defense right now is very sound," Litteral said.

Rachel Good had her first varsity level hit, a triple in the second game. Stevens knocked her in to earn one of her four RBIs on the day. Stevens went two for three in the game and was also responsible for the game-winning double.

"Stevens was a big player," Litteral said. "She's just hitting the ball."

Hobart struck out six batters in the second game and did not have any walks. She also got one hit and scored.

"Kendall had two wonderful games," Litteral said.

A lot of other players on the team have contributed also. The team defense has been very good, and Victoria Kaiser and Monica Booth both also had hits in the games. Megan Colligan scored for Novi after she reached first base because a pitch hit her.

"Everybody's doing what they're supposed to do," Litteral said. "We played good defense and made things happen."

The team also was very satisfied with their offensive performance in the second game. Lakeland also used the same pitcher in both games. During the second game, Novi batters were able to get a better feel for the pitcher and, in turn, were able to hit her better.

"We put the ball in play," Litteral said. "It was just a matter of getting [the pitcher] timed up."

Tomorrow, Novi will head out to play South Lyon in another KVC double-header. Novi hopes to keep up their strong defensive play and

continue to hit as well as they did in the second game against Lakeland.

"We're going to have to keep being aggressive at the plate," Litteral said.

Novi has benefited from strong team defense and team hitting, but also exceptional play by Hobart from the mound and Stevens at the plate.

"Stevens has kind of been a surprise player," Litteral said.

Novi also is benefiting from a lot more team experience. Litteral believes that the experience may be playing a big role in the great improvement on the defensive side of the ball.

"It's the same players," Litteral said of the defense. "It's just a matter of their experience and confidence now."

Novi is off to a pretty good start to the 2002 season and hopes to keep it going. A split with a sound Lakeland Eagles team will hopefully help the team get off to a good start and improve on last year.

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

## Lacrosse is game to be witness to



Sam Eggleston

The Novi Lacrosse team will be dazzling their fans with their first home game of the season April 20 at 1 p.m. when they play Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Being that I have never had the opportunity to cover lacrosse, I am not sure what to highlight at this point — but I do know that they are worth highlighting. Just glancing over the roster is enough for most to realize what this team has to offer with players like Drew Doll and Fred Napier.

The thing that I think brings out the best in the Novi lacrosse team is not its size or skill, necessarily, but its head coach and its fans. I had the opportunity, just weeks after arriving at this position for the Novi News, to

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**Novi Wildcats Lacrosse vs Ann Arbor Pioneer**

Saturday, April 20  
1:00 p.m. at Novi

Continued on 2

## Soccer ties Canton, drops one to 'Stangs

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Well, at least they have shown they can run with the big dogs.

The Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team, led by coach Brian O'Leary, proved they could run with some of the best teams in Michigan when they took on and tied the eighth-ranked Canton Chiefs 2-2 in a non-conference contest April 10 before falling to the second-ranked Northville Mustangs 5-1 two days later.

"The score was 1-0 Northville at halftime, and we played very well with scoring chances equal in the half," O'Leary said. "Then in the second half they wore us down."

The Mustangs took advantage of a dreary day by notching four additional goals in the second half with the top-shelf playing ability of seniors Lindsay Dunmead and Larissa Fill as well as junior Nicole Cauzillo.

"They have an excellent team

with superstar quality players that play very hard and physical."

The Wildcats lone goal came from Chelsea Atiyeh with an assist being marked in the stat book for Meg Grgurich.

"I have gotten what I thought I would from all of my players," O'Leary said. "The good news is that I have some players that will get used to playing against older, stronger and quicker competition."

O'Leary noted that the Northville Mustangs are every bit the team their ranking makes them out to be.

"Northville definitely deserves their number two ranking," he said. "The have three superstars in Lindsay Dunmead, Larissa Fill and Nicole Cauzillo, plus all their other players play hard and tough for the full 80 minutes, which is something we are not capable of doing yet."

The Wildcats' first two games of

Continued on 3

## Rugby decimates Howell

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Notching a win in your first outing is definitely not a bad way to kick off the season, especially when you blank your first opponent 41-0.

