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**Christmas savings**

Holiday shopping's in full swing. Be sure to check inside this week's newspaper for Novi Town Center's inserts.

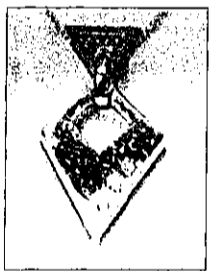
**INSIDE**



**Giving thanks back**

Novi has been very good to Moe Leon. He came here nearly 25 years ago from Syria a student studying construction engineering and grew to be a comfortable restaurateur with 10 restaurants in Western Oakland and Wayne counties. For the past 18 years Leon has been showing his appreciation to the community, first at his Michigan Avenue location in Dearborn, by offering a free Thanksgiving-eve dinner.

— Page 9A



Brian Larson, of Novi's Larson's Jewelry Design, displays the winning design of a necklace that was suggested by some Novi school students. The necklace will be auctioned off later this month with its proceeds going to the Goodfellows.

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## Novi's audit reveals fiscal strengths

■ The city's 2002 fiscal year-end audit report shows a job well done by finance department

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

Along with a fiscally sound nod, the city received high praise for the work of its finance department as part of Novi's 2002 year-end audit report.

After auditing fiscal year-end financial reports and accounting records kept by the city, staff of the certified public accounting firm Plante & Moran, PLLC said there were no inconsistencies nor were there any deficiencies with Novi's records. Joe Heffernan, a partner with Plante & Moran overseeing the municipal audit, said usually when an audit is performed, 10 to 15 small changes are found that need to be made to a municipality's books.

Not Novi. Heffernan said auditors found

nothing wrong with the city's financial records and made no recommendations for change.

"It is not the same thing we see in other communities. It is just excellent," he said. "You have an excellent finance department."

Other trends resulting from the audit report include a second-year showing as Oakland County's sixth lowest community when ranked according to 2002 municipal tax rates.

The municipalities with the lowest tax rates going from the fifth lowest to the lowest are Troy, Lake Angelus, Orchard Lake Village, Rochester Hills and Bloomfield Hills.

The five communities in Oakland County with the highest 2002 municipal tax rate ranging from the fifth highest to the highest are Pontiac, Huntington Woods, Hazel Park, Oak Park and

Ferdale.

Heffernan said Novi has maintained an approximate 10.5 mills rate primarily because of the city's high taxable value per capita and a solid base of commercial and industrial customers.

According to audit documents, the largest source of revenue for the city's general fund remains Novi's property taxes, police and fire and millage transfer.

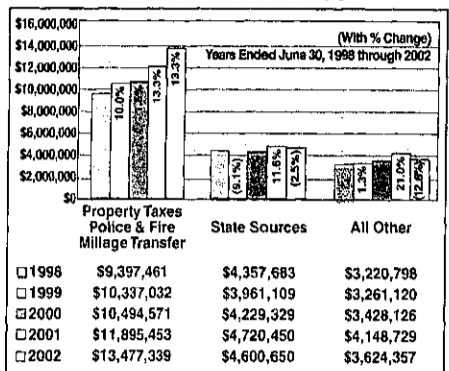
For fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, the city saw a 13.3 percent increase from the prior fiscal year, with close to \$13.5 million coming from the city sources.

Scott Jansen, senior auditor with Plante & Moran, said the growth in tax revenue was a result of about an 8 to 8.5 percent increase in growth and taxable value.

According to audit documents, Novi's second highest source of general fund revenue came from the State of Michigan.

At the 2002 fiscal year end, the city saw a decrease in state funds with \$4.6 million entering the general fund compared to \$4.72 million in fiscal year ending 2001.

**General Fund Revenue Trends**



SOURCE: Plante & Moran

Jansen explained the decrease in State Shared Revenues based on Michigan's problems with its budget deficit and operating budget is the main reason for the decrease.

"The bad news is that this decrease is expected to continue

into the year 2003," Jansen said. The auditor said a projection for the city indicates State Shared Revenues will be about \$4.4 million with anticipated decreases ranging from 5 to 10 percent.

continued on 2

## Store helping make charities' dreams a reality

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

"It's a real world experience," said Mike Ward. "You can definitely see the effect of weather," chimed in Joe Lynch as they stood with classmates Bobby Duncan and Matt Jezior in the nearly empty Store of Dreams in Fountain Walk development Monday as snow swirled through the streets of Novi.

Students from Novi High School's store operations class will be manning the register at the Store of Dreams through the end of the week. The school is one of five institutions benefiting from the non-profit store, which will be open through the Dec. 22.

The other participating charities in Novi include The Children's Center, Michigan Humane Society, Michigan K.I.D.S. and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"We selected organizations that cover many segments of our community, as these groups provide food and shelter for the homeless, literacy for children, a safe haven for animals and hope for everyone," said Cindy Ciura, vice president of corporate marketing for Schostak Brothers & Co. "This

continued on 3



Photo by Phil Foley

**"All I Want for Christmas..."**  
Northville cousins Savannah and Brianna Arindaeng share their holiday wishes with the Jolly Ol' Elf himself at Novi's 12 Oaks Mall. If Santa holds to the same pace as last year, he will have had more than 17,500 children on his lap before he leaves for his annual global tour.

## A novel concept - hospital food that tastes good?!

■ Providence's Parkside Cafe aims for nearby business crowd

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

When the midmorning office conversation turns toward thoughts of lunch, hospital cafeterias never, ever, make the list unless of course you work in the hospital and it's too cold or too wet to go out.



S. Weipert

Steve Weipert and David Hollis at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus are hoping to change that attitude.

Weipert, director of support services at Providence's Novi Campus, and Hollis, a food service director with HDS Services, recently took the wraps off a revamped coffee shop in the facility's lobby and rolled out a whole new menu.

So far, it seems to be working. Since opening the middle of last month, "We've more than doubled our number of patrons," said Hollis. "The word has really gotten out."

The word, said Weipert, is that "We're trying to provide an alternative to crossing the street for the greasy fast food menu."

According to Weipert more than 6,000 people come through the doors of Providence's Novi

Campus every day and hundreds of others work in nearby businesses. He said they're all potential customers for the recently remodeled Parkside Cafe.

Located just off the main entrance lobby, the 72-seat, 2,500-square foot Parkside Cafe is being billed as a European-style coffee shop. Open Monday through Friday, the Parkside Cafe serves hot breakfasts from 7:30-9:30 a.m.; continental breakfast from 9:30-11 a.m.; hot lunches from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; and coffee and deli sandwiches from 2:30-3 p.m.

Weipert said the hospital did some alterations to the cafe to open it up and brighten its look, but the real big change is in the menu.

"People will eat healthy," observed Hollis, "as long as it tastes good." Hollis has introduced grilled sandwiches made

with Panini, a type of Italian bread, two wrapped sandwiches (one vegetarian, one meat), two soups and one hot entree to the daily lunch menu. He said each of the menu items

Hollis noted with prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$5.25, the Parkside Cafe is competitive with nearby fast food outlets.

Along with the sandwiches and salads, Parkside Cafe offers a daily selection of cheesecakes, cookies and pies. Hollis said the cafe has also introduced a line of Kobricks Coffee. Along with hot and iced coffees, espressos, cappuccinos, vanilla lattes, white chocolate mochas, Hollis said the cafe is offering gift baskets, travel mugs and whole bean coffee.

Weipert noted that Kobricks is donating 25 cents from every tea and coffee sold at the cafe to

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## Novi planners sink request for expanded docks on WL

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Windward Bay Condominium and their attorney said they wanted to put in a boardwalk and boat ramp and expand the boat dockage at 52-unit lakefront development on the border of Novi and Walled Lake in order to improve handicapped access.

No one on the Novi Planning Commission bought the argument and commission members unanimously rejected the request at their Nov. 20 meeting.

City Planner Tim Schmitt noted that the condominium received a waiver from the city for the 11 boat slips it has now when it was first approved in 1990. He added that even if the development had enough lake frontage for the number of boat slips it wanted, the city attorney had suggested that the combination of boat slips and ramp made the project a marina, which requires a city license.

David Keast, Windward Bay's attorney, declared the planning commission's staff had "created a tempest in a teapot." He argued, "this is not a commercial marina. This is for the sole use of the condominium residents."

According to Keast, the dock as originally approved by the city limited the residents' use of Walled Lake and the woodchip path as approved by the city limits handicapped access to the lakefront.

"We're only trying to provide access to the lake," said resident Donna Willaker. "It's unreasonable that nowhere in the city is there handicapped access to the waterway."

Margaret Laurie, a resident of nearby Southpoint Condominium, noted that her 72-unit development has 13 boat slips which is "all we're allowed" given the amount of beachfront at Southpoint. Laurie, who is wheelchair bound, said that while her condominium association would "enjoy the revenue" from being able to sell more boat slips "it would not be good for the lake."

Saying that there are enough boats on the lake already, Asa Smith, president of the Lake Area Home Owners Association, a group of 950 homeowners in Novi and Walled Lake, declared "We feel what they have is adequate." He reminded commission members that the city passed its "key-hole" ordinance to prevent developers from overcrowding the lake with boats by limiting the number of boat slips allowed per development to the amount of lakefront it owns.

Noting there was "nothing in our correspondence speaking to barrier free access" commission member John Avdoulos, offered, "if the issue is barrier free access, I don't see a problem." He suggested the condominium associa-

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# Novi's audit reveals city's fiscal strengths

continued from front

Other sources of revenue entering the city's general fund include licenses and permit fees.

One of the city's largest percentage increases of expenditures from the general fund in the 2002 fiscal year, was through Novi's fire department.

The 19 percent expenditure increase from the previous year was a result of increased wages, union contracts, retroactive pay and the hiring of new firefighters.

Janzen said general government expenditures increased about 15 percent above the prior fiscal year amounting to close to \$5.7 million were primarily a result of legal costs.

Other increasing Novi expenditures from the general fund in the 2002 year were primarily salaries and wages in the department of

public works and the building and planning departments.

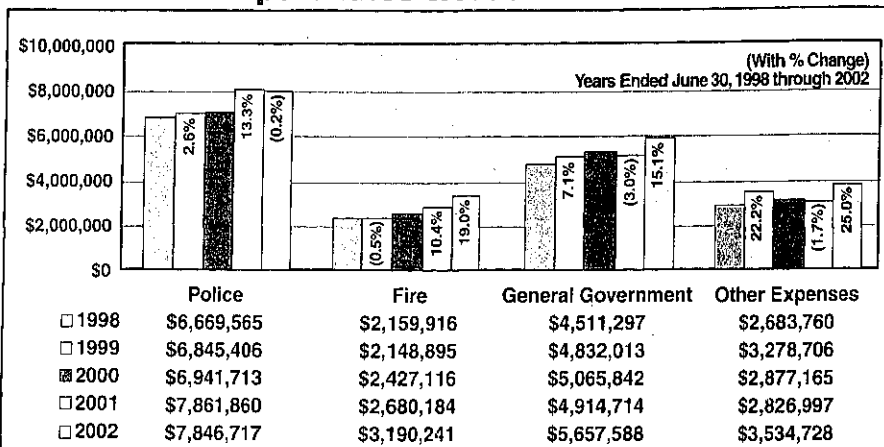
Overall, the city's general fund reported a \$4.7 million balance at the end of June 2002, approximately 32 percent of general fund expenditures.

The auditors said a good minimum of fund balance expenditure is about 10 percent, so the city is in a healthy position.

An independent audit of the city's financial records is performed annually for verification of the documents are materially accurate and to confirm there are no substantially large omissions or errors.

Victoria Sufolocha is a staff writer with the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or by e-mail at vsufolocha@hometownnews.net.

## General Fund Expenditures Trends

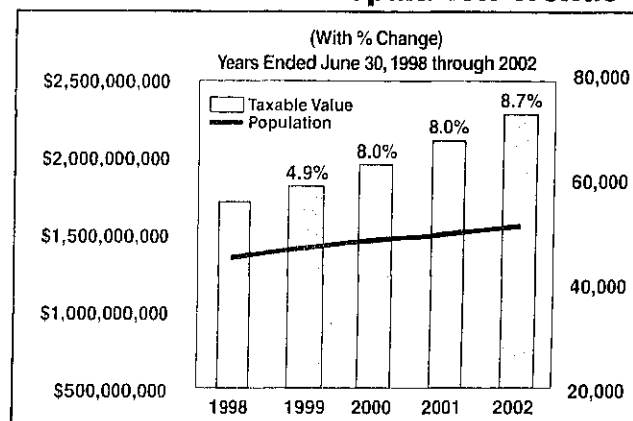


SOURCE: Plante & Moran

(left) The City of Novi audit performed by Plante & Moran, PLLC, showed an increase in population and increase in taxable values for fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. The increase in taxable values has risen on average of about 8 to 8.5 percent over the past few years and showed a steady constant upward trend in the increase in population.

SOURCE: Plante & Moran

## Taxable Value and Population Trends



SOURCE: Plante & Moran

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## Store helping make charities' dreams a reality

continued from front

truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

The Southfield-based real estate development and management firm, rolled out the Store of Dreams last year as a collection point for charities at several of the shopping centers it manages, including Laurel Park Place in Livonia and the Macomb Mall in Roseville. This year in addition to accepting donations, Schostak has opened the Store of Dreams as a retail location offering merchandise from the participating charities.

Novi schools, for instance, has its line of Wildcat sweats, layards and stadium blankets for sale in the store. Duncan said he thinks sales of Wildcat stadium blankets to adults will be pretty brisk since they're normally only available at the student store at Novi High School, which is only open during the school lunch hour.

Linda Busse, Fountain Walk's marketing director, said that while each of the charities benefiting from sales at the Store of Dreams will take turns running the store, all of the merchandise for all of the charities will be available the entire time the store is open.

Other items available at the Store of Dreams include the first in a series of Angels jewelry created for The Children's Center by Brighton designer Suzi LaCoste, a hand-made American flag ornament and Pewabic tiles.

Busse said the Store of Dreams will be open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday noon-5 p.m.

