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INSIDE



Who's the best in Novi?

Find out as readers give their opinions in our annual People's Choice special section.

— Insert

Bench candidate

Don't expect to see Sara Pope Starnes before 5 p.m. But expect to see her at your door sometime between now and the Aug. 6 primary. Starnes, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Oakland County, is one of the hopefuls for the 52-1 District Court judgeship up for grabs this summer.



Sara P. Starnes

— Page 5A

SPORTS



I want my KVC!

Two more wins — that is all it will take for the Novi Wildcats baseball team to win the Kensington Valley Conference title. Their nearest competitor, the Milford Redskins, may possibly be one of the teams the Cats are looking to take down on their way to an unchallenged crown.

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More Main Street allegations

Evergreen III says a Main Street shop owner failed to pay April rent

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Whether one Novi Main Street store owner paid rent or not is one of the latest controversies springing up in an on going courtroom battle between downtown shop

proprietors and their landlord. On May 2, Evergreen III's representing attorney, Eric S. Berkley, filed a motion for entry of judgment for possession by default against Kitchens By Design, Inc. alleging the owner did not pay his April rent. The Detroit attorney stated in his motion that James Chen, part owner and managing partner of Evergreen III, did not receive the design company's \$3,391 payment, demonstrating a failure to comply with 52-1 District Court Judge Brian W. MacKenzie's previous direction to pay monthly base rent, a percentage of common area maintenance fees and utilities for the month of April.

According to the plaintiff's motion "the court warned the defendants through counsel that these payments were to be made no later than Monday, April 15, 2002 or the court would issue default judgment(s) against the offending defendant(s)." Berkley stated "The Hayman Company, the company hired by Chen to manage the downtown development, did accept a payment from Kitchens By Design on April 16, but according to court documents "the defendant's bank refused to honor the above-referenced check upon deposit, the same having been returned to The Hayman Company marked "NSI." Attorney representing Kitchens



Kim Capello

By Design, Novi City Council Member Kim Capello, responded through court documents stating if the allegation the check was not honored is true, the same check was not processed a second time which is common practice in the business and banking industry. Capello further stated the design company did attempt to make payment to the landlord on Monday, April 15. However, there was no one in the on-site manage-

ment office. "Payment was therefore sent to the Hayman Company, by Federal Express to assure that it reached the landlord as soon as physically practical," Capello stated in court documents. Evergreen III stands the position since Kitchens By Design failed to make payment as ordered, it seeks the entry of judgment for possession by default against the defendant. Generally this type of motion could be filed as attempt to have a judge rule that a party involved in litigation has failed to perform an agreed upon stipulation, resulting

continued on 18

Novi plans showcase

Volunteers needed to help make fall event a success

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a way to share your culture with others or possibly learn more about your ancestors? If so, the City of Novi is offering a unique opportunity to do just that by participating in The City of Novi 2002 International Festival. "Each country decides themselves what they want to share about their ethnicity and nationality," said Gwynn Tilmann, City of Novi recreation coordinator. Tilmann said the city is looking to attract a large group of participants ranging from people who just moved to Novi from another country to those who are interested in exploring the past lives of family members.

"Where did your great-grandparents come from?" Tilmann said. "Maybe that is what you want to delve into." This wouldn't be the first international event for Novi. The city held an International Festival in 2000, but had to cancel its 2001 version after planning was halted by the events of Sept. 11.

"Novi is a huge melting pot, and I think this is a great place to have this type of a festival," Tilmann said.

Planning for the Nov. 21 festivity begins Thursday, May 23 with the first organizational meeting. The purpose of the 6:30 p.m. meeting, taking place in the Novi Civic Center, is to attract volunteers who will establish a head committee and country subcommittees.

Tilmann explained the head committee will oversee the entire event and each subcommittee will represent a different country. "As a whole, the subcommittees will represent their booths," Tilmann said. As of now, the city has been contacted by volunteers interested in representing Ireland, Sweden, India, Korea, Taiwan and Lebanon. "We would like to have as many countries represented as possible plus as many participants in each subcommittee as we can get," Tilmann said. "Many hands make light work."

The upcoming fall event in the Novi Civic Center will feature booths from each participating country, a performance showcase and possibly traditional food samplings.

Members of the City of Novi Parks Recreation and Forestry Department encourage anyone interested in participating in the festivities to attend the first meeting.

"If people want to come to just get more information than that is great," Tilmann said. "Bring some friends."

The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 Ten Mile Road, on the south side of 10 Mile between Novi and Taft roads.

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

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.



Photo by John Heider

Prom-enade your partner

Jamie Schramm, right, and others get out onto the dance floor Saturday night to do a line dance at Novi High School's prom, held at Burton Manor in Livonia. Please see page 2 for more pictures and the story.

Chamber recognizes outstanding partnership

Parkview and Bank One earn Merit Award

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Chamber of Commerce and Novi Schools recognized the efforts of Parkview Elementary and Bank One Michigan with an outstanding partnership award for their continued efforts to encourage children to pick up a book and read. Parkview and Bank One Michigan received the Partnership of Merit Award for the duo's Be Excited

About Reading (BEAR) Club. For the reading program, students — kindergarten through fourth grade — are encouraged to read 240 minutes each month and earn prizes for their efforts, with the incentives, such as candy, book-marks and pencils, supplied by Bank One Michigan and the Parkview PTO. The students "bank" their logged reading minutes in bank books each month, as teller windows are set up in the school for the reading deposit and fourth-grade students acting as bank employees for the official transaction. In the end, Parkview readers collectively banked over 1.5 million

reading minutes this year. Kids who hit their reading goals each month also received a free book from the Parkview PTO. Over 400 students earned free books. "[BEAR] promotes reading outside school," said Wendy Gould, a reading support teacher at Parkview Elementary. "The kids get in a habit of reading on a regular basis." Parkview's top student readers were fourth-graders Alex Bednark, 16,433 minutes; Tim Starr, 15,480 minutes; Brett Kuhn, 14,205 and Matt Ao, 13,524 minutes, with third-grader Angela Xie logging 13,449 minutes. This is the eighth year the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the Novi

Community School District have recognized an outstanding school-business partnership. The Partnership of Merit award will be presented to Parkview and Bank One at the annual Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 21. Currently, there are 15 partnerships between Novi Schools and area businesses that aim to improve student learning through direct involvement with local companies and organizations.

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

Volunteers sought to clean up historical Fuerst Farm

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Spring has sprung in Novi which means it is time to clean the farm.

The Fuerst Farm, that is. This weekend, Preservation Novi will be hosting the second annual Fuerst Farm Spring Clean up at the corner of the Ten Mile and Taft roads historical site.

All area residents are invited to attend the 9 a.m.-noon May 18 event and lend their time and elbow grease to help with needed improvements to one of Novi's most prominent locations.

The types of chores needing completion include everything and anything normally associated with outdoor springtime cleaning, such as pruning, planting, weeding, raking, scraping and painting.

"There is something there for everybody," said event organizer Kathy Mutch. "There will be chores for all age groups ranging from kids to elderly residents." Coffee, juice and bagels will be provided for all attendees. Work gloves and hand tools will also be provided at the site. Preservation Novi, with assistance from the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, holds a clean-up day in the spring and fall of each year. This month's occasion serves as a kickoff to Michigan Week. Michigan Week begins on Saturday with Community Pride Day making the date an appropriate day for the annual clean-up event. Other Michigan Week Novi events include a 7:30 p.m.

Novi's Fuerst Farm

The historical site listed in the National Registry of Historic Places was purchased in 1918 by Jacob and Rebecca Fuerst. The Fuersts and their six children developed the land as an orchard, establishing Novi as a major fruit-growing town. Two of the Fuerst daughters acquired control of the property and sold it to the Novi Schools in 1973. Ruby and Iva Fuerst remained living in the house until their deaths in 1991. The farmstead was later purchased by the City of Novi in 1997. The house that sits on the 10 Mile and Taft roads property was built in 1931. The basement of the home consists of a cellar, doors and trim from the first structure built on the property in the 1800s.

Thursday, May 23 concert featuring historical Great Lakes balladeer Lee Murdock. The free concert held in the auditorium of Novi Middle School is sponsored by the City of Novi Historical Commission and celebrates History and Education Day.

For more information about either event, please call (248) 347-0400.

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Left, Neil Cox and Sarah Buelow attended their prom in his 'n hers' duct-tape ensemble. (Note the duct-taped hand-cage.)



Left, Seniors Audrey Belter and Justin Gavin get their portraits taken at Saturday's Prom.

Below, Marcus Brodthuehr and Kristen Dufresne.

A night with the stars



By Sara-Beth O'Connor
SPECIAL WRITER

The red carpet was in place when Novi High School student prom-goers arrived at Lisa's Burton Manor for a night with the stars' last Saturday.

Before the prom, students such as juniors Aimee Sayers and Max Maier, had to deal with the challenge of rain.

"Max's house was being painted, and when it started raining we had to move inside," said Sayers.

Inside of the Maier's home, the couple dodged ladders to take their pictures in front of the fireplace.

"It was a big production and Max didn't know how to turn on the fireplace," said Sayers. "The house started to smell like kites."

Lucky for Sayers and Maier, the house was blue and so were their pictures. Many students had to change their picture locations and began to play the night by ear.

Junior Chris Probst and his date senior Meghan McDonald changed their driving arrangements after Probst's regional rugby tournament that afternoon.

"We found out we were going in a limo that day," said Probst.

For senior Justina Chiang, her plans were set and she was sticking to them.

"Like many people, we chose to drive together in a group," said Chiang. "But we

decided to go a little more unique and we took a party bus that fit 18 people."

By limos, busses or cars, students began to arrive at Burton Manor around seven o'clock. Once students checked in, they entered the ball room full of decorations fitting the theme, "a night with the stars." Junior prom committee chair Dave Benton helped put the prom together.

"We started in January," said Benton. "We looked through magazines and thought this theme was elegant."

Along with centerpieces with star-shaped flowers created by Glenda's of Novi, prom gifts were on every table. They were scene chapper picture frames with pictures of famous actors and actresses, like Marilyn Monroe, of the 40s and '50s. The decorations extended even into the bathroom.

"They had stars on the doors and movie posters on the inside," said sophomore Danielle Fennelly.

Before checking out all of the decorations, Fennelly spotted a couple from across the room, seniors Sarah Buelow and Neil Cox.

"When I walked into the room, we were like, 'That is so awesome!'" said Fennelly. "The couple's orange-and-silver outfits were made completely of duct tape."

"My dad was looking for scholarships on fast leg. He knew I already made stuff out of duct tape and I decided to go for it," said

Buelow.

Convincing her date was the next part of the arrangement. Buelow found a magazine and the Web site, which showcased previous students duct tape outfits.

"I said 'No way, Sarah,' when she first suggested the idea," said Cox. "Two weeks before prom she showed me the pictures and I agreed to do it. We made our own designs for a week and it took us four days, five hours a day to make them."

Senior Alexandra Oliveira, however, didn't have to lift a finger to get her prom dress.

"My mother picked it out in Brazil," said Oliveira.

Patricia Oliveira, her mother, lives in Brazil. She found the dress and her daughter had no say in the decision. It was a dark blue, two-piece gown with sequins on the top with a layered skirt. She even picked out the shoes, and Oliveira loved it.

"I'm thrilled that she did all the work and it turned out great," said Oliveira.

One of the common looks of prom 2002 was black and white. Senior Lindsey Broadwell wore a black sequin dress that had two white, v-shaped stripes at the top of her dress. Her date, Junior Steve Phelps of Milan High School, bought a tux which was not so traditional.

"I'm sporting a leisure suit and Armani glasses and white shoes," said Phelps.

His pink ruffled shirt matched the grey

tux and his '70s style fro wig.

"I love it," said Broadwell. "It's him and it reflects his personality."

After seeing all of the different outfits and the mingling was done, the students sat down for a dinner of salad, pasta, Chicken Picada and eclairs for desert.

"It was a 100 times better than last year," said senior Aaron Marion about the food. When dinner was finished, the lights were dimmed and the music began to play.

"I was pleasantly surprised because the music was good even though there were a bunch of rumors about an edited play list," said Marion.

A variety of '80s, techno and rap songs were blasting while the students danced the night away.

"I've never been to a prom where almost everyone was on the dance floor," said chaperone and NHS social studies teacher Lee Bonner.

The last song of the night was played at 11:30 p.m., and most students were surprised that prom was over. Senior Heather Stroyev was disappointed when, without warning, the DJ said that the last song was played. Stroyev wished that the dance would have lasted longer. But the last song was only the beginning for many students.

"Our plan is to go party-hopping to see as many people as we can," said Chiang.

After the limo bus dropped off Justina and her date, senior Sean Dougherty, they

changed into more casual clothes and were off to party. Other Novi students opted not to drive from event to event and had more mellow post-prom activities.

"We are going to a friend's house to watch movies," said junior Matt Winkel.

One thing that many students had in common was their choice to not drink and drive. Salon Luna has begun a new campaign to keep students from drinking and driving on prom night.

"We thought, how can we focus on our local community?" said Joe Loose of Salon 'Luna. They chose their local high school, Novi High School, and created the 'prom' promise.

"If students signed their prom promise along with their parents and principal and upheld it, they would receive a free haircut," said Novi High School social worker Kristin Connor.

All students who pledged this year did not drink and drive and will be receiving free haircuts. Salon Luna will be continuing with the prom promise next year again at the high school.

Last Saturday night Novi High School students turned out in full fashion with the elegance of the stars. The rain didn't stop students from having a great time and it showed by all of their smiles at the end of the evening.

"It was an evening I'll always remember," said senior Jenny Broadwell.



"When I walked into the room, we were like, 'That is so awesome!'"

Danielle Fennelly
Novi sophomore

Above, Novi Senior Lauren Brennan smiles at Saturday night's prom.

"It was an evening I'll always remember."

Jenny Broadwell
Novi senior

Right, A couple cross the dance floor hand-in-hand.



Right, Novi High School students hit the dance floor during their prom at the Burton Manor last Saturday.

Budget woes: School officials need to trim \$6 million

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Consolidated School officials will be considering what programs to cut since the district is suffering from a multi-million dollar shortfall.

"We are trying to raise the revenue and lower expenditures," said superintendent James Geisler.

School officials now need to trim at least \$6 million from their budget, he said.

"The school district has been shorted \$12 to \$14 million since Proposal A passed in 1994. Schools used to get foundation grants for each student in their district. However, one of the goals of Proposal A was to give extra money to districts with declining enrollment numbers.

"At the time, more districts were declining than expanding like ours," Geisler said.

For years the Walled Lake school district was only receiving 50 percent from foundation grants. The district now receives 80 percent of its revenue from foundation grants. However, it's not enough to make up for the years the district did without.

"Now the Walled Lake district is also starting to see declining enrollment numbers, although there are still a lot of students in the district," he said.

"Fewer students means fewer foundation grants," he said.

"The school district has less money to work with while operating costs are increasing. For example, the school employee health insurance plan went up 18 percent within the last year, he said. Other operating expenses have also met with inflation.

"Therefore, the district will have to make some cuts while keeping the fundamental programs intact, he

said.

"We have to trim back a little bit," Geisler said.

Nevertheless, Geisler said he understands that any cut is too much for people who depend on a position or a program.

School board members will be considering closing the Walled Lake Outdoor Center, which is home to Fifth Grade Camp and summer camp programs. They will also be making a decision to possibly cut 22 para-professional positions at the elementary school level. There are 400 para-professionals in the district.

They will also be looking at trimming the number of student assistance coordinators in the district, he said. The Student Assistance program helps students overcome drug addictions.

"They will be making a final decision concerning what positions and programs will be cut at the June 6

School board members will be considering closing the Walled Lake Outdoor Center, which is home to Fifth Grade Camp and summer camp programs. They will also be making a decision to possibly cut 22 para-professional positions at the elementary school level. There are 400 para-professionals in the district. They will also be looking at trimming the number of student assistance coordinators in the district.

school board meeting.

However, at the May school board meeting parents and school employees expressed their concerns about the ramifications of making cuts to programs and para-professionals.

Kim Wilkins, parent of a fifth grade student, said the Outdoor Center should not be closed.

"You have to think about the

great experience it is for the kids," Wilkins said. "For some it's their first time away from home. Not every kid has the opportunity to attend a camp like this."

Suzanne Ickes, student assistance coordinator, feels the program would suffer if cuts were made.

"Student Assistance staffing is already at a bare minimum," Ickes

said.

Students will have a harder time keeping away from substance abuse if there a fewer Student Assistance coordinators to help them, she 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@ht.homecom.net.

Beningo retires

Fire captain quits during investigation

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Fire Captain Bill Beningo retired last month before answering questions during an ongoing internal investigation about him.

Beningo, a Milford resident, had been put on administrative leave in January for allegations, which city officials would not disclose.

"We had been investigating, and when it was at the point that we were going to hear his side, he opted to retire," said Philip Wawter, Walled Lake city manager.

Wawter would not give any details about the investigation of Beningo. In January, Wawter said city employees are entitled to due process during investigations of alleged employee misconduct. All city employees would be shown the same respect if they were under investigation.

Beningo's retirement stems from an early retirement package offered to all city employees who are eligible, he said.

However, Beningo was the only city employee, so far this year, to take the early retirement plan.

Mary Arine Helveston, attorney for Beningo, said Beningo decided to retire since it was offered to all employees.

"I think it was a good package," Helveston said of the retirement benefits offered to her client.

The investigation was nothing more than what often happens in the work place when there are differences, she said.

"Nothing was substantiated," Helveston said. "He felt very uncomfortable about it and decided to retire."

Beningo, who had been with the fire department for the past 15 years, was a member of the Detroit Fire Department prior to beginning his Walled Lake career. He was promoted to fire captain a few years ago.

His departure leaves Walled Lake officials with a decision to make. They now have to evaluate whether they will hire someone else to perform fire captain duties. Currently Jerry Walker, director of public safety, heads up both the fire department and the police department.

Walker will soon be discussing whether to hire someone else for the captain's position with council members, he said.

"We're reviewing the situation," Wawter said. "But we're not taking action for awhile. We're reviewing whether we need the position or not. We're looking at the whole situation."

Beningo and Walker did not return calls prior to press time.

Walled Lake Firefighters union, which would not comment on Beningo's retirement from the fire department.

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



Fire guts WL condo building

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

A fire ripped through a building at Lake Village Condominiums in Walled Lake Monday morning leaving four families without homes.

The fire on Aquaduct, started at 7:53 a.m. just as full-time firefighters Matt Salow was getting ready to leave his shift and Ryan Potter was about to begin his day.

The blaze affected all of the condominiums in the four-unit building.

"On arrival, a portion of the building was well involved with the fire," Salow said.

Novi Commerce Township and Whom firefighters helped fight the blaze. Firefighters from White Lake manned the Walled Lake Fire Station while firefighters put out the flames.

Salow didn't know what could

have started the fire, and fire investigators will be examining the cause.

No one was injured in the fire. Salow said. Only residents in two of the condominium units were home when the fire broke out.

"We forced entry on a lot of units," Salow said. "We immediately went around and evacuated the building. Our main concern was life safety. We started an aggressive interior attack until the fire vented through the roof."

Firefighters were able to get the fire under control about an hour after the blaze started.

"Jim Moore, a Lake Village resident, watched as firefighters fought flames in his complex."

"When I got to my driveway I saw the flames coming out of the roof," Moore said. "In the past 25 years since I moved here, it's the worst fire I've seen. Nobody got hurt and even the cats got out."

Resident Linda Ansler lost most of her personal belongings in her home except her two cats, who survived the fire. They were brought out safely by Potter.

Monica Lesnau, city council member, was driving by when she saw the fire trucks. She stopped by to watch the firefighters in action.

"They were so well coordinated from the fire department and police departments," even the Walled Lake Department of Public Works was here to make sure there was enough water pressure so they could effectively and quickly fight the flames."

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

Walled Lake robotics team wins second place nationally

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake robotics team students came home winners along with their robot, Audrey Sk, which won second place at the FIRST National Robotics competition in Orlando, Fla.

The team, the Walled Lake Monsters, is comprised of Walled Lake Western and Central students, who went to the final round at the national competition.

The robotics competition, which

had 292 competing student teams throughout the country, was held April 25-27, TRW, a Farmington Hills company, provided the engineering expertise for the Walled Lake Monsters robotics team to come out second place winners.

"The engineers are sort of like the text book for the kids," said Almer Malott, math and science teacher who heads up the robotics team.

Students are selected to participate in the robotics team in September. However, they don't start working on

the robot until January, which only gives them about six weeks to design and construct the robot.

The students met every Tuesday, Thursday and all day on Saturdays to get Audrey Sk ready for competition.

"They competed at the regional level in March at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti and in Grand Rapids in April before going into the final round in Florida."

The robots are teamed up with another robot, which plays a sport game by remote control in order to

eventually win top honors. Students hold the controls to make the robot move and to shoot and score.

Every year students and their robots play a different game.

"The object of the game was to get the score ball into the goals," Malott said of the game at the national level.

The top eight ranked teams advanced into the final eliminations, she said. The Walled Lake team was ranked number eight when they went into final eliminations. They teamed up with the number one ranked team

in Long Island, NY and another team from Florida. All of those teams are now second place winners.

"I couldn't believe it," Malott said. "Every time we played a game, we just kept winning. It was amazingly exciting."

Another incredible sight was to look at all of the different robots that were invented from around the country, she said.

The competition promotes team

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Police Report

Novi City Police

DOES YELLOW MEAN STOP?

A Novi Police officer arrested a Warren man for drinking and driving after watching him stop for a blinking yellow light. The officer was patrolling the area of Grand River Avenue and Meadowbrook Road on May 10 at about 2 a.m. when he noticed a 1997 green Pontiac sitting at the yellow light. He stopped behind the vehicle waiting for it to move. About 10 seconds later the car accelerated, moving all the way over into the far eastern lane almost striking the curb. The officer stopped the car and asked the 24-year-old driver for his driving information. The man said he dropped his wallet next to the seat and had a hard time retrieving it before finally showing the officer his license. The man told the officer he only had four beers and was OK to drive. After failing field sobriety tasks, the man blew a .21 and was arrested.

PULL UP YOUR PANTS

A Novi officer received quite a surprise after approaching a vehicle and finding a man with his pants down. On May 11 at about 1 a.m. the officer was dispatched to the area of Nine Mile and Taff roads to look for a sus-

pected drunk driver. The officer located the described white Ford truck, following the driver as he drove the vehicle across lane markings. The officer stopped the truck. As he approached the Ford, the officer smelled a strong odor of instantants and noticed the man's pants were pulled down to his knees. The Detroit driver told the officer he was coming from his family's house near Beech Daly and Nine Mile roads and was on the way to his house near Telegraph Road. According to the report, the man said he thought he was in Bedford. During field sobriety tasks the man stepped twice stating, "I'm straight" and "I'm good." He blew a .218 and was arrested by police.

BAD DRIVER

On May 12 at about 10 p.m. a Novi police officer was dispatched to a vehicle road run-off in the area of Interstate 96 and Beck Road. Upon arrival, the officer noticed a Chevrolet Beretta in the ditch with three people standing near-by. After identifying the driver, the officer interviewed him while smelling a strong odor of intoxicants and noticing slurred speech. The 22-year-old Brighton male told the officer he was traveling to Brighton from Wixom. When the officer asked him how that could be since Wixom was west of Beck Road, the man said nothing.

Walled Lake Police

POP GOES THE MONEY

An officer was dispatched to Al's Copper Mug May 13 when restaurant personnel noticed that money had been taken out of the pop machine near Al's batting cages. The worker said he went to empty the dollar bill collector from the pop machine and it only had one dollar in it. He stated that the key to the pop machine had been missing for a few days. The machine should of had \$60 dollars in it for the amount of pop that was missing. However, only one dollar was left behind. The case is still open.

BEER FOR FREE? NO

Police were dispatched to Farmer Jack's grocery store May 8 when the store manager caught a 34-year-old Walled Lake man pilfering a 12-pack of Busch beer inside his coat. Police asked him why he took the beer. The man told the officer that it was a stupid thing

Deadline for election candidate filing passes

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

With the passing of the deadline for filing for an election run on May 14, the candidates are set in stone for the upcoming Michigan elections later this year. The candidates for the 8th District Oakland County Commissioner, the 38th District State Representative seat, and the new judgeship at the 52nd District, First Division District Court are readying themselves for the primary election date on Aug. 6. The general election will follow on Nov. 5.

PURSE-SNATCHING

A police officer was dispatched to the station May 11 when a 36-year-old Commerce Township woman said someone took her purse at the Boat House restaurant the night before. She went back to the restaurant the next day to check again but restaurant employees said a purse was not turned in to them. Her checkbook and debit card was in the purse. She was advised to freeze all accounts. The case is still open.

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Walled Lake Police

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Judge candidate coming to Novi

By Karl Kling
MILFORD TIMES EDITOR



Sara P. Starnes

Don't expect to see Sara Pope Starnes before 5 p.m. But expect to see her at your door sometime between now and the Aug. 6 primary.

Starnes, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Oakland County, is one of the hopefuls for the 52-1 District Court judgeship up for grabs this summer. Due to her position with the county, Starnes is unable to campaign during what is considered normal business hours, an obstacle she hopes to overcome with an extensive door-to-door campaign. Her campaign has indicated that they have walked through all of Walled Lake and will be focusing on Novi and Novi Township in the area, the amount of work will only rise to its current level in a few very short years.

"My strength is my organizational skills," Starnes said. "We need a judge who makes sure the parties involved adhere to the schedule." Starnes is quick to point out that congestion in the courtroom is rarely the fault of a specific judge, but is more of an indictment of the legal system as a whole.

While Starnes would gladly state that while organizational skills and a tireless campaigning effort are two attributes which will get her into the chair, and allow her to dictate the flow upon arrival, her greatest characteristics, according to her, are fairness and strength.

"During my years as a prosecu-

tor, I have been in court with some of the areas most violent people," Starnes said. "You need to be the spokesperson for the victim and you need to be strong for them. As a judge, I will be able to utilize the same strength, but also you cannot rule with any prejudices. Each case must start with a clean slate."

Starnes greatest showing of strength may have been when her first husband, Tim, suffered a terrible accident and was in a coma for six months, before eventually dying from his injuries.

"I was a single mother and a full-time prosecutor. That changed my reality and my perspective," Starnes said. "I learned not to sweat the small stuff and appreciate what I have."

Starnes was instrumental in building a playscape at the Community Sports Park in Novi in 1997 as a tribute to Tim. She had the architects speak to children in the Novi Schools for ideas and drawings of what they wanted in their playscape.

"That structure shows what I can do when I put my mind to it," Starnes said.

Starnes newest obstacle will be getting to your doorstep before the Aug. 6 primary.

"I am hoping I have enough time. I work for the county so I don't campaign during normal business hours," she said.