The Northville Knights Rugby Club, comprised of players from Northville, Novi, Livonia and South Lyon, did exactly that as they took on the ruggers from Howell April 10 and shut them out in a dominating show of skill and finesse. The team then headed to the muddy fields of Howell April 13 to play in the newly-revised Michigan Cup Tournament, where they took second in their bracket behind perennial powerhouse Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

"We lost 7-0 to our arch rival Grand Rapids Catholic Central," Knights coach Ron Cornell said of the tournament, which found his team finishing 1-1-1. "They scored with a couple of minutes to go after a series of penalties. They ran a

penalty play with just a couple of minutes left in the game and their big forward smashed it in for the score."

According to Cornell, the Knights held their own against Grand Rapids CC for most of the game and even had the defending state champions on their heels a time or two.

"For quite a while during the half it was down on their end," he said. "They were just hanging on and keeping us out of the try zone."

The Knights had better luck against the rugby squad from Grand Haven, as they collected a 10-5 victory on tries by Billy Adkins, of Northville, and Steve Cain, of Novi.

"Cain was out playing winger, and all day long we couldn't get the ball wide because of the mud," Cornell said. "We got the ball out wide to Cain, and he took the ball from about 50 meters out and went in for the score."

Continued on 3

Baseball falls to Orion

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER
The Novi baseball team hung with Lake Orion for four innings last week...

(Adam) Haberman had a real nice hit. It would have been a home run without the wind.

Jake Ray
Assistant baseball captain

pitch with the bases loaded to score the other. That game was rescheduled for Monday, April 22.

Novi stayed neck and neck with Lake Orion until the fourth inning. Pete Kobylak had scored earlier on...

St. Clair is aiming high

By Sara-Beth O'Connor
SPECIAL WRITER

It's hard to believe that Novi High School's senior track captain wasn't sure about joining track his freshman year.

St. Clair's biggest supporters are his parents, Don and Diane St. Clair.

"I get together with my friends who also have musical talents," said St. Clair.

Look out Ann Arbor Pioneer

Continued from 1
have a chat with coach Stan Zajdel, and I have to tell you that I can definitely see where this team's intensity comes from.

"All these KVC games are crucial," Green said, "We're going all out to win all four games."

Golf team makes final cuts

By Sara-Beth O'Connor
SPECIAL WRITER

After making late cuts due to weather, the Novi varsity girls' golf team has settled with 16 players.

Girls' track tops Lakeland

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats girls track and field team started the season off with a victory before taking third place in the Novi Relays.

Tennis has tiring opener Wildcats play top teams

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER
The Novi boys' tennis team notched a fifth place finish in their first outing of the year while getting to view themselves against some of the best teams in the area and in the state.

The Wildcats, led by coach Jim Hanson, took a trip to participate in the Holly/Grand Blanc Boys' Tennis Invitational where they collected a total of 11 points to tie for fifth place with Holy.

Next Level Athletes

The Next Level Athletes portion of the sports section is dedicated to the men and women who work day in and day out to excel at the sports they love.

Alexandra Banner, Senior, University of Michigan — A 1998 graduate of Ladywood High School and a former resident of Northville.

Boys track splatters Eagles with loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Wildcats winning out behind an Eric Schneider jump of 20.1. Matt Emenacker led the charge in the high jump, clearing 5-6.

Novi's first singles, handled by Prasantha Venugopal, took three straight losses for an eighth place finish while the second singles, Suraj Ramachandran, lost the first round to win the second before falling in the battle for fifth place against Port Huron Northern.

The three doubles flight found Vishal Rungta and Jeff Wallan leading in the first two rounds before coming back hard against Powers' John Smith and Michael Burley 6-4, 6-3 to secure seventh place in the tournament.

Knights thrash Howell rugby

Continued from 1
Adkins' score came as he trailed behind Cain on another break for the try zone before the Novi rugger was brought down with a fierce tackle.

"I think if we have the right lineup that we are going to be able to play competitively with anyone this year."