She said the Free Family Fun Day will be the headquarters for the center's Free Family Fun Day, Dec. 14, which will include photos with Santa at the Emagine Theater, cookie decorating at the Great Indoor and face painting at Cost Plus World Market. The Store of Dreams will have magic and puppet shows all day and serve as the drop off point for Fountain Walk's coloring contest. Fountain Walk is located off I-24 Mile Road, west of Novi Road.

the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext.108 or at pfoley@h1.hometownnews.net.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for

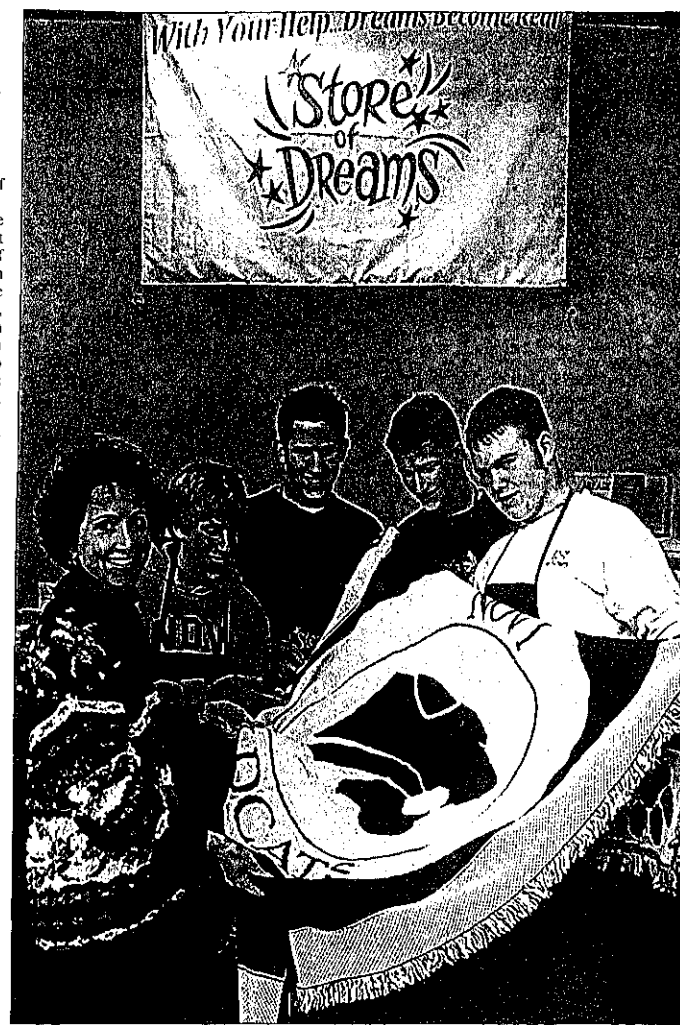


Photo by Phil Foley

Linda Busse, (left) marketing director at Fountain Walk, examines the quality of a Novi Wildcat stadium blanket displayed by Novi High School seniors Mike Ward, Matthew Jezior, Joe Lynch and Bobby Duncan at the Store of Dreams. Novi school students will be working the store through the end of the week. The store, which is raising funds for five area charities will be open through Dec. 22.

## The Reptile Show

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Dec. 8th 10-3  
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## Christmas in the Country Craft Show

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## Obituaries

**Otto H. Natzel**  
Otto Natzel of Novi died November 20, 2002 at Huron Valley Hospital, Commerce, Mich. He was 70.

Mr. Natzel was born December 26, 1931 in Detroit, Mich. He had been married to his loving wife, Evelyn I. (Rettig) Natzel for 50 years on November 15, 2002. He had been employed with Kroger Warehouse, as a meat plant manager, for 17 years, and also as a realtor in Novi for 15 years, before retiring in 1988. He lived in Novi for 37 years.

Mr. Natzel was a loving, caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, neighbor, friend and more. He enjoyed spending time with his family, his cottage on the lake, and vacations. He had many hobbies including wood carving and was an avid John Wayne fan. He was a member of the Lions Club, Mr. Natzel had been active in Novi as a volunteer fireman, a reserve police officer, and a handicap parking enforcement officer.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; three daughters, Sue (Raul) Galang, Cheryl (Gordon) Neihoff, Cathy (James) Anderson; one son Michael (Janet) Natzel; nine grandchildren, Christie, Tracey, Jason, Matt, Kim, Sarah, Josh, Travis, Kevin; and three great-grandchildren, Raquel, Brennan, Gavin.

A funeral service was held December 3 at Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, 19091 Northville Rd., Northville with the Rev. Richard J. Henderson of Faith Community Presbyterian Church, Novi officiating. Memorial contributions to Angela Hospice or the American Cancer Foundation would be appreciated. Arrangements were made by Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home, Northville.

A funeral service was held

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Michael Dazy  
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**Library Lines**

**Novi Public Library**

**Hours**  
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Tall. For more information, call (248) 549-0730.

**Tiny Tot time**

Children ages 12-18 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 a.m. Registration is not required, but space is limited, so toddlers and caregivers only, please.

**Story Time notes**

Registration for Winter Story Times begins December 9 and runs through December 28. Winter Story Times start Jan. 13.

**Board meeting**

The Novi Library Board of Directors meets Monday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Community members are welcome to attend.

**Senior book discussion group**

Senior booklovers are reading "House of Sand and Fog" by Andre Dubus for their December meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, Dec. 12, at noon.

**Novi City Briefs**

**City offices closed**

Novi city offices, the recycling center and the Novi Public Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. All city offices and buildings will reopen Thursday, Dec. 26.

Novi city offices, the recycling center and the Novi Public Library will close once again Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year holiday. All city offices and buildings will be reopened Thursday, Jan. 2.

**Winter property taxes**

City of Novi 2002 winter property tax bills were mailed last week. All payments are due without penalty on or before Feb. 14, 2003. If payments are not received in the Treasury Department by the due date, a 4-percent penalty will be added.

For residents looking for a deduction on their 2002 income tax returns, winter tax payments must be received by the city no later than the end of the business day on Dec. 31.

Postmarks are not accepted. A drop box is available behind the Civic Center at the curb. Late pay-

ments will be accepted at the Treasurer's office through Feb. 28 with a 4-percent penalty, but beginning March 1 payments must be sent to the Oakland County Treasurer's Office.

For more information call the 24-hour property tax information hotline at (888) 600-3773.

**Mayor can't waive penalties**

City of Novi Attorney Gerald Fisher would like to remind all residents the mayor is not permitted to waive interest and penalties on late tax payments due the city. Fisher said it has come to his attention some citizens in the community believe Novi Mayor Richard J. Clark has the ability to erase amounts owed, but it is just not true. "I can marry you, but I cannot waive your taxes," Clark joked.

**Dog licenses**

Oakland County dog licenses are now available at the city's Treasury Department. All dogs four months and older must be licensed and licenses must be renewed annually. Dog licenses expire Dec. 31. The fee is \$15 for owners younger than 65. Senior

citizens with proof of age are required to pay \$13.50. Licenses for neutered or spayed pets are only \$7.50 or \$6.75 for senior owners. These prices will be offered through June 1. Beginning June 2, the cost of a dog license will be \$30 with the exception of new dogs. Owners must bring a current rabies certificate in for processing when purchasing a license. For more information, call (248) 347-0440.

**Homeowner association breakfast**

The city of Novi Homeowner Associations' Leader's Breakfast will be held Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center. Heads of homeowner associations are invited to attend the annual event where Novi Mayor Richard Clark, members of the city council and city staff will address questions and concerns in a one-on-one format. In addition, attendees will enjoy breakfast and guest speakers providing plenty of information to share with neighborhood homeowners. Gifts will also be given and much more. For more information, call (248) 347-0437.

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**A novel concept - hospital food that tastes good?!**

**continued from front**

Providence's Healing Arts program.

Hollis said he plans to eventually expand the cafe's offerings to include limited catering.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at pfoley@hi.homecomm.net.



Stephen Weipert, director of support services at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus, and David Hollis, food service director for HDS Services at the facility, show off samples of the new menu at Parkside Café. The pair are hoping the recently revamped cafe will not only appeal hospital staff and visitors, but to employees for nearby businesses as well by offering healthy and tasty breakfast and lunch items.

**Industrial building gets OK for fire restoration work**

**By Phil Foley**

By spring a Dearborn firm could have as many as 25 people doing restoration work on smoke and water-damaged houses built in an industrial park off Nine Mile Road between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

The Novi Planning Commission voted 8-0, with David Ruyte absent, to approve Bennett Donaldson's request for final site plan approval and a special land-use permit for his company's Venture Drive spec building. The building has been vacant since the J.B. Donaldson Company completed it in 1999.

Donaldson told planning commission members that Singlo expects to use the 16,800 square foot building primarily for warehousing and administrative uses.

He said Dearborn-based Singlo does fire restoration work for insurance companies.

Commission member Lynn Kocian was concerned about the possibility of noxious fumes and noise from the 1.3-acre site, which backs up to a residential district.

Donaldson said that while Singlo plans to have a small cleaning area in the facility, it will be used mainly for warehousing items coming from the company's main facility in Dearborn. "We're expecting, at most, two deliveries a month," he told commission members, adding that's less than the traffic generated by some of the industrial park's existing occupants.

According to city planner Tim Schmitt, the two main issues for the J.B. Donaldson Company's request were the need for a variance from the city's parking setback and a waiver from the city's opposi-

side driveway spacing requirement.

Commission member Gwen Markham called the placement of the building's parking lot an "inlegant solution," but she added, "I understand the need for parking."

Schmitt noted that while placing the parking lot between the Donaldson property and an adjoining industrial property would require a variance trimming the parking setback by more than half, it would keep the parking area away from the adjacent residential area.

"I'm not seeing a lot of coordination with these industrial properties," groused Markham, but she voted with the majority to recommend the variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals anyway.

Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at pfoley@hi.homecomm.net.

**Novi City Council Briefs**

**New traffic sign**

Residents in the Meadowbrook Lake Subdivision in Novi have a new 25 mph speed limit sign on northbound Elmshire at Nine Mile Road. The new traffic control sign is the result of a positive vote from members of the city council during the Nov. 25 meeting. The request for the sign was requested by residents of the subdivision.

**Updated actuary study**

Members of the Novi City Council voted on Nov. 25 to allow city officials to obtain an actuary study of notice health insurance provisions to Gabriel.

Reister, Smith and Company in an amount not to exceed \$11,000. The city's finance department recommended the new study be done for use in the upcoming budget and at least three years into the future. Right now, the department is basing percentage of wages needed to establish an expendable trust fund to provide for the cost of retiree health services on an actuary report dated April 26, 1994.

**Mutual Aid Association**

The City of Novi adopted a reso-

lution approving a Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association Interlocal Agreement after members of council gave their unanimous approval during the Nov. 25 meeting. The approval was needed after the agreement was revised to meet current standards for hazardous materials incident response and to confirm changes in liability coverage. The new agreement was reviewed by the city's attorney, the association's attorney and the State Attorney General. The Novi Fire Department has been a member of the Association for some time.

**Tree planting grant**

City officials received the approval they needed during the Nov. 25 city council meeting to apply for and accept, if awarded, a \$4,000 Detroit Edison Tree Planting Grant. DTE Energy, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, recently announced applications are available for its tree planting grant program. Tree planting projects such as parks, right-of-way and nature study areas on public lands are eligible for tree planting grants of up to \$4,000. The grant requires an equal

match on the part of the city. Officials said since the city is actively engaged in Spring and Fall tree planting programs, Novi will already be spending the required amount of "match monies" to qualify for this grant. If received, the money will be utilized to help defray the cost of replanting street trees removed by the Forestry Division due to disease, insect and storm damage on public right-of-ways throughout Novi. More specifically, trees would be planted on public rights-of-way within Briarwood Estates, Barclay Estates and Cedar Springs Estates. The trees would be planted as part of the 2003 street tree planting program.

**New valve**

Members of the city council gave their approval to city officials during the Nov. 25 meeting to purchase one valve operator for Novi's Valve Exercising Program. The \$4,850 piece of equipment is required for the new maintenance program on the water distribution system discussed during budget sessions. The valve operator will be purchased from Jack Doherty, Inc., the low quotation, in the amount of \$4,850.

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## Novi planners sink WL dock request

continued from front

not meet our requirements," said commission member Gwen Markum. "The frontage requirement is valid and should be upheld. The boat launch has the potential for lack of control."

The rest of the commission agreed with her and rejected the request unanimously. Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext.108 or at pfoley@ht.homecomm.net.



Photo by Phil Foley

Margaret Laurie, a resident of Southpoint Condominiums, voices her objections to plans by the owners of Windward Bay Condominium to expand their dockage on Walled Lake. Windward Bay residents said they wanted additional boat slips, boat ramp and boardwalk to improve handicapped access on their property.

## Yorkshire Rose opens in Walled Lake's historic lakefront district

Walled Lake's Historic Lakefront District boasts the opening of Yorkshire Rose, a unique home and garden accessory store. Yorkshire Rose carries a quality line of lamps, furniture, artwork and clocks at very competitive prices. The view of the lake from this 239 E. Walled Lake Drive location only adds to the atmosphere of this quaint shop.

Yorkshire Rose is a very welcome addition to our downtown, said Charlene Long, managing director of the Downtown Development Authority. "The holiday shopping season was exactly the right time for them to open. They have that special gift you are looking for at a very reasonable price."

Keith and Danielle Sawdon, owners of Yorkshire Rose, decided to open their store in Walled Lake because, "We felt Walled Lake had great potential. We live locally and wanted to see more people shopping locally."

Yorkshire Rose is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Sunday, noon - 5 p.m. The phone number is (248) 926-4106.

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority, DDA was created in 1990 to ensure the ongoing growth and improvement of Downtown Walled Lake. Downtown Walled Lake is an Oakland County Main Street Community, a program developed to revitalize Oakland County Downtowns and preserve a sense of place. The DDA area encompasses one-half square mile and is home to over 160 businesses. The DDA is responsible for business recruitment, retention and marketing the downtown.

## Wixom's station renovation complete

By Aileen Wingblad  
SPECIAL WRITER

With the recent completion of a \$1 million building project for Wixom's Fire Station #1, the fire department staff looks forward to better working conditions, improved service and expanded training programs, according to Wixom Fire Chief George Spencer.

The 8,200 square foot expansion to the facility, located on Wixom road north of Maple road, added three bays for fire trucks and apparatus, a new training center and a new administrative section including a reception area and divisional offices. Landscaping and improvements to the parking lot will be completed next spring.

"This expansion allows us to meet the challenges that face us in a more efficient manner. I am

very pleased with the design and functionality of it," Spencer said. "We now have room to do things more efficiently — we were definitely on top of each other before, having to wait for a turn to use the phones or computers."

What's more, the station now has a large enough area to conduct special training instruction made available by the U.S. Department of Justice after the 9/11 attacks, including programs to deal with biological warfare and weapons of mass destruction.

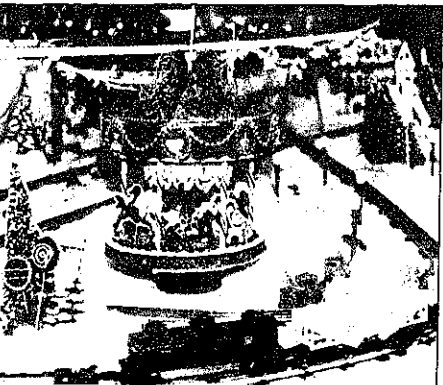
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"This expansion allows us to meet the challenges that face us in a more efficient manner. I am

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## Screen Beat

By Brian Renner

Coming to theaters this weekend is the comedy "Analyze That," sequel to the 1999 hit film "Analyze This." While dealing with issues surrounding his father's death, a psychologist (Billy Crystal) also struggles to help his mobster client (Robert De Niro) whose life is being threatened. With "Analyze That," director Harold Ramis presents the universal theme that every character, whether in a drama or comedy, is struggling with a problem. His approach might be psychological, philosophical or purely through action, but he's struggling with the fundamental problems of life.

Crystal is quick to sum up their intentions for the sequel. "We tried to make it accurate. Truth is, any kind of mental disorder is certainly not something to make fun of, unless, of course, it's really funny." "Analyze That" is a Warner Bros. release and rated R for some language and sexual content.

Crime drama "Empire" is the story of gangster Victor Rosa's (John Leguizamo) quest for the American Dream as he tries to escape his criminal past and free himself of the trappings of easy money on the violent streets of the South Bronx. Determined to make a lawful life for himself and his new family, Victor partners with a powerful Wall Street investment banker (Peter Sarsgaard) only to discover that the price he must pay for his new lifestyle is much more than he bargained for.