If Starnes wants to be the next judge for the 52-1 District Court, she will need to become, as Ted Nugent said in the '70s, a weekend warrior.

Sara P. Starnes

Richard Clark, mayor of Novi, watches as Kleron Dean, a volunteer from the Neighborhood Service Organization, etches the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into his car's windshield at AAA Michigan's Novi/Walled Lake sales office. AAA and the Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority sponsor the free VIN etching program to help deter auto theft.

Etching takes only about 10 minutes and does not harm the vehicle.

Etching of the VIN into a vehicle's windows can help deter theft because auto thieves know they will have to replace the window glass on the vehicle before they can sell it to a chop shop. When a thief sees the sticker indicating a vehicle's glass has



Etch protection

been etched, he will likely move on to another target, AAA auto-theft experts say. The etching takes only about 10 minutes and does no harm to the vehicle.

AAA Michigan provided the free VIN etching service at the Novi/Walled Lake office as part of grand opening festivities May 3. But the service also will be offered throughout the summer and fall at other AAA Michigan locations in Southeast Michigan. The free service is available to the general public as well as AAA members.

Anyone interested in getting their vehicle etched can find out locations and dates for the free service by calling AAA Michigan's Community Relations department toll-free at 1-800-648-4222.

Richard Clark, mayor of Novi, watches as Kleron Dean, a volunteer from the Neighborhood Service Organization, etches the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into his car's windshield at AAA Michigan's Novi/Walled Lake sales office. AAA and the Michigan Auto Theft Prevention Authority sponsor the free VIN etching program to help deter auto theft.

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At Northville, Michigan

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Savings bond author offers help

Savings bonds appear simple enough. Buy them, hold them and eventually cash them. But bond owners often make costly mistakes. "Because they do not receive a statement outlining important interest rates and timing issues, bond owners commonly make decisions without adequate information," states Daniel J. Pederson, author of Savings Bonds: When to Hold, When to Fold.

Pederson, who will be speaking at the Northville District Library, outlines two common savings bond mistakes and how to avoid them.

Mistake #1: Holding Bonds That No Longer Earn Interest. Americans hold more than \$8.9 billion in savings bonds that no longer earn interest—over \$120 million in the Metro Detroit area. If you have a bond that was issued prior to June 1962, it is not earning any interest. If your bond was issued between December 1965 and May 1972, it is not earning any interest. Bonds issued November 1965 and before earn interest for forty years. Bonds issued December 1965 and after earn interest for thirty years (except HH bonds, which earn interest for twenty). For some, simply finding the bonds is a challenge.

Mistake #2: Not Researching Lost Bonds. Remember those bonds that you received when you were a child, or the ones you bought while in the service? What happened to them? The government will research and replace lost bonds free of charge for legitimate claims. In fact, everyone should

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Lee Murdock
Musician, Songwriter, Great Lakes Balladeer

7:30 p.m.
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Novi Schools hosts Festival of the Arts

Novi Schools' Spring Festival of the Arts will host the district's talents in the fine arts, featuring performances in music, drama and dance. The annual event will hit the Novi High School on May 21, with activities beginning at 4 p.m.

Over 400 pieces of artwork will also be exhibited by Novi students at the event. The art will represent students from each grade level and school buildings in the district, kindergarten through the 12th grade.

The festival's feature program, the Gala Performance, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Forest Auditorium, with performances by the Novi High School Wind Ensemble, the Novi Singers, the radio and broadcasting department and the Novi High School Symphonic Ensemble. Also, for the first time participating in the program, dance students and the Concert Singing Quartet will make their way to center stage.

The Novi Festival Singers — a group of vocalists composed of Novi High School Choral students, parents, district employees and other community members — will close the concert. The Singers will perform "Restoration of Freedom," a 1943 work composed by Randall Thompson in honor of Thomas Jefferson's 200th birthday. It will feature songs based on four passages from Jefferson's writings.

The Spring Festival of the Arts is sponsored by the Novi Creative Arts Collaborative.

Community Events

Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority Business Owners Meeting

DATE: Thursday, May 16
LOCATION: Boathouse, 142 East Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake
TIME: 5:30 p.m. with cash bar, light appetizers and networking, followed by formal program at 6 p.m.
DETAILS: Featured presentations will include an update on M-5, Main Street Oakland County News, and Main Street Oakland County Design Assistance Program. Chairs from Walled Lake Main Street committees will inform attendees on the projects the groups have undertaken and seek new volunteers.
PHONE: Tracey White Carlson, (248) 926-9001.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

DATE: May 17-19
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile (between Novi and I-96)
TIME: 7:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday performances; 3 p.m. for Sunday.
DETAILS: The Novi Theatre's Children's Arts and Life People Players production of C.S. Lewis' piece. Reserved seats are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.
PHONE: (248) 549-0400.

Commerce Township Annual Community Breakfast

DATE: Tuesday, May 21
LOCATION: El Duero Country Club, 2659 N. Pontiac Trail, Commerce Twp.
TIME: 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
DETAILS: Cost \$15.00
PHONE: Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce office, 248-624-2826.

Savings Bonds: Seven Costly Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

DATE: Tuesday, May 21

LOCATION: Northville District Library, 212 W. Coyle Street

TIME: 1 and 6:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Daniel J. Pederson, a former supervisor of the Savings Bond Division of the Federal Reserve Bank and author of Savings Bonds: When to Hold, When to Fold and Everything In-Between, will speak at the free seminar. All attendees will be offered a free state-ment outlining the details of their savings bond holdings.
PHONE: Marjane Crimaldo, (600) 927-1901 to R.S.V.P.

Rummage Sale

DATE: May 31 and June 1
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 W. Ten Mile, Novi
TIME: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., respectively.
DETAILS: All profits of sale will go to local charities. From 1 p.m. on Saturday, merchandise will be sold for \$1 per grocery bag; bring your own bag. At 3:15 p.m., any leftover merchandise will be free.
PHONE: (248) 349-1175, 9 a.m.-noon

AAU Baton Twirling Qualifier

DATE: Saturday, June 1
LOCATION: Sora Banks Middle School, Wadon
DETAILS: The Michigan AAU Association Baton Twirling Championships for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). This competition 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.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & The Walled Lake Fire Dept. 25th Annual Scramble Golf Outing

DATE: Monday, June 3
LOCATION: Mystic Creek Golf Club, One Champions Circle, Millard
TIME: 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, four person scramble format.
DETAILS: Join us for a relaxing day of golf, food, prizes and friends! This is a scramble outing and everybody has an opportunity to help the team win, whether you play once a year or once a week. Proceeds will benefit the Chamber Business Community and the Walled Lake Fire Department's Fire Prevention Educational Equipment.
PHONE: Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, 248-624-2826.

Huron Valley-Sisal Hospital 8th Annual Golf Invitational

DATE: Tuesday, June 11
LOCATION: Northville Hills Golf Club
TIME: 7:30 a.m.-registration, 8:30 a.m.-shotgun start, scramble format, lunch buffet with awards and silent auction to follow.
DETAILS: This event provides support to programs, projects and patients at our hospital.
PHONE: Office of Development, Huron Valley-Sisal Hospital, 248-937-3627.

Rep. Nancy Cassis Golf Outing

DATE: Friday, June 21
LOCATION: Links of Novi
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-registration, 10:00 a.m. shotgun start, steak dinner/reception immediately following golf.

Smoking Cessation Program

DATE: Saturday, June 22
LOCATION: Novi Park, Providence Medical Center (Grand River & Beck)
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: The Wellness Seminar, a two-hour session which combines the power of hypnosis and behavior modification. Participants learn to stop smoking without weight gain or withdrawal. The first 45 minutes of each session are free orientation. If the participant feels comfortable with the program, then they pay a one-time fee of \$59.
PHONE: (877) 345-5500

Weight Reduction Program

DATE: Saturday, June 22
LOCATION: Novi Park, Providence Medical Center (Grand River & Beck)
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: The Wellness Seminar, a two-hour session which combines the power of hypnosis and behavior modification. Participants learn to lose weight by controlling overeating. The first 45 minutes of each session are free orientation. If the participant feels comfortable with the program, then they pay a one-time fee of \$59.
PHONE: (877) 345-5500

American Cancer Society Third Annual Relay For Life

DATE: Saturday, June 22 to Sunday, June 23
LOCATION: Novi Middle School
TIME: 10 a.m., Saturday to 10 a.m., Sunday
DETAILS: Team-based fundraising event. Participants will spend a full 24 hours walking laps on the track, socializing, picnicking, playing games, dancing.

International Association for Exposition Management 8th Annual Golf Outing

DATE: Wednesday, August 7
LOCATION: Links of Novi
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.-registration, 10:00 a.m. shotgun start, four person scramble format, steak dinner and awards reception immediately afterward.
DETAILS: Whether you are a veteran golfer, or just beginning to learn the game, we invite you to join in the fun! Proceeds to benefit IAEA and the Dwarf Athletic Association of America.
PHONE: For additional information, please contact Terri Freitag at 248/348-5600 ext. 205.

To get your event listed, call editor Cal Stone at (248) 349-1700 or e-mail him at cstone@hmc.com.



The Lizard of Oz

Students at Deerfield Elementary spun a time-tested classic, "The Wizard of Oz," in a new direction last month when their brand new musical, a Spanish language version of the old favorite, "The Lizard of Oz," Deerfield Spanish teacher Betsy Brown and music teacher Ainsley Sonntag co-wrote and directed the bilingual musical, which featured Doreen leaving Novi in her dreams for Chirore Mayo Land, where "every day is a fiesta." The notable hero encounters a cast of characters on her adventures down "calle azul," the blue road, including the Cowardly Matador who is looking for courage while being pursued by a disgruntled bull.

The students performed "The Lizard of Oz" for Deerfield parents and students on April 29-30.

"This is a unique experience that helps tap the potential of the individual student and provides a vehicle for building self-confidence," Brown said.

Novi students test their drama skills up north

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi High School students took their knack for drama and speech on the road last week, competing in the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association (MIFA) State Forensic Finals in Marquette.

Eight Novi students put their acting and communication skills up against more than 950 other high school students in the statewide competition at Northern Michigan University on May 3-4.

Bessie Song, a Novi High School sophomore, earned a first-place finish in the state for the oratory

category, a persuasive speaking division. In the duo category — with students presenting a 10-minute short scene of a play in pairs — Novi High School students Lauren Lopez and Chris Sandberg finished second for their presentation of a piece from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" by Edward Albee.

Lopez said the MIFA competition enhanced her knowledge of the many elements required to produce a play, including stage blocking and character interpretation.

"It was a nice experience," she said. "We met a lot of people and learned about different pieces and authors."

Lopez played the vulgar and drunken Martha in the Albee play set in the 1940s.

"It was challenging," Lopez said. "Martha was difficult to relate to."

Novi High School students Todd Wash and Steve Slaga took a fifth-place finish in the duo category with a 10-minute presentation from "The Zoo Story" by Caryl Chessell, Ashwini Hariker, and Rene Rao also competed at the forensic state finals in informative speaking, poetry and impromptu speaking categories, respectively.

"Novi represented themselves well and were wonderful competitors, making lots of friends in their

categories," said Heather McKaig, the Novi High School drama teacher.

McKaig said the students have been working hard on their pieces since December, rehearsing their performances after school and at home steadily since January.

Students competing for the MIFA State Forensic Finals by successfully qualified at five district- and regional-level competitions in January and March.

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

Middle schoolers knit for HAVEN, help abused women and children

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Debra Levy's eighth-grade students at Novi Middle School used their creative ambitions and classroom time to help some abused Michigan women and children.

Levy's enrichment class took up knitting and are making multi-colored scarves during class. To utilize their new homemaking skills

for a worthwhile cause, the students are donating their newly-handmade winter garb to HAVEN, a shelter for abused women and children in Pontiac.

"We wanted to give the scarves to people who would benefit from them," Levy said.

The up-and-coming needle-and-yarn pushers expect to make about 20 scarves by June and donate their creations to Haven at the end

of the school year. HAVEN representative Claudia Nafsu will speak to the eighth-grade students and collect their donations on June 12.

Levy said the knitting enrichment class achieved two goals at once. It gave students an opportunity to learn a craft they might not otherwise try and experience giving back to the community.

Unsure of the task at hand, the eighth-graders quickly dismissed

the knitting stereotypes and rallied around the class project.

"I thought knitting was something grandmas did, but it is interesting," said Novi Middle School student Courtney Ratkowiak.

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

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Need a golden tan or swimwear to complement it? The friendly and knowledgeable staff at Sunseekers Tanning & Boutique says they've got you covered. Opening just a year ago in Huntington Square Shopping Center on Pontiac Trail north of 10 Mile Road, Sue Schram says their staff strives to provide clients with the best possible service offered in an extremely clean environment. "We have had numerous clients compliment us on how clean the salon is and how nice it is to tan with us," Schram said.

The salon is completely computerized, which helps with skin typing a client and setting up personal time factors to achieve the best possible tan — all in a controlled environment. Each session time is recorded under a personal ID number, so the staff has a client's information for their next visit," Schram said.

Lamps in the beds are changed on a regular basis, and at the same time so clients can feel confident they are getting the same quality results no matter which salon they use. "We also carry a large selection of lotions and moisturizers, and encourage our clients to protect their skin before and after tanning," she said.

Look no further for your next swimwear. Sizes include children's 4T to 10T2, juniors, from extra-small to large, women's sizes up to 26T3, and men's sizes small to extra-large. "We have the largest selection of swimwear and cover-ups in the area," Schram noted.

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Obituaries

Elmer L. Peterson

Elmer Peterson, 79, of South Lyon, formerly of Northville, died May 9, 2002. He was born on March 22, 1923, in Goddard, Mich. to the late Archie and Marie (Ivory) Peterson.

He was a Vietnam veteran and earned a Bronze Star. He was a member of several Cancer Support Groups. Survivors include his wife, Janet Peterson, two sons, Weston (Michelle) and Nicholas, a sister, Roseann Sue Lamotte, and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held May 9 at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, 22011 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, Mich. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden Cemetery, Novi. Arrangements were made by O'Hara/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, Mich., 48375.

Louis Sibole Jr.

Louis Sibole Jr., 77, formerly of Novi, died May 6, 2002, in Mooresville, N.C. He was born Feb. 2, 1925, in Detroit. Mr. Sibole served as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1943-1946 with active duty in the Pacific. In 1946 he joined the Detroit Fire Dept. as a fire engine operator working on Engine 51.

Richard W. Lawton

Richard W. Lawton, 59, of Troy died May 11, 2002, at Bloomfield Hills Care Center, Bloomfield Township, Mich. He was born April 14, 1943 in Detroit. Survivors include one daughter, Sherry L. Lawton of Novi; one son, Eric G. (Sandra) Lawton of Columbus, Ind.; two brothers, Gordon H. (Ellen) Lawton of Troy and Donald E. (Rothy) Lawton of East Lansing, Mich.; and two grandchildren.

Vincenzo E. Iannotti

Vincenzo Iannotti, age 53, died May 6, 2002, in Harper Hospital, Detroit. He was born June 16, 1948. Mr. Iannotti was employed at Ford Motor Company as a field service engineer for 23 years and was ASE certified. He graduated from Wayne State University in 1979 with a degree in humanities.

Library Lines

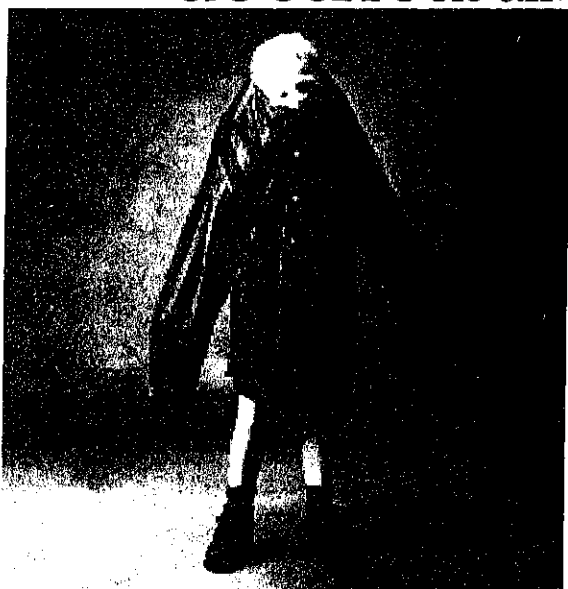
LIBRARY HOURS - The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. (Note: Beginning May 26, the library will be closed on Sundays during the summer. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Fair. For more information, call 349-0720.

TEEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - The library's Youth Services department is looking for teen volunteers to help with our Summer Reading Program. Volunteers should be in the 6th grade or above and be able to work two hours a week from June 24 to August 2. Applications are now available in the library and must be returned by Wednesday, May 29. For more information, please contact one of our Youth Services librarians.

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSING - The library will be closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.



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CITY OF NOVI Water & Sewer Department 26300 DeWalt Drive, Novi, Michigan 48375

April 22, 2002

2001 CONSUMERS ANNUAL REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

The City of Novi is pleased to present the 2001 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report contains mandatory information about water quality issues and potential health effects, lists the source of our water and provides the results of the water quality monitoring program for 2001. The treatment and monitoring of our drinking water complex with all mandatory Federal and State Drinking Water Regulations. If the water quality is compromised, we will notify our customers immediately.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Health Effect: Lead is a common metal found throughout the environment in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, certain types of pottery, porcelain, pewter and water. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body. It builds up over many years and can cause damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, Units, MCLG, MCL, Average Level Detected, Range. Rows include Inorganic Chemicals, Nitrate, and Radioactive Contaminants.

Table with 2 columns: Measurement, Value. Rows include Turbidity (0.16 NTU) and Cloudiness (100%).

Table with 4 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Highest Number Detected. Rows include Total Coliform Bacteria and Total Coliform.

Table with 6 columns: Contaminant, Test Date, Units, MCLG, MCL, Average Level Detected, Range. Rows include Bromochloroethane, Bromoform, Dibromochloroethane, Sodium, Sulfate, and Trihalomethane (Chloroform).

Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant 2001 Unregulated Detected Contaminants Tables. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, Test Date, Units, MCLG, MCL, Average Level Detected, Range. Rows include Bromochloroethane, Bromoform, Dibromochloroethane, Sodium, Sulfate, and Trihalomethane (Chloroform).

Table with 2 columns: Abbreviation for Contaminant, Definition/Explanation. Rows include MCLG, MCL, and ppb.

Table with 2 columns: Abbreviation for Contaminant, Definition/Explanation. Rows include ppb, ppm, NTU, FT, TDS, and NA.

Engagements



Best-Mergos

Patrick and Joan Best of Novi announce the engagement of their son, David Kenneth Best, to Lindsay Leigh Mergos, daughter of Fred and Connie Mergos of Harper Woods.

The bride-elect graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1994 and Michigan State University, College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2002. She will be employed by Garden City Hospital.



Ginn-Priddy

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Ginn, Sr. of Battle Creek, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth A. Ginn, to Kevin M. Priddy, son of Bob and Carol Priddy of Livonia.

The groom-elect graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1991 and received an MBA from Walsh College. He is currently employed by Commonwealth Financial.

INDOOR WEATHER TEAM 28TH YEAR. Includes logo and contact information for United Temperature.

NOVI TOWN CENTER 6. Includes movie guide for Star Wars Episode 2: Attack of the Clones and other films.

Co-op students thank local businesses

NHS hosts annual breakfast event

By Angelo Parlove Staff Writer

The Novi High School co-op students hosted their annual appreciation breakfast for their employers on May 3 in honor of the area businesses who have hired them in the past year. The event was held at the Novi Civic Center.

Furthermore, Big Day received the Employer of the Year award at the appreciation breakfast. Each year the award is given to a business for their excellent training of students.

"Big Day has employed Novi students for the past four years, and they have done an outstanding job of training and guiding students in the culinary arts field," said Barb CMI, the Novi High School business education and co-op coordinator.

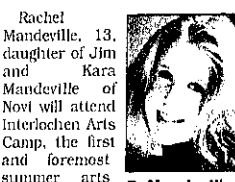
paid and earn school credit. Their letter grade is based on a quarterly evaluation by employers.

"I get an idea what it's like to be in a real job situation," said Young of his co-op job. "I have really developed my communication skills. I

talk and work with so many different people."

Young began working in January for Tower Automotive, where he gains on-the-job training in a corporate setting, including working experience alongside engineers, accountants and business managers.

Mandeville heading to Interlochen Camp



R. Mandeville

Rachel Mandeville, 13, daughter of Jim and Kara Mandeville of Novi will attend Interlochen Arts Camp, the first and foremost summer arts program for youth in the United States. She will study Musical Theatre at the camp, which in 2002 celebrates its 75th summer of pioneering arts education.

PARISIAN TWO DAYS ONLY! FRIDAY, MAY 17 & SATURDAY, MAY 18! customer appreciation TAKE AN EXTRA 20% OFF EVERY* PURCHASE! Includes promotional text and contact information for Parisian.

Novi City Briefs

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The City of Novi invites all area residents to attend its 2002 Memorial Day Parade and Service beginning at the Novi Civic Center. The service will feature guest speaker Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson of the Tuskegee Army with a very special patriotic finale accompanied by the parade. This year's special parade guests include the Lions Airforce Devitt Squadron, Oakland County Sheriff's Department Mounted Division and many special Novi groups. The event begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 27. The Novi Civic Center is located on 10 Mile Road, between Novi and Tall Road. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

SWEET DREAMZZZ

On Tuesday, April 30 Diane Powers of Novi received the "Take Time to Care" award from the Humana Club of Detroit. Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit nominated Diane for her commitment to the non-profit organization. Since learning of the Detroit group in 2000, the award recipient has done many helpful deeds including acquiring more than 2000 bath items for children's gift bags, worked the December 2000 holiday party, coordinated a clothing drive for 700 children, held a fall 2001 fundraiser in her home and assumed a position on the group's advisory board. The goal of the Detroit group is to provide at-risk children with the essentials for a good night's sleep. With the help of Sweet Dreamzzz, more than 8,000 children have received sleeping bags, nightshirts, stuffed animals, toothbrushes and toothpaste. For more information about the organization, call (248) 478-3242.

"THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE" This weekend the Novi Theatre's Children's Annex and little people players present "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" at the Novi Civic Center. The production, adapted from the book written by C.S. Lewis, will be performed 7:30 p.m. May 17 through 18 and at 3 p.m. May 19. Tickets are \$8 if purchased in advance at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department or \$10 at the door. The Novi Civic Center is located at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, between Novi and Tall roads. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

FREE CONCERT AT BORDERS

Musician Neil Jacobs will be performing a complimentary, in-store performance 8 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Borders of Novi. Known as the "master of the 12-string guitar," Jacobs will be providing a dynamic performance, including diverse and varied selections such as gypsy, world, Balkan folk, jazz and fingerstyle guitar. Borders is located at 43075 Crescent Blvd. in the Novi Town Center. For more information, call (248) 347-0780.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC AUCTION

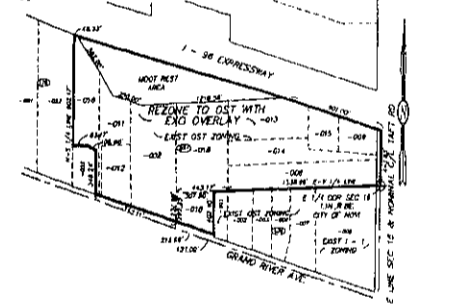
The City of Novi will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Saturday, May 18, 2002. LOCATION: Thompson Glass 43728 Grand River Avenue Novi, MI 48375 TIME: 9:30 A.M., Prevailing Eastern Time 9:00-9:30 A.M. TERMS: Cash or personal check with VALID Michigan Driver's License. ALL items are sold AS IS. All items must be removed day of auction. CAROL J. KALINOVIK PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-0446 (5-16-02 NR/NN 1109639)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 02-014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Campbell/Manix Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction trailer at 44575 W. Twelve Mile Road (Timber Creek Ica Fontaines West) from the date of the meeting until December 31, 2002. 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 3:15 p.m. on May 22, 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 May 22, 2002. TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY (248) 347-0415 (5-16-02 NN 1109627)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.620

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS: Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.620, attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance. Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed. Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and are hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is May 21, 2002.



To rezone a part of the East 1/2 of Section 16, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of Section 16, thence along the E-W 1/4 line S86°56'26"W 1338.99 feet; and S87°03'52"W 443.17 feet, thence S02°41'12"E 237.68 feet to a point on the North line of Grand River Avenue, 100 ft. wide thence along said North line, N73°36'32"W 752.11 feet, thence parallel to the N-S 1/4 line of Section 16, N02°16'13"W 349.24 feet, thence N73°29'47"W 109.65 feet, thence S87°43'18"W 83.17 feet to a point on said N-S 1/4 line, said point being N02°16'13"W 358.73 feet from the center of Section 16, thence along said N-S 1/4 line N02°16'13"W 902.17 feet to a point on the Southern right-of-way line of the I-96 Expressway, thence along said Southern line following five courses, S71°15'57"E 48.52 feet and S35°10'26"E 582.00 feet and S74°31'57"E 250.00 feet and N80°06'20"E 1219.56 feet and S74°31'57"E 901.10 feet to the East line of Section 16 (nominal centerline of Tall Road); thence S02°54'06"E 443.83 feet along said East line to the point of beginning, containing 44.851 acres. Also, parcel 22-15-25-133W 243.82 feet and S73°02'17"E 853.82 feet from the center of Section 16, thence N01°47'39"W 292.25 feet; thence N87°37'20"E 307.90 feet; thence S02°59'15"E 402.40 feet; thence N73°16'39"W 121.09 feet, thence N73°02'17"W 212.89 feet to the pole of beginning, containing 2.48 acres. Also including that parcel of land currently used for the Michigan Department of Transportation rest area, containing 7.76 acres. FROM: OST OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY TO: OST WITH EXO OVERLAY ORDINANCE NO. 18.620 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 620 MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan this 6th day of May, 2002. Copies of the Zoning Map Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time. RICHARD J. CLARK, MAYOR MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (5-16-02 NR/NN 1109285)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2002-2003 BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY 2002-2003 BUDGET at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, May 20, 2002. Said hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be reached, at the Novi Civic Center Council Chamber, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan. Interested citizens may appear and present written and/or verbal comments on the proposed budget. A copy of the proposed 2002-2003 budget is currently available at the Novi Civic Center, Office of the City Clerk for public inspection, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan. MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (5-16-02 NR/NN 1109735)

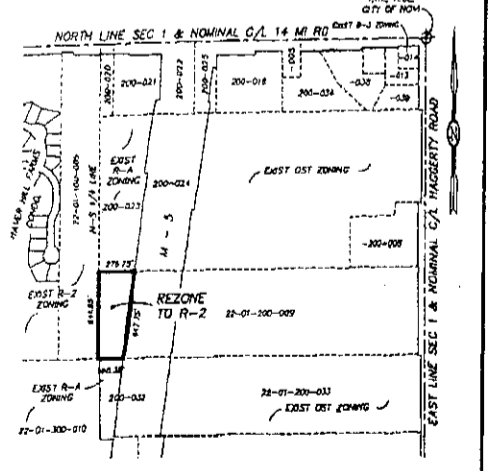
NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS LAKESHORE PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Lakeshore Park Playground Equipment according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director. Attention: The Contractor and Subcontractors on this project must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Requirements, Anti-Kickback Act, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and Department of Labor Standards and Regulations as set forth in the Contract Bid Documents. A voluntary Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2002 at 10:00 A.M., prevailing Eastern Time in the Council Chambers located at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M., prevailing Eastern Time, Thursday, June 13, 2002, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows: CITY OF NOVI CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "Lakeshore Park Playground Equipment" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER. The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informals or both, to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi. Notice dated: May 16, 2002 CAROL J. KALINOVIK PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-0446 (5-16-02 NR/NN 1109095)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.618

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS: Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.618, attached hereto and made a part of this Ordinance. Part II. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS REPEALED. Any Ordinance or parts of any Ordinance in conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed. Part III. WHEN EFFECTIVE. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety and are hereby ordered to take effect fifteen (15) days after final enactment. The effective date of this Ordinance is May 21, 2002.