Discover Unusual Hand-Crafted Works

April 19, 20, 21, 2002
Novi Expo Center
Novi, MI
350 fine artists and craft designers
Craft demonstrations Entertainment Specialty foods All indoors Free parking Free shopping bags

goals for the Novi kickers, as she collected a goal in each half. The first goal was assisted by Christine Jewell while Tina Fennelly collected the assist on the second.

"It was an even, well-played game by both teams," O'Leary said. The Wildcats collected 18 shots on goal while the Chiefs took a total of 16 shots on goal.

Schedule

Table with columns: Date, Opponent, Place. Shows schedule for Northville Knights Rugby from April 10 to May 18.

Note: Home field for the Northville Knights is at Levy Middle School located at 25300 W. Nine Mile in Southfield.

be weak in numbers this season. But we have good size and great speed. I think we are a strong team and one that is going to be tough to beat.

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# Western track tops WLC Central baseball beats Eagles

Continued from 6

He was also a part of the winning 400-meter relay combo with teammates Kyle Gordon, Shing Muraud Lawson and the winning 800-meter relay with Steve Tommima, Ryan Carmignola and Lawson.

Tommima also took first in the 300 with Cleland less than a second behind him to take second Central's Anthony Thel took third in that event.

Walled Lake Western has very good open runners both in distance and sprinting with Tommima and Gordon, Fras said.

Jesse Brodjak took first for Western in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:12, and Bryan Pearson and Kevin Whiteaker took second and third for Central.

In the 1600 and 3200 meter run, Kevin Naughton won both events. Senior Kevin Naughton took first in the 1600, while his brother Neil took the top spot in the 3200. They both were also part of the 3200-meter relay team with Steve

Aspinall and Jesse Brodjak. "We have a strong group of distance runners who work very hard," Formanek said.

Aspinall also took second in the 1600-meter run just barely edging out Viking captain Tom Kruszewski. In the 3200-meter run Bryan Pearson took second for the Vikings and Peter Rounovsky third for the Warriors.

"I was very pleased with our distance runner, Tom Kruszewski," Fras said. "He has worked extremely hard since the beginning of the season. He's going to be the leader of our distance team."

Walled Lake Western also participated in the 300 relays last Saturday at Novi High School. They brought home second place and feel satisfied with what they were able to do there.

"I felt we did well," Formanek said.

Tonight, the Warriors will be going up against Plymouth-Canton, who won the league last year and are also 1-0 in dual meets.

Walled Lake Central was disappointed with the result of the meet but felt that they will be able to improve.

"We'll get better as the weeks go on. Once we get down to the conference meet we are going to have an opportunity to compete," Fras said.

Today, Walled Lake Central will be facing Plymouth-Salem who lost their first meet but will still be a strong team.

Fras said, "It will be a very competitive meet."

Walled Lake Western made a strong showing last Thursday and Walled Lake Central is looking to improve over the rest of the year. The Warriors have ahead of them what looks to be a very promising season.

"In our league," Fras said, "I think that Walled Lake Western is going to be the team to beat."

Brian Duple is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

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Brian Duple is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Central Vikings baseball team came out strong and hard and they are hoping to keep up that style of play throughout the remainder of the year.

The Vikings, who are coached by Mark Kowalczyk, took it to the Lakeland Eagles in the opening game of the season April 9, handing them a 5-4 non-conference loss before falling to the Walled Lake Western Warriors 3-0 just two days later.

"It was a 1-0 game going into the seventh," Kowalczyk said of the Western contest, "but they added two more in the top of the seventh inning."

The Vikings were rotating their pitchers in hopes of getting them warmed up and used to competition before a 13-games-in-19-days run that starts April 15. However, they could not keep up with the pitching ability of Western's Mike Pisha who hurled six innings and allowed only three hits.

"He is quite the player," Kowalczyk said of Pisha. "We just

couldn't seem to get to him." The Vikings were led by Joe Mercer, who had a double in the contest, while Pisha added a double for the Warriors to lead the way to victory.

"For us it was more like a pre-season game," Kowalczyk said, noting that the game didn't count in league play. "We had a lot of kids in playing so they would see a lot of action."