"Empire" is a Universal Pictures release and rated R for strong violence, pervasive language, drug content and some sexuality.

Paranoid sci-fi thriller "Equilibrium" profiles a futuristic society where emotion is forbidden and the world is forced to take empathy-death drugs. But while an anti-convention enforcer forgets to take his daily dose, he starts to feel for the first time! "Equilibrium" is Dimension Films release and rated R for violence.

### In theaters next week

Comic drama "About Schmidt" (R), high-energy "Drumline" (PG-13), gender-bending, age-switching comedy "The Hot Chick" (PG-13), modern-day Cinderella story "Maid in Manhattan" (PG-13), sci-fi adventure "Star Trek: Nemesis" (PG-13) and interpersonal drama "Personal Velocity" (R).

### On video and DVD shelves this week

Animated, family comedy "Lilo & Stich" (PG), swinging international secret-agent "Austin Powers in Goldmember" (PG-13) and Chinese drama "Happy Times" (PG).

### Premiering on DVD shelves this week

"Adventures of Pinocchio" (NR), "Akira" (Japanese DTS S.I. Edition) (NR), "The Amazing Howard Hughes" (NR), "Austin Powers in Goldmember" (Infinitum) (DTS) (Full Frame) (Widescreen) (PG-13), "Black Christmas" (Collector's Edition) (R), "My Neighbor Totoro" (G), "The Producers" (Special Edition) (PG), "Star Trek: The Next Generation: Season 6" (9-DVD Set) (NR), "The True Story of Marion Davies" (NR), "Twilight Zone: Collection 1" (Vol. 1-9) (9-DVD Set) (NR), "Twilight Zone: Collection 2" (Vol. 10-18) (9-DVD Set) (NR), "Walt Disney Treasures: Behind the Scenes at the Walt Disney Studio" (G), "Walt Disney Treasures: The Complete Goofy" (G) and "War and Peace" (4-DVD Set) (NR).

For more information, please log on to *The Movie Insider* at [www.themovieinsider.com](http://www.themovieinsider.com). Please direct any questions, comments and/or feedback to [brian@themovieinsider.com](mailto:brian@themovieinsider.com).

# ENTERTAINMENT

novinews.com

Thursday, December 5, 2002

## You'd have to be crazy

### Newest Sandler flick one of his worst yet

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

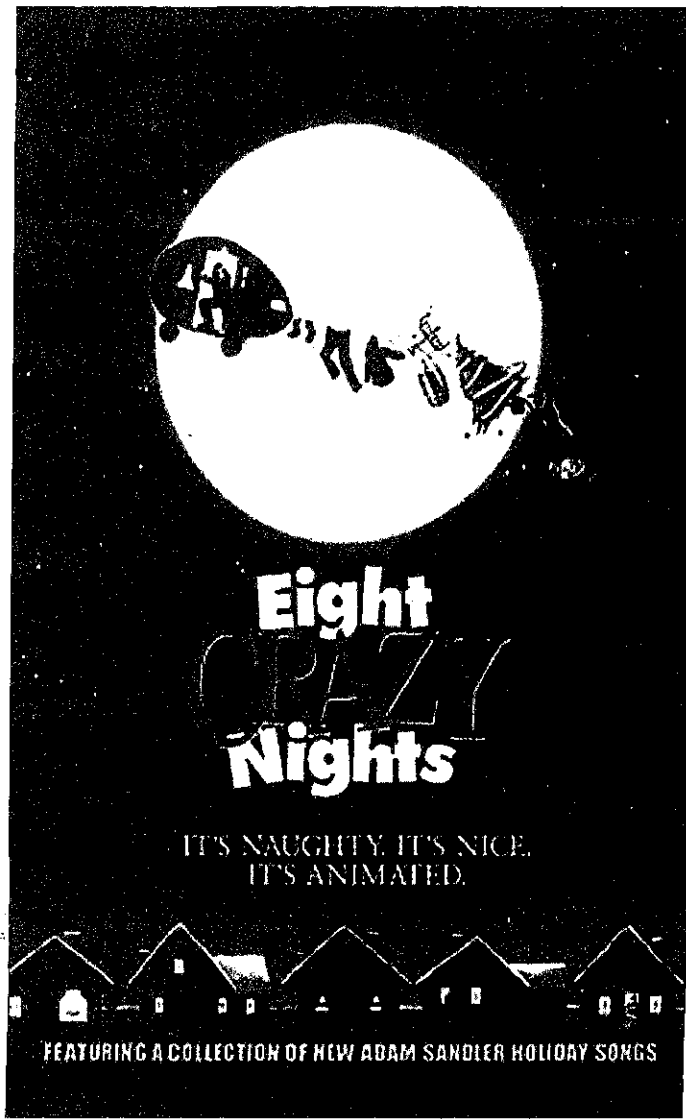
It's just one of those movies that just makes you sit back and wonder why it was ever even made.

Adam Sandler's "Eight Crazy Nights," an animated movie about Hanukkah (hence the Eight Nights), is just about as bad as Sandler has made — and even his fans know he's made some bad stuff in the past. Now before all of you diehards raise a stink over that comment, just take in mind that any bad thing that is said about Sandler here can just be attributed to good fun — good, offensive fun, just like Sandler likes to make.

This movie is a strange twist between an anti-"It's a Wonderful Life" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (the original cartoon, not the live-action). It's a bizarre holiday-themed film that turns the good will of the season into the butt of crude but unfunny jokes about excrement and other bodily functions.

Luckily for those who celebrate Christmas, it's not about that holiday. Instead, it's those who celebrate Hanukkah that take it right on the nose. Yeah, it's about time that the festival of lights, which ends tomorrow, gets some long-awaited time on the big screen — it's just too bad it wasn't done in better taste. The film seems to want to celebrate the beauty of Hanukkah and honor Jewish people with self-loathing humor. The idea of a Hanukkah movie as everyone is gearing up for the Christmas season is a good one, but it seems to come off rather hostile, angry and ugly.

But that's not the point. At least you know that if you are going to see the majority of his movies that he is going to have set out to shock us on purpose. And this is definitely a Sandler production and he lets you know it. Not only is he the banner star in the animated film and has his name in the title, but he also conceived it, co-wrote it, produced it, provides four of the main voices and just about performs all of the songs. Sandler plays a malcontent (in the style of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Carol") who is taught the meaning of his holiday season. His name is



Davey Stone, and he's an unformed 33-year-old that is little more than an overgrown child who keeps getting into trouble in the small town of Dukeberry.

Davey has a bit of a troubled past though. Orphaned when his

parents died in a car accident, he's been running amok since without any supervision or guidance while he shows his ill-regard for everyone, even himself.

Davey manages to land himself in community service work

with Whitley (also voiced by Sandler), a little Jewish guy who lives with his eccentric twin sister, Eleanor (also voiced by Sandler). Davey will assist Whitley as a basketball coach for kids and live with Whitley and Eleanor for the duration of his

sentence.

Such a heart-warming story that finds us all realizing the meaning of the season is mangled with things like defecation jokes, the taunting of a fat child, a guy who has seizures and the oh-so-lovely sounds of flatulence and belching. This also may be the first cartoon in history with built-in product placements. A mall scene showcases See's Candies, The Sharper Image, Victoria's Secret and Radio Shack.

The songs aren't bad, but they aren't great either. This film gave Sandler the chance to release his third (yes, his third) version of his "Chanukah Song," a comic tune aimed at keeping Jewish kids from feeling left out during America's Christmas mania. Sandler sings the names of as many showbiz figures as he can squeeze in and jokes about whether they are Jewish or not. It's not really in the movie, but if you stick around for the closing credits, you'll be treated to it.

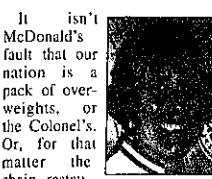
Though a decent one for the Sandler faithful and for those who enjoy crude humor, a warning to those parents who see the PG-13 rating and the animated theme — do not drop your kids off to see this one. This movie really tests the limits of its MPAA rating with the innuendoes and scenes like when Davey shows a little too much affection for his car.

The group I watched this film with chuckled and giggled throughout, but then again, I was in the Upper Peninsula and the folks there sometimes have an odd sense of humor.

It all comes down to what you think is funny. Such as this scene that some of my Yoooper friends laughed at: To show how he likes to get into the Hanukkah spirit, Davey forces Whitley into a port-a-let, which he shoves down a hill. When Whitley emerges covered in feces, Davey sprays him with a hose and he freezes solid — I'm not finished yet — then, reindeer come along for a lick. Are you laughing yet?

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 [saggleston@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:saggleston@ht.homecomm.net).

## Food for Thought



Mary Brady

It isn't McDonald's fault that our nation is a pack of overweight, or the Colonel's. Or, for that matter the chain restaurants that pile our plates high with fat laden, salty, out-of-the-can food. We can't blame anybody but ourselves.

In some cases we've allowed possessions and careers to become more important than preparing a good, healthy meal. Both mom and dad have to work so Susie and Johnny can have Game Boys, Play Stations and the like. A big house with a big mortgage necessitates a two income family. Priorities have changed over the years and our diets have been affected. There are millions of chubby children in the United States as a result. Not to mention the adults, who, unlike the kids, can choose for themselves.

What are our options? It is impossible in this day and age to cook every meal at home. Instead, be smart when you eat out. Pick and choose the restaurants you frequent. Share your meal, pass up the 20-ounce plate of pasta and make a list of restaurants that offer healthy choices. Yes, the fast food lane is easiest but your family is going to suffer. ere are some tips that Tom and I adhere to when we eat out.

Whenever possible I'll call ahead and ask to have a menu

faxed or inquire if there is one listed on a web page. Now I can do my homework. Are there vegetarian choices? Lots of fresh fish or seafood? Olive oil as an option to butter? Are the appetizers interesting and not all deep fried? Do they serve salads more than chopped iceberg with Ranch, Blue Cheese and Thousand Island as their only dressings?

It is also very important to know that the soup is homemade from a stock versus a salty base or from a can or frozen. Are the side dishes interesting and varied with more than a "vegetable of the day?" Will the kitchen split an entree for no additional charge? And, finally, is carry-out available? Our favorite places offer us these healthy alternatives so we'll choose them over others every time.

Our all time favorite is Dalat, a Vietnamese gem in Ypsilanti. It has proved to be the find of the decade for us. The food is impeccably fresh, made to order and their vegetarian dishes are creative and healthy. Over the years, I've chosen to eat less animal protein. At some point in time it just didn't taste very good anymore. Maybe it's been the hype I've read over and over again about poor inspection at slaughter houses, or the chickens fattened to maturity in a matter of months or the fish that is stored on boats for weeks covered with ice. There are numerous Arabic, Japanese, Chinese and Thai spots that dot our metropolis, which offer wonderful, non-critter selections.

By no means am I advocating the deletion of meat, poultry or fish from your menu. There is nothing nicer than a beautifully poached salmon, herb roasted Amish chicken or honey and mustard glazed pork roast. Bottom line is this — we need to make changes in our lifestyles that will facilitate healthy eating. Vegetarianism once a week isn't so bad. My personal choice for a great dinner is roasted barley with baby bok choy and steamed spinach. Drizzle the dish with some beet vinaigrette and viola! Low fat, lots of flavors and best of all, I feel like the energizer bunny.

Needless to say, I incorporate veggie choices into our menu continuously. Our black bean chili is incredible and the sweet potato burrito a favorite of vegans and meat lovers alike. And, the coous-coous stuffed acorn squash is a winner.

With all this said, take my words to heart. Eat out but eat healthy. Sit down once in a while with the family to a home prepared (or healthy carry-out) meal. Teach your children to enjoy steamed veggies and tofu when they are young, not chicken fingers and french fries. Our healthy future is in your hands!

Mary Brady is a certified executive chef and co-owner of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in the Novi Town Center. If you have culinary questions or comments for chef Mary Brady, you can contact her via e-mail at [djbistro@aol.com](mailto:djbistro@aol.com).

## BLACK BEAN CHILI & CREME FRAICHE

Recipe provided by chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro

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  - DICED ONION
  - 1 DICED CARROT
  - 1 RIB DICED CELERY
  - 1 DICED YELLOW SQUASH
  - 1 DICED ZUCCHINI
  - 1/2 DICED RED PEPPER
  - 2 CLOVES FINELY CHOPPED GARLIC
  - PINCH OF CAYENNE
  - 3 DROPS TABASCO
  - 2 TBS CUMIN
  - 1 CUP BLOODY MARY MIX
  - 1 T. OLIVE OIL
  - SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE
  - SAUTE VEGETABLES
  - ADD CUMIN AND CAYENNE
  - COOK FOR 5 MINUTES
  - ADD BLOODY MARY MIX, BEANS, AND TABASCO
  - BRING TO A BOIL
  - REDUCE HEAT AND SIMMER FOR 15 MINUTES
  - SEASON TO TASTE
  - GARNISH WITH CREME FRAICHE AND TORTILLA CHIPS

- CREME FRAICHE for BLACK BEAN CHILI**
- 1 CUP NO-FAT PLAIN YOGURT
  - CUP BUTTERMILK
  - COMBINE AND PLACE IN A WARM SPOT OVERNIGHT THE MIXTURE WILL THICKEN TO THE CONSISTENCY OF SOUR CREAM.

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# No one is exempt

Novi Police spreading the word that seatbelts save everyone's lives - even members of our armed forces

By Victoria Sadiocha  
STAFF WRITER

Members of Novi's police force continue their joint efforts to ensure drivers buckle up - including members of the U.S. military.

Throughout the end of this week, Novi police officers along with other law enforcement agencies and the U.S. armed forces will continue with the nationwide "Click It or Tackle It" campaign that started last week with an emphasis on military personnel.

"As American troops continue to risk their lives waging a war on terrorism abroad, it is disturbingly ironic that they face a much greater threat here at home," said Sgt. Jerry Whitfield of the Novi Police Department. "We are losing more men and women in uniform to personal automobile crashes than any other cause."

Whitfield said the number of fatal crashes among military personnel typically occurring off-base in their

personal vehicles is up 35 percent from last year.

"In just the first six months of this year, 254 enlisted personnel across all services lost their lives in traffic crashes," he said. "Typically, nearly half of those young servicemen and women who failed to wear their seat belt could have survived if they had buckled up."

Officials from the Novi Police Department said it was the safety of military personnel and all others in the community that prompted them to join with others in the crackdown.

"While our armed forces will do everything they can to protect families from the unpredictable threat of terrorism, we must address the most predictable and leading risk our families and military face every day - traffic crashes," Whitfield said.

The Novi Police Department will utilize saturation patrols and stepped up enforcement to make sure drivers failing to buckle up or failing to buckle their child passengers up,

will be ticketed.

According to statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, if every state conducted high visibility enforcement, 5,000 to 7,000 lives could be saved each year.

"The officers are committed to high visibility enforcement because it works," Whitfield said.

The sergeant said the model for research showing for most people who don't wear seat belts the possibility of receiving a ticket is a more powerful incentive than the threat of injury or death.

"Safety messages don't work," Whitfield said. "Enforcement messages, backed up by strong enforcement activities do."