To rezone a part of the NE 1/4 of Section 1, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being part of parcel 22-01-200-009 more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the West right-of-way line of the M-5 Highway, said point being S02°40'22"E 2483.18 feet along the East line of Section 1 (nominal C.T. of Haggerty Road) and S86°43'09"W 2594.58 feet from the NE corner of Section 1; thence continuing S86°43'09"W 190.38 feet to a point on the N-S 1/4 line of Section 1; thence N02°48'02"W 641.65 feet along said N-S 1/4 line, thence N86°48'52"E 276.75 feet to a point on the West right-of-way line of the M-5 Highway; thence S04°53'41"W 647.75 feet along said right-of-way line to the point of beginning, containing 3.44 acres. FROM: R-2 RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE R-2 ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. 18.618 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 618 MADE AND PASSED by the City Council of the City of Novi, Michigan this 6th day of May, 2002. Copies of the Zoning Map Amendment may be purchased or inspected at the Office of the City Clerk, Novi, Michigan, weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, local time. RICHARD J. CLARK, MAYOR MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (5-16-02 NR/NN 1109256)

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will be interviewing applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Construction Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee, Library Board, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, June 10, 2002 beginning at 7:30 P.M. If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City board or commission, applications are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.ci.novi.mi.us to print out an application. Please submit your application by Wednesday, June 5, 2002 to allow time for scheduling appointments. Interviews are 15 minutes each; all City Council meetings are televised. MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (5-29/16/23/30-02 NR/NN 1109282)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 02-013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Linens N Things is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a tent sale at 43235 Crescent Blvd. from May 24, 2002 until May 27, 2002. 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 May 22, 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 May 22, 2002. TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY (248) 347-0415 (5-16-02 NN 1109529)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248)349-1700

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Mendota/Dorset Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 8:45am Worship 10:00am Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0565

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook P. Novi on B/Lf. M/te Morning Worship 10:00am Church School 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48375 Sacraments 8:00am - 9:00am Sunday 8:30 & 11:30am Pastor: Thomas J. Cook, Pastor Parish Office: 347-7778

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4420 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. David J. Thompson, Pastor Rev. Anne Sporens Associate Pastor Church Office: 349-1830

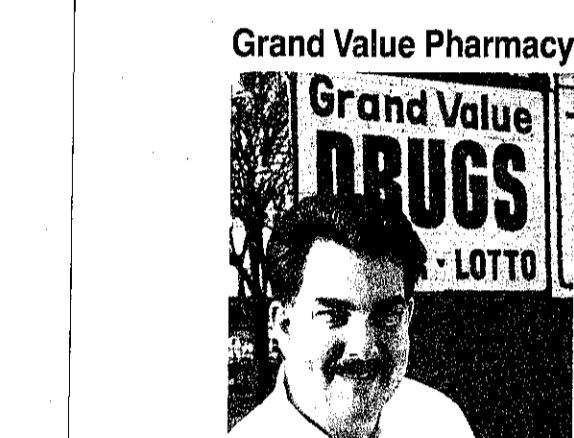
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between East & Back, Novi Phone: 349-1175 Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery

Your Church Directory could be here! Your Church Directory could be here!

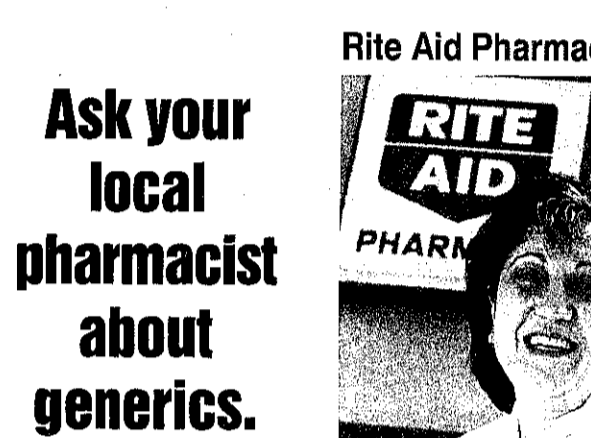
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Want the truth about generic drugs?

Generic drugs are proven safe and effective.



Grand Value pharmacist Kevin White agrees, "Generics have to meet certain FDA standards and meet certain chemical equivalency requirements to show they are exactly the same."



Rite Aid pharmacist Sara Fakhoury agrees, "The FDA approves the medicine after it's tested. When it comes to my shelves, it's tested; it's a 100% proof that I can give it to my customers."

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research "Health professionals and consumers can be assured that FDA approved generic drugs have met the same rigid standards as the innovator (brand-name) drug. To gain FDA approval, a generic must: contain the same active ingredients as the innovator (brand-name) drug (inactive ingredients may vary) be identical in strength, dosage form and route of administration have the same use indications be bioequivalent meet the same batch requirements for identity, strength, purity, and quality be manufactured under the same strict standards of FDA's good manufacturing practice regulations required for innovator (brand-name) products."

Demand Generics! Michigan Pharmacists Association logo and Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan logo with website www.bcbsm.com

On Campus

Matthew John Carcone, son of Angelo and Sue Carcone of Novi, recently graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. Carcone is a graduate of Novi High School.

Mary Margaret Carcone, wife of former Novi resident Michael A. Carcone, recently graduated from Michigan State University School

of Osteopathic Medicine. She will begin her internship in June. She is the daughter of Anita O'Connor, of Redford, and Michael and Laura O'Connor, of Sinton's Bay.

Omar Maurice Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alford Young of Novi, has been named to the dean's list for fall 2001 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., in the John M. Olin School of Business. Superfisky is a graduate of Novi High School.

Sciences. Young is a graduate of Univ. Detroit Jesuit High School.

Ann Elizabeth Superfisky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Superfisky of Novi, has been named to the dean's list for fall 2001 semester at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., in the John M. Olin School of Business. Superfisky is a graduate of Novi High School.

Maria Schimzli, daughter of Tony and Mary Schimzli of Novi, was named to the dean's list for Adriatic College for the 2001-2002 school year.

Shannon Ringvelski, of Novi, a 2000 graduate of Mercy High School, is the new editor of Let's Go! Rome 2003 at Let's Go Publications. Previously at Let's

Go, she has been an associate editor for Let's Go! Italy 2002.

Ringvelski is a sophomore at Harvard University concentrating in history and literature. She is a member of the Harvard Objectivists and Vox Literary Magazine. After college, she plans to work in editing.

Researched, written and edited entirely by students, Let's Go is a budget travel guide series. It started

in 1960 as a 20-page mimeographed pamphlet that a handful of well-traveled students at Harvard University handed out, offering a collection of their tips on budget travel to passengers on student charter flights to Europe.

Today, annual teams of 300+ editors and researchers produce 67 titles, and Let's Go: Europe reigns as the world's best-selling international travel guide.

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State Farm will be conducting free inspections on child car seats nationwide. Visit the safe. My state is your state to make sure your child's seat is safe.

Child Safety Day
May 18th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
State Farm Insurance
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Novi, MI

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(Frequently Asked Questions)

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Will I put the fat back on after a few months? Not if you follow a diet and exercise routine.

How does it work? Fat is removed. The resulting subcutaneous scarring shrinks the skin, improving the body's contour.

At what age should I have this done? The procedure is successful at any age, however younger skin has more elasticity and is better able to contract or shrink following surgery.

Will I lose any weight? Not necessarily...but liposuction will change how your clothes fit. And if you maintain a good diet and exercise, the effects will be longlasting.

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Moms enjoy a day off in WL

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Mother's Day started a day early in Walled Lake this year. Area mothers enjoyed a day of shopping and relaxation May 11 while their kids were being watched for free at Tutor Time in Walled Lake.

"We were excited about the level of participation and interest from the business community," said Tracy Conlon, Downtown Development Authority Main Street manager. "We felt it went real well for a first-time event. We think next year will be even better."

Charlene Long, DDA administrative assistant and member of the DDA promotions committee, said mothers were grateful for the event. "I had one mom fax me a note that said this was so nice for a mom like me," Long said.

Many business owners participated by placing a large pink bow out

side of their business. They also donated everything from free lunch cuts to free meals at local restaurants to drawing prize winners.

There were also a few unusual prizes for lucky mothers. Dr. Steven Burns at the Walled Lake Veterinary Hospital donated a \$120 heart worm exam and treatment for poodles while Glenora Golf Club donated five golf lessons and rounds of golf.

Mothers got their blood pressure checked by Walled Lake's Med-Bent, which was stationed at Stonerest. They then were able to talk to a chiropractor, Dr. Norman Cotten, and about breast cancer with Barb Iwan with the American Cancer Society.

Susan Freeman, co-owner of Med-Bent with brother Ray McCollum and Sharon Alexander, said more

mothers frequented the stores than checking in at the free health screenings. However, there were many mothers who did take time out from their shopping adventures to check their blood pressure.

"It's just a first event with many to come," Freeman said. "We're so excited about the events coming to Walled Lake."

Susan Linnan, owner of All For Walls and DDA promotions committee member, said she had a few new customers drop in her store because of the event.

"I had a decorating workshop," Linnan said. "We had a good turnout."

The event was successful, she said. "I think it did so much for the perception of Walled Lake," Linnan said. "To my knowledge there wasn't one problem. The whole thing went off without one glitch."

Linnan felt satisfied watching mothers have a good time together. "It was so nice to see people really enjoy themselves," Linnan said.

She saw mothers leave their children at Tutor Time or with their husbands just to spend a day with their own mothers, she said.

"I'm not certain if those people would have taken the time to initiate it on their own," Linnan said. "Yet



WL Mayor William Robertson draws names for the Mother's Day Off raffle.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or dd@nownews.com.

ESL class goes public

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

In search of better conversation skills, Susan Marshall, the Novi Adult Education English-as-a-second language (ESL) teacher, took her students out of the classroom and into the Novi streets this year.

Marshall added a fresh approach to strengthening the communication skills of her advanced conversation ESL class. Her students visited more than 15 Novi city employees, hospital workers and business figures to share rounds of dialog with the community leaders.

"The visits throughout Novi allow the students to fine-tune and expand their new language skills by hearing many different accents, talking speeds and verbal intonations, as opposed to just predominantly conversing in English with each other in the classroom," Marshall said.

"They hear a wider variety of English by talking with people in the community," said Marshall, who has been teaching ESL classes in Novi for the past 15 years.

"They've made wonderful progress," she added. "Their confidence bloomed throughout the year." Students shared conversations with such city employees as Assistant Fire Chief Jeffrey Johnson of the Novi Fire

Department, Mel Shih of the Novi Public Library, Lt. Bradley McPaul of the Novi Police Department and Jack Lewis from Novi Parks and Recreation.

The advanced conversation ESL class is composed of Novi residents from Japan, Korea, Germany and Iran. The class aims to improve the adult students' English vocabulary and conversation skills, as well as expose them to different elements of American culture. The forays into the community were an important next step to improving the class and enhancing these language skills.

"You have to try different things," Marshall said. "We'll do it again next year."

Also, Marshall hopes to add more in-class discussion time next year, in which students talk about their visits throughout Novi.

"I would like more discussion about what they learned and what went on," Marshall said. Furthermore, the students visited such Novi businesses as the Mesquite Creek Restaurant, Real Estate One, the Day Spa of Novi and the Knightsbridge Antique Mall.

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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.

Let us help educate you about candidates

Slowly, but with an ever-increasing pace, the signs of an election year are starting to show themselves. For the last few weeks, candidates vying for any of a number of positions — state Representative, district court judge, school board — have been talking with us and others about where they're at on the issues that matter to voters. The deadline for filing for most races came and went this past Tuesday, setting the stage for Aug. 6 primaries, at which time the fields will be narrowed. August may seem like a long ways off, but the election year is here sooner than most people realize. In the coming weeks, we'll be publishing stories, grids and other voter tools to help educate and arm-area residents about those who are seeking elected office. Opinions expressed on the issues are almost as varied as the candidates themselves, we found. This is the time, then, when voters should take a few minutes and analyze their own interests and the interests of the community at large, then read about the candidates. If possible, meeting the candidates in a one-on-one setting should also be part of the equation. Voting shouldn't be a haphazard process, but a thoughtful one. Candidates require the electorate to do its homework. As Novi residents pack their beach bags with the latest Tom Clancy novel and summer fun, we encourage the bringing along of a notepad, a pen and some clippings of the News. Anyone over the age of 18 can step in a voting booth, but the power truly rests with those who stay in the booth informed, opinionated and educated.

The average American spends about 12 hours researching, talking and learning before taking delivery of a new car. We'd venture to guess the same Americans don't spend nearly that amount of time researching, talking with and learning about the folks who'll be spending our tax dollars.

Will Michigan's new leaders have guts, skill to grow state's economy?



Phil Power

Starting next January, we'll have a whole new leadership team in Michigan. A new set of executive officers — governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, maybe attorney general — and a mostly new legislature in both houses, coupled with a possible change in partisan control of at least one. That new team is going to have to figure out how to govern the state amid very great budgetary stress — best guess is there is already a built-in imbalance of nearly \$1 billion. And they'll face considerable political uncertainty — term limits will have eliminated most experienced lawmakers and the new executive officers will be uncertain how to go about their jobs. Among the happy things they'll have to deal with is Michigan's remarkably improved business climate. Remember the early 1990s? Michigan was the very definition of a Rust Belt state, with more than 19 percent unemployment and only four million (very nervous) jobs. In the year 2000, we boasted a jobless rate of less than 4 percent and a growing economy of five million jobs. That's a terrific record. Gov. John Engler and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (not to mention a booming national economy) deserve lots of credit for managing such an impressive turnaround. The big question is what our new leaders are going to do starting next January. Will they keep hammering away at improving the economic climate or will they take the easy way out and let Michigan fall back again? At a minimum, the policy agenda will have been set out. At the Michigan Competitiveness Conference, sponsored last week in Lansing by the MEDC, a new study by Stanford Research Institute showed that Michigan ranked No. 9 among the 50 states and No. 2 among Midwestern states as a good place to do business. It was an eye-opening day. We ranked especially well in our quality of life (No. 4 in the nation), based on low living costs, good education system, clean air and first-rate nature and recreation assets. We came in No. 7 in what SRI calls "innovative resources," the compound result of world-class universities and technology base. Our infrastructure came in No. 22, the middle of the pack, the new terminal at Metro Airport balancing out deficits in roads and Internet and broadband connections. If there was consensus, it was that our economic development competitive strategy for the future should be to try to get our business tax and cost climate at about the national average, fix our roads and extend our broadband connections and let our other advantages play out unadmittedly. Rothwell argues that instead of gloating about how Michigan fared against the rest of the nation, we should compare ourselves against the 17 states that are primary competitors for new business investment and high technology. Eight of these ranked above Michigan in the SRI study — Colorado, Texas, Minnesota, Virginia, California, Georgia, Massachusetts and Washington. In order — while our neighbor rivals, Ohio and Illinois, were just behind. So there's plenty of work to do. The Single Business Tax is a real problem. No other state has a unified business tax structure like it, so it stands out like a sore thumb in the tables of the comparison. Most states tax businesses on their profit plus some other factors, while the Michigan unified SBT taxes a combination of employment and "value added." Worse, as I know from personal experience, the SBT is very complex to calculate. Among the 300-odd people attending the conference, most felt the SBT needed at minimum an overhaul to include at least some component of business profit. As I remember it, the SBT was written in literally the dead of night in 1975, largely by lobbyists for the automobile industry. General Motors in particular. Virtually none of the lawmakers who voted to adopt the next morning understood the tax, most had not even read the complex legislation. The conference discussed a large range of suggestions coming from six breakout groups. If there was consensus, it was that our economic development competitive strategy for the future should be to try to get our business tax and cost climate at about the national average, fix our roads and extend our broadband connections and let our other advantages play out unadmittedly. The real question is whether our new leaders have the foresight, guts and skill to do so.

Are students that much smarter?

I got a list of the Novi High School 2002 valedictorians and salutatorians this week. My first reaction: I thought I was seeing double. Maybe my sunglasses were distracting my vision? I took off my glasses, rubbed my eyes and took another look. The list didn't jump back onto one page. There was still three pages. I had to start counting, almost chuckling to myself. So I did. Fifty-two valedictorians, 16 salutatorians. Incredible. Man, things change, I thought to myself. I remember when I graduated from high school 10 years ago. We had one valedictorian and one salutatorian. And the top student didn't even have all 85. Now, I'm looking at a list of almost 70 names who have cornered the market on the almighty "A." The 2002 Novi High School graduating class is 398 students strong. That means, these top students constitute over 17 percent of their class. Maybe I had a different interpretation of valedictorian and salutatorian these days? Kathy Scullen, a Novi High School counselor, broke it down for me. A valedictorian is a student who received nothing but an "A." A salutatorian received all As, as well, except that student is plagued by one pesky "B" in their high school career. Well, they didn't completely pull the carpet out from under me in the last 10 years. I still had my bearings for the English language. Like all human beings, my mind tried to rationalize, to look for something that makes sense of these lofty numbers. Maybe teachers have been upgraded over the past 10 years? I thought about my 12th-grade geology teacher. He was color blind, had tunnel vision and had no sense of smell (not to mention some nervous condition which compelled him to avoid students at all costs). He would just show an outdated film strip each day and recoil in fear when you approached his desk. He was legendary; every kid wanted his class. Maybe this element has been weeded out of high schools? Then, my more cynical — and natural — side kicked in. Grade inflation. What else could it be? Seeing all those valedictorians and salutatorians makes parents, teachers and administrators feel good about their life's work. They can sit back and smile when the report cards come out. They can tell their friends they were successful people. We are better in Novi. "Visions of the Pink Floyd movie, 'The Wall,' popped in my head, images of uniformed and masked kids marching in single-file line. "Eat your meat. No pudding until you eat your meat," the stern school teacher stated. Then, I came back to this planet. Is this grand inflation or an improved academic system? Are these kids superior achievers? Or are they getting a false sense of their abilities, getting set up for let-downs in future ultra-competitive environments? Or is this just a way to build self-confidence? Beats me.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@h1.homecom.net.

GOVERNMENT

- Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allow them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113. Michigan House of Representatives: Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) State Capitol P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI (888)-36-NANCY ncassis@house.state.mi.us County Commission: Hugh Crawford (R-Novi) 1200 North Telegraph Pontiac, MI 48341 (248)-349-5079 hughcrawford@msn.com Michigan Senate: Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland) State Capitol P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (888)-736-2855 senbullard@senate.state.mi.us United States Congress: Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield) 2349 Bayburn House Office Building, Washington D.C. (202) 225-5802 Local office: 30833 Northwest Hwy. #100 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (424)-851-1366 Michigan House of Representatives: Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) State Capitol P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI (888)-36-NANCY ncassis@house.state.mi.us County Commission: Hugh Crawford (R-Novi) 1200 North Telegraph Pontiac, MI 48341 (248)-349-5079 hughcrawford@msn.com Michigan Senate: Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland) State Capitol P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (888)-736-2855 senbullard@senate.state.mi.us United States Congress: Carl Levin (D-Detroit) 459 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. (202)-224-6221 senator2@levin.senate.gov Local office: 1810 Michigan National Tower 124 W. Allegan Lansing, MI 48933 (517)-377-1507 Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) 476 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. senator@stabenow.senate.gov



Wax-stronaut: Mary Ellen Guest Elementary School student Sean Hansen portrays astronaut Neil Armstrong during last week's "Wax Figures" presentation.

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.

Mail to: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 E-mail to: cstone@h1.homecom.net Fax to: (248) 349-8332

That's why they call it the blues

If I were good enough, I would make my living as a musician. To me, there isn't a better job in the world. I've been playing in bands for 15 years now. I started on guitar and switched to bass around 1997. Although I've lived around Lansing all this time, almost all my gigging has been around the metro-Detroit area. The bands I've been in — Big Town, Code Blue, Bureka Blue, Moons and now The Jump Cats have played at many of the popular clubs and done a few blues festivals here and there. The one thing that has remained fairly consistent throughout the past 15 years is the pay. It's never enough. By the time I spend money on gas and something to eat, I might break even. As the saying goes, if you're in it for the money, get out. That's why they call it the blues.



Cal Stone

That might be welcomed by some folks, but it's true. To paraphrase the late John Lennon (he was one of The Beatles, kids), blues is the chair a musician has to sit in first if he or she wants to play these other styles. Whether musicians are aware of it or not, the type of music they play is more than likely influenced heavily by the blues. So how come the style that led to so many other styles has never been given the respect that it's due? How come a guy like Michael Jackson or Prince can be a millionaire, but artists like Rod Pazzo & The Mighty Flyers still have to unload their own equipment? Yes, you get the big productions with pop and rock stars. There's fireworks, literally, and stage theatrics that rival George Lucas films. But what about the music? Does it move you? Does it have the emotion that a good blues song can stir up? Maybe. But if that's all you've ever experienced concert-wise, do yourself a favor and shut gears. Go to a club and check out a blues act. Sit 10 feet from somebody playing their soul for three or four sets and you'll see what I mean. If they're good, and most of them around the Motor City are, then you will be well rewarded. Pick one: Robert Noll, Doug Deming and the Jewel Tones, Larry McCray, Madpuppy, Bobby East, Theronia, Davis, Harmonica Shah, the Butler Twins, Jimmy McCarty, the Motor City Sheiks, the Alligators... the list of local blues artists is staggering. But they've got a heavy responsibility, too. They're Detroit bluesicians. That means something, especially to people from outside the area. There is a grand tradition of fine blues musicians hailing from Motown and the nearby vicinity — Son House, Sippie Wallace, John Lee Hooker. The fact is, this area is famous for great musicians of many genres. But, like I said, those genres owe a debt to the blues. The reason I'm telling you all of this is simple. Read the article below. Many of the great blues artists died penniless; incredible musicians who offered their talents yet received little in return. The good folks over at The Boathouse in Walled Lake are doing their share to show respect for a pair of Detroit's first blues men — Big Maceo and Boogie Woogie Red. Embarrassingly, I didn't know a lot about either of these men until I went to All Music Guide's Web site and did a little research. If you're into music at all, you owe it to yourself to visit this site at www.allmusicguide.com. It is truly remarkable how much information is available there. Although both these blues pianists have been gone for quite a few years, neither of their graves have headstones. There are others — Washboard Willie, Bobb Jenkins, Calvin Frazier — whose graves are also barren of a proper tombstone. The great ones who are still with us, like Johnnie Bassell and Lazy Lester, know what an injustice this is. That's why they're performing at the benefit this weekend, along with a host of other great, local blues artists. If you can't make it out to The Boathouse but you want to help, call (517) 548-1780.

Benefit to buy gravestones for blues legends

By Diane Dempsey Deel STAFF WRITER 31, 1905 in Atlanta. He moved to Detroit when he was in his twenties. He was a local leading blues musician in the 1940s, whose main instrument was the piano. He earned more than \$000 in his career and his song "Worked Life" is still played today by other blues musicians. Merriweather was going strong when he had a stroke in 1946. He died seven years later a month before his forty-eighth birthday. His body now rests in an unmarked grave at Detroit Memorial Park Cemetery on Thirteen Mile Road in Warren. Merriweather was one of the inspirations for another blues musician Vernon Harrison, who was known by "Boogie Woogie Red." He is also now in an unmarked grave like the man who influenced him. His body rests at Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery on Fourteen Mile Road in Clinton Township. He was born October 18, 1924 in Rayville, Louisiana. His family moved to Detroit when he was a young boy. However, he moved to Chicago when he was 18-years-old to sing with other blues artists. Harrison moved back to Detroit in 1946 and teamed up with John Lee Hooker to play soulful tunes. However, Harrison was laid off a job when Barry Gordy "bought the Motown" sound to Detroit. He retired but tried to start up his career again in the early 1970s with an European tour. During his career, he recorded two albums "Live at the Blind Pig" and "Red Hot" in 1977. He died 10 years ago in Detroit. Swartz said all music lovers should come out and support the benefit. "I think it's especially important to remember them because they are at the root of where all American music has come from," Swartz said. "Everyone deserves a headstone." Tickets for both days, May 17 and May 18 are \$15 in advance and \$16 at the door. Tickets are \$9 in advance for either Friday or Saturday and \$10 at the door. A charitable donation form will be available to anyone making additional donations. For more information call Marla Swartz at (517) 548-1780 or (248) 689-1441. Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 dddee@h1.homecom.net.

Big Maceo Merrilweather: AKA: Major Merrilweather, Born: Mar 31, 1905 in Atlanta, GA. Died: Feb 26, 1953 in Chicago, IL. Styles: Electric Blues, Piano Blues, Chicago Blues. Instruments: Vocals, Piano. Tones: Passionate, Joyous, Organic, Earthy. Labels: Arhoolie (4), RCA (3), Blues Classics (2). Similar Artists: Otis Spann, Willie Mabon, Henry Gray, Eddie Boyd, Boogie Woogie Red, Little Johnny Jones, Champion Jack Dupree, Roosevelt Sykes, Piano Red, Pinetop Perkins. Roots and Influences: Tampa Red, Big Bill Broonzy. Performed Songs By: Vernon Harrison, Fats Waller. Worked With: Gray Sykes, Johnny Mars. Recordings: "Live at the Blind Pig" Red Hot. Boogie Woogie Red: Born: Oct 18, 1925 in Rayville, LA. Died: 1985 in Detroit, MI. Years Active: Blues. Styles: Piano Blues. Instruments: Vocals, Piano. Tones: Rollicking, Earthy, Exuberant, Piny/Celebratory. Labels: Blind Pig (2). Similar Artists: Sunnyland Slim, Roosevelt Sykes, John Lee Hooker, Little Brother Montgomery, Louisiana Red, James Booker, Pinetop Perkins, Champion Jack Dupree. Roots and Influences: Big Maceo Merrilweather. Performed Songs By: Vernon Harrison, Fats Waller. Worked With: Gray Sykes, Johnny Mars. Recordings: "Live at the Blind Pig" Red Hot. Appears On: John Lee Hooker, Rare Hooker (1999) Piano. Johnny Mars, Blues from Mars (1972) Vocals. Various Artists, Atlantic Blues: Chicago (1986) Piano. Various Artists, Blue Ivory (1991) Piano. Various Artists, Detroit After Hours, Vol. 1 (1995) Piano. Song Highlights: "Viper Song" from Motor City Blues. "Red's Rumba" from Blue Ivory. "Red's Boogie" from Motor City Blues. "Old Time Shuffle" from Blind Pig Records: 30th Anniversary Collection. "Blues for My Baby" from Detroit After Hours, Vol. 1. "Dorsey, Tommie" from As Good as It Gets: Singing.