The Vikings will have started off their hectic schedule when they played Livonia Churchill Monday and John Glenn Wednesday before hosting Plymouth Canton tomorrow at 7 p.m. and a Hartland in a double-header Saturday at 11 a.m.

"There is a lot of tough, tough competition this year," Kowalczyk said. "I am pleased with the way we have played defensively, but I am less than pleased with the way we played offensively. This time of year is when pitchers dominate though, and the offensive part of your game will eventually come."

**WLC 5, Lakeland 4**  
The Walled Lake Central Vikings

started their season off on a good note when they came from behind against non-conference opponents the Lakeland Eagles April 9 to earn a win in their season opener.

"It was nice to have a come-from-behind win," Kowalczyk said. "We made it 4-3 in the fifth, and in the sixth we came from behind to take the lead and the win."

Kowalczyk noted that if it were not for the solid defense of his team, which was a total opposite of last year, the squad would not have come away with the victory.

"We were able to correct our mistakes, and our solid defense let us capitalize and come back for the win," he said. "We just didn't give up."

The Vikings are hoping the early season win will help set the tone for the rest of the season.

"The kids are really optimistic about winning," Kowalczyk said. "It is a good way to start the season — on the right foot."

Ryan Trailer led the team, going 3-for-3 at the plate, while pitcher Chris Rainbow went 3-4 and earned the win. Dean Langgott got the save for the Vikings.

## Sports Shorts

**Hawks Football registration**  
The Lakes Area Hawks varsity is accepting registration for five players. Only serious players, eager to start the transition to high school football, should call.

These players will be involved with coaches closely related to what they will learn in high school.

The Hawks staff includes state champion experience with one of the most successful teams of the '90s and today.

The Hawks are the only little league football team with their own stadium.

**Sand Volleyball League**  
A Sand Volleyball League, held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting May 13, is starting up.

Interested teams should contact Northville Parks and Recreation at (248) 449-9947.

The league costs \$50 for four, \$40 dollars for twos and will run 11 weeks.

**Northville/Novi Colts**  
The Northville/Novi Colts youth football organization is holding registration for the 2002 season May 4 at 9 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

The registration is for opening on the cheerleading and football squads.

Due to the large number of returning players, the only football squads accepting registrations are the freshmen (8 and 9

years old, maximum of 105 pounds) and varsity (11 years old with max of 150 pounds; 12-13 years old, max 150 pounds).

The cheerleading teams have openings on the freshmen cheer (8 and 9 years old) and the varsity cheer (12-13 years old).

Registration of \$260 is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call Cathy Thomas (football registration) at (248) 348-4282 and Rene Ellison (cheerleading registration) at (248) 344-8977.

## JV Scores

**NOVI JV LACROSSE**  
Overall Record: 1-2

Novi JV Lacrosse lost a 7-6 heartbreaker in overtime to Detroit Country Day High School last Thursday. Andrew Summerhille and Jason Erickson led the Wildcats with two goals. Josh Back and Jeff Pollicchio scored one goal and Parker Beard added one assist.

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OR MAIL TO: P.O. Box 251, c/o Golf Club Card, South Lyon, MI 48178 Attn: Carolyn

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## Warriors conquer Vikings

### Western boys' track team notches win over cross-town rival Central

By Brian Doyle  
SPECIAL WRITER

In a cross-town track rivalry last Thursday, the Walled Lake Western Warriors got the better of the Walled Lake Central, 83-54.

The Warriors had first-place finishes in 11 of the 16 events. The Warriors gained their first win of the season and Central suffered their first loss of the year. This was the first time that Western's seniors had ever beaten the Vikings.

"I told the seniors before the meet," said Warrior head coach Mike Formanek. "It was time."

Walled Lake Central fought hard but could not keep up with the Warriors. Central took first in three out of the five field events, but even that was not as good as they feel they could have performed.

Central's Brent Lang took first and JR Ducat took third in the discus with throws of 108-feet-9 and 100-feet-9, respectively. Chris Coomer took second for the Warriors in that event. In the shot-

put Central again took first and third with Frank Lietke snagging the top spot and Brent Lang taking third. Western's Chris Honlee took second.