*Victoria Sadiocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or via e-mail at vsadiocha@ht.housecomm.net.*

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## Restaurant shows community appreciation with free Thanksgiving Eve dinner

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Novi has been very good to Moe Leon. He came here nearly 25 years ago from Syria as a student studying construction engineering and grew to be a comfortable restaurateur with 10 restaurants in Western Oakland and Wayne counties.

For the past 13 years Leon has been showing his appreciation to the community, first at his Michigan Avenue location in Dearborn, by offering a free Thanksgiving Eve dinner.

Last year Leon's Family Dining served up 12,000 dinners at seven locations. This year Leon added his Novi and Wixom locations to the list for the first time and ordered 300 turkeys.

"I hope we run out of food," said Leon. "We're just lucky to be able to afford this."

"We just like giving back to the community," said Leon's wife, Debbi. Glancing around the restaurant, she added, "We feel like they are our family. We are very lucky."

"A lot of these people can't here every day," added Leon, "so showing a little appreciation isn't all that much."

Besides, he added, "Cost doesn't mean anything, when

it's all going to a good cause."

Leon noted that not only does his staff donate their time for the annual Thanksgiving Eve dinner, they donate all their tips to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys-For-Tots program.

Leon went to work at the Novi Big Boy restaurant shortly after arriving in the U.S. from his native Syria to study construction engineering. In 1983 Leon and his older brothers, Sam and Wally, opened their first restaurant on 10 Mile Road near Haggerty.

"We were so anxious to get into business it didn't matter there was nothing around here then," he recalled. Even though the only thing nearby at the time was the Providence Hospital clinic, the restaurant thrived and soon Leon and his brothers were opening additional locations.

Eventually they decided to do something to show their appreciation for their success and 13 years ago they held their first Thanksgiving Eve dinner at their Dearborn location. Leon's wife, Debbi, recalled they chose that restaurant because it was closest to the inner city.

As the restaurant group's fortunes improved, Leon and his brothers added more restaurants to the list. This year they served

500 free dinners in Wixom and 1,060 in Novi in just six hours.

Leon's Novi patrons put \$1,628 in the tip jar for Toys-For-Tots. He said instead of simply writing a check, he's going to have his staff go on a shopping spree for kids.

"We look forward to this all year long," said Debbi.

*Phil Foley is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or via e-mail at pfoley@ht.housecomm.net.*

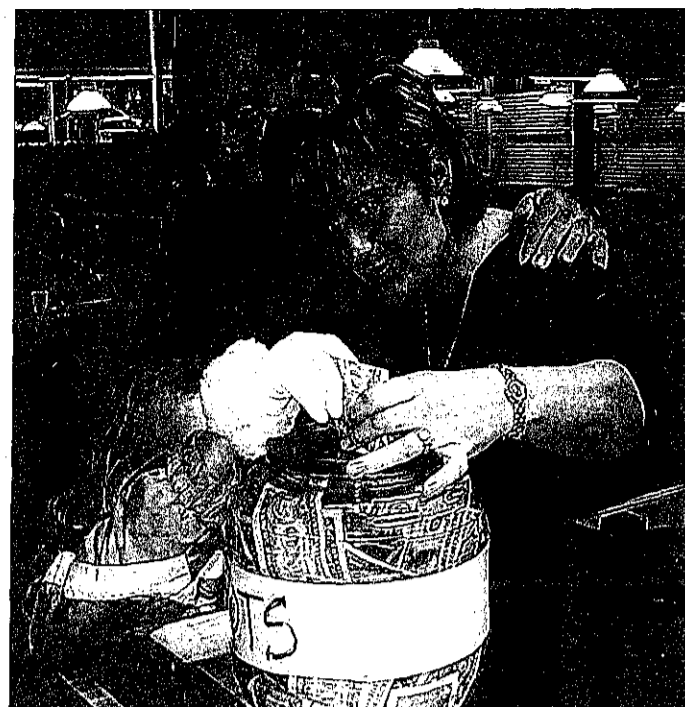


Photo by Phil Foley  
Moe and Debbi Leon watch as nine-year-old Novi resident Kerri Collins slips a tip in the Toys-For-Tots jar at Leon's Family Dining. This year the Novi couple expanded their Thanksgiving Eve tradition of free dinners for the public to their Novi and Wixom restaurants.

## Lean Learning Center adds partner

The former director of Supplier Development and Value Improvement at Rolls-Royce Corp. North American Operations has joined Novi's Lean Learning Center as a partner.



Paul E. Mullenhour

Dynamics in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

In addition to teaching and doing consulting work in lean management Mullenhour will be offering his expertise in Six Sigma as well as quality and supplier development.

Mullenhour holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of

Tulsa. He's also a graduate of Yale University's Goldratt Institute and a member of the American Society for Quality Control.

The Lean Learning Center was founded early last year by Dennis Pawley, Andy Carfina and Jamie Finchbaugh to help American companies learn from the success of corporations like Toyota.

### An Affair to Remember

More than 200 supporters of Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital recently enjoyed the hospital's annual dinner dance, "An Affair to Remember," held this year at the Centerpoint Marriott. This year's event included an overnight stay at the hotel, along with a Sunday brunch.

The benefit raised more than \$75,000 for the hospital's "Building to Serve" Capital Campaign to expand clinical

and support service facilities. In addition, the Michigan Morgan Horse Industry Association donated \$5,000 for the hospital's Krigger Geriatric Center.

In addition to enjoying dinner and dancing, guests honored two Huron Valley-Sinai physicians-Duane L. Blosk, M.D., who received the Community Service Award, and E. Patrick Mitchell, D.O., who was named "Physician of the Year."

Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (www.hvsh.org) is ranked one of the top hospitals in the nation for customer service. Founded in 1986, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (HVS), a 1,530-bed facility, is Oakland County's newest hospital. Since that time, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital has grown and expanded in both its services and size. HVS recently began a \$27 million expansion project, which will be completed in 2004. A nonprofit corporation, Huron Valley-Sinai is affiliated with the Detroit Medical Center.

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# Novi Meadows staff comes up with three main goals in Student Improvement Plan

■ School is in third year of a five-year North Central Accreditation plan to improve academic production

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

In the third year of a five-year North Central Accreditation Student Improvement Plan cycle, the Novi Meadows staff has identified student-centered goals and is now in the process of deciding on the best ways to achieve them. At the district's last school board meeting on Nov. 21, the plan's chairs, Lisa Fenchel and Lisa LaPorte, gave a detailed report of its progress to board members.

"All the goals are student centered so that it's something that has a direct impact on the students learning," LaPorte said, who is a sixth grade math and science teacher at Novi Meadows. "We developed strategies and interventions for each of the goal areas. We will have implementation for the next two years, then we will start doing final analysis."

The process was started by acquiring base line data, where students were given tests to figure out where they started. Some formal and informal assessment will be done over the next two years to help decide if the plan is heading in the right direction, or if changes need to be made.

"We will be gathering that data as we go along and looking at it," LaPorte said. "Some of it will be data that we look at mid-year and make changes and some of it will be data that we look at for long term."

At this point, committees are developing and implementing strategies and interventions to enable the students to gain mastery in the three goal areas—social science, listening goal and math.

"They identified areas that we wanted to see improvement in or that they thought maybe we can make improvement in and turned both of those larger areas into specific goals we wanted to achieve," Fenchel said, who is a sixth grade language arts, math and science teacher at Novi Meadows. "The

For the listening goal, students are focused on improving comprehension of information that's presented orally, so they need to be able to follow directions as well as understand informational text as they hear it. "We came up with this goal because a lot of times the kids are not listening or not able to follow oral directions," Fenchel said. "A lot of times, if there's something that's written, they do it, but orally, we thought that it was kind of a weakness, and not necessarily in only curricular areas, but we thought that if we focused on curricular areas, you can improve their overall listening skills, which would then go with all areas."

With this goal, students will be able to do two different things: To listen to something and be able to paraphrase parts of it and to be able to answer specific questions about it. "It's all oral, so it's really interesting because the kids are not really used to that," Fenchel said. "They are used to you giving directions and then reading something on a paper and doing the work, but not having to be done all orally. If they really focus on it they can do a good job, but they kind of need that practice. With text in front of them, they have learned to highlight as they are reading, or go back and circle important information or maybe jot down notes on the side, but in listening, you have your ears to rely on, so you really have to learn some new strategies that work when you don't have something in front of you to write things down on."

One of the strategies that the kids are going to learn is called LEANT, which stands for Sit up, Lean forward, Activate your thinking. Name key information and Track the speaker. This is to provide uniform listening behaviors throughout the building.

LaPorte said that most people are visual learners and their second strength is usually auditory. "Most learners rely on both visual and auditory stimuli, so what we are

## School Briefs

■ Novi Woods Elementary School has a new community service project this year, which replaces the Giving Tree from years past. Now, instead of a tree to hang scarves, mittens and hats on, a snowman will make an appearance in the lobby surrounded by boxes to collect the cold weather items. From now through December 13, donations of new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves can be dropped in the boxes benefiting the Salvation Army. Also being accepted are donations of canned goods and non-perishable items, which will be donated to the local food pantry. Boxes will also be located in the kindergarten rooms for donations throughout the two week period. There is also a contest to name the giant snowman. Each class in the school will be allowed to submit one name and the classroom with the winning submission will receive a treat.

■ Last year the PTO began awarding an annual scholarship to a graduating senior from Novi Woods Elementary. A committee of teachers and parents is now being formed. Those interested in serving on this committee and helping select this year's recipient should contact Janet at (248) 344-2959.

■ First grade students at Novi Woods have been learning about metaphors and using the words high, low, up, down and repeat to describe how music moves. They have also been enjoying beanbag toss, "Hey, Mr. Knickerbocker," and the freeze game. First graders will soon be preparing for the school's "Holidays of December" program, which will be performed for parents on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Second graders have also been enjoying the freeze game and the Pumpkin Game.

■ Third graders learned to play "Turkey Day" on the bells with a partner and also worked hard on "Stir the Soup," using bells and other instruments. They have started playing the recorder and are trying hard to remember to bring their recorders to class. Miss Beneshum and Mrs. Ray's classes should bring recorders on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Mr. Scagnetti's classes should bring recorders on Thursdays.

■ Fourth graders worked hard, learning "De Colores" and "This Land is Your Land" for their performance at the International Festival at Novi Middle School on Nov. 21. They have also begun playing recorders and are busy reviewing the notes B, A and G and are eager to learn new notes and skills.

■ An important reminder for parents: After the children finish eating their lunches at Novi Woods, they are taken outside for 20 minutes. The only conditions that keep them inside are rain, or temperatures or wind chills of zero degrees or below. Please dress children in warm coats and gloves and when snow appears, boots. Having children dressed appropriately makes it much more enjoyable for them.

■ Holiday Shop at Novi Woods is Wednesday, Dec. 11 and Thursday, Dec. 12. Set up and inventory will be Tuesday, Dec. 10. For anyone interested in helping, please contact Nyree Girosian at: (248) 347-6654 or Dawn Mitchell; at (248) 596-1647.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri, a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@home.com.net.



Orchard Hills second graders, Dajah Woods, Carrie Subject, Alana Keeney, Daiki Ban and Nick Valshampayam show off their edible turkey creations.



Three of Orchard Hills' first grade classes performed for their parents on Nov. 27 in the school's gymnasium. The program included several poems, stories and songs that the students memorized. One of the stories told of why the Pilgrims came to America and about their journey over by ship. The kids were split into groups and each group recited part of the story based on a letter of the alphabet. They also sang many songs including one that listed all the things they were thankful for, "Five Little Turkeys," and "The Pilgrims are Coming to Celebrate."



Fourth graders, Taya Campbell, Colleen McClure, Rebecca McKinley, Sean McNiff and Justin Mustonen, show off their potatoes that they dressed up. Orchard Hills fourth grade students spent a short week studying the potato "from farm to fork." They learned about planting, harvesting, sorting, inspecting, processing, transportation and the marketing process as well as the many different ways in which potatoes are packaged.

The potato unit included weighing and graphing, "mashed up math," descriptive writing and potato poetry. The week ended with the students dressing the potatoes and displaying them in a quasi-potato museum. The potatoes were dressed as cheerleaders, sports stars, angels, Martians and couch potatoes, to name a few.

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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.

## Kudos on audit of city's finances

We'll be the first to admit it - the administration at the City of Novi takes a lot of heat, mainly for making poor decisions that leave many of us scratching our heads.

We'll be the first to admit it - the administration at the City of Novi takes a lot of heat, mainly for making poor decisions that leave many of us scratching our heads.

One of that firm's partners, Joe Helferman, who oversaw the audit, said the city has "an excellent finance department."

Case in point: the year-end audit performed by Plante & Moran, P.L.L.C.

One of that firm's partners, Joe Helferman, who oversaw the audit, said the city has "an excellent finance department."

He reported that there were no inconsistencies or deficiencies with Novi's records. Normally, there might be a dozen or so changes required to get a municipality's books in shape.

Hats off to Kathy Smith-Roy, finance director/treasurer for Novi, and her entire staff for running a tight ship.

While we're handing out kudos to the city's administrators, let's hear a round of applause for Novi's ranking as

the sixth lowest community in Oakland County when it comes to municipal tax rates.

That's two years in a row. This city has kept its millage rate around 10.5 mills, due to its high taxable value per capita and a solid base of commercial and industrial customers.

Most of the money going into the city's general fund still comes from property taxes, as well as police and fire and millage transfer.

That figure - nearly \$13.5 million - is an increase, however, of 13.3 percent from the prior fiscal year. That's because of an increase of 8-8.5 percent in growth and taxable value.

Unfortunately, the city's next highest source of revenue - state funds - dropped this fiscal year from \$4.72 million to \$4.6 million - and it is expected to drop again next year because of Michigan's budget deficit.

Yes, we'll continue to struggle with issues like Sandstone, but when there's good work being done, it deserves recognition.



Photo by Phil Foley

### Thanksgiving giving back

Surrounded by staff and family, Moe and Debbi Leon help assemble turkey dinners at their restaurant on 10 Mile near Haggerty. The couple feed thousands of people during their traditional Thanksgiving-eve thank you to the community.

## LETTERS

### Mid-East talk

I have just finished reading the letter titled "Stinkat on Iraq" by one of my fellow students, Geoff Aha-Ahrens in the November 28 edition of the Novi News. Although I respect his opinion, I do not agree with what he wrote in the article. Although the situation in Iraq seems like a potential threat to the United States, attacking the country would not solve any of the problems of the United States or the rest of the world.

First, President George W. Bush seems to be basing his whole presidency around the subject of terrorism. Ever since the tragic events of September 11th, President Bush has been trying to "solve" the problem of terrorism. First he attacked Afghanistan in the hope of destroying the threat of Al Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden. But there were no real results. All the attacks did was put thousands upon thousands of innocent Afghan citizens out of their homes. Now, President Bush is trying to tie Saddam Hussein to the 9/11 attacks. But there is no tangible proof of this proposed connection. Saddam Hussein has been made into a tyrant and evil man by the mass media coverage. And attacking Iraq would violate international law, which state that Country 1 cannot attack Country 2 unless Country 2 attacks

Country 1 first. Also, Bush doesn't have the right to blame Hussein for the U.N. inspectors not finding weapons. Former President Bill Clinton pulled the inspectors out of Iraq in 1998 when he attacked Iraq, which was a diversion to take attention away from the Monica Lewinsky scandal. President Bush is only crediting his path on the "war to terrorism" so he can be reelected in the 2004 elections.