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Help Can't Wait: Now you can contribute to the American Red Cross by secured credit card on the World Wide Web at http://www.redcross.org

Information on these great blues artists from All Music Guide's incredible Web site at: www.allmusicguide.com. Visit it.



Novi Library's Pauline Druschel, far end of table, leads a discussion of the Senior Book Club reading of "Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Her Life" last Thursday afternoon.

Seniors say, 'Let's Talk About It'

Members of "Let's Talk About It" at the Novi District Library Senior Book Discussion Group gathered together last week to discuss Anne Morrow Lindbergh's "Her Life" written by Susan Harris.

Pauline Druschel, said it was one of the more lively meetings, with every member voicing their thoughts.

The discussion group meets the second Thursday of each month in the library's meeting room and is open to all interested area residents.

Upcoming selections

- June:** "The World" and other works by Jeanne Harris
- July:** "A Princess's Memoir" by Robert M. Sapolsky
- August:** "Expecting Adam" by Martha Riddley Beck

- September:** "Give Me My Father's Body: The Life of Mink, the New York Eskimo" by Ken Harper
- October:** "Abigail Adams" by Phyllis Lee Levin
- November:** "The Twins" by Tessa de Leo
- December:** "House of Soul and Fog" by Andre Dubois

Chiropractors offer free workplace safety training

Dr. Randolph O'Dell of O'Dell Chiropractic Center P.C. in Valued Lake is offering free on-site workplace safety training to companies in the Lakes area as part of a statewide program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Michigan Chiropractic Association.

The MCA has obtained a grant to offer free workplace safety training to local businesses with between 70 and 200 employees in the manufacturing, nursing home and road building industries.

Novi's Smith named MGM Grand's CFO

An experienced gaming professional has been named the top financial administrator at MGM Grand Detroit, Casino.



Wayne Smith of Novi is the casino's new chief financial officer, announced MGM Grand Detroit President and Chief Operating Officer Scott Snow.

Smith was promoted from his former position as vice president of finance at the casino.

AOL high-speed broadband service launches with Time Warner Cable Detroit Division

America Online announced May 13 the launch of its AOL High-Speed Broadband service with the Time Warner Cable Detroit Division serving Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, Redford and Livonia.

The service offers the advantages of a high-speed Internet connection, including instant-on capability, faster connections, and the ability to make the most of enhanced audio and video content.

- Have immediate, continual access to AOL features, including e-mail, instant messaging, and personal calendars over high-speed cable.
- Make the most of their time online doing research, getting the latest Red Hot and Blazin' scores and schedules, shopping, check out who is playing tonight at the Magic Stick or doing homework.
- Download large files, such as photos, video, graphics and music, quickly and easily.
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June 30: Salute to WWII Veterans, WOMC Super 60's Rock N' Roll
July 3: 1987 Smooth Jazz Fest, Sugar Ray, WRIF HarleyFest, W/ Cheap Trick & Sponge, 23:10:10 w/ Andy Griggs, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, 24: Beach Boys, 25: Brian McKnight, 26: Alice In Chains 70's Fest, 27: INXS Simple Minds, 28: Cirque Esq. * 11am & 7pm, 29: Teddy Pendergrass & Jeffrey Osborne, 30: Golden Hits of Doo Wop (Little Anthony & The Imperials, Bill Packard's Original Drivers and Carl Oursler's Customers), 31: Henry & Eric Burdon, 1: Chris Isaak * On Sale Today!, 2: Little Bear * 11am & 7pm, 3: Kenny Rogers, 4: Billy Ray Cyrus, 5: The Rippingtons, David Benoit & Jean Luc-Ponty, 6: Michael Hatley's Lord of the Dance

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Something's going on in Milford

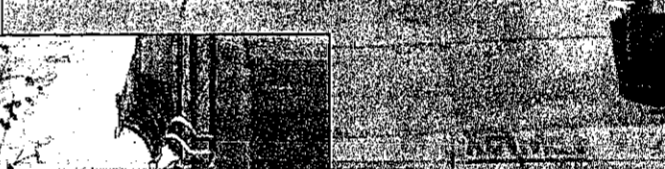
By Annette Jaworski CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you're one of the 30,000 cars that come through downtown Milford on any given day, you've noticed there's definitely something going on. That's just you're lying in a temporary condition - maintenance needed to "golf" up the old beauty, Milford's Main Street.



The project has been up and running smoothly since the end of April, says Downtown Development Authority Director, Ann Barnette. So far, the disruption to traffic and pedestrians has been minimal, and business continues as usual.

Unlock concrete pavers are being installed throughout the entire sidewalk area. It's a new, improved product over the brick pavers used 17 years ago. The style is called Brussels Old World, in a multitude of shapes and sizes and different shades of sand, russet and charcoal.



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Faris on business

By Jack Faris

Large corporations spend millions of dollars on television advertisements featuring individual small-business owners, praising their dedication and hard work, and yes, looking for their business.

Politicians champion small business in stump speeches. Some are staunch supporters and others claim to be at election time.

There's a good reason to appreciate these small-business owners. The economic powerhouse that gives us many of the technological changes that increase productivity and fuel economic growth and prosperity.

When we think of cars or high-tech equipment, chances are we think of big business, but it is small-business innovation that gives us many of the technological changes that increase productivity and fuel economic growth and prosperity.

Business in brief

Prostate Cancer Symposium hosted by Huron-Valley Sinai Hospital...
Project Funding Denise Tyler, DDA Chairperson, points out that the DDA's concern to protect local businesses and those shoppers wishing to patronize the downtown Milford area.

Some Things Are The Same Items that remain will include decorative lights, wrought iron and bunkers. Everything in the Center Street Park will remain also, including the fountain, wrought iron, trees, gazebos and flowerbeds.

Timing is Everything First and foremost was the DDA's concern to protect local businesses and those shoppers wishing to patronize the downtown Milford area.

Keep It Clean The DDA awarded the sidewalk project to a local contractor. Contracting a company with an excellent reputation and recommendations.

Did you know? Placing an ad? IT'S FREE... (Call the 800# above) Completely automated, we ask all the right questions to create a voice recording and print ad.

Did you know? Responding to an ad? (Call the 900# above) Leave a message for an ad in this column or browse ads based on the criteria you select.

Did you know? Responding to an ad? (Call the 900# above) Leave a message for an ad in this column or browse ads based on the criteria you select.

MILFORD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
Main Street 2
Meet Me in Milford
grab a cup of coffee
filet mignon with gorgonzola butter
Relax & Breathe a little
it's good to be home
a little

Allegation: Evergreen disputes rent payment

continued from front

in default.

Berkley declined comment on why exactly he filed the motion or what it meant, stating the December consent judgment issued in District Court prohibits all parties involved in the litigation from discussing the case.

Capello stated in documents to grant a default against Kitchens By Design would be "contrary to the MI Court Rules governing this matter, and contrary to the sound principals of due process."

A new court date was set for June 5.

The battle between Chen's firm and the Main Street tenants began in October when Evergreen III served eviction notices to the shop owners alleging they withheld a portion of payments due him.

The tenants claimed the only amounts they withheld were suspiciously high bills for common area maintenance fees.

Counter claims filed by the tenants accused Chen of a number of wrongs including he misrepresented the development, telling

them Main Street would be full, resulting in an increased amount of traffic through the shopping and dining area.

The development continues to remain only partially completed from what was originally intended.

The arguments escalated again in the Winter after Detroit Edison issued a disconnect order stating the downtown development's electric bill had not been paid.

A representative from The Hayman Company said the bill was not paid because the tenants withheld payments to Chen.

Capello stated in the past the amounts tenants had withheld were only what they believed to be the excessive amounts in question and were still paying rent and base CAM fees.

A spokesman from Detroit Edison said an arrangement was made to keep the power on, but would not release details on how the more than \$250,000 bill was taken care of.

On Feb. 19 MacKenzie granted a motion to consolidate the Main Street tenant cases for pretrial purposes only.

MacKenzie told all parties he felt there was no prejudice in the pre-trial proceedings, but when the proceedings were finished he would revisit his decision.

Since the consent agreement to hush all parties was issued, MacKenzie has been holding monthly closed chamber sessions with attorneys representing both sides to try and come to an agreement without bringing the case to trial.

The tenants involved in the consolidated pretrial proceedings are Bluegreen Vacations, Designer's Choice, Larson Jewelry Design, Novi Jewelers, Coffee Trader, Salon Agape, Lazy Lizard Cantina, Quizno's Subs and Kitchens By Design.

Sincerely Yours is also involved in the hushed litigation, but was not consolidated with the other tenants' cases.

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.

Robotics: WL 2nd in national competition

continued from page 3

work that students can carry over into the work world, she said.

Malott said she learns as much as the students do when constructing the robot from beginning to end. However, she feels that they couldn't have a team without the support from the TRW corporation.

Not only does the company offer its engineers but they also pay a great deal of the \$70,000 a year that is needed to pay for competition costs.

That's why Audrey Six is aptly named from the plant character that drank blood in the Little Shop of Horrors movie.

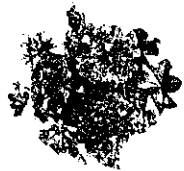
"We named it that because it sucks so much blood out of us," Malott said.

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

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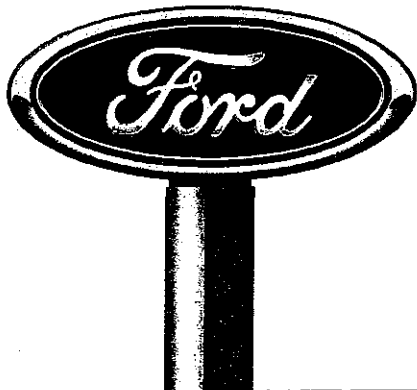
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OPEN SATURDAYS

The title is so close, the 'Cats can taste it

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi tennis team is so close to the Kensington Valley Conference title they can practically pick it up and heft it into the air.

The Wildcats, led by coach Jim Hanson, earned a first-place finish in the KVC Tournament May 11, topping Brighton and Hartland on their way to victory after falling to Ann

Arbor Huron 8-0 May 7, and topping Hartland in a dual meet 5-3 May 1.

"Our singles really came through for us," Hanson said of the KVC tourney. "It is really because of them that we won this tournament."

With Novi being a traditionally strong team in doubles this season, it was reasonable for Brighton and Hartland to expect to find themselves trying to out-run and out-gun the Wildcats in the doubles flights — and

TENNIS

Novi	5
Hartland	3

They did. The only thing the KVC wasn't expecting was players by the name of Suraj Ramachandran, Vashal Rungta and Andrew Laskowski.

"Suraj Ramachandran came back

to win 7-5 after being down 0-4 in the third set," Hanson said of the second singles flight. "I guess it proved true the old tennis adage that a match isn't over until the final points is played. Anything can happen."

Ramachandran notched a 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 victory over his first opponent before beating Hartland 7-5, 6-4 and topping the number one seeded Ben Nalepa of Brighton 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in

the championship match.

Third singles found Rungta blasting past Lakeland 6-0, 6-0 before topping Pinckney 6-2, 6-2. The final match, against Hartland's Andrew Mah, found Rungta earning the victory 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Fourth singles found Laskowski starting the day off on the right foot, beating number one seed Brian Atwood of Hartland 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 before topping Pinckney 6-2, 6-7 (5),

6-0. The championship match found Laskowski making short work of Brighton's Greg Rentz 6-3, 6-2.

"Rentz beat Andrew quite decisively the first time they played," Hanson said. "Andrew had a game plan this time and stuck to it. He was chipping the ball, coming in behind it, taking over the net and controlling it and doing a super job all day long. That

Continued on 2

Track stars galore

The Novi Wildcats boys and girls track and field teams will be strutting their stuff at this year's regional tournament May 17 in a meet that will help decide who heads to the state finals meet and who stays home this season.



Sam Eggleston

The Novi boys and girls bring plenty of talent to the meet. Both squads will no doubt send a handful of athletes to represent their school in the final meet of the season to see who is the best of the best in Michigan.

First of all, I will point out the obvious no-brainer on who will be a state champion. You guessed it — Tim Moore. This senior, who is signed to run like the wind for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, is undefeated in the United States in long distance running for cross country and will be undefeated in the state finals track meet in his long distance events as well. You can bet the farm on it.

For the girls, one of the favorites has to be long-distance runner Bethany Kittle. Kittle is more than a talented runner, she is a determined, talented runner who will be looking to earn a place in the state meet with a strong performance in the regional. I don't doubt that she has what it takes to notch a place in the final crew running in the meet. Besides Kittle, the Wildcat girls can look to Allison Gilchrist and Laine Williams to be in the running for a couple of the top spots.

The boys also have the running power of junior Chase Chandler to help lead the way. This kid is fast, there is no question about it. A runner with a slew of talent and the heart to take it all the way, Chandler looks to be one of the favorites in the sprints for the regional. Don't count him out even if he starts behind a tad — this kid has the knack to recover like few I have ever been witness to.

In the hurdles, the girls will have the possibility of a one-two punch with the Reid sisters, Erin and Emily are a tough combination to mess with — if Erin can stay

Continued on 2

Novi Wildcat catcher Trey Simpson crouches as he prepares to pounce on anyone trying to reach his home plate. The 'Cats are currently resting comfortably at 15-0 in the KVC with Milford five games behind them.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER



I want my KVC! Only two more games to win

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

BASEBALL

Novi	15
Brighton	0

Two more wins — that is all it will take for the Novi Wildcats baseball team to win the Kensington Valley Conference title. Their nearest competitor, the Milford Redskins, may possibly be one of the teams the 'Cats are looking to take down on their way to an unchallenged crown.

kids on the team in nearly any position and they play as well as the starters."

The 'Cats did indeed show how deep they were — especially on the mound as Pete Kobylarek allowed only four hits, walked one and allowed no earned runs in the opener against Country Day. Jake Ray smacked in two RBIs while going two-for-two at the plate and Tyler Mohr went one-for-three with two RBIs.

"Peter pitched a great game for us," Green said. "Our pitching and our defense were unbelievable that game. We turned two big double plays."

The Novi baseball team continued their play into the second game of the double-header where they won 11-5 after coming back from a 4-3 Country Day advantage in the sixth inning.

The 2002 gave up just four runs, two earned, and notched four strikeouts in four and 1/3 innings. Mike Crawford finished off the game with a save as he scattered three hits, whiffed four and walked one.

"There were a couple of errors that hurt us a little," Green said. "Other than those, we had a good defensive game."

The defense, led by Crawford, all but shut down the Country Day squad in the seventh as the offense kicked it into high gear. Darren Guffey led the resurgence as he stepped up to the plate as a pinch hitter and cranked a base hit that scored two. Then Brian Swift

Continued on 2

Just one more game before postseason

By Brian Doyle
 SPECIAL WRITER

As the playoffs come closer, the Novi Lacrosse team is getting into top shape for their playoff season. The Wildcats have just one more game left before the post season gets underway.

The team beat a sound University of Detroit Jesuit team 10-5, but lost a close one, 10-11, to East Grand Rapids earlier this month.

On Tuesday May, 7 Novi took on U of D Jesuit and played well, espe-

cially with the absence of the teams top midfielder, Drew Doll who was out with a shoulder injury.

"They matched up with us pretty well," Novi coach Stan Zajdel said. "We just played a little better."

According to Zajdel, the teams three attack men, Shaun Dicken, Aaron Marion, and Kirk Safford, helped the team earn the win.

"All three of those played very

well," Zajdel said. "They've played well for us all season."

Zajdel also noted that Matt Kernick and Kelley Deneen played solid games and contributed for the team.

Lacrosse

East Grand Rapids 11, Novi 10

In a heartbreaker, Novi lost in the closing minutes to East Grand Rapids. The Wildcats were down by three at the halfway mark but battled back to take control of the game.

"We had a slow start," Zajdel

said. "The team was down 6-3 at half-time but came out strong and quickly tied the game before the end of the third quarter."

"We came charging back in the third," Zajdel said.

The team kept their momentum going into the final quarter and went up by two with around three minutes left in the game. East Grand Rapids did not give up and they scored three goals to take the lead in a span of one and a half minutes.

"We spent so much energy coming back," Zajdel said.

He also said that East Grand Rapids was able to win the game because they had used so much energy up in their comeback.

"They got a couple of fast breaks and odd-man rushes," junior defenseman Matt Murray said.

When it was all over East Grand Rapids had taken the game 11-10. Novi received strong performances from Doll, Drew Hunt and Dave

Continued on 2

Moore, Kortlandt break Novi High School track records

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats have had ups and downs in the recent weeks of the season, but neither have changed their ultimate goal of having a good showing at the regional meet.

The 'Cats, led by coach Robert Smith, fell to the Milford Redskins 76-61 in a Kensington Valley Conference match up before topping the Pinckney Pirates 83-54 in another KVC contest. In a non-scored, non-league event, called the Last Chance Meet in Ann Arbor, the Wildcats even manage to make their mark on the record books.

The 'Cats went into action at the Last Chance Meet, which is designed to assist athletes to improve their regional seeding, as Tim Moore broke his old school record with a nine

minute, 0.17 second run in the 3200-meters, snapping his old record of 9:01.5.

Not to be outdone, senior Scott Kortlandt

ran a 14.83-second high hurdles to set the Novi High School mark, breaking the old record of 15.05 set by Eric Brandon in 1995.

The 'Cats were also well represented in the Sunshine Freshman/Sophomore meet and came in third with 106 points.

Milford 76, Novi 61

The Novi Wildcats boys track and field team went into their May 2 meet against the Milford Redskins knowing they looked like the underdogs on paper — unfortunately, the paper was right.

Track & Field

The Wildcats fell 76-61 in the Kensington Valley Conference showdown and now find themselves in the position of wondering just what might happen in the KVC meet? Who will be champs?

"This is a tough year in the KVC," Smith said. "The Milford meet pretty much went the way I thought it would go. We actually won the majority of the events, we won nine and they won eight. The problem is, they won three out of the four relays."

Each relay is set up in a winner-takes-all fashion so that the winning team is awarded five points and the second place team — well, they are the first loser in this case.

"They are also a little deeper in the running races," Smith noted of the 'Skins.

Milford won three of the four relays, with Casey Barnes, Chad

Murray, Kyle Harris and Dan DeRusha in the 3,200 meters (8:09.5); Kyle Plummer, Nick Mayersky, Joe Whipple and Jim Presley in the 800 meters (1:33.9) and DeRusha, Harris, Bryan Ladd and Dan Wheatley in the 1,600 meters (3:33.9). It was but a tenth of a second which kept Milford from a relay sweep, as Presley almost caught up with Eric Schleuder in the 4x100 before Novi finished in 44.7 seconds.

"They have a quality program over there," Smith said.

"We are hoping that when we get into the conference meet that the other teams like Pinckney and Howell will help neutralize Milford's sprinters by pushing them deeper down in the final places."

It was a tough day for all of the Novi track participants — especially the sprinters. The

Redskins swept the 400 meters with Wheatley (51.9 seconds), Harris (53.2) and Gary Johnson (55.8).

Milford got eight key points when Jim Presley and Dan Wheatley went one-two in the 200 meters, then got the 69 needed to win when Casey Barnes took first (9 minutes, 54.3 seconds) and Nick Kopczyk second (9:54.5) in the 3,200 meters.

"I was concerned, because I knew we didn't match up well with Novi in the field, and they did get us," Redskins coach Chris Ceresa said. "We got away with a close one."

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@hf.homecomm.net.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats Track & Field Regional Meet

Friday, May 17
 4:00 p.m.

Lacrosse: One more game

Continued from 1
 "They (Doll) played really well and they had a solid game," Zajdel said. "Dave Chan also played really well."
 This was the game that Doll injured his shoulder in. He strained it and sat for the D game and may not see much action until the playoffs.
 "My main concern is to get him healthy for the playoffs," Zajdel said. "If he has to sit a week, all the

other guys will just have to step up and (be confident they can).
 Lately, the team has been focusing on two keys that they think will help them perform better in the playoffs.
 "We've been working really hard this week on possessing the ball and communication on defense," Zajdel said.
 According to him, if the team can improve on these things should be pretty solid in the playoffs.
 "The team earned the fifth seed in

GOW: Track has talent

Continued from 1
 healthy, that is. It is always tough to be an athlete plagued with injuries, especially your senior year.
 "The boys have plenty of talent in the field, especially when it comes to discuss harrier Dan St. Clair and shot-putter Jamie Schram. St. Clair currently holds the Novi High School record in the discus and will look to continue his top-flight throws. Schram, who is up-and-coming in both the discus and the shot-put, will look to continue his increasing ability in both events. Heck, I am not sure that Schram has even peaked yet. This could be his best meet yet."
 "The girls are lucky enough to have some top-notch talent in the field as well. Jennifer Mehl will hopefully lead the pack in the pole vault event in hopes of making her way to the state finals. Christine Lis will be looking to make yet another mark in the high jump.
 And, really, what kind of top-track athletes (2000 record) would this be without mentioning Derek BuWaldia. What is with this guy? He comes into the season as one of the possibilities as an impact player on the team, and looks to be leaving the season as the most impacting player. Well, all I can say is the Wildcats, both the boys and the girls, have plenty of talent to send to the state meet if the time is right for them. I think there will be plenty of green and white there this year.

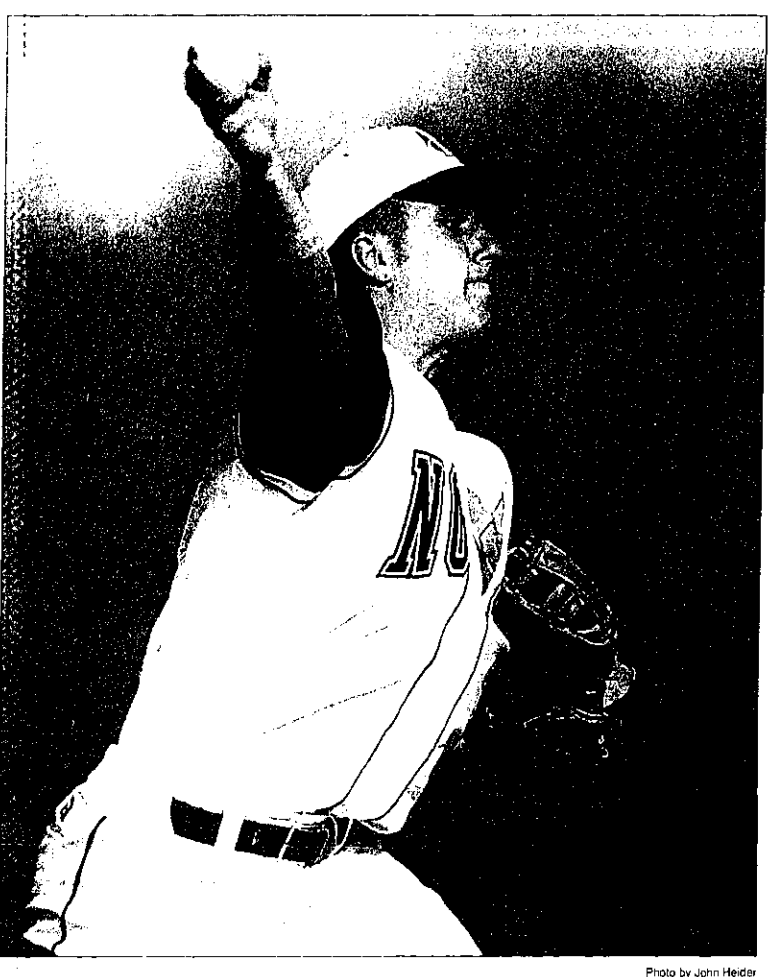


Photo by John Heider

Novi pitcher Brandon Davis throws a split-finger fastball during a home game against Milford.

Baseball: Two more wins

Continued from 1
 pounded out a double to left-center that scored two more. The timing was capped with a two-run home run that was blasted by the big bat of Trey Simpson.
 "They were our big hitters for that day," Green said of the trio that led the offensive charge and sealed the win.
 Wildcats that had a big offensive night were Crawford, who went two-for-three. Guffey, who went two-for-two and scored two runs and had two RBIs, and Swift, who went two-for-three at the plate.
 Novi (20-2 overall, 15-0 KVC) will resume action when they visit Milford for a double-header tomorrow at 4 p.m. before hosting Northville Saturday in a non-conference double-header at 11 a.m.
 Novi 11, South Lyon 1.
Novel 2, South Lyon 1
 The Novi Wildcats saw two different sides of the coin when they played the South Lyon Lions in a KVC contest May 10. The first game saw the Cats simply annihilating their opponents while the second found the Novi squad sending in the reserves and holding out for a close victory.
 "We had the opportunity to get a lot of guys off the bench and into the game," Green said.
 The first game had the Cats earning the win in five innings as Dan Trehanne whiffed seven batters, walked three and scattered four hits for his fifth win of the season (5-0). Adam Haberman blasted in three more RBIs on the season while going two-for-two. Jeff Dunwell was one-for-two at the plate with a RBI while Brandon Davis went two-for-three with two RBIs.
 The second game of the night found Trevor Scott hurling for five innings, striking out six and walking three for the win, before Crawford game in the sixth and retired six batters in a row to help seal the victory.
 Novi 3, Brighton 0
 The Wildcats earned their 12th victory in the KVC when they blanked the Brighton Bulldogs May 9. The Cats followed the lead of Davis, who went the distance and earned five strikeouts, walked one and scattered four hits for his second shutout of the year. Davis, who won his fifth game (5-0) of the season, also collected two hits while

"It just shows how deep we are. In a lot of the non-league games we try to play everyone from one through 19 on the roster. We have so much versatility that we can put most of the kids on the team in nearly any position and they play as well as the starters."