"We have one of the best shot-putters and discus throwers," Central head coach Mike Fras said. "We didn't perform well."

In the high jump, Western's Alex Cleland took first with a jump of 6-feet. Brandon Strait also jumped 6-feet, but had missed one time earlier, so he took second for Central while Brian Chrzanowski

took third. "Cleland's certainly one of the best athletes on the team," Formanek said.

Mickey Connor and Roy Setsuda took first and second in the pole vault for Central while Dan Hutches grabbed third for the Warriors. In the long jump, it was Western's Kyle Gordon, 21-feet-6, and Aaron Lawson, 18-feet-11, taking first and third to sandwich Central's Bryan Dovichi 18-feet-11. Dovichi actually jumped over 21-feet twice but fouled on both

attempts. "I really think he's going to be one of the top long jumpers," Fras said.

In the relay events, the Warriors dominated. They took first in the 3200-meter relay, 800-meter relay and the 400-meter relay. In both the 110 and the 300 hurdles, Central's Chrzanowski took first and James Anderson took second.

"I was really pleased with how Bryan Chrzanowski and James Anderson ran the hurdles," Fras said.

Again, in the sprints and distance events, the Warriors took control. Steve Darby, who sat out last year due to injury, won the 100- and 200-meter dashes while his teammate Kyle Gordon followed right behind him in both. Aaron Lawson took third in the 200 to complete the sweep.

"It was good to come back and see [Darby] win both the sprints," Formanek said.

Continued on 4

## Central girls beat Western

### Win all but three track & field events

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Central Vikings girls track and field team made short work of the Walled Lake Western Warriors as they pounded their cross-town rivals into submission 93-44.

"We won 14-of-17 events," said Mark Kwiatkoski, the Central girls track coach. "Western is good, but they just couldn't keep up with our talent."

The Vikings simply went into the contest and dominated nearly every event. Whitney Simbeck started their march off on the right foot, taking a first place finish in the pole vault with a 7-foot-6 clearing while Bridget Sherridan added two inches to her personal record in the high jump as she notched a first place with a 5-foot-3 jump.

"Western just didn't have the talent to hang with us right now," Kwiatkoski said. "Our kids put a lot of effort into this meet and did very, very well."

Lauren Folks dominated the long jump with a 15-foot-5 leap while Jackie Becker continued her top-notch field event performances with a 32-foot-8 throw in the shot put and a 99-5 throw in the discus, which is her personal best.

Lindsay Brown led the way in the 100 meter low hurdles, finishing first in 16.9 seconds while Erica Elliot blew away the competition with a 13.4 second finish in the 100 meter dash.

The 800 meter relay was won by the team of Laina Nicolalde, Folks, Elliot and Sherridan in 1:50.1 while Amanda Hnot took first in 5:51 in the 1600 run. The Vikings also took first in the 400 relay with Breann Klug, Simbeck, Katie Campbell and Sherridan taking first in 53.8 seconds while Elliot took first in the 400 dash with a time of 1:02.8 and Folks took first in the 300 hurdles with a time of 51.5 seconds — marking the first time Folks had ever run the event in competition.

Ashley Prince led the way in the 800 meter events, taking first with a time of 2:34.3 while Breanna Turcsanyi showed what stamina can do with a first place finish in the two mile with a final time of 12:31 in the event.

"I was very happy," Kwiatkoski said. "The effort was simply outstanding. We have a reputation as a classy team and I have to say that I was happy with the way the team conducted itself both on and off of the track. I think the upper classmen are doing a great job of teaching the younger ones what it means to be a classy team."

## WL Western softball dominates Marian

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Western Warriors girls softball team started their season out on a high note, blasting Marian squad 6-3 in the first game of a double-header April 13 before blanking them 8-0 in the closer.

"We made two errors for both games," Western coach Ron Repicky said. "Out of the two games we only had one strikeout and we hit the ball real well. The balls didn't drop in the first game like they did in the second or the score would have probably been much different."