Second, there is a large difference between the United States and Iraq. The United States has a \$400 billion budget in the Pentagon while Iraq has a \$4 billion budget. As a superpower country, the United States has thousands of nuclear weapons stockpiled. Iraq doesn't even have one, nor the means to even launch such a weapon. Even if Iraq were able to even obtain a nuclear weapon, would Iraq then be present, as Vice President Dick Cheney put it, a "mortal threat" to the United States? The United States was able to survive for four decades when the Soviet Union had thousands and thousands of nuclear weapons aimed at it. Even if Iraq were able to attack the United States, it would be suicidal for Saddam Hussein. He is not a stupid man and understands that any attack on the United States would be followed by swift revenge. For example, as soon as the 9/11 events took place, Bush

had United States forces in Afghanistan. Also, the invasion of Iraq would change the image of the United States in the people in the Middle East. It would give the impression that the United States is brutal and fierce. This could encourage new terrorism against the United States. Instead of helping the United States, Bush would greatly damage us instead.

Third, if the United States were to invade and attack Iraq, it would shatter agreements with allies in the area. Many countries are already disagreeing with the proposal by Bush. The Germans don't agree as well as France. Neither are the Canadians, the Russians, and the Turks. And Saudi Arabia, whose oil the United States fought to defend in the first Gulf War, won't even allow U.S. troops to use its land as a staging ground. The countries of Egypt and Jordan are also opposed to the invasion of Iraq.

In Mr. Aha-Ahrens' article, I believe he said "we should go in militarily and make it so that they are not a threat to us or any of the neighboring countries anymore." I highly disagree with this statement. What gives the United States the power or the right to just go in and take out the military without real approval? If the United States invades the country, it is considered to be just and safe. If any other country tries

Cameron Lewis  
Novi

## 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 allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

### United States Senate

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

### Michigan Senate

Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)  
476 Russell Senate Office  
Building, Washington D.C.  
senator@stabenow.senate.gov

Local office:  
280 East Saginaw  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517)-203-1760

### United States Congress

Joe Knollenberg (R-Bloomfield)  
2349 Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington D.C.  
(202) 225-5802  
Local office:  
30833 Northwestern Hwy.  
#100  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
(248)-851-1366

### Michigan House of Representatives

Bill Bullard Jr. (R-Highland)  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536  
(888)-736-2855  
senbullard@senate.state.mi.us

### Nancy Cassis (R-Nov)

Nancy Cassis (R-Nov)  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI  
(888)-38-NANCY  
ncassis@house.state.mi.us

### County Commission

Hugh Crawford (R-Nov)  
1200 North Telegraph  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
(248)-349-5079  
hughcrawford@msn.com

### Nancy Dingeldey (R-Wixom)

Nancy Dingeldey (R-Wixom)  
2220 Euna Road  
Wixom, MI 48393  
(248)-669-5921  
dingeldeyn@co.oakland.mi.us

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: cstoney@h.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

# OTHER OPINIONS

## Gov. Granholm's first order of business? Budget crisis

In reflecting on Michigan's current budget crisis, I am forcefully reminded of how apt the philosopher George Santayana was when he observed that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

The first state budget crisis I remember was in 1969 when I was an undergraduate working on The Michigan Daily, the student newspaper at the University of Michigan. Democratic Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams faced a legislature solidly controlled by hostile Republicans.

Williams proposed a combination of tax increases and budget cuts; the legislature trashed it. The legislature passed its own mix of budget cuts and tax hikes; Williams vetoed it. Partisan deadlock ensued. The result was that Michigan state employees experienced a payless payday before Williams and the legislature finally worked out a compromise.

When Gov. James Blanchard took office in 1983, he inherited a \$1.7 billion deficit from the outgoing Gov. William Milliken. Although there is still some dispute about the size of the deficit, there is no doubt the remedy Blanchard proposed - a big hike in the state income tax - was deeply unpopular. The tax increase passed, and as a result Democrats lost control of the state Senate in 1984 and haven't won it back to this day.

Gov. John Engler says he inherited a \$1.1 billion deficit from the Blanchard Administration when he took office in 1991. The budget cuts Engler rammed through the legislature over the next couple of years were drastic. So much so

that you still hear Democrats complaining about "the heartless Engler Administration" when they talk about the politics of the time.

And the current recession and the collapse in state tax revenues have now produced yet another state budget crisis. Best estimates are the budget for this fiscal year that began in October is at least \$500 million out of whack. Outgoing Gov. Engler, who has vowed he won't leave office with the state budget in deficit, will issue an executive order this week making a reported \$470 million in expense cuts.

On the chopping block will be revenue sharing for counties, cities and townships, state support for higher education and across the board cuts for all state departments. The only items that Engler won't consider are road construction projects (because they're funded in part by federal road taxes) and the \$6,700 per-pupil foundation grant for K-12 schools.

To take effect, the cuts will be approved by both appropriations committees during the short legislative lame duck session that resumed this week, but they don't have to be passed by the GOP-controlled full House or Senate.

And now comes Gov. Elect Jennifer Granholm, another in this long line of Michigan governors-elect who came into office facing a budget crisis. In Granholm's case, the best deficit estimate for the 2004 fiscal year that begins next October is a whopping \$1.8 billion, which is why her transition team has been working feverishly ever since the election on budget matters. She's

lucky Bob Nallaly, the able budget director during the Blanchard Administration, has volunteered his time to help out.

They won't have much time. Once sworn into office, Gov. Granholm will have to give her State of the State address in January and submit a balanced budget by state constitutional requirement, unlike the federal budget in March. And they'll be facing a legislature with both houses controlled by Republicans.

No one expects another payless pay-day deadline between governor and legislature. But there is a real risk that joint inexperience - Granholm is relatively new to Lansing and term limits have tossed out most of the experienced hands in the legislature - will result in unintended bad consequences.

Worse, because drastic decisions about the budget have to be taken so quickly, there is probably not enough time for a thoughtful, far-reaching, possibly radical review of the structure and workings of state government. This is certainly what candidate Granholm was thinking about when she repeatedly talked about how she wanted to "think outside the box."

But most budget decisions that involve cutting expenses have historically been incremental, i.e. they cut existing operations by such and such percent. That approach might get the budget balanced, but it's not well designed to promote the kind of imaginative thinking that's needed about the workings and expenses of state government.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Phil Power

## Here's how we get stories, quotes

For those interested, here is a little news reporting 101. First of all, the process starts with a topic.

Topics may be stumbled upon in many different ways. For example, an issue may be raised at a meeting, while out on assignments or by a telephone call or e-mail.

After reporters receive a topic they start learning more about it, usually by telephoning or visiting those involved. This process may take anywhere from one day to one month or more.

When allegations are being made, or if the topic is highly controversial, a long time is spent on the story talking to as many people as possible. The reporter will discuss the topic and take notes with the people involved.

Although sometimes only one person representing an idea or argument is quoted, it does not automatically mean only one person was contacted.

Sometimes, because of space, the person summing up the argument or topic in the most concise and articulate manner is listed by name in a story.

Another reporting basic is, a reporter

states in a story what someone said to them directly. I think that sentence pretty much speaks for itself and has obvious implications.

After interviews are done, materials are read and all involved are contacted, the story is written. It is not a reporter's job to take a side, or really have an opinion on the subject they are writing about. Reporters write what they are told by the people they interview.

What reporters do is convey accurate accounts of the story and make sure everyone involved has the opportunity to add information (or their side) if they so choose. Then an editor reads the story, makes corrections, adds headlines and sub-heads and ultimately decides what actually makes it into the finished product. Editors are the ultimate say as to what is news in their publication.

Although for most reporters journalism is a way of life (or maybe an illness), it is a job. Every reporter does the best job they can and tries with all of their human ability to get it right the first time.

They'll be accepted through the end of the business day, Monday, Dec. 23. Larson is hoping this unique piece will bring in \$200-\$300.

And last but not least, the non-profit Store of Dreams, which will be open in Fountain Walk through Dec. 22. Schostak Brothers & Co., a Southfield-based real estate development and management firm, opened the retail location, which offers merchandise from participating charities in Novi. The Children's Center, Michigan Humane Society, Michigan K.I.D.S. and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as well as Novi High School.

These different groups each take turns manning the operation during store hours (10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday noon-5 p.m.) and all of their merchandise is available at those times.

"This truly is the most wonderful time of the year," said Cindy Ciura, vice president of corporate marketing for Schostak. I couldn't agree more.

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



Cal Stone

## It's the most wonderful time of the year

There are many things to enjoy about this time of the year - being with friends and family, enjoying great food, watching children play - but the best part of it all is when you catch instances of what the Christmas season is truly about.

This week, there's three cases that stand out in my mind. The first is Leon's Family Dining, which is owned and operated by Moe and Debbi Leon. This couple embodies the spirit of giving in a very special way.

For 13 years, they've been serving up free Thanksgiving Eve dinners at their chain of restaurants in Oakland and Wayne counties. Last year that equaled 18,000 dinners.

"We just like giving back to the community," says Debbi. That much food costs a lot of money folks, and the staff also donates their time to the cause. To top it off, their tips are turned over to the Marine's Toys-For-Tots program!

Maybe I jumped the gun. This tops it all off: Leon is from Syria, and yet he's embraced one of this country's most important holidays in a way that most of us would never even contemplate.

Stepping up the plate next is Brian Larson, jewelry owner of Larson Jewelry Design.

His giving comes in the form of a beautiful pendant that was designed by Novi High Schooler Tae Kono.

Each year, Larson holds a design contest, picks a winning entry, creates the piece and then auctions it off - with the proceeds going to a local charity.

This year, the local Goodfellows will benefit from Larson's kindness.

He said the response from students was "unbelievable," and he had the unenviable task of narrowing down 60 entries to one winner. If you're interested in this pendant (see the back page for a picture of it) and would like your money to go to a worthy cause, stop Larson's shop on Main Street and place your silent bid.

## How to feel good about that old car

Donate it to Special Olympics Michigan. You can turn around your old car blues by donating your unwanted car or truck to Special Olympics Michigan. We'll haul it away. We'll give you a receipt for your donation. You'll help our athletes dreams come true. Call (888) 777-6680

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### Family Fun Day at Fountain Walk set for Saturday, Dec. 14th

Parents and children are welcome to join Santa Claus and his elves at Fountain Walk for a free Family Fun Day. The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 14, from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Guests can enjoy the holiday spirit at Fountain Walk while attending craft exhibits at Van's Skatepark, decorating cookies at The Great Indoors, face painting by Santa's elves at Cool Plus World Market, horse-drawn carriage rides around the Fountain Walk center, and photos and gifts with Santa Claus at Imagine Theater.

"It's a great way to spend time with the family while shopping for the holidays," explains Linda Bisse, marketing director for Fountain Walk. Fountain Walk will also be featuring the Store of Decors retail shop, dedicated to helping local charities reach out to the public by providing public awareness and charitable merchandise.

Fountain Walk, located at E-96 and Novi Road, is the newest shopping and entertainment center featuring 732,000 square feet of retail, entertainment, and restaurant space while offering shoppers festive courtyards.



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### On Campus

Matthew Harshu-String, who graduated from Novi High School in June, was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship by the publisher of Who's Who among American high school students.

String will attend Yale University in New Haven, Ct. He has received many awards for academic and leadership achievements and is one of 201 students selected to receive financial awards for college expenses this year by Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation, funded by the publishers of Who's Who, has awarded \$202,000 for high school scholarships this year and almost \$3.5 million to date.

Who's Who among American high school students annually recognizes over 750,000 of the nation's high-achieving high school students for their leadership in academics, extracurricular activities, community service and athletics. As the largest publication in the field of student recognition, Who's Who was created in 1967 to acknowledge the achievements of outstanding young people in America's public, private and parochial high schools.

Novi residents, Rachel Bissi, Patricia Chinn, and Brian Kleinfelt were among the graduates of Western Michigan University during summer, 2002 commencement exercises.

A junior accounting major in the College of Business Administration, McDowell is the son of James McDowell of Davidsburg and Donna McDowell of Novi. He is a graduate of Novi High School.

Boeing officials asked the students enrolled in an Ethics of Business course to review the company's 29-page ethical conduct code and see if the company's guidelines resonate with the ethics of University students who will soon be entering the workforce.

Aaron McDowell of Novi was one of about 40 Valparaiso University students who met with representatives at Boeing World Headquarters in Chicago, Oct. 28 to discuss Boeing's Ethical Business Conduct guidelines.

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

## Make an educated decision on your next jewelry purchase

Take your time. Do your research. And ask a few questions.

"These are really the best things a customer looking to purchase fine jewelry can do, especially during the holidays. Mostly, you want to make sure you are getting value for their money," said Tamar Aguilari, who co-owns Milford Jewelers with her brother, Jacques Choppian.

The downtown Milford store is located at 441 N. Main Street, next to Legends of Time and across the street from Five Lake Grill.

"And don't let anyone ever make you feel that just because you are not a jeweler, or because you are not spending a lot of money, that you are not entitled to ask questions before making a purchase," she said.

Tamar and Jacques know well of their speak.

The brother-sister tandem is part of a family-run jewelry operation which has been designing, cutting, manufacturing and retailing jewelry for over 30 years. Their three older brothers are also jewelers who separately own three retail stores, in addition to an industry-unique 4,000 sq. ft. jewelry manufacturing facility.

At that manufacturing site, the family has the unique ability to custom craft, design or repair all types of jewelry. Such unique resource allows the family to offer truly unique jewelry pieces at very affordable prices, Tamar said.