Rick Green
 Novi Baseball Coach

Tennis: Only one victory away from KVC crown

Continued from 1
 was a big, big win for us."
 "The doubles didn't go without a champion either. The top seeded number one doubles team of Joe Lynch and AJ Sanson simply walked through the tournament and barely broke a sweat as they blazed through 6-1, 6-1 before crushing Puckey 6-0, 6-3. The final game found the duo simply annihilating England's Jeff Lisicki and Gary Isard 6-0, 6-1 for the championship.
 The Wildcats have just two games remaining in KVC play and have to win one to ensure they have an outright title this season. If they were to lose both games, Brighton would be this year's champ.
AAH 8, Novi 0
 In a meet that found the Wildcats taking on one of the best tennis teams in the state of Michigan, Novi gave everything they had but could not pull out a win against a stingy River Raisin May 7.
 The strongest fought match of the day was number one doubles, as Lynch and Sanson took an Ann Arbor Huron seniors John Riley and Jason Walklinger and lasted three sets before falling 5-4, 5-6, 4-6.
 "They are simply the best team we will have played all year," Hanson said. "They have an outside chance of winning the state title this year."
 "It sounds like a rout, but it was a good match," he said. "When we are not winning big points and not getting the advantage, it is tough to win the match. I wasn't displeased with how the singles played and I thought the doubles played extremely well."
Novi 5, Hartland 3
 In a meet that took two days to complete thanks to rain, the Wildcats pulled out a key KVC victory May 11 (game finished May 8 after rain delay was made up).
 The Cats followed the lead of Ramachandran, as he topped Scott Humenick 6-3, 6-1. In second singles while Rungta earned a third singles win by defeating junior Andrew Mah 6-3, 6-4.
 "It was a well played match and Hartland it a very good team," Hanson said. "Right after our match, Brighton came in to complete their

rain out from the day before and Hartland beat them 5-3."
 First doubles of Lynch and Sanson topped Jim Tabbert and Mike McElroy 6-2, 6-2 while Josh Christopherson and Matt Peurach beat DJ McLeod and Joel Hill 3-6, 6-0, 6-3.
 The final win of the meet came as Connor Hogan and Jeff Wallen edged Tom Anderson and Jeff Stetek 7-5, 7-5.
 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@homecomm.net.

Golfers remain inconsistent

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER
 The Novi Wildcats girls' golf team isn't looking to be the best of the best in the Kensington Valley Conference this season — instead, they are happy just to be steadily improving from the beginning of the year through now.
 The Cats, led by coach Deb Harris, finished near the middle of the pack in the Pinkney Invitational Two-Person Best Ball Tournament May 6 before falling to the Milford Redskins 218-234 in KVC play.
 "The weather conditions were very difficult and all the girls were troopers," Harris said of the Best Ball journey. "They played well."
 The girls that participated in the Best Ball included the two-person teams of Sarah Ehlers and Brittany Neville, Jackie Chudy and Jessica Chudy, Jennifer McKenna and Jessica Westfall and Teresa Manosser and Sarah Celeksi.
 "Jackie and Jessica Chudy had our low two-person best ball score of 93," Harris said. The Ehlers-Neville team collected a 95 to combine with the Chudys' 93 for a team total of 198. The tournament is scored by combining the lowest two scores.
 McKenna and Westfall collected a 102 on the day while Celeksi and Manosser notched a 113.
 The Milford match found the Wildcats falling 218-234 May 7 in a KVC contest to bring their conference record to 1-4.
 "We are very young and inconsistent, but players are making progress," Harris said.
 McKenna shot a career low of 49 in the meet to lead the Wildcats.
 "She just started playing golf this year," Harris said before noting another improving player, "Laura Vaughn is gaining experience and has been continuing to improve. She is probably the most consistent player."
 Harris also added that members of the Wildcats links team have more potential than their current games show.
 "Jackie Chudy, Jessica Chudy and Brittany Neville have the potential to shoot in the 40s," she said.
 The weather hasn't exactly been on the Wildcats' side either, and the team hopes to see improved playing conditions so they can have some enjoyable golf before the end of the season.
 No doubt the weather has a lot to do with the higher scores around the state.
 "If you look at all the scores across this spring, they are higher than in the past," Harris said. "I feel it has a lot to do with the weather conditions."
 Remarking for the Wildcats are Pinkney and Howell as well as the Post-KVC meet.
 "The league will be tight at the top with Brighton, Hartland and Milford," Harris said. "Howell as well as Hartland and Milford by beating Brighton last week."
 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@homecomm.net.



Photo by BRIAN DOYLE
 The Novi soccer team has felt its share of ups and downs — they are just hoping for a few more ups as the season winds down.

Still looking for right line up

By Sam Eggleston
 SPORTS WRITER
 The Novi girls soccer team smelled the sweetness of a victory as well as left the sting of a loss in their latest outings in the Kensington Valley Conference.
 The Cats, led by coach Brian O'Leary, took a 3-1 loss to Brighton May 8 after topping Howell 7-0.
 "It was a game of two halves," O'Leary said of the Brighton game. "In the first half we dominated, but could only score once on a break-away goal from Kristi Timar on a through ball pass by Maureen Pawlik."
 The second half was indeed a different story from the first for the Wildcats.
 "In the second half they dominated, but also capitalized on their chances," O'Leary said.
 The Wildcats led 1-0 heading into the half, but were rolled by the overpowering Bulldogs in the second.
 "In order to get over the hump we need to develop a killer instinct," O'Leary said. "We were too happy to be winning 1-0 at halftime and should of instead put that energy into scoring more goals in the first half. The only comes with experience and hopefully this game will teach us that lesson."
 One of the positives in the contest was the return of Kellie Pfeiffer in her second appearance in goal since her return from injury.
 "Having our starting goalie Kellie Pfeiffer back helps us because she is such a good goalie, but Amanda Church did an excellent job during her injury," O'Leary said.
 Pawlik is currently leading the Wildcats in goals with 24 as well as collecting 14 assists. Nikki Herman is second on the team in goals with 14 and is tied with Coley Brockman with nine assists for second on the team.
 No matter how far they've come or how far they go, the Wildcats are going to need a solid lineup to compete with.
 "Our biggest task for the remainder of the season is to find replacements for two injured starters," O'Leary said. "Nina Schmitt tore her ACL and Tina Fennelly injured her back, both have missed the last three games and I still haven't found a lineup that I am 100-percent comfortable with. It seems with every change I make a gain a little in one area but lose a little in another. What I really need is for someone to step up as a replacement."
 Novi 7, Howell 0
 The Novi Wildcats made short work of their KVC foes as Pawlik and Herman collected three goals each and Kerri Timar scored another.
 Brockman picked up two assists on the night. The game also marked the first full game that Pfeiffer played between the posts at goal for the Cats since recovering from her broken arm. She earned the shutout.
 Novi 3, South Lyon 0
 The Novi Wildcats were more than ready for their KVC opponents, the South Lyon Lions, as Pawlik scored all three goals on the night to add to her already impressive numbers.
 The Cats followed the lead of Pfeiffer in the net as she led the way with her second shutout of the season.
 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@homecomm.net.

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JV Scores

NOVI JV LACROSSE
The Novi junior varsity lacrosse team (7-0, overall) by John Lindstedt, split two games last week to raise its overall record to 7-0 for the year. The Wildcats beat Orchard Lake Saint Mary's 11-0 last Thursday — two days after losing a close 7-5 game to University of Detroit High (U-D).

Against St. Mary's, Jeff Pulcinello led Novi with four goals. Kevin Gee and Andrew Summerville each scored two goals. Matt Studdigt and Jason Ericson added one goal each. Joey Domack registered one goal and two assists. Josh Bark had three assists, and Parker Beard and Kyle Safford each had one assist against U-D. Josh Bark led the scoring with two goals and one assist. Andrew Summerville had one goal and one assist. Kyle Safford, Reggie Clemens and Jeff Pulcinello each scored one.

Hole-in-One

Mark Gold scored a hole-in-one on the 169 yard 15 hole at Kensington Metro Golf Course May 5. Gold was using a five iron and shot an 81 on the drive. He has been playing golf for 20 years.

Northville girls' golf team linkster Kelly Harrison collected the first hole-in-one of her career as she converted on the number nine hole of the Farmington Glen Oaks Golf Course. She was using her eight iron on a par 3, 115 yard hole. Harrison is the first golfer in the girls' golf program history to nail a hole-in-one.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Girls Track
May 17 Regional 4 p.m. A
May 21 KVC Meet 2 p.m. H
May 24 Oakland County 3 p.m. A

Golf
May 23 Post-KVC 9 a.m. A

Lacrosse
May 16 Lansing Waverly 7 p.m. H
May 18 District TBA H
May 21 District TBA A

Baseball
May 17 Milford 4 p.m. A
May 18 Northville 11 a.m. H
May 22 Piquette 4 p.m. A
May 24 Howell 4 p.m. H

Boys Track
May 17 Regional 4 p.m. A
May 21 KVC Meet 2 p.m. H
May 24 Oakland County 3 p.m. A

Softball
May 17 Milford 4 p.m. A
May 18 Novi/White 9 a.m. H
May 22 Piquette 4 p.m. A
May 24 Howell 4 p.m. H

Soccer
May 17 Piquette 7 p.m. A
May 20 Howell 7 p.m. H

Girls Track
May 17 Regional TBA A
May 22 Conference 12 p.m. A
May 24-25 Oakland County TBA A

Baseball
May 16 Canton 4 p.m. H
May 20 Harrison 4 p.m. A
May 22 Playoff 4 p.m. A

Soccer
May 20 Playoff 5:30 p.m. A
May 22 Playoff 5:30 p.m. A

Tennis
May 17-18 Regional TBA A

Golf
May 17 Regional TBA A

Softball
May 20 Harrison 4 p.m. H
May 22 Playoff 4 p.m. H

Boys Track
May 17-18 Regional TBA A
May 22 Conference 12 p.m. A
May 24-25 Oakland County TBA A

Girls Track and Field
May 17-18 Regional TBA A
May 22 Conference TBA A
May 25 Oakland County TBA A

Softball
May 17 Farmington 4 p.m. A
May 20 Salem 4 p.m. H
May 22 Playoff 4 p.m. A
May 25 Chelsea Invite TBA A

Tennis
May 17-18 Regional TBA A

Boys Track
May 17-18 Regional TBA A
May 22 Conference TBA A
May 25 Oakland County TBA A

Golf
May 17 Regional TBA A

Soccer
May 17 - W. Bloomfield 5:30 H
May 20 - Playoff 5:30 H
May 22 - Playoff 5:30 H



It's been a bumpy ride

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

SOFTBALL

The Novi Softball team has continued to have a rocky road this year. However, the team has improved drastically from last year and is having moments of success but they just can't seem to put it all together consistently.

The team took two tough losses last Friday against South Lyon 1-0 and then 6-0. The team couldn't get things going offensively, but they were strong from the mound, especially in the first game. Kendall Hobart allowed only one run hit. Unfortunately, Novi couldn't muster much more and they fell 1-0. In the second game, Novi was still unable to score and gave up six runs in the loss.

Senior captain Megan Colligan believes that the teams were comparable, but it was Novi's lack of offense that cost them the game.

"I think we were really evenly matched, and they were hitting and we weren't," she said. "That made the difference."

The team also had a game scheduled against Brighton last week but it was called off. Unfortunately, Novi fell in another pair of games to Lakeland on Friday May 3. In the first game, Novi lost 6-3. Alyssa Wagner was the losing pitcher as she pitched four innings and gave up five runs. Hobart finished the rest of the game from the mound giving up one run.

Hobart also fared well at the plate and went one-for-three with a run scored also. Colligan, as usual, led the hitting for the team

"They were two really good games," Colligan said.

After the Lakeland game, Colligan was batting .364 and had 18 RBIs on the year. She also had two home runs and eight doubles. Colligan also has one of the top fielding percentages with a .993 rating.

"I've just been waiting for my senior year," Colligan said. "I've worked hard the past three years for this."

Novi Hobart, at .383, has a better batting average than Colligan. She is also doing an outstanding job pitching. She has 34 strikeouts and a 1.47 ERA. Hobart has 12 RBIs on the year along with 3 doubles and a team leading 13 stolen bases.

Liz Stevens has also been playing well. She's batting .333 and has knocked in 14 RBIs. Both Jaime Sabal and Kaiser were perfect from the field from the beginning of the year until the Lakeland team.

Novi also dominated Howell 15-5 win in the first game of a double-header but fell in the second, 13-3. Wagner earned the win in the first game and she struck out three.

"They just came out ready to play and we didn't," Colligan said about the second game.

Novi is now 6-14 and looking to improve. The Wildcats will face Milford tomorrow.

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

WLW Baseball: Pisha and gang fall to Mustangs

Continued from 6

in a game that found the Warriors tripling for the first time in their division — reopening the door for Farmington Hills Harrison.

"We are going to have to watch out for everybody," Connor said. "Like I told the kids, teams like Northville have nothing to lose, and we have everything to lose."

In the end, Pisha gave up 7 hits, whiffed eight batters and gave up four earned runs in six innings while Nazoffoff gave up three runs and struck out two.

The only real hitters in the game were Jon Michael, who went 2-for-4 with a RBI, and Pisha, who was 3-for-3 at the plate.

The Warriors will return to action today when they host a very tough Plymouth Canton team at 4 p.m. before inviting the Harrison Hawks to play May 20 at Willard Lake Western with the opening pitch scheduled for 4 p.m. May 22 finds

the Warriors playing a cross-over playoff for, hopefully, the WLAA championship.

WLW 6, Franklin 2
In a game that had Connor swearing up and down that he was moving to Florida to coach baseball there just to get away from the insane Michigan weather, the Warriors managed to work the hopes of the Franklin Patriots as they looked to beat the WLAA Western Division leaders.

"I'm cold, wet and miserable," Connor said after the game. "It is always a tough game when we go down to Franklin. It seems like one of those fields where we always get a smoke bitten."

Not this time. The Warriors came out hard against their Western division foes as John Sowers went the distance on the mound, scattering four hits to earn his sixth win (6-0) on the season.

Connor noted that a player never really knows when he might be needed — just as Conley. Conley has stepped in for an injured Kyle Wade after Wade broke his finger earlier this season.

"Greg is doing a bang-up job," Connor said. "He is a very good player, a good hitter and a good defender. He has stepped up and never missed a beat."

Conley showed what he could do in the second game, going the distance for the win while allowing only two hits and striking out three.

On the offensive end, Michael RBI and Pisha went 2-for-3 with four RBIs.

One of the nice things about a double header is that a team is often given the chance to play everyone on the roster.

"I always do for a double header," Connor said. "It doesn't make any difference if we are winning or losing. You have to keep the kids interested."

Connor noted that a player never really knows when he might be needed — just as Conley. Conley has stepped in for an injured Kyle Wade after Wade broke his finger earlier this season.

"Greg is doing a bang-up job," Connor said. "He is a very good player, a good hitter and a good defender. He has stepped up and never missed a beat."

Conley showed what he could do in the second game, going the distance for the win while allowing only two hits and striking out three.

On the offensive end, Michael



Runnin' like the wind
Western's Becca Rudey is in the lead over her nearest Northville competitor during a 4x800 meter relay race.

Next Level Athletes



Karen Fischer
Steve Purtell
Erica Winn
Kathryn Miller

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Next Level Athletes is a section of the newspaper where we can congratulate and applaud our local athletes for their dedication and accomplishments in the field of sports. The following athletes are all scheduled to graduate from Hope College this spring, and each of them reached this point while playing the sports they love.

Karen Fischer of Northville is the daughter of Stacy Fischer. She was a swimmer for Hope College. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Athletic Training.

Steve Purtell of Northville is the son of Greg and Jan Purtell. He will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Business Administration.

Erica Winn of Northville is the daughter of Craig and Barb Winn. She was on the Hope college gymnastics team. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Language Arts.

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

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WLC baseball plagued by injuries as well as 15 losses

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Plagued by injuries and late-game losses, the Walled Lake Central baseball team is bearing a record that it doesn't deserve. The Vikings have only won four games as of yet, but seven of their 15 losses have been games that the team feels they should have won.

"We've lost seven games where we've had the lead going into the sixth or seventh (inning)," Walled Lake Central coach Mark Kowalczyk said.

The team also lost their number one pitcher, Ryan Traylor, to injury earlier this year. Traylor is a senior who was a three-year letter winner for the Vikings.

"My pitching staff right now is just decimated," Kowalczyk said.

The team also lost their number three pitcher to injury.

Waterford Kettering 4, Walled Lake Central 2, opener

In the first of a double-header last Saturday, Walled Lake Central

lost in extra innings to Kettering. Behind strong pitching of Bill Woods, who pitched through the seventh inning, the team was able to take a 2-0 lead going into the seventh.

"Bill just pitched a great seven innings," Kowalczyk said.

Woods pitched eight strikeouts.

Sean Wolf went one for three with a solo home run in the early innings of the game.

Dustin Keebaugh hit a two-run double for Kettering and Brett Roback earned the win from the mound, pitching all eight innings.

Walled Lake Central 3, Waterford Kettering 2, closer

It was a different story in the second game as the Vikings were able to correct some things that went wrong in the opener and take the second.

"There are little things you have to do correctly," Kowalczyk said.

"We did those in the second game."

Sophomore Nick VanDike pitched for the Vikings and threw eight strikeouts over six innings.

Another sophomore, Trent Sizemore, and Tim Saber led the team from the offensive end. Both went 2-3 and had two RBIs.

Livonia Stevenson 10, Walled Lake Central 9

Walled Lake Central let another game get away from them earlier in the week too. The Vikings were up 6-0 going into the fourth. After Stevenson tied the game, they knocked in three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Those still didn't stop Stevenson from hitting a three-run shot in top of the seventh to force extra innings. Stevenson won the game in the ninth.

Dan Miller provided a large share of the offense and he went 2-4 on the day with two home runs and three RBIs.

According to Kowalczyk, Stevenson is essentially the team to beat in their division. The team has lost two close games to them, including a 2-1 defeat a few weeks ago. The closeness of the games shows that the Vikings do have the

ability to play with top teams; they just haven't been able to finish.

"When you have a lead against those type of teams you can't make errors," Kowalczyk said. "You just have to step up."

Though the team's record is well below .500, if just a few things had gone their way, they could be above .500.

"Our record could easily be 10-9," Kowalczyk said. "The lack of production hurt us."

He was referring to the challenges the team faces with a depleted bullpen.

Now the team has its sights set on improving their record. They have met their early season goals of matching up against every team, now they want to finish.

"Our goal has always been to compete in every game," Kowalczyk said. "Nowadays, it's to compete."

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

It's tough to win them all

Western baseball falls to energized Northville squad

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Sometimes, even a giant tumbles.

The Walled Lake Western Warriors baseball team took only their second loss of the season when they fell to the Northville Mustangs in a surprise upset that found the practically unstoppable pitching of Mike Pisha taking a loss, 8-3, May 9. The Warriors would not let it keep them down though, as they bested Franklin 5-2 May 13 after smashing Waterford Mott 11-1, 11-1 in two five inning games of a double header May 11, topping Farmington 6-5 May 8 and battered Churchill in five innings, 11-1 May 6.

"Mike (Pisha) was off and we were just flat," Western head

coach Ken Connor said. "It was just one of those games. When I saw Mickey (Newman) and his crew coming out the field and I saw their uniforms were all buttoned up and the looks on their faces I knew they came to play, and they did."

The Mustangs cranked out seven hits against the finesse pitching of Pisha before he was pulled in the sixth inning after hurling over 120 pitches.

"He said he was fine, but they all say that," Connor said. "We pulled him and put in Justin Nazarov."

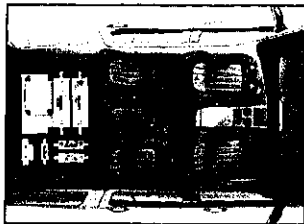
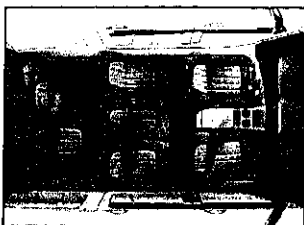
Not that it made much different to Northville. The resurgent Mustangs knocked four earned runs in against Pisha before blasting in three more against Nazarov

Continued on 5



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2 • Peoples Choice East • May, 2002

Penleton dresses up patrons from casual to office

By Jennifer Norris
STAFF WRITER

Whether you're looking for trendy casual wear, stylish office attire or comfortable weekend apparel, Northville's Penleton shop has you covered.

Local area residents and readers have named Penleton, located at 117 N. Center St. their top choice in finding the best men's and women's clothing.

Penleton manager Margene Coultter said she was quite pleased to hear the news.

"Most people who know Penleton know it for men's woolen shirts and classic women's clothing," said Coultter. "That's what they know it for."

In addition, Penleton offers updated seasonal clothing for men and women and an array of accessories including belts,

handbags, ties and scarves.

"The store also carries merchandise perfect for warding off chilly night temperatures.

"Penleton is known for their fine woolen blankets," said Coultter.

Since the store opened in October of 2000, Penleton has been supplying area residents with top quality clothing, a tradition which has not gone unnoticed by the consumers.

But Penleton features more than just the highly regarded clothing lines for men and women. Patrons will find themselves the center of attention.

"I'm pleased we're able to offer the service we do," said Coultter. "Most customers are surprised to find that if we don't have their size or color they want, we're able to partner with other Penleton stores and locate just what they need."

Best Men's Store and Women's Store: Penleton

For Coultter, servicing the patrons is a job aspect that thrills her.

"As far as customer service, I enjoy working with the customers that come into the store,"

she said. "Most people have a positive attitude about the store. They make it a pleasure to help them."

This area also provided a perfect location for the shop.

"Penleton selected Northville because Northville was a good fit for what they had to offer," said Coultter, adding that she's proud of the fact that Penleton stands behind their product. "People know if they need a classic suit, this is a good place to come find it. When they come in looking for that they're surprised to find updated, fashionable clothing both for work and the weekend."

Coultter said she has received several comments from patrons praising the level of workmanship and caliber of the Penleton clothing line.

"They know the quality they're getting," she said. "I constantly get stories from customers about how long their Penleton clothing has lasted."

"It's really nice. People come in and comment on how nice the store is. That's always good to hear."

Coultter said she was thankful that residents and readers selected Penleton as having the best in men's and women's clothing.

"I'd like to thank all the people that voted," she said. "We'll do everything we can to offer them the best possible service."

Penleton can be reached at (248) 596-9820.

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail at jnorris@nlh.com.net.

"I'm pleased we're able to offer the service we do. Most customers are surprised to find that if we don't have their size or color they want, we're able to partner with other Penleton stores and locate just what they need."

-Margene Coultter,
Manager



Photo by John Heider

Northville Penleton shop workers Margene Coultter, left, and Shirley Davis organize some men's apparel in their Center Street clothier.

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Ford dealer voted best by Northville residents

By Jennifer Norris
STAFF WRITER

McDonald Ford knows how to treat its customers. And in return, local residents and readers have voted McDonald Ford as Northville's best auto dealership.



Photo by John Heider

Popular Northville auto dealership McDonald Ford has recently been cited by the Ford Motor Company with its President's Award for Excellence in sales and service. From left are Bob Stewart, Ron Bleckmann, and David Rekuic.

Vice-president chief operating officer David Rekuic said at McDonald Ford, visitors will find a full-service auto dealership complete with new and used cars, a full service department and an experienced group of service technicians.

Best Auto Dealership: McDonald Ford

Along with McDonald Ford, they're considered rookies," said Rekuic. "One thing that makes us unique is the longevity of our employees. The automotive industry is known for its high turnover. The sales department [here] has an average seniority of 10 years. Some of our salespeople have been here so long, they are selling to the third generation of the same family."

The dealership also features a full parts department and a full collision and paint shop. Customers may also purchase tires, a new service which has been added to the dealership.

Rental cars and trucks are also available.

"We rent everything from a Focus to a tandem axle tractor and everything in between," said Rekuic.

In addition, McDonald Ford features a heavy-duty truck service facility.

McDonald Ford has two branches equipped to handle consumer's automotive needs. The facilities are located at 550 West Seven Mile Road in Northville and 17000 Northville Road in Northville Township.

At the Seven Mile road location, Rekuic said McDonald Ford features new and used vehicles, service for light trucks and

cars and parts. The other location on Northville Road features a body and paint repair shop, heavy truck service and car/truck rentals, he said.

McDonald Ford customers won't have to worry about transportation matters while their vehicle undergoes repair.

"We do offer a service shuttle," said Rekuic. "We'll take them to work or back home while their car is being serviced."

In addition to being selected as the People's Choice for best auto dealership, McDonald Ford has also won six consecutive President's Awards from Ford Motor Company.

"We specialize in treating customers as if they were all family," said Rekuic. "I have customers that stop by to chat with employees. Overall, I'm proud of the place we take in the community. We service the community well and the community supports us with their business."

Rekuic said he was pleased with the voter's decision to select McDonald Ford as the top auto dealership.

"It's nice to win these awards," he said. "I just hope we can continue to live up to our reputation."

Jennifer Norris is a Northville Record staff writer. Reach her at (248) 349-1700.

Stewart named top police officer

Pauline Campos
STAFF WRITER

Best Police Officer: Glenn Stewart

Receiving a speeding ticket is never a pleasant event for the one on the receiving end, but Officer Glenn Stewart takes pride in the fact that when he pulls a resident over, they usually thank him before driving away.

"I always show the residents respect," he said. "And I think they appreciate that." Maybe they do. Stewart was recently chosen Northville's best police officer by the residents he was sworn to serve and protect. And that's an honor that took him by surprise.

"I was really surprised to learn that I had won," he said. "The most important accolades you can receive are from the people you are sworn to protect and serve."

Stewart is a 1997 graduate of the Northville Police Academy. He has been with the department for three years and is currently assigned to the patrol division.

Stewart is a 1997 graduate of the Northville Police Academy. He has been with the department for three years and is currently assigned to the patrol division.

year-veteran of the city department, Stewart enjoys serving the Northville community.

"I take pride in working in a community that takes pride in itself," he said.

His assignment to the patrol division keep him true to his aspirations of staying on the streets and remaining close to the people and the community. He's even passed up the opportunity to test for promotions. Stewart says that's because he is exactly where he wants to be.

Stewart is also the field training officer assigned to train new officers for street duty.

"I enjoy working with people and helping them. One of the major highlights is to provide the residents with the best possible service and to help them get back on the road as quickly as possible."

Stewart is a 1997 graduate of the Northville Police Academy. He has been with the department for three years and is currently assigned to the patrol division.

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"I take pride in working in a community that takes pride in itself."

-Glenn Stewart,
Police Officer



Northville Police Department Officer Glen Stewart was given the honor of best police officer by readers of the Northville Record.



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A New Respect for Your Busy Schedule:
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Keep babies in style without the hefty price

By CHRIS C. DAVIS
NORTHVILLE RECORD EDITOR

Quite frankly, the reason Diane Wise got into the consignment business was because clothing for her newborn baby was, well...really expensive.