The Warriors took the second game by storm as all eight runs were scored by a different player. Senior Kristen Burgess went 3-for-4 with two RBIs; Erin Rutherford went 3-for-4; Courtney Dye and Laura Bell went 2-for-5 with an RBI each; Nicole Tucker went 2-for-4 with a stolen base and a single RBI; Alexis Jolly went 2-for-3 with two RBIs; and Jackie Polulak went 1-for-1 with a triple in her first-ever varsity at bat.

"Jackie Polulak looked real nervous for her first at bat," Repicky said. "She had a one-and-two count and she just crushed it."

Lauren Talbot threw all seven innings and collected nine strikeouts, four walks while giving up only one hit and hitting one batter with a pitch.

Repicky noted that he was happy with the way the girls performed in their first outing of the season. Their Novl game, which was scheduled to be played April 10, was rained out.

"I was real happy," he said. "It was a good way to start the season. I really thought we played awesome."

The first game of the double-header found the Warriors beating the Marian team 6-3. Burgess went 3-for-4 and crossed the plate twice while Rutherford went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Dye smacked a deep ball over the fence while going 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a stolen base. Dantelle Bongero and Talbot each went 2-for-4. Kat Aschinger went 1-for-3 at the plate and crossed home for a score.

Nicole Lown hurled all seven innings of the contest, earning the win with six strikeouts, one walk and four hits.

The Warriors will return to action when they host John Glenn tomorrow at 4 p.m. before Northville comes in Monday at 4 p.m.