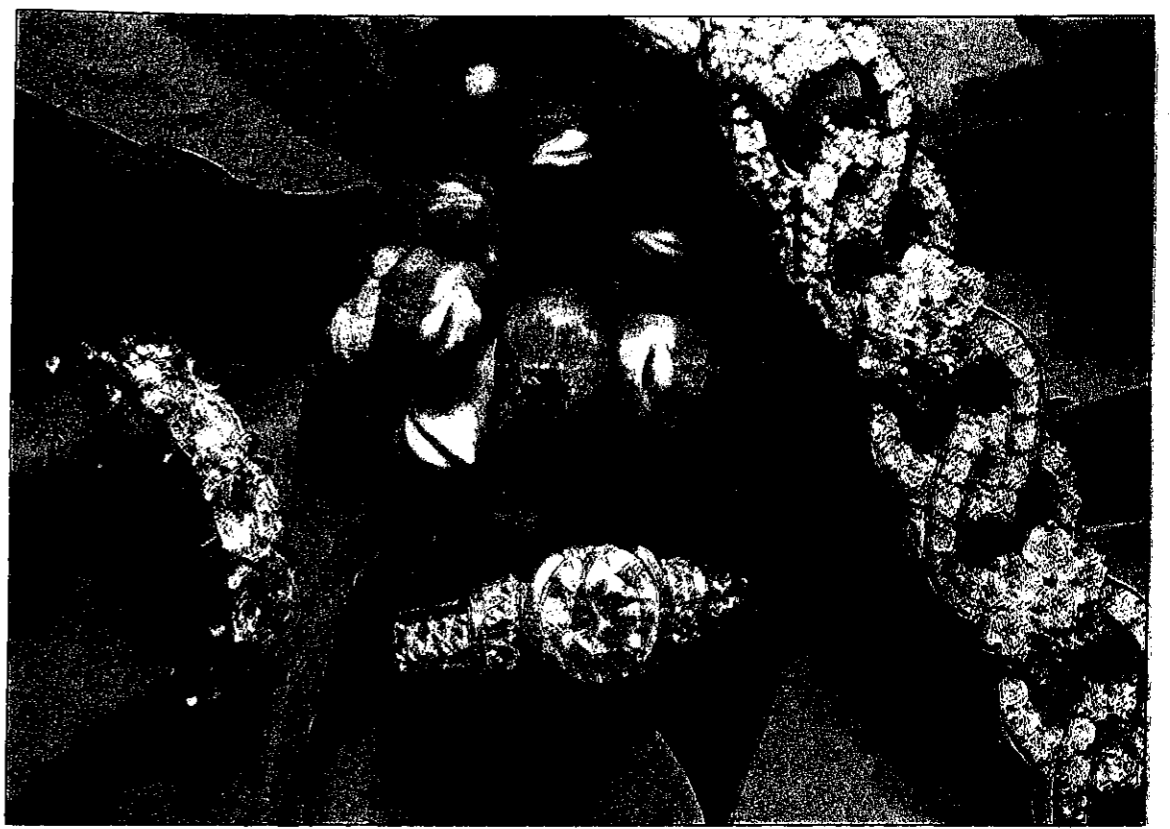


Photo by HAL GOULD

The splendor of fine jewelry is in full bloom at Milford Jewelers this holiday season.

"Basically, if you can imagine it, we can make -- and for less," she said.

Well known for their intricate designs and meticulous craftsmanship, the family has worked extremely hard during the years to ensure that customers feel comfortable within their store.

"It all starts with how comfortable people feel," Jacques said. "We enjoy helping people figure out what it is they actually want. Sometimes that is a \$2,000 ring. Other times it might just be a \$20 pair of earrings."

"But that is for the customer to decide. And you only figure that out by asking them questions and getting to know them, not by simply selling them the most expensive item in your showcase."

Jacques and Tamar agreed there are several questions customers should consider asking any jeweler.

ask them what kind of custom work they do themselves and how long it will take them to complete the job," Jacques said. "If it takes an outrageous amount of time that typically means they are sending the job to someone else to have it done."

He said asking a jeweler about repairs -- "If they do them? Where they do them? What work they will actually be doing?" -- are also good questions.

And for anyone considering a diamond purchase, the Milford Jewelers' co-owners suggest familiarizing yourself with the Four C's, the benchmark standard for all loose diamonds.

**THE FOUR C'S OF DIAMONDS**

For anyone considering a diamond purchase this holiday season, Milford Jewelers' co-owners Tamar Aguilari and Jacques Choppian recommend knowing at least a little something about the Four C's: Cut, Clarity, Color and Carat.

Ask your jeweler to show you where the stone(s) you are considering rank on a GIA-certified chart. For diamonds one-carat and above, insist on certification from an independent lab (GIA, AGS or EGL). For more information, visit [www.gia.edu](http://www.gia.edu).

**Cut:** Determines the brilliance of a diamond's appearance. Cut is to a diamond what sizzle is to a steak. The better the cut, the better the showpiece.

**Clarity:** Ten ranges exist, from IF/FL (flawless) to I3 (imperfect). Like people, diamonds have natural flaws. They are called inclusions. How visible such inclusions are to the naked eye -- and to the magnification power of a 10x microscope -- determines diamond clarity. Inclusions appear as black pepper flecks. The easier they are to see, the lower the clarity of the diamond.

**Color:** Rated D through Z, the higher the letter, the better the color. The best diamonds are found between colorless (D, E, F) and near colorless (G, H, I, J). Expect price to reflect color quality.

**Carat:** Refers to diamond weight, not size. Often overrated. Size matters -- but only if you're purchasing a well-cut diamond with solid clarity and decent color. A large, poor-quality diamond proves only to be too much of a bad thing. One carat is often considered a threshold weight for centerstones.

afraid to talk to your jeweler about what you envision this jewelry piece to be and how much you would actually like to spend.

"If you have a budget, stick to it. A good jeweler will find something you like -- at a price that won't break your bank account."

ing you like -- at a price that won't break your bank account."

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### Your money matters

During a recent trip to the West Coast, my Uncle Pearce graciously gave me a guided tour of his beloved city—San Francisco.

Like any wide-eyed tourist with a hefty appetite for good food and helping of cultural diversity, I marveled at the scenic splendor of the Golden Gate Bridge, ate a scrumptious snapper dinner on the wharf, and saw a veritable cross-section of humanity walking along Market Street.

Enjoyable as these experiences were, however, they don't measure up to the time we spent together talking about his colorful—and sometimes difficult—unbragging in an Irish working-class neighborhood.

At the age of 85, Pearce is one of millions of older Americans trying to maintain his independence and quality of life in the grip of old age and challenged health. Fortunately, for many of these folks, there is an adult child, grandchild, niece, nephew, or friend helping them in some way to maintain their independence.

In my last column, I discussed the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) suggestions for hazard proofing a senior's home. The AOTA, along with medical, financial and gerontology experts, contributed to a series of articles that together

make up the Aging Parents and Adult Children Together (A/PACT) report, produced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in partnership with the American Association of Retired People (AARP). The report is designed to educate adult children about eldercare issues, including money management.

If you suspect your parent isn't paying bills on time, is forgetting to record checks in the register, or is using a credit card too often, they may need some assistance with managing their financial affairs.

**Tread lightly**

Where your home hazard proofing efforts will likely draw a heartfelt "thank you" from your parents, suddenly, and without permission, immersing yourself in their daily money management routine will likely incite anger. Instead of commending the checkbook or credit card, gerontology experts recommend feeling out your parent's financial situation by engaging them in conversation about their own finances. For example, consider saying, "I find it difficult sometimes to resist putting things on my credit card. Does that happen to you too?" Or, "I think I need to put more money in my 401(k)s so I'll have enough to live on when I

retire. Do you have enough coming in each month to cover your expenses?" Once you find the right way to open dialog, revisit it again and again until your parents feel comfortable sharing their financial details.

**Make it a team effort**

Consider taking an administrative role in managing their finances. Volunteer to double check calculations, write checks, and reconcile bank statements. Establishing early on that you're there, as a second pair of eyes and hands will inspire confidence and trust. Later down the life, should you need to assume control of the finances because they've become incapacitated, they'll likely be more willing to relinquish control of their assets.

**Keep your eye on the big picture**

The main reason for your involvement in your parent's financial affairs is to maximize their independence and quality of life. But, in the event of a crisis, you'll want to know as much information about their finances as possible. Having established yourself first as a collaborator, you're likely to have an easier

time engaging them about specifics such as investments, Social Security benefits, pensions, credit card debt, insurance and prescription drug costs, and monthly expenses.

After you have collected the information, calculate your parent's net worth by subtracting their liabilities—debt and monthly expenses—from their assets—Social Security payments, investments, and any property they own.

Once you form a picture of their financial status, consider these questions:

- Does my parent have enough money coming in each month to cover expenses?
- Can expenditures be trimmed?
- Are the investments getting the best returns?

**Simple is better**

To simplify bookkeeping, consider having just one checking account and one savings account, and link them for overdraft protection. Ask your parent to make you an authorized signer on the checking account, where your parent retains control over the assets, and you have the ability to write checks and pay bills. Arrange for direct deposit of Social Security payments, investment dividends

and pension checks, and pay bills via automatic deductions (debits) from the checking account.

**Help is available**

If you're finding it difficult to carve out time each month to do the bookkeeping, consider hiring a daily money manager. For a fee that ranges from \$25 to \$70 per hour, these professionals pay bills, reconcile accounts and interpret medical insurance forms and ensure claims are processed properly. Some even provide notary services and transportation to and from appointments. To locate a daily money manager, visit the American Association of Daily Money Managers Web site at [www.aadmm.com](http://www.aadmm.com), or phone them at (301) 593-5462.

For more information on how to care for elderly parents, visit AARP's My Generation Web pages at [www.mygeneration.org](http://www.mygeneration.org). You'll find helpful suggestions for securing the best medical care for your parent, selecting the right senior housing, and some helpful tips on how to take care of you—the caregiver.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 3054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or copy by our Web site ([www.mcuml.org](http://www.mcuml.org)) to learn more about smart money management.

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# From design to dollars

■ A stunning piece of jewelry created by a Novi resident is on the auction block with all proceeds going to a local Goodfellows charity

By Victoria Sadlocha  
STAFF WRITER

And the winner is...  
A simple, basic and elegant pendant designed by Novi High School student Tae Kono.

Kono's design for a piece of jewelry was chosen out of about 60 entries by Brian Larson, co-owner of Larson Jewelry Design, in the shop's annual contest and charity auction benefiting the Novi Goodfellows.

Every year at the holidays, Larson asks the community to submit a design of one piece of jewelry. The shop owner then pores over the entries, chooses a winner and works his magic producing the winning piece.

Larson is happy with the process so far. "We had an unbelievable response," he said. This year's entries were primarily from Novi middle and high school art students.

Larson said he narrowed the submissions down to 12 and then five and then chose the winning design on Sunday, Dec. 1.

"I thought it was the most appealing to the general audience," Larson said of the winning design. "It was hard though, there were some very nice drawings. It was a tough call."

The jeweler said the design is exactly what Kono created with the exception of a couple of diamonds he plans on adding to the yellow and white gold pendant.

"It turned out very nice," he said. But now the important part of the process begins - the actual silent bidding on the creative piece. All area residents are invited to visit Larson Design Jewelry, take a closer look at the pendant and place a bid.

"I'm hoping this thing runs up into the 200 to 300 dollar range," Larson said. Bids will be accepted through the end of the business day on Monday, Dec. 23.

Once the auction is done, the winner will write a check directly to the Novi Goodfellows which will be offered to the organization the next day. Larson said he received a phone call from a pleased president of the Michigan Goodfellows last week, thanking him for the effort. The pendant will be on display at Larson Jewelry Design located at 43155 Main Street, just east of Novi Road. For more information, call (248) 347-4653.

Larson said he received a phone call from a pleased president of the Michigan Goodfellows last week, thanking him for the effort. The pendant will be on display at Larson Jewelry Design located at 43155 Main Street, just east of Novi Road. For more information, call (248) 347-4653.

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

Also shown are Brian Larson's top 11 designs out of nearly 60 entries by local students.

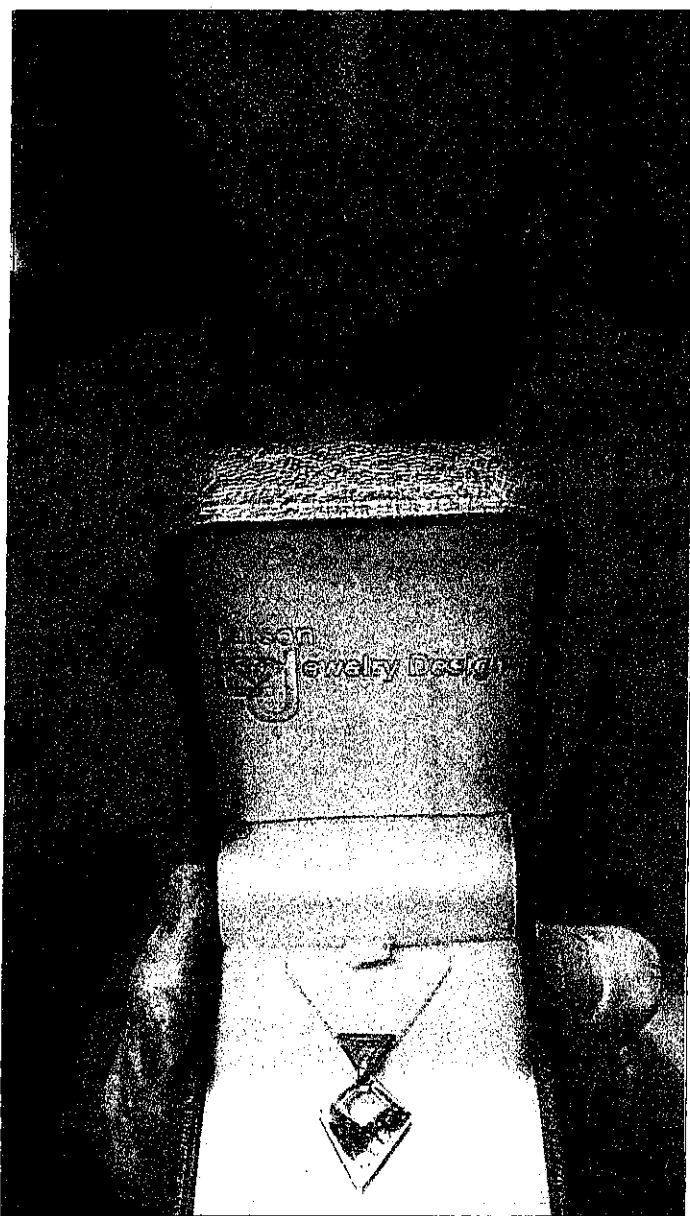


Photo by John Helder

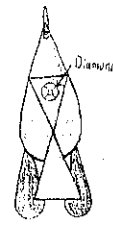
Brian Larson, of Novi's Larson's Jewelry Design, displays the winning design of a necklace that was designed by Novi High School student Tae Kono. The necklace will be auctioned off later this month with its proceeds going to the Goodfellows.



Tara Mason



Darya Zorina



Ruthanne Burke



Jenica Baty



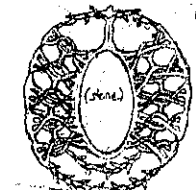
Terez Shaford Hicks



Darya Zorina



Ruthanne Burke



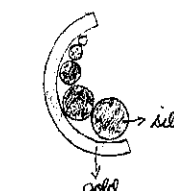
Andrew Gomes



Tae Kono



Darya Zorina



Nikki Alvarez

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# Geared Up!

Team hopes to avoid injuries which plagued it last season

## Wrestling

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

Even though this season's Novi High School wrestling team isn't as experienced as last year's 18-5 team, Wildcats Coach Brad Huss is still expecting it to be more successful. Injuries plagued last year's team, which contributed to its early exit.

"We lost quite a crew to graduation, but we have a pretty good crew coming back," Huss said. "Usually when you lose this many kids to graduation, you have a good chance to have a down year. But we have a lot of good sophomores and juniors and the kids that are stepping in their place are going to be very successful this year I think."

Last year's experienced lineup included Matt Kolich, a 215 pounder, Scott Kortlandt, Vince Slovan, Brian Ong and J.R. Muldoon. Most of them wrestled for four years.