Thirteen years later, Wise and her Northville business are working to solve the problem Wise experienced herself.

Northville Record readers voted Wise's Baby Baby as their choice for best bargain store in Northville — an honor Wise said was both surprising and satisfying.

"It's an honor for us," Wise said. "It's nice to know we're appreciated."

Baby Baby has been housed in locations on Cady and Mary Alexander Court before settling into its current digs at 153 E. Main Street in 1994. Now with more than 4,200 consignors, the business has

Best Bargain Store: Baby Baby

grown and made its mark on the Northville business landscape.

"When I had my baby, I couldn't believe how much things cost," Wise said. "I had to wonder what I could do to help others."

Help is coming in the form of fashion (both for babies and mothers-to-be), furniture, equipment and educational toys, all sold for about one-third the cost of retail. Wise said Baby Baby's staff works to keep its merchandise no more than three years old, although some of what's in the store has never been used at all.

Many Baby Baby shoppers have become Baby Baby consignors, taking advantage of the 50-50 split in sale of clothing and other wares.

Wise said. In their younger years, children grow so quickly that it often becomes necessary to buy new clothes with much greater regularity than they do later on in life. Coupled with the changing seasons, that tends to bring parents into Baby Baby to keep their children in clothes that fit — and fit the time of year.

"People know as soon as their kids grow out of things one season, they'll bring clothes in for consignment," Wise said. "Even now, we try to turn customers into consignors."

And though the name of the store may connote that it's for infants and toddlers, Baby Baby stocks its racks with clothing appropriate for girls up to around age 16. Not only that, but Baby Baby's professional maternity wear can save buyers an enormous sum of money.

"The business attire that women need can get really expensive," Wise said. "Those suits can run around \$300. We can save moms a lot of money."

Most items in the store start at around \$6. Wise said items that are stained, torn or are fading aren't accepted for sale, and that recognized name-brand products are sought by Baby Baby management.

Consignors at Baby Baby receive a 10 percent discount on merchandise bought at the store.

Baby Baby is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A play area for children is available while a parent does business in the store. The store's phone number is (248) 347-2229.

Chris C. Davis is the editor of the Northville Record. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 114, or at cdavis@nl.com.net.



Diane Wise has a large selection of strollers at her Northville Baby-Baby shop. Most new strollers are more than \$100, these sell for around \$25.

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Guernsey Farms wins with down home flavors

Best Chicken and Ice cream: Guernsey Farms Dairy

By Jennifer Norris
STAFF WRITER

Guernsey Farms Dairy has the competition licked.

"People come for the ice cream," said co-owner Marty McGuire. "That's what brings everybody here. Everybody seems to know where Guernsey Dairy is."

Guernsey's ice cream has been bringing smiles to residents for generations and now the Guernsey staff have plenty to grin about too.

Local residents from Northville and Novi have selected Guernsey Farms Dairy as their

number one choice for ice cream and chicken, respectively.

Mike McGuire, a co-owner, said, "We specialize in quality dairy products. Everything [has] got to be quality."

Marty

McGuire said the family-operated business was originally founded in the 1940s by his parents, John and Pat McGuire.

"We were in downtown Northville on Center and Cady," he said.

The business re-located to its current location in the mid 1960s. In 1985, the business further evolved and restaurant facilities were added.

Marty McGuire said the businesses' success is due largely to family ownership and operation.

"It's still very much controlled by family," he said. Currently, there are over 20 family members working for Guernsey Farms Dairy.

"That's one of the reasons we can keep the quality and the control," he said.

Voters selected Guernsey's

broasted chicken and ice cream as their favorites in the Hometown Newspapers People's Choice competition.

"We make about 70 different flavors of ice cream," said Marty McGuire.

He said the business has won awards for their butter pecan flavored ice cream.

During the summertime, Guernsey workers crank out approximately 6,000 gallons of the frozen treat a week.

Guernsey owners are also encouraging readers and area residents to participate in a contest entitled "Name that Flavor" in June.

Guernsey officials said they will be creating a new ice cream flavor and partnering with W O M C - F M (104.3) to encourage area residents to select a name for the new flavor. The winner and name of

"(People) come for the ice cream. We make about 70 different flavors of ice cream."

-Marty McGuire,
Co-owner Guernsey Farms Dairy

the new flavor will be announced on the Dick Purian radio show on June 24, they said.

Marty McGuire said it's gratifying to know his business is highly regarded by its patrons.

"We appreciated the support of the community behind us," he said. "It's a good feeling to know people like our products."

His colleague, Mike McGuire, agreed.

"We're going to continue to try to be Number One every year," he said.

Guernsey Farms Dairy is located at 21300 Novi Road and can be reached at (248) 349-1466.

Jennifer Norris is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 107 or by e-mail at jnorris@lt.hometown.com.



Photo by John Heider
Guernsey's employee Pam Allen puts together a triple-scoop of their own Creme de Novi ice-cream.

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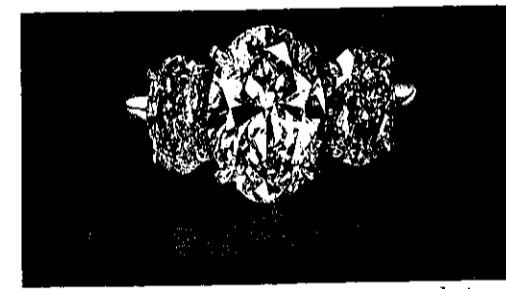
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135 N. Center
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Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best dessert

Rocky's
41122 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-4434

Best sandwich (4-way tie)

Edward's Caterer
116 E. Dunlap
Northville, MI 48167
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Mt. Pila
42975 Seven Mile
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Good Time Party Store
567 Seven Mile Road
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1477

Poole's Tavern
157 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1715

Best main dish

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best salad (5-way tie)

Jet's Pizza
40420 Five Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(734) 420-9756

Rocky's
41122 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-4434

Rebecca's On Center
134 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-2660

Bonfire Bistro & Brewery
39550 Seven Mile Road
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 735-4570

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best soup (3-way tie)

Rebecca's On Center
134 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-2660

Tuscan Cafe
150 N. Center Street
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 305-8629

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best burger (tie)

Rebecca's On Center
134 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-2660

Poole's Tavern
157 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1715

Best chicken (4-way tie)

Santino's Place for Pasta
22200 Novi Road
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Bonfire Bistro & Brewery
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Northville, MI 48167
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Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best steak (tie)

Rocky's
41122 Seven Mile
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Little Italy
227 Hutton
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(248) 348-0575

Best seafood

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best pizza

Jet's Pizza
40420 Five Mile
Northville, MI 48167
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Pizza Cutter
340 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
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Best french fries

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Best ice cream

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Best Chinese food

Jasmine's
146 Mary Alexander Ct.
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 465-9393

Best family dining

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134 N. Center
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Best fast food

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17899 Haggerty
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Best quality dining (4-way tie)

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333 W. Main Street
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Mackinnon's
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Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-348-1991

Papa Vino's
17107 Haggerty
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 449-4684

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best romantic dining

Little Italy
227 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0575

Best coffee

Starbucks Coffee
302 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 344-1875

Best pub

Poole's Tavern
157 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1715

Best bakery

Great Harvest Bread Company
139 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167

(248) 344-4404

Best appliance store (tie)

Best Buy
21051 Haggerty
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 449-8956

Long Plumbing
190 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-0373

Best bargain store

Baby Baby
153 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 347-2229

Best hardware store (tie)

Black's Hardware
42959 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-2323

Damman Hardware
22104 Novi Road
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 347-9410

Best bookstore

Barnes & Noble
17111 Haggerty Road
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-0696

Best men's store

Pendleton
117 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 596-9820

Best women's store

Pendleton
117 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 596-9820

Best specialty store (3-way tie)

Dancing Eye Gallery
101 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 449-7086

Northville Candle & Gifts
124 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 380-7059

Pamplemousse
116 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 449-5176

Northville Pharmacy
42969 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 344-7444

Best drug store

Northville Pharmacy
42969 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 344-7444

Best home improvement store

Home Depot
39500 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 347-9600

Best grocery store

Hiller's Market
425 N. Center
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-8588

Best auto dealership

McDonald Ford
550 Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1400

Best financial institution (3-way tie)

Community Federal Credit Union
400 E. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-2920

Standard Federal
127 Hutton
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 348-8920

Bank One
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Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-7100

Mobil
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Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-2115

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Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1189

Best golf course

Northville Hills Golf Club
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Northville, MI 48167
(734) 667-4653

Dr. David Salah
21580 Novi Road
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-7580

Dr. Jeffrey Jaghab
416 S. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-2750

Dr. Marc Helber
308 S. Main
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1900

Dr. Helene LaCoste
134 MainCentre Bldg.
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 380-3300

Republic Bank finds favor with Herald readers

By Philip Allmen
STAFF WRITER

Determining a business philosophy came easily for the employees working at the bank now located at 419 S. LaFayette

in downtown South Lyon.

The name or location of the bank didn't matter. What did was this bank would be different. It would focus on customer service, being part of the community. The employees would help create an atmos-

Best Bank: Republic Bank

phere that invited people to stop, come inside, talk and do some banking in a relaxed atmosphere.

That's why Republic Bank was voted the best bank by South Lyon Herald readers in HomeTown Newspapers' "People's Choice 2002" contest.

"It is the staff," said Judy Prince, community bank manager. "Customer service is the number one thing from the personal bankers, to the tellers, to myself."

One of Republic Bank's tellers, Kathy Hanert, was also voted the "People's Choice 2002" best bank teller by the South Lyon Herald readers.

Republic Bank is similar to most banks, offering all services one would expect from a bank, ranging from checking and saving accounts to home mortgages to safely deposit boxes.

But walking inside the business, you notice it's not quite the same as some other banks.

First off, there's Sue LaMontagne there by the doors welcoming everyone that comes in. There's plenty of space to sit and relax while waiting for one of the personal bankers. There's plenty of newspapers and magazines to keep yourself occupied, as well as hot coffee for those wanting something to drink.

"We like to see ourselves as a community bank," Prince explained. "Most of us live in the community, and we give back

"We like to see ourselves as a community bank. Most of us live in the community, and we give back to the community."

-Judy Prince,
Community Bank Manager, Republic Bank

to the community."

Prince said one of the reasons she wanted to work at the South Lyon branch was the commitment to the community shown by the employees.

"Personalized banking is one of the reasons why I came here," she said.

Republic Bank was formerly located on Lake Street, where Dream Chocolate is now located. It was then known as First Federal, then DNN before becoming Republic Bank in December 2000. They've been in their current building since 1991.

Republic Bank is located at 419 S. LaFayette in South Lyon.

The bank is open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The bank can be reached by phone at (248) 437-8188.



Photo by Philip Allmen

The staff at the Republic Bank in downtown South Lyon is ready to do what it takes to make sure something as routine as banking is a pleasurable experience. Pictured is the staff of Republic Bank (left to right): Thomas Tuckey, Sue LaMontagne, Karon Saladzinski, Dyane Gadwa, Carole Rogers, Jacki Holmes, Kathy Hanert, Patty Richardson, Judy Prince, Amy Carnes and Joe Thompson. Not pictured is Brenda Briggs.

Ferguson named best by area animal lovers

By Anna Troppens
STAFF WRITER

Best Veterinarian: Heather Ferguson

Veterinarian Heather Ferguson of the Lyon Veterinary Clinic gently coaxes Bailey, a golden retriever suffering from kidney failure, out of a cage for a blood test. The dog, a beloved family pet, was at the clinic to receive intravenous fluids to extend its quality of life.

Bailey wags her tail as she ambles into an examination room. After placing the dog on an examination table, Ferguson comforts the animal as she draws blood from one of its front legs.

Local residents appreciate Ferguson's kindness and skill with her four-legged patients and their owners. They voted her Best Vet in the South Lyon Herald's annual People's Choice contest.

"I'm very flattered," Ferguson said. "The other two veterinarians at the clinic treat large animals, such as horses, while Ferguson takes care of dogs, cats, ferrets, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters, mice, gerbils, rats and other small creatures."

She enjoys the variety and unpredictable nature of her work.

A day at Lyon Veterinary Clinic can include routine cases, such as giving a

cat a vaccination or prescribing medicine to prevent heartworms in a dog. Or Ferguson might need to surgically remove a rock from a dog that swallowed it, she said.

"It's very challenging because certain things are not as easy to deal with as others," Ferguson said. "I really enjoy the challenges of those when they come up. It's very interesting every day."

And she truly enjoys the animals who visit her, along with the people accompanying them. Lyon Veterinary Clinic has a loyal following of patients and their owners, and the rate of return customers is high.

"It's a really high public contact type of job," she said. "I really like the different personalities of the animals, as well as the people who come in."

With each case, she begins by performing a physical examination of the animal to assess what health issues it has. If Ferguson finds an abnormality, her policy is to keep an open line of communication with the owner and to stay open and honest, even if she discovers bad news, she said.

This allows the owner of the pet to

understand the issues, be better able to have the animal tested to confirm the diagnosis and get the problem treated. And if none of the treatments work and the animal must be relieved of its suffering, good communication with Ferguson makes this an easier decision for the pet's owner.

She has seen improvements in what veterinarians can do to help animals since she began practicing, Ferguson said. Some specialty clinics offer high-tech testing for animals, and there is even a cancer clinic for pets in Rochester Hills.

Some firms sell pet insurance to help owners with their animals' medical care.

A pet owner herself, Ferguson understands the difficulties in making decisions regarding a beloved pet. She has two dogs, two cats and a horse.

Originally from Bay City, she has been a veterinarian for 11 years after earning her degree at Michigan State University in Lansing.

She enjoys the small size of the South Lyon area and how close-knit it is.

"People are very friendly," Ferguson said. Lyon Veterinary Clinic is located at



Photo by Anna Troppens

Lyon Veterinary Clinic office manager Mary Moyer (middle) and veterinary technician Amy Davila (right) help veterinarian Heather Ferguson draw blood from Bailey, a dog being treated for kidney failure. The community voted Ferguson Best Vet in the Herald's annual Best Of contest.

21188 Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township, a quarter of a mile north of Eight Mile Road. Ferguson can be reached by telephone at (248) 486-5600.

Northville Pharmacy selected as best by readers

Best Pharmacy: Northville Pharmacy

By Pauline Campos
STAFF WRITER

Take a look around Bassam Hammoud's Northville Pharmacy. You won't find lines for Lotto. You won't have to wait for 20 minutes only to be told you'll be waiting another hour just to have your prescription filled. You won't see alcohol in the coolers or cigarettes behind the shelves.

And you won't have to tell owner and pharmacist Hammoud your name every time you pick up a prescription.

What you will find is a pharmacist who believes in providing his loyal customer base the highest level service that he is able to provide.

Prescriptions are filled in an average of five to 10 minutes, questions are answered immediately, and customers leave smiling after wishing them a good day. It might be old-fashioned, but it is what Hammoud believes makes the difference.

He loves helping people. Perhaps that's one of the reasons Northville Pharmacy was voted as the best in town.

"I like to get to know people on a personal level and they get to know me," said Hammoud. "We become a family. And I never want to be too busy for my customers."

It is for that reason that Hammoud went into business for himself. A former employee of a drug store chain, Hammoud quickly tired of the distractions

and management policies that kept him from enjoying his work.

"People would be calling to see if we had a certain perfume to stock or to see if this or that were on sale," he said. "And we used to be told by management to make people 30 minutes for their prescription just to get them to shop while the prescription was being filled."

"I'm here for the patients," Hammoud continued. "I'm here to explain what they are taking, why they are taking it, and what they can expect from it. That's my job. I'm in the business of healing."

And at Northville Pharmacy, you are only paying for your prescription.

"Most people assume that just because you're a small, independent drug store that you are more expensive," he said. "And in some cases that is true. But I'm not paying for national commercials, extra store employees, and overhead. And because of that I can sell the prescriptions at a reasonable price."

Hammoud also goes that extra mile for his customers by mailing out prescriptions to them while they are away on vacation. That might be another reason Northville Pharmacy was voted the best in town. And Hammoud said he was honored for being voted Northville's best pharmacy, even though it's all just in a day's work.

"I want to thank everyone who voted for us," he said. "We'll keep doing our best. This doesn't mean that we stop here."



Photo by John Heider

Sam Hammoud fills an order at Northville Pharmacy located at 42969 Seven Mile Road.

Hammoud, a Northville resident who also owns a pharmacy in Dearborn with his wife Wanda, has been in business at the Seven Mile location for over three years. Northville Pharmacy

is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The pharmacy's telephone number is (248) 344-7444.

Pauline Campos is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or at pcampos@ht.homecomm.net.

"I like to get to know people on a personal level and they get to know me. We become a family. And I never want to be too busy for my customers."

Bassam Hammoud,
Owner and Pharmacist,
Northville Pharmacy

The People's Choice Awards: The Northville Record winners

Best veterinarian

Dr. Joseph Osbourne
41646 Ten Mile
Novi, MI 48375
(248) 349-7447

Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1715

Best pharmacist

Bassam Hammoud
Northville Pharmacy
42969 Seven Mile Road
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 344-7444

Best police officer

Off. Glen Stewart
215 West Main Street
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 349-1234

(734) 420-9756

Best television station

WDIV (Channel 4)
550 W. Lafayette
Detroit MI 48226
(313) 222-0444

Southfield, MI 48037
(248) 827-7777

Best radio personality

Dick Purton
WOMC-FM (104.3)
2201 Woodward
Ferndale, MI 48220
(248) 546-9600

Best fast food server

Linda Dancer
40420 Five Mile
Northville, MI 48167

WXYZ (Channel 7)
20777 W. Ten Mile Road

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South Lyon readers say Riffle's has soup for you

Best Soups: Riffle's American Cafe

By Anna Troppens
STAFF WRITER

South Lyon area residents know the place to go for hot, delicious soup is Riffle's American Cafe at 22870 Pontiac Trail in Lyon Township.

In fact, they voted Riffle's wide variety of fresh soups as their favorite in this year's Best Of contest by HomeTown Newspapers' *South Lyon Herald*.

"I'm glad to see that the area appreciates a good, homemade product," said owner Bill Riffle.

Riffle makes all of the soups served at his restaurant from scratch daily. He arrives at the restaurant around 4:30 to 5 a.m. and prepares the soups that will be served that day during lunch and dinner.

The family restaurant offers a selection of three soups served daily (see below), chili and a soup d'jour or "soup of the day."

Soups are available by the bowl or cup, and Riffle said he sometimes sells them by the gallon as well. Patrons can sit back, relax and eat their soup at the tastefully decorated little restaurant, taking note of the ever-changing decorations on the small, artificial Christmas tree on a table near the door. Or they can choose soup to go in a cup or bowl.

The key to his soups' success is fresh ingredients, Riffle said. He uses fresh products in each, following recipes he perfected over the years through trial and error.

Riffle's is known for its popular Swiss onion variety of soup. The Swiss onion soup is always on the menu and includes cream of onion with Monterey Jack cheese. Servers agree this soup is the one patrons ask for most.

The Swiss onion soup is also Bill Riffle's favorite.

"It's a lighter soup, but it has a very unique taste over any of the other Swiss onion soups that are out there," he said.

Riffle attributes this to a special ingredient that he adds at the end — heavy whipping cream.

Knickerbocker bean soup is another favorite that is also served daily. It offers a hearty helping of Navy beans to white beans with ham, onions, carrots and tomatoes.

Some soups appear on the menu as the "soup of the day" at Riffle's on certain days of the week. Baked potato and

bacon soup, also a bestseller at the restaurant, is made and served as the soup d'jour every Thursday. On Fridays, mean clam chowder is the special, and Wednesday's menu always includes Mexican chicken tortilla soup as the soup of the day, Riffle said.

The Mexican chicken tortilla soup arrives at tables hot and steaming and includes a tasty mix of chicken soup, onions, tomatoes and corn tortillas

cooked together and seasoned with chili powder, black pepper, cumin and cheddar cheese. More fried corn tortillas are served on top.

Hostess Erin Peterson names this soup as her favorite.

"It has the perfect spice, and I love Mexican food," she said. "It's really good."

Other choices include traditional beef noodle or chicken noodle, mushroom barley and cream of mushroom.

Riffle's American Cafe will celebrate its 10th anniversary in June.

Anna Troppens is a reporter for the

"I'm glad to see that the area appreciates a good, homemade product."

—Bill Riffle,
Owner, Riffle's American Cafe

South Lyon Herald. Reach her at (248) 437-2011 or e-mail her at atroppens@lt.hometown.net.



Photo by Hal Gould

Bill Riffle, owner of Riffle's American Cafe, and hostess Erin Peterson show chili, Knickerbocker bean soup, mushroom barley and Mexican chicken tortilla soup available at Riffle's. *South Lyon Herald* readers chose Riffle's American Cafe for Best Soup honors in the annual People's Choice Awards.

Library patrons cherish Gardner's help, expertise

By John Colling
SPECIAL WRITER

Best Librarian: Gloria Gardner

"When you walk into the library feeling a little down, her smile always lifts you up," Tim Gorman said of Gloria Gardner who was voted best librarian in the *South Lyon Herald's* "People's Choice" poll.

"Gloria used to read to the kids during storytime," added Sharon Wellmer, "and she always brought a bag of books to give out to the children."

"One time when we couldn't make it, she offered to bring the books over to the house."

"That's a really great person."

Always upbeat and smiling, always patiently helpful, and always willing to go out of her way to help library visitors, Gardner appears to be the perfect choice

for the honor of best librarian.

"You know," said Gardner, a clerk at the Salem-South Lyon District Library, "I've been working here ten years, and I feel that I've gotten so much more out of this job than I've put into it."

"I've met so many nice people and formed good friendships with many of

them. It's been a great opportunity for me." Gorman, a former president of the South Lyon Library Board, says that it is Gardner who brings out the best in others.

"She's the most wonderful caring person I've had the honor to meet," he said. "If you ever want me to say something nice about Gloria, just give me a call."

Wellmer is equally enthusiastic about Gardner.

Continued on page 16



"My sincere thanks for voting Northville Candle & Gifts Your Best Specialty Store."

—Beverlee

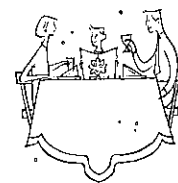
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May, 2002 • Peoples Choice East • 15

Freshness is key to the best salads in South Lyon

By Philip Allmen
STAFF WRITER

Taking that first bite, it almost seems as if you just came back from the backyard garden to fill a bowl with some fresh vegetables to make a salad.

But no. Looking around, you realize you are actually sitting inside Aleko's Restaurant in South Lyon.

Aleko's was voted by South Lyon Herald readers as having the best salads in "HomeTown Newspapers' "People's Choice 2002" awards. It's easy to see why.

Everything Aleko's does is fresh.

"We are here at 7:30 in the morning cutting and making everything," said Mark Savedes, owner of Aleko's. "Everything we do comes from this store. It takes a lot more time, but it's so much better than pre-processed stuff."

In the back corner of the kitchen, there's often a new batch of salad dressing being made, whether it's there Greek, ranch or any one of their other dressings made fresh.

They slice and dice their own vegetables and meats for the salads, as well as the pizzas and other tempting items on

Best Salads: Aleko's Restaurant

their menu. Cheese is grinded in-house, as well.

"We don't have things sitting around," Savedes added.

Aleko's serves up seven salads ranging from a Greek salad to cobb to antipasto. Their newest salads featured are the pomidori and the northern Michigan dried cherry salad.

"Those salads were offered for our catering," Savedes explained. "Everyone

"Those salads were offered for our catering. Everyone heard about the salads for catering and wanted to order them for lunch."

—Mark Savedes,
Owner, Aleko's Restaurant

heard about the salads for catering and wanted to order them for lunch."

The pomidori is an Italian salad with iceberg and romaine lettuce tossed in raspberry vinaigrette dressing with crumbled bleu cheese, tomatoes, prosciutto, onions and pine nuts.

The dried cherry salad comes with Traverse City dried cherries, dried walnuts, crumbled bleu cheese, red onions and tomatoes, all served with honey walnut vinaigrette dressing.

Their catering service has picked up so much. Aleko's had to hire a full-time delivery person. Catered food, as well as large orders for luncheons and parties, is delivered. They already have 48 graduation parties booked for June alone.

But Aleko's is more than just salad. They offer a variety of tastes, including their famous ribs, herbed chicken, homemade pasta dishes, pizza and world-famous breadsticks.

Aleko's is located at 22311 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon. It is open Mondays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sundays from noon to 9 p.m. Aleko's can be reached by calling (248) 437-4877.

Philip Allmen is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at (248) 437-2011 or by e-mail at pallmen@hl.hometown.net.



At Aleko's Restaurant at 22311 Pontiac Trail (Brookdale Plaza), William (Billy Bob) Barron, Mark Savedes and Adam Russell show some of the famous salads they serve to customers. Photo by HAL GOULD

Patrons cherish Gardner's help, smile, expertise

Continued from page 14

Best Librarian: Gloria Gardner

"I've never met a librarian like her before," said Wellmer. "She's always so helpful and so pleasant."

"When my kids come into the library, she always gives them a big hug."

Wellmer's son, George, describes Gardner as "...very, very kind."

"If you ever need a book, she always takes the time to help you find it."

His brother, Zachary, shares his feelings.

Gardner, who was born in Ferndale and grew up in Detroit, retired from AT&T.

She and her husband, Leonard, a retired Ford worker, moved to South Lyon 10 years ago, and she immediately joined

the library staff.

They have two daughters and 15 grandchildren.

What does she do when she's not at the library?

"I like to read," she says. "I enjoy true crime stories."

She also is an avid puzzle fan and

enjoys the really hard ones like the *New York Times* Sunday puzzles.

"I like to do them in ink," she laughed. "That's kind of arrogant, isn't it?"

And then there's Sasha, a "big yellow dog" that she lives with and likes to spoil.

"I've had so much fun working at the library over the years," Gardner said.

"The people in the South Lyon area are so nice."

"It's really a pleasure to work with them each day."

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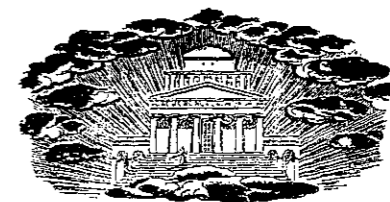
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In the Land of Dairy Queen...

Readers warm up to cool treats at new South Lyon store

By Philip Allmen
STAFF WRITER

Despite being open for less than a year in South Lyon, area residents have become accustomed to heading over to Dairy Queen whenever the need for something a little sweet hits.

Whether it's a simple ice cream cone, or for the more adventurous, one of their blizzards or royal treats, Andy Sprinkle, manager of the South Lyon Dairy Queen, said anything ice cream related can be found at the store.

And people love Dairy Queen's ice cream, because "it's a premium product, a reduced-fat ice cream," Sprinkle said.