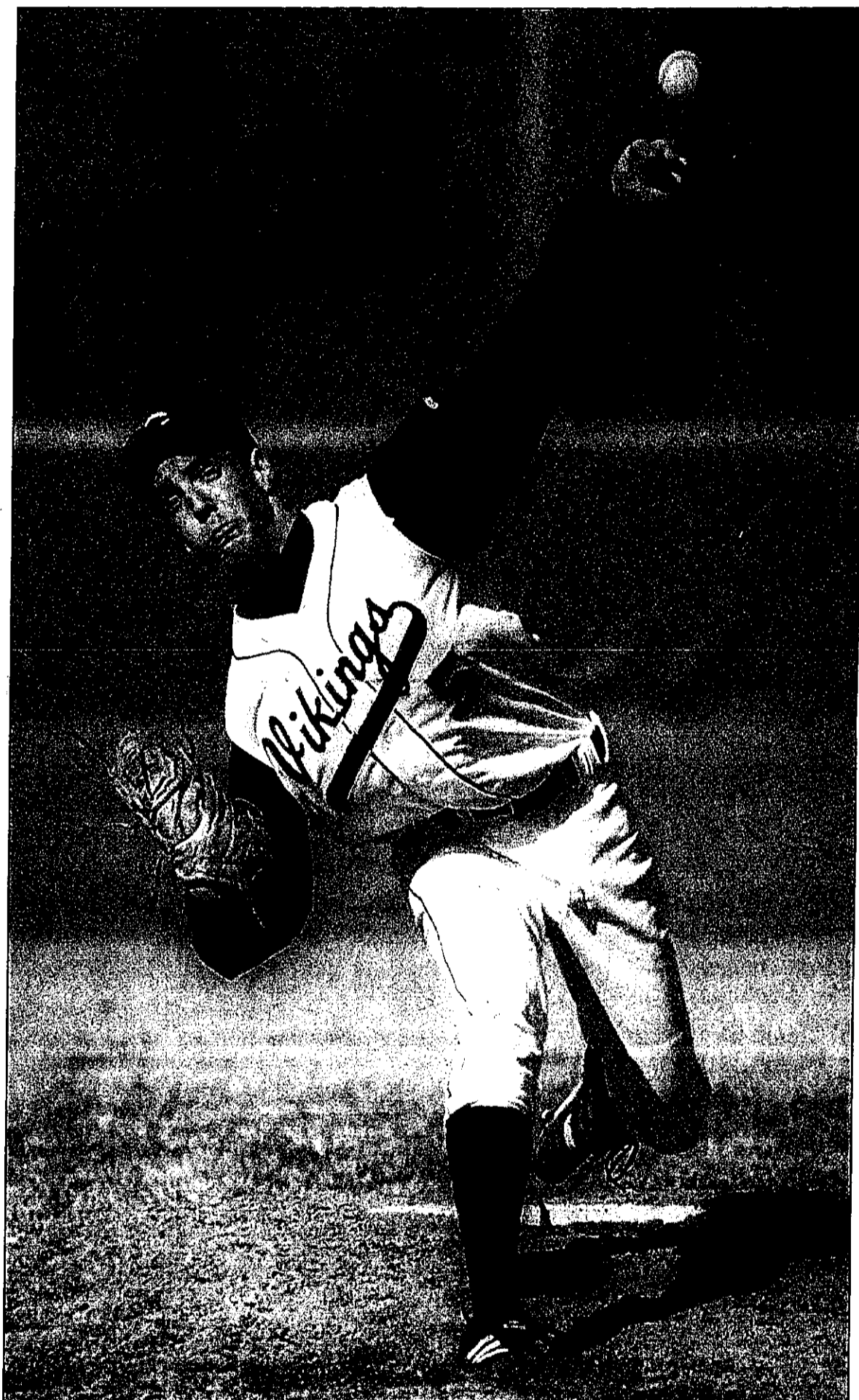


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Central's Chris Rambow throws homeward against visiting Western. The Warriors came out on top, 3-0.

## Western begins '02 campaign with shutout over Central

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Let's just start calling this game of baseball the Mike Pisha Show.

Pisha, a Walled Lake Western student and stellar athlete in multiple sports, is showing exactly what he is capable of. He led the Warriors to their first win of the season with 10 strikeouts, four walks and one hit while notching two RBIs in the seventh inning to boost his team to a 3-0 victory over the Walled Lake Central Vikings.

"It was basically Pisha for six innings," Western coach Ken Connor said.

Western got a run on an error in the first inning and then scored on a balk in the seventh before Pisha hit a double to drive in the second run.

The balk came when Central's Eric Lindstrom vacated the catcher's box while the pitcher still held the ball, drawing the call from the umpire that sent Jon Michaud home from third base for the score and sent Dave Zeitlin to third from second base.

"It was a bad call on the umpire's part," Connor said. "Pisha was up in the seventh inning with two on and Central wanted to walk him. The umpire said they had to pitch the ball and the next thing I know, Eric Lindstrom is coming out of the catcher's box and the umpire was calling a balk."

The win went to Pisha, who threw six innings, while Michaud collected a single inning with no hits to end the game for the Warriors.

"Neither team really hit that ball

this game," Connor said. "This time of year that is typical, especially with the pitching staffs Mark (Kowalczyk) and I have. I thought (Central's) Ryan Trailer did an outstanding job against us."

The Warriors (1-0) will return to action when they host Westland John Glenn tomorrow at 4 p.m. before hosting a double header against Johnson High School Saturday, starting at 11 a.m.

Connor said it would not be possible for his team to come out of the starting gate on the right foot without the assistance of his assistant coaches.

"I have to give credit to my assistant coaches, Mike Zelinski and Bob Reuter," Connor said. "In his fourth year, Zelinski is helping impact a team that helped shape him into an athlete during

his years at Western before he moved on to play college baseball. Reuter is in his 19th year with the program, having been an assistant since the team won the state championship in 1984.

"The kids just absolutely love him," Connor said of Reuter, adding that the coaches take time out of their busy schedules to assist with the program. "Bob works for Ford and Mike works for his dad's construction company. They really work hard for this team and do a great job. We wouldn't be the team we are right now without them."

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Soccer Schedule

### WLW Soccer

Head Coach: Todd Crawford

Date	Opponent	Time	Place
April 20	Kettering	11:30 a.m.	A
April 22	N. Farmington	5:30 p.m.	A
April 24	Harrison	5:30 p.m.	H

### WLC Soccer

Head Coach: Joel Sharpe

Date	Opponent	Time	Place
April 20	Mott	11:30 a.m.	H
April 22	Northville	5:30 p.m.	H
April 24	John Glenn	5:30 p.m.	A