"Their experience was the best thing about our team," Huss said. "Most of those kids have wrestled for four years and, unfortunately, what happened last year, which was really something we haven't encountered for a long time, is we got hit with a ton of injuries at probably the worst time during the season. A lot of those kids were unable to come back, or if they did come back, they weren't really able to perform up to their capabilities because of their injuries. This year's team is different in a sense that we don't have as much experience. But truthfully, I think that if we stay healthy, we may be able to accomplish some things that last year's crew, because of the injuries, wasn't able to accomplish. Obviously, time will tell, but it's also a team this year

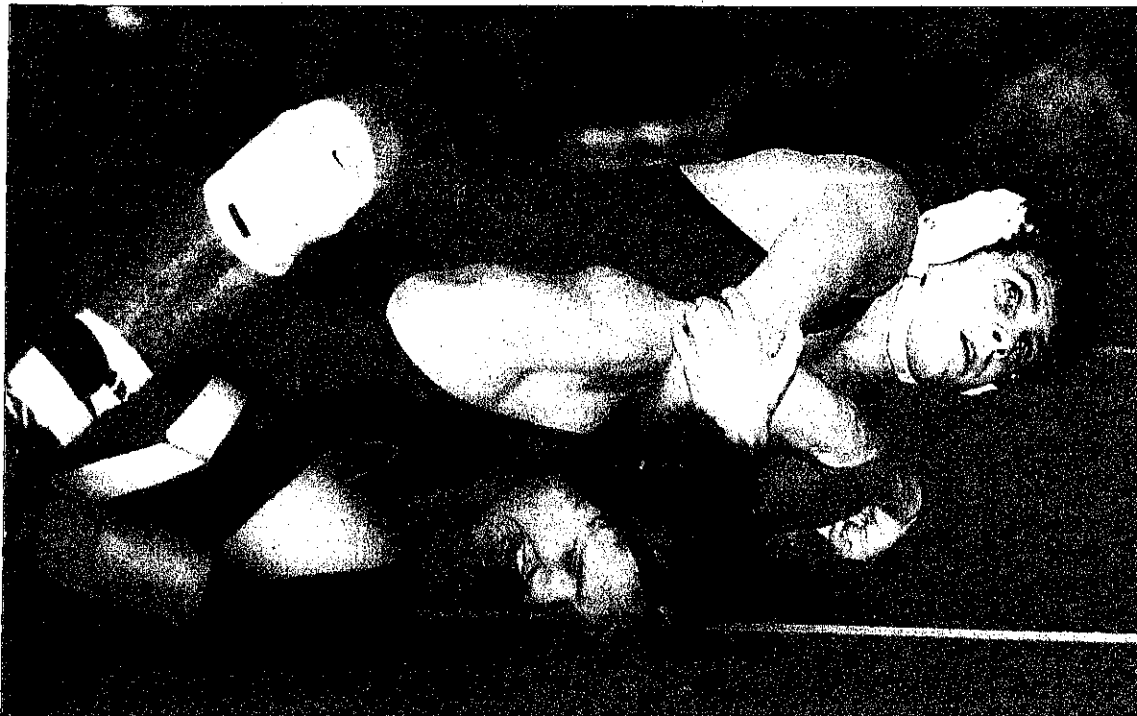


Photo by John Heider

Undefeated Wildcat grappler Josh Churella had the upper hand against Howell's Craig Zupi in their match last year at Novi High School.

that I think is going to be much better come March than we are right now, just because these kids need to get varsity matches under their belt."

Some names to look out for are Jason Sierra, a 103 pounder, who wrestled well last year as a freshman; senior Craig Heam at 112 pounds, who placed third in the state last year; Eric Hanson, who has varsity experience; Josh Churella at 135 pounds, who is a two-time returning state champion; A. J. Morris, who is a junior

at 152 pounds; junior Josh Buck at 215 pounds; senior Matt Jezior at 189 pounds; and junior Chad Thurman, who is a heavyweight.

Huss believes that his lineup of wrestlers will be very competitive this season. "We should wrestle .500 or above in every single weight," he said. "That is usually the trick in wrestling, and having a successful team is being able to have kids who are real solid for all 14 weights. Hopefully, that will be the case this year."

Novi's goals are the same as every year. The team always has the goal first of winning the Oakland County Meet, then the KVC, districts, regionals and state. "Only eight teams make it in wrestling and we have made it three of the last six years," Huss said. "We have been there every single year with an opportunity to do it. Those are always our goals again, and you see what happens when you get to the state meet. It's hard to predict state championships. It's a real impor-

tant event and it's a big deal to get there, so that's what we focus on. We take each goal as the season comes along and our first major meet is the Oakland County, which is Dec. 21, a two-day tournament."

The Wildcats will wrestle seven dual meets in the league this season. Because Novi is in the KVC, which is the best league in the state in wrestling, winning the league is one of the team's biggest goals, which it has done four of the last five years. "I

think that we should have an opportunity to do that again this year," Huss said. "Northville has always been a good rivalry over the years, we kind of go back and forth and they are supposed to have a decent team this year as well."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

## 'Cats will be without Dicken

### Basketball

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team suffered a major blow about a month ago when its best all-around player, Shaun Dicken, tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) while playing basketball. As a result, the team has taken on a blue collar identity as the regular season approaches.

Last season the team's overall record was 16-7 and it won the district championship for the first time since 1978. The Wildcats then ended up losing to Detroit Mumford in regional play.

"Shaun was First Team KVC and he was First team All Area," coach Pat Schluter said. "He's a guard who can kind of play inside a little bit and he can do a lot of things. We lost him and that was a really big loss."

Novi also lost its inside post presence from last season when Danny Shram graduated. He was the team's go-to guy inside. "We lost him and we don't have a lot of height from last year," Schluter said. "We have a really good junior varsity team coming up and we had some key returning players coming back from last year's team, so our hope was really positive. We were small, but we had a lot of speed in depth."

Schluter is still optimistic, however, because he has two experienced guards to rely on. Point guard Chase Chandler, who also



Photo by John Heider

Novi's Chase Chandler passes the ball near the net.

plays football, is returning to the team. He has been a starter for the past three years on varsity, and senior Matt Erminecker, who has also been a starter for the past three years, is returning as well.

"They are both really good players," Schluter said. "I also have another senior in Chris Lewis, who was on the varsity

team last year and he's also a really good player. My three seniors are pretty much going to lead us and they are great kids. They work really hard, and after that we're hoping some juniors can step up and fill other roles."

The Wildcats had their first six-way scrimmage on Nov. 30 against some tough competition.

"We played Rockford, who's probably going to be rated in the top 20 in the state," Schluter said. "We held our own, so that was a positive. We are just going to work really hard and try to get better before the season starts. We don't have the real true post player like we did last year. That's our weakness, but we have experienced guards, so that's our strength. I think with Shaun Dicken in there, we have a lot more depth. So right now we are just trying to figure out who's in our rotation and how many kids we can play."

Novi was predicted to win the KVC by many when Dicken was healthy, but according to Schluter, when he went out a lot of coaches were picking Milford, Pinckney or Lakeland to be on top.

"We have real good kids, we're working really hard and we are going to try to get after teams defensively and pressure the ball a lot and try to score a lot of baskets by getting steals in transition," Schluter said. "The three main things this year for our team are we must rebound the ball since we're small and we have to play great defense and make our free throws. Those are the three things we will be preaching all year. We are trying to have the blue collar attitude, like getting after teams, playing real tough, man-to-man defense and try to trap a little bit here and there to throw teams off."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

## Novi's developed fine history in short time

By Ryan Edwards  
 SPECIAL WRITER

The Novi hockey team has been as good as any in the last few years. So it's not hard to imagine why head coach Dan Phelps would say that he's looking for the veterans to be contagious with the younger players about the history of the Novi hockey program.

That history includes three-straight KVC championships, three-straight regional championships, back-to-back 23-win seasons, as well as two straight trips to the Michigan High School Hockey's version of the Final Four. Accomplishing all of this in only four years of existence.

As the Wildcats head into their fifth season, they're looking for more of the same accomplishments the team has been fortunate enough to attain in the last couple years.

"We want the kids to put their own brick on the wall," says Phelps. In order for this year's team to do just that, they're going to have to rely on the solid goaltending of both juniors, Dan Morrison and Trent Sisson, as well as a tough defensive group. That group is led by the return of juniors Jordan Collins and Brian Ellis, as well as senior Michael Karas.

Behind their strong team defense and great goaltending, they aren't looking to allow too many goals this season. The big questionmark, though, is how are they going to score goals? Novi lost their top three scorers from a year ago in Robby Overfield (36 goals), Adam Haberman (29 goals) and Robbic Harrell (23 goals), who accounted for 88 goals and 170 points. Anytime you lose that much fire-

power, you're going to feel like the well's a little dry.

But the Wildcats do have some guys they'll look to to try and fill some of that scoring punch. Junior Chaz Bulbux, the second leading returning goal scorer from last season with 14 goals, looks to be Novi's go-to guy this year; he's already scored seven of the team's 14 goals through five games.

Novi's returning goals leader from a year ago with 15 goals, is senior Brian Jaussl, who has just joined the team following the football team's end to a great season, and they'll look to him to show some grit and create a lot of havoc around the net.

Other potential goal scorers for Cats' are senior John Murray and junior Robert Vulaj, as well as senior

Jared Perras. Perras is in his fourth year with the program and will be a team captain for the third straight year, he's a great puckhandler and should help to create some offense and get things going for Novi. Murray possesses some natural scoring touch, and Vulaj has an excellent shot, two weapons that should prove to help Novi put some pucks in the net.

The Wildcats can also rely on some help from the blue-line to get the offense running, boasting the second and third all-time Novi assists leaders for a single season, respectively, in Jordan and Justin Collins, who accounted for a total of 61 assists last season. If the team can produce enough goals to let Morrison breathe a little bit here and there, then they should be able to put their brick on the wall of this growing program.

continued on 4

"We are trying to have a blue collar attitude..."

Pat Schluter  
 Novi basketball coach







## New coach breathes new life into WLW

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

After a dismal season last year, the Walled Lake Western hockey team was hoping for a change. It got it when Don Schiebold took over the coaching duties. Under him, the Warriors are determined to improve with each passing game this season.

"I'm a first-year coach with this team, so I'm just getting to know the players," Schiebold said. "It seems to me that we have some pretty nice kids who work hard and they do everything that we

ask them to do. We're not coming out on the winning end yet, but we're building for the future."

Senior Alan Shamoun will be the team's captain this year. Other players to watch for are Steven Lomakin, Eric Lubanski and Troy Doggett.

"Alan is a great leader and I have some other good kids as well," Schiebold said. "Steve is a junior and Eric is a first-year player, who's a junior as well. He's quite a hockey player. Troy is a sophomore."

On defense the team has a sophomore named Scott Wiepcha. The returning goalie from last year is Justin Stobel and the freshman goalie is Mike Percele.

"We are a young team," Schiebold said. "We have been in games, but we just haven't gotten a win yet. We are 0-3 right now, but our first game wasn't that great. We got beat pretty bad by Central, but then we played Livonia Churchill and it was a 3-2 game with five minutes

to go in the game. So we're hanging in there."

The Warriors' goals this season are to just keep improving every game. "We have to just keep working hard and try not to lose confidence," Schiebold said. "We also have to try to be positive because the kids are doing the right thing, but it just seems that when they are making mistakes, the other teams are capitalizing on them. We are just not getting the breaks right now and it's hard."

"We are all new," he added. "We have only been working with these kids for a little while. Ever

since we stepped on the ice, it's been nothing but hard work. They want to have a turnaround season. They only won two games last year and I hope we are going to do a lot better than that. Right now we are just trying to find out which guys are going to fit in what spots. They are going to turn it around. You have to believe."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.

## This could be the year for Central's boys

With that frosty Canadian air rolling off the prairie bringing early winter snows, the atmosphere is set for another exciting year of MHSAA hockey in the Walled Lake area.

The Vikings of Walled Lake Central, one of two varsity teams in the city, find themselves in the early stages of their ninth regular season of competition. Under the direction of Coach Jim Hogan, a 1974 graduate of Central now in his fourth season at the helm, the Vikings have had it rough in the Western Lakes Activities Association in years past, but this looks to be the light to the end of that tunnel.

"Although the growing pains seemed endless, this group of Vikings may indeed be in the right place at the right time," Hogan said.

The Vikings roster is filled with experience and are ready to show what they are made of. In juniors alone, 15 players are ready to come off the bench with eight of them returning from last year. The senior class is complimented by a four-year letter winner and a captain in the likes of Bobby Resmer while three key forwards in captain Eric Krajewski, Ryan Lukkari and Bobby Gorman are settling into their roles as seniors who lead by example. All four of these players are key in the possibility of great success of the Central Vikings this season.

Third-year returning center and captain Adam Griffin will again lead the Viking attack up front.

"His relentless work ethic and passion for the game brings back memories of days gone by," Hogan said. "Griff could be skated in the 'black and white' era and performed as he does today — in vivid color."

"He truly is the player that is looked to for that extra ray of brilliance when the going gets tough."

Another three-year letter winner and captain is junior Kevin Francis. He will be leading the defensive core for the Vikings yet again this season.

"Kevin's outstanding play last season was acknowledged by the coaches of the WLLA, who selected him as a representative for the All-Lakes Division First Team defensemen," Hogan noted. "Francis is loaded with offensive skills as he battles the blue line for the Vikings, which makes him a very dangerous weapon that opposing teams must key on."

Two other key components of the team are junior Jimmy Scarpace and Ben Brandt, who have shared defensive duties with Resmer and Francis for two years in a row. Both players are steady and stay at home on the defensive end of the ice.

"We're lucky to have Jimmy as he is an accomplished golfer and basketball player as well," Hogan said. "Ben has yet to suit up this campaign, as he nurses a broken wrist which occurred the first day of training camp, although we expect him back this week."

Adding to the mix for 2002-03 are some interesting ingredients. Junior forward Dale Wrobel is coming from the USA Eagles Travel Hockey Club; junior defenseman Mike Prashaw is coming from the Lakeland Hawks Travel Club; junior goalie Mike Sidor is arriving on the scene to challenge returning goalie Matt McCallum for the top spot.

"Both goaltenders are showing that they are very capable of backstopping this group," Hogan said.

Yet another junior to arrive up front in Mike Weckesser, from the Farmington Hills Travel team. The list keeps going as well with the likes of sophomore forward Shawn Skelly coming from the Kensington Ice House Travel Team. Skelly, who used to attend Walled Lake Western, already notched a hat trick this season — against the Warriors.

The only freshman representative comes from the Birmingham Travel Hockey Club in the form of Ryan Bean. According to Hogan, Bean is already showing great promise in these early stages of his high school career.

Other returning players for the Vikings include junior Justin Giles and sophomore Tim Henderlong.

"Two uniquely different styles of play in these two," Hogan said. "Both are cast for the roles they play and will figure prominently in this year's production."

Other hopefuls for the Vikings are newcomers Sean McMahon, Anthony Theil, John Berry, Stan Titov and Roger Sheldon.

The Vikings found themselves finishing up 5-18-1 last year and they managed to fight to the second round of the playoffs after topping Redford Unified 8-5.

## Play with passion shoot for victory

By Michael Zerkich

Quiet, please, here's a prediction for you. The Vikings of Walled Lake Central basketball team is going to be a very good team this year. They have the passion, depth and speed to make a run for the top. You heard it here first.

Don't be fooled by last season's 7-14 league record. That same team finished strong after a 0-7 start to get a share of the WLLA's Lakes division championship.

Although losing starting center Erik Wilcox and starting forward Maxx Morris to graduation this year's team counters with an unusually deep bench and scoring talent.