South Lyon's Dairy Queen was voted by HomeTown Newspaper's South Lyon Herald readers as having both the best ice cream and best dessert in the 2002 People's Choice awards.

According to Sprinkle, great-tasting ice cream and customer service are two primary reasons why Dairy Queen is such a success.

Working with employees to improve service to customers, like training each of the employees to work in a supervisory role, is essential. Having all the employees know how to handle any situation that may arise makes the business a smoother operation.

"Customer service has a lot to do with it," Sprinkle explained. "We have an excellent staff. We've learned a lot since we opened."

And simply interacting with customers is important, as well. For example, blizzards are served upside down. Yes, the cup filled with frozen curds mixed with candy is handed out the window with the bottom facing up.

"We always get a reaction, good or bad," Sprinkle said. "That's a trademark of Dairy Queen. A lot of people are afraid it's going to spill, but it doesn't."

When it comes to the basics, Dairy Queen has you covered. The ice cream shop sells soft-serve ice cream in the vanilla, chocolate and twist varieties. For the mildly adventurous, you can add some sprinkles or nuts, or simply dip the



Photo by HAL GOULD
At Dairy Queen in South Lyon, owner Nathan Hickling stands with Jaime Dawson and manager Andy Sprinkle. Readers of the South Lyon Herald said the store has the best ice cream and the best desserts in town.

Best Desserts, Best Ice Cream: Dairy Queen

entire cone into a vat of chocolate for a crispy outer shell.

From there, the choices get a little more difficult with a number of creative options.

One of the most popular items is the Blizzard, a mixture of ice cream and any of a number of candies or other confection. There are 25 listed Blizzard toppings. Then there are the Royal Treats like the banana split or Brownie Earthquake.

"There are a lot of old Blizzard flavors that were discontinued that people still like," said Sprinkle. "You can still get those."

New to the South Lyon location is the Blizzard pie, which is a graham cracker shell filled with ice cream and your favorite Blizzard flavor.

"Those are one of my favorites," Sprinkle admitted.

Then there's some of the desserts you have to order somewhat ahead of time, but they're well worth it. The frozen cakes and Treatza Pizza are some of the most sought after desserts around.

The frozen cakes come in various sizes with vanilla ice cream on the outside and chocolate ice cream inside. It's covered in chocolate crunch, then decorated in any way the customer wants, whether it's for a birthday, wedding or simply a friendly get-together. Dairy Queen has a cake decorator on hand to handle the desserts.

"The cakes are pretty much for any occasion," Sprinkle said. "We customize it

any way they want."

The pizzas come in 12 varieties. It begins with a cookie crunch bottom, topped with ice cream spread over the crust, then covered in any of the toppings in all its glory. The pizza is sliced up into eight pieces and is ready to take home.

The Dairy Queen is located at 22253 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon. It is open daily at 11:30 a.m. and remains open until around 10 p.m. It can be reached at (248) 486-4953.

Philip Allmen is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at (248) 437-2011 or by e-mail at pallmen@ht.homecomm.net.



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The People's Choice Awards: The South Lyon Herald winners

Florist grows happy customers



Pat Fielding (center) poses with her staff at Pat's Field of Flowers, located at 22331 Pontiac Trail.

Photo by HAL GOULD

Sam Black
EDITOR, SOUTH LYON HERALD

During the past 13 years, Pat's Field of Flowers has earned a reputation for providing creative flower arrangements and wonderful gifts in a friendly hometown setting.

From natural and silk flowers to gifts of candles, porcelain and collectibles, Pat's Field of Flowers has a gift that will put a smile on the face of just about anybody. Plenty of smiles is why South Lyon Herald readers voted Pat's Field of Flowers as the best florist in the annual People's Choice awards.

"We do our very best to give the best customer service we can," said owner Pat Fielding. "We guarantee everything we do."

Lyon Township resident Jean Diven says her children always use Pat's Field of Flowers when they want to send her something special.

"They trust her," Diven said. "They know it will be fresh, and it will be what they wanted me to have."

Fielding started out her business as a franchise, but after two years, she decided she had her own business plan. One of her employees suggested a new name, and Pat's Field of Flowers blossomed.

Fielding prides herself in offering fresh and long-lasting flowers. And when patrons

walk in to order a bouquet, they can watch the arrangement being made. Having the floral work area near customers allows them to offer suggestions while the arrangement is being made, Fielding said, and that means customers will be happier with their purchase.

But flowers aren't the only offering at Pat's. The shop offers collectibles, such as Boyd's Bears and porcelain Seraphim Angels. Patrons will also find Clair Burke potpourri, Colonial Candles and beautiful sounding chimes. Personal products, including hand cream and body lotions from Camille Beckman and Lang cards, mugs and other items make wonderful gifts, too. The shop also offers lawn and pond ornaments, from butterflies and

ladybugs to daisies and sunflowers.

With so many items to choose from and flowers, too, Pat's Field of Flowers creates exciting gift baskets. "We can do just about anything anybody wants," Fielding said.

To make homes more beautiful, Floral Designer Sherry Cook creates silk arrangements to match patrons' decor. Customers visit the shop carrying sofa sleeves and swatches of fabric or paint to help Cook create a floral display that will match their decorating style and colors. Cook even visits homes to develop ideas for floral displays throughout a home, filling empty corners and dressing up bland walls.

"She is an artist with flowers," Fielding said of her work. Cook has worked at Pat's Field of Flowers for nine years.

Fielding said she is happy that her patrons voted for her best florist in the South Lyon Herald's People's Choice poll. "I really love what I do and I love all the people," Fielding said. "I want to thank everybody in South Lyon for creating such a great town to be in. It's a great community."

Pat's Field of Flowers is open seven days a week: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The shop delivers locally and can send flowers around the world. Call Pat's Field of Flowers at 248-437-7997.

The People's Choice Awards: The South Lyon Herald winners

Best Veterinarian Heather Ferguson Lyon Veterinary Clinic 21188 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-5600	Best Receptionist Laurie Lamey South Lyon Herald 101 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2011	Pharmacist Kenny Walkup South Lyon Family Pharmacy 116 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-6225	Best Accountant Brenda W. Smith, CPA 56711 Grand River New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-6010	Best Firefighter Mark Hamilton Salem Township Fire Department
Best Hair Stylist Ella Johnson Precision Edge Hair Design 12532 Ten Mile Rd. South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-4247	Best Insurance Agent Lisa Vanderhoff 22322 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-2000	Best Florist Pat's Field of Flowers 22331 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-7997	Best Fast Food Employee (two-way tie) Mary Plannert Wendy's 440 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-0236	Best Auto Service (two-way tie) Norm's Total Automotive Service 115 W. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2086
Best Waitress Amy Pruneau Putters 57036 Grand River New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-7693	Best Chiropractor (two-way tie) Dr. Russell LaLonde 13652 Ten Mile Rd. South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-8184	Best Police Officer Marty Bay South Lyon Police Department	Best Travel agent Kristin Phillips Phillips Travel Service 110 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1733	Best News Reporter John Colling South Lyon Herald 101 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2011
Best Appetizer South Lyon Hotel 201 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-6440	Best Dessert Dairy Queen 22253 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-4953	Best Sandwich Brown's Rootbeer & Sandwich Shop 399 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-6376	Best Main Dish Putters 57036 Grand River New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-7693	Best Salad Aleko's 22311 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-4877
Best Soup Riffles American Cafe 22870 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-1511	Best Burger (two-way tie) The Grilled Tomato 106 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-0322	Best Chicken Dorozo's Pizza 507 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2751	Best Steak The Grilled Tomato 106 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-0322	Best Seafood Putters 57036 Grand River New Hudson, MI 48178 (248)437-7693
Best Pizza (five-way tie) Cottage Inn Pizza, Jet's Pizza, Pro Pizza, Boomer's Pizza, Little Caesar's Pizza Treat	Most Romantic Restaurant Bistro 127 127 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-9000	Best Women's Store Fashion Bug 22185 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-2649	Best Auto Dealership Hines Park Ford, Inc. 56558 Pontiac Trail New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-6700	Best Coffee Shop South Lyon Coffee Bean 20746 Pontiac Special South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1400
Best Bakery South Lyon Village Bakery & Deli 222 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-8469	Best Rock & Roll Bar South Lyon Hotel 201 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-6440	Best Bargain Store Strictly A Dollar 22381 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-7545	Best Furniture Tenpenny Furniture 124 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1590	Best Carpet (two-way tie) Serra Floor Covering 21946 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2838
Best Hardware Store South Lyon Lumber-Ace Hardware 415 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1751	Best Bookstore (Two-way tie) Lyon's Dan Bookstore 116 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-2500	Best Grocery Country Market 600 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-1770	Best Doctor (two-way tie) Dr. Cheri Trembath and Dr. Thomas Anna, both of Providence Medical Center 210 N. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1744	Best Music Store Cornerstone Bible Bookstore 22900 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-5996
Best Family Restaurant Riffles American Cafe 22870 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)486-1511	Best Quality Dining (Three-Way Tie) The Grilled Tomato 106 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-0322	Best Bookstore South Lyon Lumber-Ace Hardware 415 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1751	Best Dentist (two-way tie) Mark Micheis 30033 Shepco New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-1755	Best Barber Miners Barbershop 58875 Grand River New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)486-3270
Best Fast Food Chain Wendy's Restaurant 440 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)446-0236	Best Video Store Blockbuster Video 20752 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-3181	Best Dentist (two-way tie) Mark Micheis 30033 Shepco New Hudson, MI 48165 (248)437-1755	Best Bank Republic Bank 419 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-8186	Best Gas Station Clark 302 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-0693
Best Strip Mall Brookdale Square 9 Mile and Pontiac Trail South Lyon, MI 48178	Best Hardware Store South Lyon Lumber-Ace Hardware 415 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1751	Best Home Improvement Store South Lyon Lumber-Ace Hardware 415 E. Lake South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-1751	Best Bank Republic Bank 419 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-8186	Best Gas Station Clark 302 S. Lafayette South Lyon, MI 48178 (248)437-0693
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Continued on page 21

Love for animals turns to careers for local vets

By David M. Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

There was never much doubt that Dr. Jennifer Groehn would one day grow up to be a veterinarian.

Her youthful trail of house pets all but baptized the latter-day professional: dogs, cats, horses, rehabilitated raccoons, fish, parakeets, iguanas, gerbils, snakes, turtles, goats — even a monkey.

And now Groehn's affinity for animals of all kinds has led to her recent purchase of the Highland Veterinary Clinic, a full-service pet care facility that has been officially recognized by Milford Times readers as the Huron Valley's best.

"I just always loved animals," said Groehn, who along with associate, Dr. Cathy Anderson, now run the 10-employee clinic. "We are very happy about this recognition."

Though Groehn may be the clinic's new owner, she is

hardly a stranger to either the clinic or the local area.

The 12-year Milford resident said she had worked as a relief physician at Highland Veterinary for more than a decade, a fact, she said, that both piqued her professional interest and that helped acclimate her to the surrounding community.

"I always liked this community," she said. "I just thought, 'What better place to lay down professional roots than in the community I live?'"

So last year Groehn decided did precisely that. She expressed interest in purchasing the established clinic, and early this year completed the financial and organizational transition. Now she and Anderson have their sights set on maintaining their recently awarded "Top Dog" People's Choice distinction.

"We are very passionate about animals and pets here," Groehn said. "But we

Best Veterinarian: Highland Veterinary Clinic

make certain not to forget the person who actually brings the animal in. We make them part of the visit as much as we can."

Anderson agreed. "The pet is my patient, but the pet owner is the animal's advocate," she said. "That's why good communication is so important between the pet owners and the physician. We really emphasize that."

Groehn said two additional points of emphasis for the 25-year-old clinic include: expanded services — including boarding, grooming, bloodwork, ultrasound, microchip identification and laser surgery — as well as expanded service hours.

"We very much want to be part of the community," Groehn said, herself a Michigan State University-trained veterinary professional. Groehn was actually a

member of the school's first-ever veterinary class that numbered amongst its ranks more female than male students.

Indeed, such an academic reality foreshadowed a paradigm shift within a profession once governed almost exclusively by men. Now women regularly outnumber their male peers when it comes to veterinary medicine training. Groehn said gender matters little, however, when equipping and managing a well-run veterinary clinic. Customer service and a string support staff is the key, she said.

"We absolutely love our staff. They are great," Groehn said. "We have built our staff with the kinds of people that care about animals and care about the concerns of pet owners. We try to provide the kind of care that we would expect if we were on the other

side of the counter."

She said friendly, family-oriented care may include the treatment of several animal types: from dogs and cats to chinchillas, rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, gerbils and birds.

"We care about these pets as if they were our own," Groehn said. The Highland Veterinary Clinic is also planning a summer open house for the general public. The clinic is located at 1255 S. Milford Road. For more information, call (248) 887-3755.

Clinic hours are: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

David Aguilar is a reporter for the Milford Times. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 18 or by e-mail at daguilar@homecomm.net.



The staff of the Highland Veterinary Clinic will treat your animal as if it was their very own pet.

Photo by HAL GOULD



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Although the best, Koenig never dreamed of being a librarian

By Erin Johnson
STAFF WRITER

When children first begin attending school, they learn the ropes from their teacher. When they first go to the library, they are greeted by the librarian. At Heritage Elementary School, that librarian is Diane Koenig and her patrons think she's the best.

Koenig was voted best librarian by Milford Times readers in the annual People's Choice Awards.

"I'm totally shocked," Koenig said. She said she was especially surprised because she didn't think school librarians could be selected for the award.

Koenig has been the librarian at Heritage since the school opened and was at Kurtz Elementary for one year before that. However, librarian wasn't exactly the job she originally had in mind for herself.

"I was actually going back to school to be a teacher," she said.

While continuing to take classes toward becoming a teacher, a friend of hers suggested applying to be a media tech at a school because it offered the same type of benefits. As luck, or fate, would have it, she needed those benefits shortly after starting her new job when her husband became ill and needed a bone marrow transplant.

Koenig decided to stay in the library instead of moving into the classroom because she loves what she does and enjoys getting to know the personalities of all the children in the school.

"You have this mini-conversation with all the kids while they're checking their books out," she said.

Heritage students visit Koenig and the library once a week. During that time, Koenig said she reads to the younger students, but spends most of the time telling them about activities going on and helping them search for books.

"We could easily use more time," Koenig said.

One library program students participate in throughout the school year is reading books to earn patches. Koenig started the program three years ago and said she based it on the fact that her children loved to get patches when they were younger.

There are 24 different categories of books students can read, such as animals, sports, mystery and non-fiction history, along with many others. Once a student has read three books that fall under the same category they earn a sticker; six books earns them a patch. Each category has a logo which appears on the patch and in paper form on the walls of the library. When a student earns a patch, their name also goes under the logo in the library.

Koenig said children enjoy getting the patches but some of the categories don't have very many names under them.

"There are some that are much more

popular than others," she said. Koenig said she likes getting parents involved in reading and what their child is doing at school and the patches program does that by requiring students to get their parent's signature after completing a book. She said parents will often stop in at the library and check how many more books their child needs for a patch or what books fall under what categories.

Unlike many libraries, Koenig doesn't mind if the students get a little loud when searching for books.

"It's not the most quiet area in the school," she said.

Heritage students also do some learning during their library time as Koenig makes sure they all know how to find their way around the library and where to look for certain books.

"My goal when they leave here is they

know what a call number is," Koenig said. She said she was very flattered at being voted the best librarian and hopes it's because she makes the effort to communicate with parents.

Koenig said she probably wouldn't be interested in working as a school librarian at the middle or high school levels.

"This is way too much fun," she said.

Best Librarian: Diane Koenig, Heritage

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"This is way too much fun," she said.



Diane Koenig is the only librarian Heritage Elementary students have ever known.

Photo by HAL GOULD

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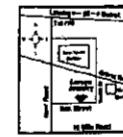
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Highland Township has best of both worlds

By David M. Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

Public service has turned into public acknowledgment for two Highland Township government employees who were recently voted by Milford Times readers as the area's premier municipal officials.

Clerk Mark McDonell was voted the Huron Valley's top elected official, and Assistant Zoning Administrator Juanita LeGris was voted the area's best government employee.

The tandem, whose separate departments share the same administrative counter at Highland's 50-year-old township hall, said the recognition was a welcomed surprise.

"I am shocked... I am truly overwhelmed," LeGris said of the balloting that left her name at the top of a well-heralded local public service list.

LeGris, who is well known to fellow employees for her affable personality and her dry, sometimes disarming wit, encountered a rare moment of speechlessness when she was told about the final results. Fellow workers jokingly fanned her in order to keep a suddenly flush LeGris from fainting.

"I'm going to Disneyworld," she joked, before admitting that she had not once even considered herself a candidate for such public prestige. "Honestly, though, it is very gratifying that people even noticed, and that they took time to think of mentioning my name."

McDonell was equally pleased. "I was surprised," she said. "This is very flattering."

She said the distinction is a small meas-

ure of affirmation for the job she has done since being elected during the 2000 campaign.

"My main goal after winning election was to focus on organization, and to vote in a way that represented how the majority of Highland residents felt," McDonell said.

Such an endeavor is not easily accomplished, she said, especially from a job that many times is piled high with after-hour board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings, at-home reading and late night preparation. Despite such effort, some of the phone calls received at the township are not always pleasant.

"It's hard to explain to people that we have to make decisions sometimes that they may not always like, but that support the master plan," McDonell

said. "But it's important to listen to those opinions, even if you don't always agree with them."

McDonell and LeGris each agreed that a friendly work environment is what made possible People's Choice celebrity.

"I love this job, and I love the people who work here," McDonell said. "I don't think you can excel at something that you don't truly enjoy."

LeGris concurred. She said that during a 30-year municipal career — 20 years of which have been spent in Highland — she has learned that the Golden Rule is the only foundation that will support workplace success.

"Just treat people the way I'd like to be treated," LeGris said. "That's really my only secret. People are afraid of government sometimes, but they shouldn't be. We are here to help."

Best Government Employee: Juanita LeGris

Supervisor John Stakoe said McDonell and LeGris are each worthy beneficiaries of public praise. He called LeGris an "exemplary" employee, and credited McDonell with transitioning the clerk's department into a well-organized governmental resource.

"I'm not surprised," Stakoe said of the professional tandem's respective honor. "The staff we have in this building has always been committed to helping residents. These two are shining examples of that. They truly deserve to be recognized."

David Aguilar is a reporter for the Milford Times. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 18 or by e-mail at daaguilar@homecom.net.

Assistant Supervisor Triscia Pilchowski agreed. She said LeGris is particularly stellar.

"She makes coming to work worthwhile," Pilchowski said. "She stays after 5 p.m. to help residents. She sets a good example, and she is always willing to do whatever she can to help. She deserves this honor."

David Aguilar is a reporter for the Milford Times. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 18 or by e-mail at daaguilar@homecom.net.

"Honestly ... it is very gratifying that people even noticed, and that they took time to think of mentioning my name."

—Juanita LeGris
Assistant Zoning Administrator



Photo by HAL GOULD

(L-R) Mary McDonell, Highland Township Clerk, was chosen as the favorite elected official of Milford Times readers, while Juanita LeGris, Assistant Zoning Administrator, was picked as the best government employee.

Best Elected Official: Mary McDonell

Quality materials, service define Huron Valley Furniture

By Steve Bell
STAFF WRITER

Having been here for 24 years, Huron Valley Furniture predates many of the houses which dot the local landscape. But as the area has grown, the store, owned by Chuck and Judy Schurman, has helped many of those new homes, as well as those that were already there. Even when in the throes of modernity, many still yearn for the old time touch in their furniture. So it's no surprise that local residents have a soft spot in their hearts for Huron Valley Furniture, which was voted the best furniture store in the Milford Times People's Choice Awards.

The Schurmans sell furniture for your living room and dining room, as well as a cabinets and lamps. The motifs of the furniture are generally classically American.

"People love traditional-style furniture," Judy Schurman said. "It makes a room warm and welcoming."

Huron Valley Furniture carries lines by some of the most sought-after furniture designers, such as Clayton Marcus, the Bob Timberlake collection and Marlow, Hooker and Lexington.

"Nearly everything we sell is made in the USA," Judy Schurman said. "That's important to customers, because it means you expect quality craftsmanship."

"There's no skimping on the raw materi-

Best Furniture: Huron Valley Furniture

als, either. The dining sets and china cabinets are made from solid hardwoods like cherry or oak.

It's not just quality merchandise but quality service that makes Huron Valley Furniture so popular.

"People are tired of going to the 'big' furniture chains because, generally, the employees don't have the experience to answer the important questions," Judy Schurman said. "Our employees are experienced and knowledgeable about the products we sell."

The store has an in-house interior designer. Cheryl Barnes has worked there for more than 20 years, helping customers choose the right items for their homes. For a flat fee Barnes will travel to a customer's house and help choose furniture, layout, paint, and fabrics to help create the ideal residential milieu.

Huron Valley Furniture is located at 319 North Main Street in downtown Milford.

"We love doing business in Milford," Chuck Schurman said. "It's a great little town."

With hard work and integrity, we will continue to serve the businesses and individuals of New Hudson, South Lyon and the surrounding area.

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Continued on Page 31



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The People's Choice Awards: The Milford Times winners

Continued from Page 28

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<p>Best Doctor</p> <p>Dr. Kiran Balchandani 414 North Union Street Suite 200 Milford, MI 48381 (248) 684-1800</p>	<p>Best Insurance Agent</p> <p>State Farm Insurance Mike Arce 545 North Main Street Milford, MI 48381 (248) 685-3131 Fax: (248) 685-3161 Website: www.milford-mi.com/statefarm/ E-mail: mike.arce.bo@statefarm.com</p>	<p>Best Jeweler</p> <p>Jeffrey Allan Jewelers Jeffrey A. Orzech 525 North Main Street Suite 230 Milford, MI 48381 (248) 684-4483 Fax: (248) 684-4654</p>	<p>Best Elected Official</p> <p>Highland Township Mary McDonnell 205 North John Street Highland, MI 48357 (248) 887-3791</p>	<p>Best Firefighter</p> <p>Milford Fire Department Andy Miller Milford, MI 48381 (248) 684-2335</p>	<p>Best Radio Personality</p> <p>WHMI-93.5 FM Julie Wood 1277 Parkway Howell, MI 48843 (517) 546-0860 Fax: (517) 546-1758 Website: www.whmi.com E-mail: whmi@whmi.com</p>
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Red Dog Saloon tops several categories in 2002

By Tran Longmoore
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name.

The Red Dog Saloon, located at 250 W. Summit St. in the Village of Milford, is one of those places.

"I've been in this business since I was 14-years-old," said Cindy Bonish, who owns the tavern with Pat and Bob Bonish. "This is a small-town bar with a lot of history. Everyone in here knows each other. We're all friends. We're all family."

The Bonish family, who have lived in the Milford area for 30 years, bought the restaurant/tavern just over a year ago.

"We loved the history of the place," said Cindy, who tends to the bar and waits on tables on a regular basis.

The establishment opened on Main Street in 1928, when it was known as Tim's Tavern. The name was later changed to the Red Doggie Saloon. When the Bonishes took over, they shortened the name to, simply, the Red Dog.

The dimly lit bar resembles a pool-house somewhat, complete with a pool-



Photo by HAL GOULD

Pat Bonish, who owns the Red Dog Saloon with wife Cindy, is the proud owner of Best Burger, Best Pub, Best Rock n' Roll Bar and best waiter awards.

table, pinball machine, and dart board. Then again, it looks like a sports bar, with three televisions, and a giant screen television.

"Right now, with the Wings and Pistons in the playoffs, we're a sports bar," Cindy said. "But we offer a little bit of everything."

Since taking over, the staff at the Red Dog have worked to make the establishment more family friendly. To do so, they've expanded the meals beyond burger and fries to include more salads and light meals. They've also added video games and a foosball table.

Still, the Red Dog remains known for its burgers. The half-pound burgers won't leave you asking, "Where's the beef?" Add bacon and cheese, and it becomes known as the "Frankie Burger," which is named after the cook at old Tim's Tavern. As for garnishments, suit your self.

"Whatever you want, that's what you get," said Cindy.

The Red Dog has a beer selection unparalleled in the Milford area. There are more than 47 different beers in stock and six on tap. The most popular is Bud Light. But the Red Dog also has a fine selection of imports.

"One of our most popular is called Hackerschoor, which is a German wheat beer," said Cindy.

Cindy said the fast, friendly staff is one of the main reasons why people make the Red Dog their tavern of choice. Tony

Magner was chosen by Milford Times readers as the best waiter in the Huron Valley.

"He thinks he's Tom Cruise," Cindy joked. "He's smooth. He does tricks when making drinks. And, he's a ladies man." Friday and Saturdays, the Red Dog brings in some of the top entertainment acts in Metro Detroit. Harmonica Shaw, one of the top blues acts in the Detroit area, plays regularly. So do the Note Benders, a popular blues act. Another regular act is wild guitarist Coyote Bones.

"He's great. He plays guitar behind his back and swings it all over the place," said Cindy. "He's only 19. He's going to be famous one day."

Regulars enjoy daily specials at the Red Dog. On Mondays, sliders cost 50 cents and pool is free at 9 p.m. On Tuesdays, sloppy joes are 50 cents, and foosball is free at 9 p.m. Wednesdays, wings cost just 35 cents and darts is free at 9 p.m. Thursday, tacos cost 50 cents and it's happy hour from 9 p.m.-midnight. Sundays, a one-pound snowcrab dinner cost \$9.95.

Caswell enjoys her freedom as area's best waitress

By Erin Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Best Waitress: Liz Caswell, Lone TreeHouse

Some people think waitressing is hard; some think it's easy. Liz Caswell's customers just think she's good at what she does.

Caswell was voted best waitress by Milford Times readers in the annual People's Choice Awards.

She works the lunch shift Monday through Friday at the Lone TreeHouse Restaurant in Highland and has been there for about six years. Caswell said she was surprised that she had won, but not too surprised.

"I think all my customers pretty much like me," she said.

Caswell said she worked her first waitressing job in high school but tried to go into office work after graduation. There was just one problem.

"I hated sitting at a desk," she said.

So it was back to waitressing where she was able to move around freely. It's been 30 years since that first job and Caswell said she has worked at about 12 other restaurants during that time. She said she changes jobs every three or four years.

"It kind of makes the job more exciting again," she said.

She's stayed at the Lone TreeHouse so long because she likes the people she works with and the customers.



Photo by HAL GOULD

Liz Caswell, who has been a waitress at the Lone TreeHouse in Highland for six years, was chosen as the area's best by readers of the Milford Times.

"It's a nice place to work," Caswell said. Her day normally starts at 8:30 a.m.

when she arrives to do some cleaning and lists featured items in a sign in front of the restaurant. She also does a lot of

prep work including filling salt and pepper shakers and making bread bowls for soup. Customers begin arriving at 11 a.m. when the restaurant opens and Caswell will have waited on 25 to 30 tables before she leaves at around 3 p.m.

Caswell said many of her customers are there on a regular basis and she knows their drink and food orders by heart, which is good because Caswell doesn't like to give out menus.

"That slows me down," she said.

She also doesn't use a notepad to write down orders and doesn't like to use a tray. Instead, she balances the dishes on her arms because she said it's easier that way.

In addition to speedy service, Caswell's customers also get free baked goods at Christmas time. Caswell said she loves baking and brings in trays of cookies and candies during the holidays.

"This is kind of my thanks for coming in," she said.

She said some people get a bit carried away, though, and start requesting baked goods. She also said one person even brought in a recipe for her to make.

Caswell said the only difficult part of her job is getting to know new customers and learning their personalities.

She said she has been a waitress for so long for a very simple reason.

"I like my job," Caswell said.

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Jewelers opened their heart to Novi's community

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

The husband-and-wife team behind Larson Jewelry Design in Novi has jointly put the word "community" in community jeweler.

For that reason and others, the Main Street jewelry store was picked as the favorite of all area voters participating in the 2002 People's Choice Awards.

When opening their doors to the public in 1999, Brian and Nancy Larson also opened their heart to the community.

"We do a lot with the schools," Nancy Larson said.

For example, the store donates 1 percent of all its walk-in sales during the school year to Deedick Elementary School.

Larson Jewelry Design also donates to the Novi Senior All-Night party, and Brian designs jewelry for many cost-conscious students and faculty involved in Novi athletics.

"We try to do a lot of community stuff because we are a part of the community," Nancy said.

They also donate to the Novi Goodfellows, and Brian designs a custom piece of jewelry for the Novi Chamber of Commerce annual auction.

Don't think for one minute though that one has to be part of a special organization or group to receive special treatment.

"Customers get whatever they want," Brian said. "If they walk in and want something, they will get it."

What that translates into is, despite price or other constraints, no one walks out empty-handed after visiting the family-atmosphere store.

Nancy told a story of a soccer coach who came into the store shortly after they opened. He told the couple how he was about to take his team to McDonald's for an end-of-the-season good-bye. The coach told the couple, "they will eat a burger and then they will forget about me," Nancy said.

The Larsons asked how much he planned on spending, to which he replied \$5 per child.

The couple could work with that. They told the gentleman they would special order for next-day Saturday delivery sterling silver soccer ball charms for each child at a cost of \$5 per charm.

The coach paid half of the express delivery charge and the \$5 per charm and the Larsons covered the rest.

Needless to say, the girls loved their charms and the coach was overwhelmed he was able to give them all such a meaningful gift.

Experience and professionalism also shot the Novi store to the top of the large number of jewelry stores in the city.

Brian has been a jeweler for 24 years and holds a graduate gemology degree. Nancy is an accredited jewelry professional.

Their open-atmosphere store offers a clear view into Brian's workroom where customers are welcome to watch him do anything from creating one of his talked-about pieces to repairs.

Although the store offers a wide variety of merchandise, from sporty looking stainless steel watches to strands of pearls, about half of its sales come from engagement rings.

After a complete education about the special purchase, customers may choose from their wide selection of rings, create their own design or leave it up to the experts.

"We've done a ton of rings for couples in Novi," Nancy said.

The duo, coming up on their 21st wedding anniversary, has also sold rings and other pieces to customers all over the United States.

The Larsons contribute their state-wide recognition to word of mouth and the fact they were chosen in 1997 as one of seven jewelers in North America to serve as a Walt Disney Bridal Masters member. The honor landed the store recognition in a past issue of Martha Stewart Living.

Despite all of the attention, the couple still stays true to their hometown, dedicating a portion of their display cases to Novi High School earrings and Wildcats paw print earrings and charms.

Best Jewelry Store: Lawson Jewelry Design

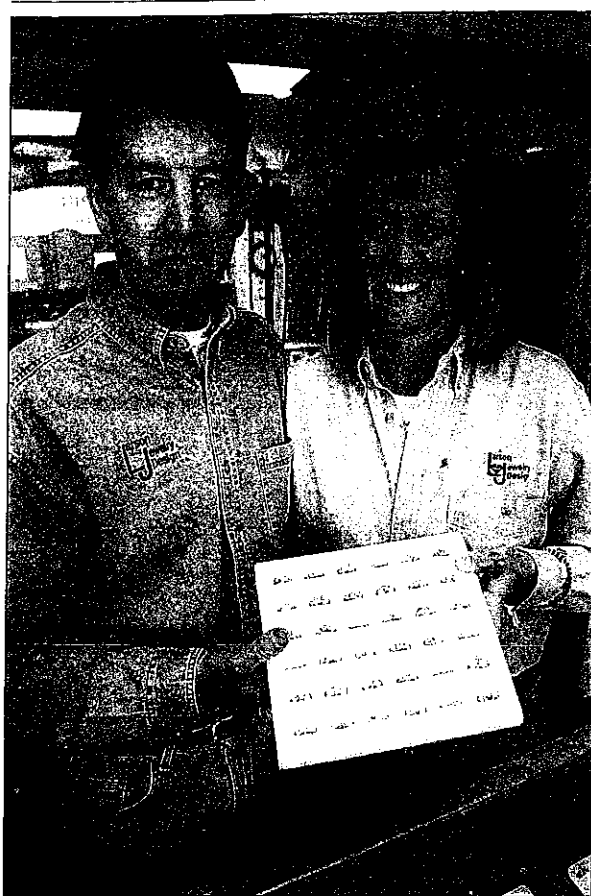


Photo by John Heider
Brian and Nancy Larson, the Larson Jewelers team, display a tray of their custom diamond ring mounts.

Hart adds mentor, counselor to duties as officer



Photo by JOHN HEIDER
Novi Police Officer Jerrod Hart.

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Novi police officer Jerrod Hart is taking his job beyond the city's streets and to the kids, earning him the Novi People's Choice Award for best police officer.

As the school resource officer at Novi High School, Hart not only holds down the duties of a police officer, but acts as a mentor and counselor to students.

"My job is to get kids to make better choices," Hart said. "Interacting with the kids is awesome. If they're making better choices because we spend a few minutes together everyday, that's a good feeling."

Hart's duties include filing police reports for students and ensuring the high school's safety, but he finds the mentoring role and offering different perspectives to the students the top priority

of his position.

"If you make poor choices, it doesn't mean you're a bad person," Hart said. "We all make mistakes, but let's work on what we're going to do to fix it."

Jennifer Cheal, the Novi High School principal, said the kids get to know Hart as a person and that establishes a comfort level to talk with him as another resource person they can count on.

Hart's office is at the Novi High School, where he can be found on the rare occasion in his official blue uniform. Most days, he wears dress pants and a dress shirt. Hart said the students often think of him as another teacher or assistant principal rather than a police

officer.

"The important thing is to relate more and more everyday and try to remember what it's like to be at that age," Hart said. "I try to be active about being a good listener."

And these sound listening skills have earned the school resource officer the trust of the Novi High School staff and students, giving him the Novi People's Choice Award for best police officer for the second straight year.

"The role of a School Resource Officer is very important to our students and community, but the heart behind Officer Hart is what makes this position so successful," Cheal said.

Best Police Officer: Jerrod Hart

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Allegiance to customers has made Novi Pizza Company tops

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Pizza lovers have spoken. They voted The Novi Pizza Company's pizza the best in Novi in the People's Choice Awards.

The restaurant is owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Shawn Crossett and Peter Woolford.

Customers can have their pizza delivered or they can purchase it at the counter and eat it there. If they are not in the mood for pizza, they can choose other dishes. They also make five different garden salads, and nine different "rounders", which are similar to submarine sandwiches. They create lasagna, calzones, chicken wings and garlic sticks.

Although customers love their other dishes, it's their pizza that came in tops.

"They believe it's their fresh dough and tasty sauce that makes their pizza superior. They also cut and blend their own cheeses as well as vegetables and other toppings."

"It takes a little bit longer but it's fresher," said Woolford.

The couple, who opened the business after they retired from their respective careers, also believe in preparing the pizza themselves.

"My wife and I are always here," Woolford said.

Their allegiance to their customers has spanned customer loyalty.

"We have a loyal group of customers."

Best Pizza: The Novi Pizza Company



Photo by John Heider

Novi Pizza Owners Peter Woolford and Shawn Crossett bake them big and round at their Novi Road location. This is a large pie with ham, sausage, onions and green peppers.

Woolford said, "A lot of them have been coming since we first started."

Woolford said they pride themselves on placing generous amounts of top-

pings on each pizza they prepare.

"We know a lot of our customers and their families," Woolford said. "We see their children grow up. You really form

a bond with your customers."

Business people mostly buy their meals at the restaurant during the day, while residents buy their dinners there at night.

"Some of our customers come in three or four days a week," Woolford said.

The owners in turn try to give back to the city's residents who buy from them.

"We do the sport concession at Novi High School's Athletic Boosters Club," Woolford said. "We provide their pizza and give them a good deal. There isn't any profit in it for us but it gives us recognition."

However, their main concern is making customers want more.

"We try to make it as perfect as we can," Woolford said. "If they like it a certain way, we try to make it the way they had it before. If you try to make it as close to their same experience, they will keep coming back."

Crossett said she enjoys working with her husband in the pizza business.

"It's really great," Crossett said. "We really have a good time. We're a family and our customers are our extended family."

The Novi Pizza Company is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and Sunday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

WOVI, student-run station, finds their niche: Best of Novi

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

WOVI 89.5 FM, the Novi High School student-run radio station, has found its own niche in the Novi community and get-

ting their frequency dialed-up amongst the large-market stations. And the draw: they play everything.

"We offer programming you can't get anywhere else," said David Legg, WOVI 89.5 FM station manager and Novi High

Best Radio Station: WOVI-89.5 FM

School broadcasting teacher. "We offer things that no one else has."

With WOVI 89.5 FM tuned in on your favorite radio, the progressive rock tunes of the 1950s and 1960s to the hip sounds of punk and light rap can be heard streaming through your speakers. And that's not to mention the air-play time devoted to local bands and musical acts a step outside the realm of mainstream radio.

"We play music that pushes the edges for that time period, but we also stay with what's new and cool," Legg said.

This encompass-all attitude for cutting-edge music regardless of era and genre has earned WOVI 89.5 FM the Novi People's Choice Award for best radio station.

"We mix it up and get everyone to listen, not just one group of people," said Novi High School senior Mark Levin, WOVI 89.5 FM student program director. "We play old stuff, new stuff and people dig that."

The student-run radio station, which is operated by Novi High School students under the guidance and supervision of

Legg, pumps out 100 watts, covering about a 35-square mile range of listeners. The station is completely commercial free and underwritten by donations and school funding.

Each school year, about 200-250 students participate in the broadcasting program, including the offered school courses and extra-curricular activities. Each semester, the radio station presents the Novi community with about 20 different on-air personalities from the halls of Novi High School.

And Legg believes these young people are a significant reason why listeners keep punching in 89.5 FM on their radio dials.

"People like the fact that high school kids run the station and like hearing young people develop as communicators," Legg said.

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

The student-run radio station, WOVI-89.5 FM, was chosen as the best by the readers of the Novi News.

Upholding the attitudes of good service

Best Pharmacy: Save-On Drugs

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Novi Save-On Drugs may be part of a 15-store chain but store personnel still believe in giving customers independent store service.

Their quality, individual service is probably one of the reasons why customers voted the pharmacy number one in the People's Choice Awards.

The store began as an independent pharmacy in the early 1970s. Just before the pharmacy's original owner, George McCollum, passed away, the pharmacy was sold to Save-On drugs.

"In George's tradition, we try to uphold the independent store attitudes of good service," said Tim Cavanaugh, pharmacist. "We are one of the few pharmacies that will call the doctor when customers are out of refills."

They also compound ointments, creams and other medications that other pharmacies might not mix, he said.

"It's a full-line, traditional pharmacy with health and beauty aids," Cavanaugh said, and noted customers also come in for greeting cards.

The pharmacy also sells or rents walkers, wheelchairs, crutches and other medical supplies for people who need them. Certified fitters are also on hand to fit customers with medical support hose, which some people need to improve circulation in their legs.

Customers can benefit from getting to know their local pharmacist. Cavanaugh prides himself on getting to know his customers as people as well as what

they want and need.

Oftentimes patients have prescriptions from several different doctors, who may not be aware of other drugs patients are taking, he said. However, patients who go to one pharmacist will benefit when the pharmacist notices a harmful drug interaction.

"I think all people should pick a pharmacist the same way they pick their dentist," Cavanaugh said. "They should pick a pharmacy and develop a rapport with [a pharmacist]. It's for their own safety."

Cavanaugh said he enjoys serving customers.

"It's nice being able to help people out," Cavanaugh said. "And it's nice getting to know them as people and not just as customers. I'm always happy to talk to them and answer their questions."

John Tanas, store manager, said the store carries other medications and ointments that are often hard to find. If the store doesn't carry a special item, store personnel will often try to order it.

"We pride ourselves on the array of merchandise compared to others," Tanas said. "We take our customers seriously and we treat them like they are a member of our family."

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. (248) 478-3000

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

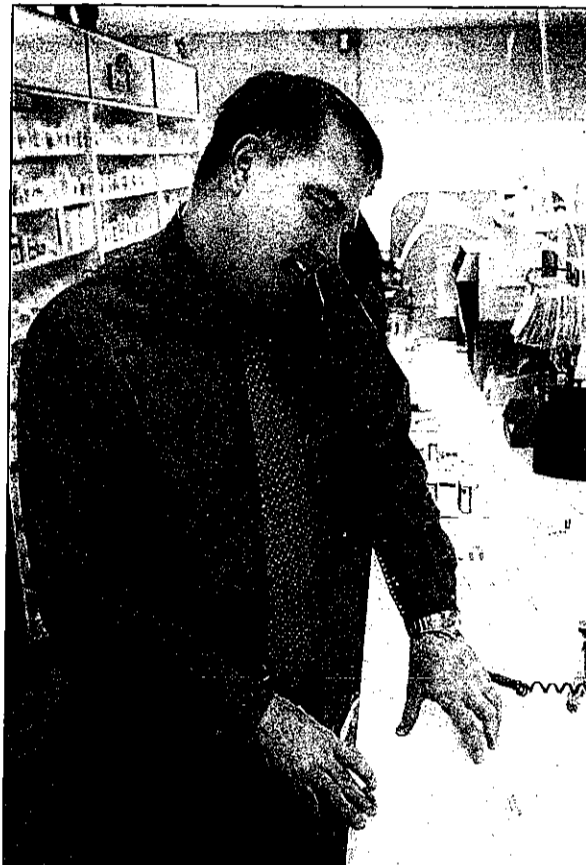


Photo by John Heider

Tim Cavanaugh, manager of Novi Drugs on Meadowbrook, fills an order during a busy Friday afternoon.

Brenda Evans plays mental ping-pong as Novi's librarian

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

Best Librarian: Brenda Evans, Novi Public Library

Brenda Evans, director of the Novi Public Library, has stepped up to the information demands of Novi residents since she first joined the library staff in 1979.

With information moving at the speed of light through telephone wires and across continents in the blink of an eye, Evans is in charge of making sure this vast flux of data and facts is routed when needed to the patrons of the Novi Public Library.

And this information flood, tasks Evans and her library staff day in and day out, with people calling and e-mailing a reference question about every 2.5 minutes. In concrete terms, Novi residents seek out tidbits of wisdom

from the library with about 70,000 questions every year, regarding such vast topics as health, careers, business plans and taxes to countless subjects for school assignments that are quickly approaching their deadline.

"It's like mental Ping-Pong," Evans said. That's not to mention the job duties required to support and coordinate the 100 books per hour that Novi residents check out from their city library while its doors are open to

the community for 62 hours each week.

Thus, Brenda Evans has earned Novi's People's Choice Award for best librarian for her grace, leadership and commitment to public service under a barrage of demands from the information-hungry in Novi. (The People's Choice Award) is

the heart of the library's growth. In her 23 years at the Novi Public Library, Evans has seen its book collection leaping from nearly 16,000 books in 1976 to over 109,000 today, from 2,500 reference questions per year in 1976 to the heights of

"It's a testament to the whole team of staff members and the high levels of service they're offering."

-Brenda Evans
Novi Public Library

its information mania in 2002.

Moreover, with an eager staff, Evans has guided the Novi Public Library into information age, turning it from an arena of just printed books to a virtual haven of knowledge. Library patrons demand access to its electronic databases with over 30,000 Internet sessions each year.

"The public library has tremendous benefits to the community," Evans said. "It is a meeting place, a place to meet and exchange views with neighbors. It's a place to make contacts with people who have the same concerns as you do."

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

You must save room for Italian Epicure's desserts

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

If there was one rule when visiting Italian Epicure in Novi, it would be save room for dessert.

This tip comes from hundreds of area residents who voted the popular eatery as the best place in Novi for dessert in the 2002 People's Choice Awards.

And after taking one look at

Best Dessert: Italian Epicure

the freshly-concocted dessert tray, it is clear that is one hard rule to argue with.

"We crack the eggs every day," said Stacey Hamlin, six-year pastry chef.

"A lot of blood, sweat and tears goes into every bowl full," said Kimberly Valido, four-year pastry chef.

Both ladies come to the restaurant early every morning to make from scratch the dream tray every diner may choose their perfect ending from.

The selections offered throughout the entire day include samplings of the chefs' pecan chocolate toffee torte, white chocolate creme brulee, holy cannoli torte, traditional cannoli, tiramisu, double chocolate bread pudding, spiced baked Alaska and a traditional Sanders hot fudge cream puff.

The pecan chocolate toffee torte has been the house specialty for more than 12 years and consists of layers of pecans, fudge and whipped toffee mousse topped with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Although both ladies enjoy making the long-time signature dessert, both agree the tiramisu is their favorite.

What separates the self-described "healthy looking chicks that know what tastes good" from other Novi pastry-makers is their ability to improvise.

Hamlin and Valido developed their award-winning treats from taking recipes,

switching ingredients and turning each specialty into what they believe tastes good.

The holy cannoli torte is one example of their innovative recipes.

"I actually came up with the name from my favorite Ben and Jerry's ice cream which they don't make anymore," Hamlin said. The ice cream also presented Hamlin with their version of the Italian dessert idea.

What a lot of people don't know is both pastry chefs also prepare their mouth-watering sweets for gatherings in the restaurant's banquet facilities, customer special occasions and for anyone who wants to place an order to take home with them.

"It is like a bakery right in the restaurant," Valido said.

A baked-goods description sheet and order form are available at the front entrance of the Grand River Avenue mainstay known for years as Country Epicure.

Items available for special order include dessert tray selections, about 10 different tortes, cheesecake, carrot cake, flans, miniature selections and the ultimate party tray.

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.



Photo by John Heider

Italian Epicure pastry chefs Kim Valido, left, and Stacey Hamlin display one of their custom cake creations.

Nutrition, vitamins basis of chiropractor's treatment strategy

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Robert Stiles has been easing back pain and other ailments for the past 36 years in Novi.

The chiropractor helps patients who are suffering with everything from sports injuries and headaches to carpal tunnel syndrome and other problems.

He is pleased to have been selected for the People's Choice Award for best chiropractor.

"I wasn't expecting this," Stiles said. "I was completely surprised. I am very honored."

Stiles, who has served more than 17,000 different patients in his career, believes in using nutrition and vitamins to improve patients health. He believes people are lacking nutrition today because fruits and vegetables are not as organically grown as they were long ago.

"We don't use meds, but we use vitamins to augment the healing process," Stiles said.

It's with his expertise that many

Best Chiropractor: Dr. Robert Stiles

patients get relief from chronic pain.

"Chiropractic manipulation allows for the decompression of nerves," he said.

Stiles, a resident of Northville and father of four adult children, now practices with his son, Paul. They manage eight staff members.

He purchased his current Grand River and Novi Road location 31-years ago. He believes in enhancing the outside of the office to make it appealing to people driving by.

"We've won the beautification award in Novi five times," Stiles said. "We've taken an older building and renovated it inside and out. Ultimately, we tried to give it a downtown Plymouth look."

His biggest gratification, though, is helping patients.

"I enjoy the interaction with patients and getting to know them as people," Stiles said. "Some of my patients go back four generations."

He planned to retire this year and move up north. However, he didn't want to leave the patients who count on him.

Although he currently doesn't plan on leaving his profession this year, he will continue to travel with his wife and fly fish and bird hunt with his son.

Paul said he enjoys working with his dad, whose path he followed. He knows patients have brought his dad joy over the years.

"I am proud and glad that he is being recognized," Paul said.

Patients can call for an appointment Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., Wednesday 7:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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



Photo by John Heider

Chiropractor Dr. Robert Stiles, left, and his son Paul work out of their Grand River office in Novi.

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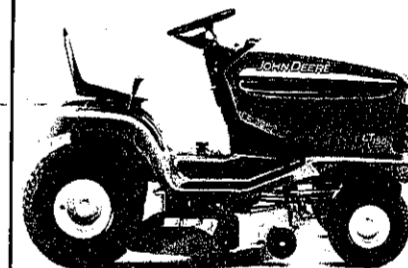
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- SALAD**
Steve & Rocky's
- SOUP (tie)**
Steve & Rocky's
Leon's
- BURGER**
Gatsby's
- CHICKEN**
Guernsey
- STEAK**
Mesquite Creek
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- PIZZA**
Novi Pizza
- FRENCH FRIES**
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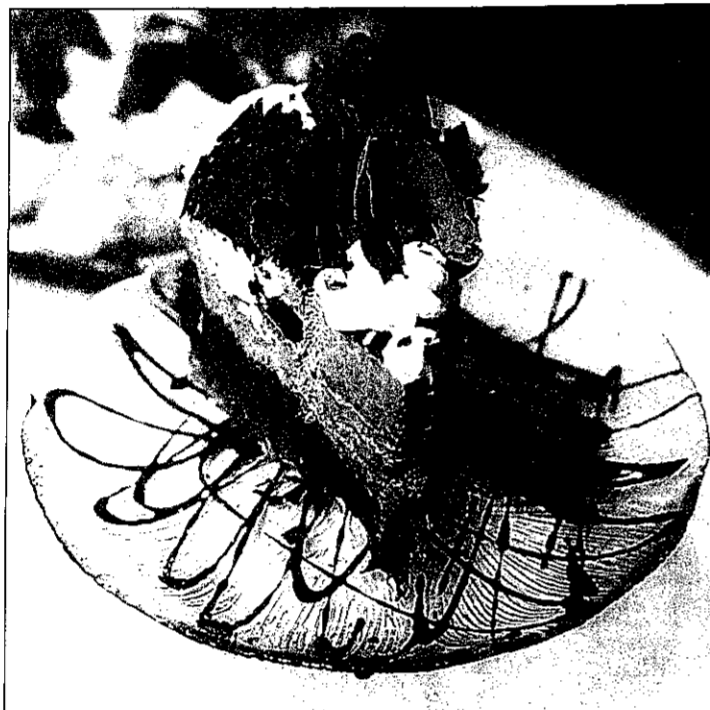


Photo by John Heider

A chocolate mouse torte cake from Novi's Italian Epicure.

- | | | | |
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| BAKERY
Maria's | SHOE STORE
DSW | AUTO DEALERSHIP
Varsity | HAIR SALON (tie)
agape
Head West
Gina Agosta
Salon Novi |
| ROCK N' ROLL
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Bank One | WAITER
Kevin Maysobach (Steve & Rocky's) |
| APPLIANCE STORE
Sears | SPECIALTY STORE
Hallmark | GAS STATION / QUIK MART
Sovels | WAITRESS (tie)
Traci Wright (Library Pub)
Julia Williams |
| BARGAIN STORE
TJ Maxx | PHARMACY
Novi Drug | INSURANCE AGENT
Bill Maynes | CHIROPRACTOR
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Kristen Tumidanski (Justin York Salon) |
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Larsons |
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| | | | FIREFIGHTER
Art Lenaghan |
| | | | SNOW REMOVER (tie)
Bob West
John Van Winegarden |
| | | | TELEVISION STATION
Channel 7 |
| | | | NEWS REPORTER (tie)
Victoria Sadlocha
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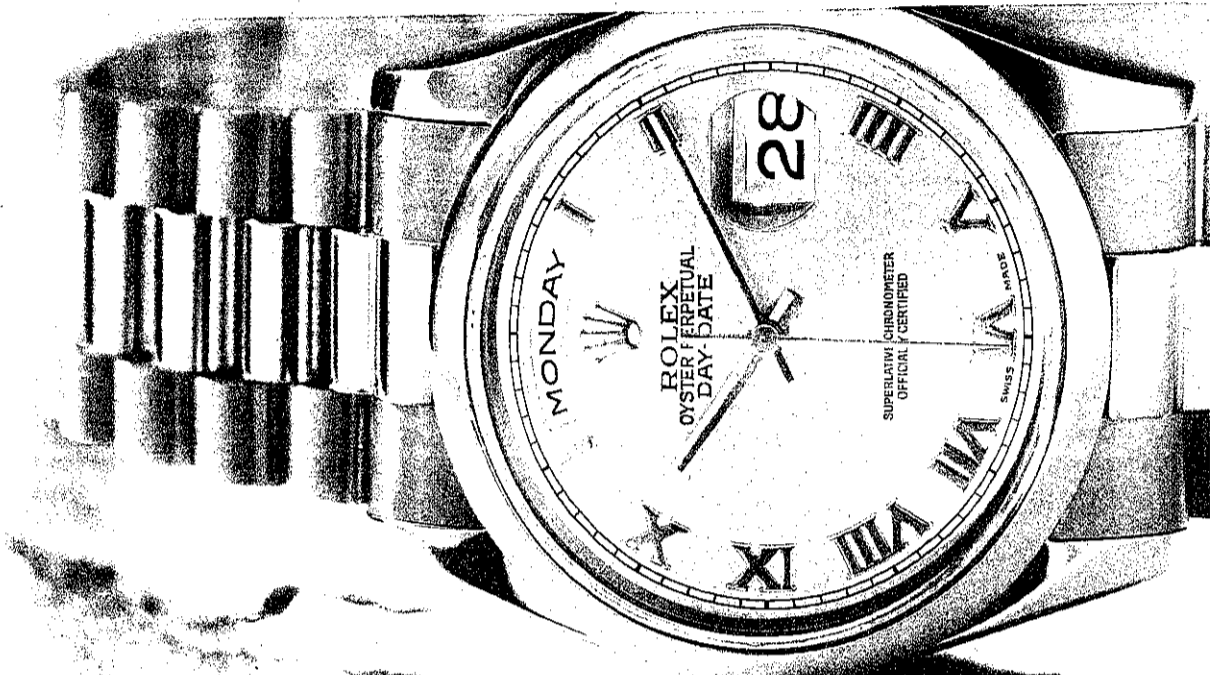
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