And they have savvy Coach Bob Shoemaker working the bench. Coach "Shoe" is in his fourth season with the Vikings and has compiled a 422-194 lifetime record and has had 34 championships at five different schools. The coach knows basketball and he likes what he sees in this year's team.

"We're not as tall as last year's team but our overall (team) height is good. We have guys that can shoot the ball and we run the court very well. Even though we have a starting lineup with no seniors, many of our younger guys already have a year or two of experience."

Case in point is starting guard

### Basketball

Brandon Cassise, who led the league in scoring as a sophomore last year and is also the starting quarterback of the WLC football team. He's a great passer as well and averages 20 points a game to the basket, and also playing the low post.

Another starter is junior forward Anthony Finn whose exceptional first step gets himself and others on the floor opportunities for easy looks to the basket. "Finn's a tremendous competitor," added Shoemaker. "He leads on the floor with his effort every game."

Besides Cassise and Finn, other starters penciled in the rotation are guard Lemuel Plummer (junior), forward Andrew Ueck (sophomore) and center Mark Moroskey (junior).

Another delight for the coach is the Vikings' bench.

"We've got guys that can contribute off the bench this year, and (they) will get plenty of floor time," noted Shoemaker. "Our second unit has some real speed this year and can move (pass) the ball around very well."

The bench consists of juniors

guards Nick Van Dike and David Worthy, and seniors Brad White at center and guard Jeff Matheny and sophomore center Brad Burkhardt.

Players rounding out the roster are senior guards Brandon Strait and Adam Simbeck plus senior forward Giovanni Rogers and junior forward Justin Goltz.

The coach expects tough competition throughout the league with Westland John Glenn, Plymouth Salem, and Wayne Memorial being the Vikings' top challengers.

"We'll be in the hunt for the league title this year. With all our young talent that have last year's experience, this team has the potential to be a very good ball club."

The season begins with a home court non-conference match-up on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. with Milford. League play begins with an away game against the tough Westland John Glenn Rockets on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

So remember, please, you heard it here first, Viking fans. Your basketball team is a more than a contender. How is a first place finish prediction sound to you?



Photo by John Heider

Central's Steve Rabish gets around a Northville defender in a home game last February.

## Balancing a winner

By Michael Zerkich  
SPECIAL WRITER

Don't wait for the next Olympics to see gymnastics at its best. Walled Lake consolidated team will entertain you with the same events only seen on television every four years. And you can see it all right here in Walled Lake.

Last year coach Jennifer Hart had a season marred by injuries but still wound up on the positive side of the ledger. The team had a 6-5 season.

Hart said, "We had a good season last year despite many injuries that could have made a difference in team scorers resulting in another win."

This year should be different and in a positive direction for more wins. Hart remains very optimistic with this overview of her squad.

"We have five returning seniors this year. Of the seniors four of them compete all around. We have a energetic team this year with a lot of team leaders hoping for their best season yet and of course making it to states as a team and individually."

She noted that with her return talent, there is a good chance that they will have a better run than last year.

"We finished last year within the top five at regionals," she said. "Lindsay Brown (balance beam) and Amy Gursky (uneven bars) went to states individually last year and hope to go again. Last year one of our top gymnasts, Genna Borg, was out for the season with a knee injury and she is back this

year as a senior and ready to give it her all. Each year they learn a little more of what it takes to be number one and they remember and try to apply themselves that much more each new season."

Everything begins anew on Dec. 16, with a home meet featuring Berkeley at 7 p.m. Other home meets will be Jan. 16, with Northville, Jan. 27 with Canton and Feb. 13 with Livonia.

The team features many multi-talented members. The largest group is the seniors consisting of Genna Borg who is an all around gymnast (vault, bars, beam, floor) and all around members Lindsey Brown, Sarah Chrzanowski, Kate Dannecker, Amy Gursky and Katie Westlake; juniors: Stephanie Schmalz, Kim Stevenson; sophomores: Kate Dannecker; freshmen: Stephanie Furaman, Megan Kuschell, April Meyers, Katrina Sheahan (vault, beam, floor).

Why wait for the Olympics? Walled Lake, number one in the state in gymnastics? Go see this year's team and see the tremendous talent and entertainment right here in your own local area. Sure beats flying half way around the world to see something better.

Michael Zerkich 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.

## Irish put Vikes on ice, 3-1

In high school hockey on November 26, the Irish of Notre Dame Prep put together a solid defensive game plan lead by goaltender Steve Henzie who came up big on 32 of 33 shots and several goal line scrambles around the net.

"Henzie alone stood brilliantly throughout the game; we couldn't find the holes in his armor," said coach Jim Hogan of Walled Lake Central. "What an outstanding performance on his part."

The Irish defeated the Vikings by a score of 3-1.

Central found themselves in a bit of a quandary over the depleted lineup during the evening as four veteran players were sidelined by injuries and ineligibility. No matter the situation, the Vikings were faced with a challenge and came up short.

The Irish opened the scoring late in the first period after the Vikings had stormed Notre Dame's end of the ice. Matt Bruer was credited for the goal as he was left alone in front of the

Vikings net. He was set up nicely by Joe Grusting who found him waiting like a house by the side of the road, unattended and looking for inhabitants.

Central Captain Adam Griffin who comes to play every night answered the call midway through the second stanza as he finished up on some hard work by Central defenders Jimmy Scarpace and Kevin Francis. With the game all tied at one apiece the Vikings found that confidence level to get back into the game. A missed assignment in front of their own net cost them dearly as Ryan Schraffenberger notched his first of two on the evening to put the Irish up by one again. The second period ended 2-1 in favor of Notre Dame.

Although the Viking lineup was full of a pretty good work ethic through the third period it seemed to be unable to provide the chemistry so important in the line combinations to get the job done. Schraffenberger put the second

goal of the night behind Central goaltender Mike Sidor who was participating in his first career high school game.

"Sidor had a steady performance giving up tough goals tonight," assistant coach Bill Redding added. "With a little more help in those key situations, things may have been different."

Central applied lots of pressure throughout the third but was unable to capitalize on a mid-third period power play opportunity. Sidor was pulled for the extra attacker with 1:34 left in the period. Central took their timeout to sort out the possibilities and give their chosen six a rest before the final attack. The Vikings held the zone for a minute and ten seconds before the Irish were able to clear the zone and put out the fire for the win.

The Vikings will return home to face the Spartans of Livonia Stevenson Friday, Dec. 6. Game time is 8:20 p.m. at the house of the Vikings, Lakeland Arena.

## Many new Warrior faces this year

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

The Walled Lake Western boys basketball team has changed tremendously since last season. The Warriors lost eight players from the roster including David Zaitin, Brian Verdun and Chris Eagle to graduation, but coach Rex Stanzek is still optimistic and ready to start over with some fresh faces.

"We are sort of starting from scratch this year," Stanzek said. "It's never good to lose a lot of good players, but the other side is, it's exciting to start over."

In the past, Western was a fast-breaking, wide-open team, but this year it will be more of a power team and more disciplined.

"Those things are exciting," Stanzek

### Basketball

said. "To be able to change gears and do something different is nice. This may not be our most talented bunch, but we do have 11 kids who are working their tails off and they are out to prove that they can play."

One returning player from last season is a 6'3" big man named John Sowders, who started 14 or 15 games last season. "He is big and fast and he gives us great flexibility in the post," Stanzek said. "He will give up three or four inches, but he is big and strong and will help us out."

Sowders, along with Tim Acho and Nick Miricle, will all captain the team

this season. Other players to look out for are Ronney Neely, Steve Welling and Anthony Acho, who is Tim's brother. All are seniors except for Anthony, who is a sophomore. He will play the point guard position.

"Anthony is super quick and smart," Stanzek said. "He is our best defender. We haven't scrimmaged anyone yet, but we have improved a great deal from the beginning of the summer to the end of the summer. Our goals are the same as every year, to win the division, league and district. We have won our division five years in a row."

Western finished with an overall record of 12-9 last season, which was good for second place in the league at 8-3. "I would think that if we are healthy, we should have a pretty good season this year," Stanzek said.



# Blue can work well in the kitchen

By Rose Bennett Gilbert  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

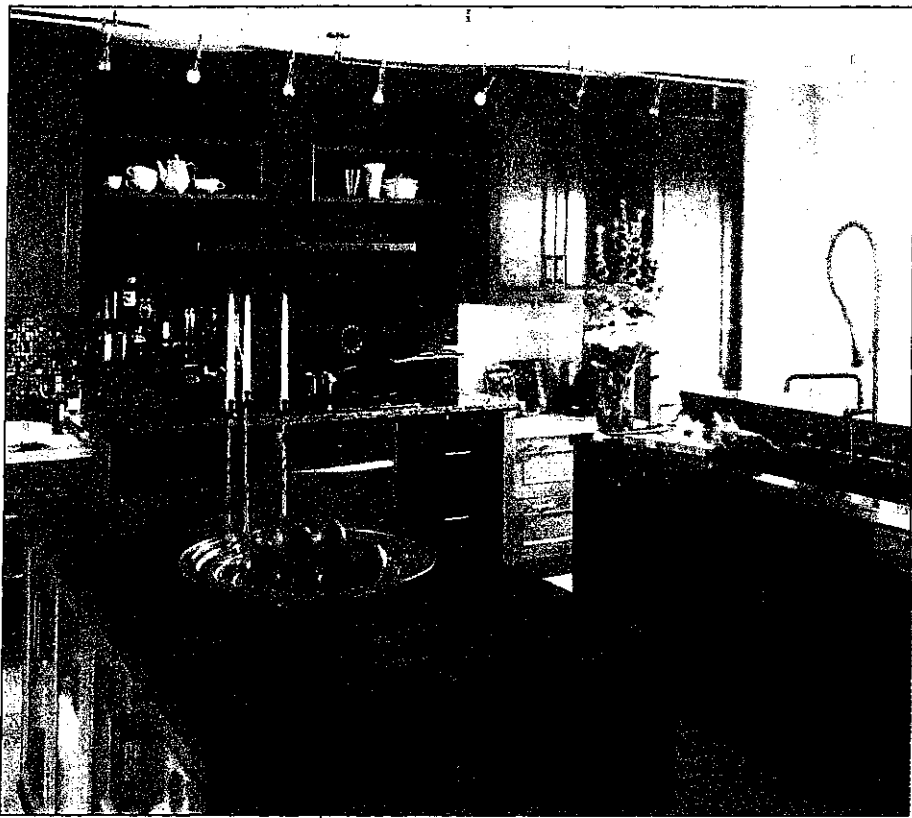
Q: I'm mad about blue! Is there any reason I can't use it in my kitchen, too? My sister-in-law is telling me blue is too cold for a kitchen. What do you think?

A: I think that your sister-in-law has never seen the charms of a country French kitchen, such as Matisse's famous blue and yellow kitchen at Giverny. Or any kitchen where a famous blue-loving Swede wields the wooden spoon. Or many American country-style kitchens, where blues of all hues have always come naturally.

In fact, we're all so into blue, manufacturers are showing rich blue cabinetry, and finish experts like Minwax have added deep blue accent stains to their offerings so you can have the blues without replacing your cabinets.

Whether you paint, stain or buy them new, blue cabinets are anything but cold, especially when they blend with other wood tones. In the photo we show here, Wood-More cabinets lend a blue note to a kitchen already warmed by other natural woods. The blue finish also harmonizes with the blue-hued mosaic tile backsplash and the mottled blue countertops.

A p.s. for the color-challenged: In many countries, blue is believed to have protective qualities. Scandinavian housewives credit blue cabinets with warding off flies and other pests. According to the Pantone Institute, which keeps track of such colorful lore, Middle Easterners also paint their front doors blue to ward off evil, just as Southern Americans are said to paint their porch ceilings blue to scare away ghosts. Whether the tales are true blue or not, they should tickle your pink when



CNS Photo

**TRUE BLUE** — Tradition holds that blue can work more than visual magic in the kitchen.

you tell your sister-in-law.

Q: My new studio apartment is absolutely square (except for a separate kitchen and bath). I'm having a hard time arrang-

ing the furniture — I have a sleep sofa, small dining table and chairs, plus a desk and desk chair.

A: Organize your furniture around your activities. The

sleeping will be the focal point of your living "room." Anchor it with an area rug to make a cohesive grouping that could include all the ingredients that make any living room work: coffee table,

side table and lamps, plus additional seating pieces, as space permits. Another thought: Float your sofa at an angle to the wall and back it with a narrow table on which you can put your bed-

side lamps.

Your dining table is obviously the centerpiece of a second grouping. Hang a chandelier to anchor it within its own visual space. You may want to keep a couple of dining chairs pulled up to the table and move the others elsewhere in the room to save space between meals.

Your third grouping, your "office," needs privacy enough to keep guests from staring at your works-in-progress.

There are several ways to demarcate the space. You could place a tallish bookcase perpendicular to the wall and back the desk up to it. You could use a folding screen to camouflage your corner without actually blocking it off. Or simply set out a few large potted palms or other tall plants in handsome pots. You'll be surprised at how well the merest suggestion of a dividing wall will "privatize" your office area.

Q: There is no entry in this house. Our front door opens directly into the living room. It's harsh! I need help!







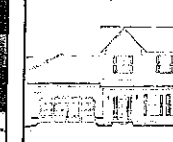














A: To the rescue come a little fakery and some time-tested optical illusions.

Key to creating a virtual entry: Change the floor covering just inside the front door. You could lay a rectangle of marble or tile to contrast with the rest of a hardwood or carpeted floor. Or, easier, simply lay a colorful area rug to proclaim the entry "hall."

Differentiate the wall space, too: A small console table or wall-hung shelf will proclaim the space, especially if you add a small lamp and mirror.

I can think of two other sure-fire ways to make a grand entrance out of mini-space: a coatrack or umbrella stand will do it every time.

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# Preparing for winter in the cold climates

By Jeff Rugg  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Most of the country experienced drought this summer. If you are in a drought-stricken area, you should make sure that your plants are well-watered before the start of winter.

Check for dry soil under new plantings, especially and on sun-facing slopes. These areas are susceptible to more problems if they dry out in the fall before the ground freezes. Water these areas slowly and deeply and cover them with a layer of mulch to protect the soil from dry winter winds.

Plants grown in regions that don't freeze need to be mulched all winter.

If you seem like there isn't much to do in the garden over the winter, but here are some winter chores that may keep you busy.

For mother-in-law's (or son-in-law's) flower beds, you can blow away dirt. You can use the gas and oil it needs to clean the beds.

Make sure you have sand or salt and snow shovels in your garage and car. Use sand on sidewalks to reduce slipping. It works at an intermediate salt/don't and won't damage plants, concrete or asphalt.

Sand and salt can be mixed to make it easier to spread them. If you get a sticky snow, you can spray the shovel or mask of the snowblower with a non-stick cooking spray.

Calcium chloride salt is less harmful to plants than sodium chloride salt. Salt in pellets from works better than flakes or rock salt. Pellets burn through the ice and finish melting on the walk where the salt flakes are on the surface. The ice then melts or it can be more easily shoveled off.

If you buy a pre-cut Christmas tree, get it early. Christmas trees are usually sold weeks after they were cut. Cut off a few inches from the trunk to open fresh water-conducting pipes. Leave your tree in a bucket of water in a protected outdoor location until you are ready to bring it inside.

A live tree that will be planted after Christmas should be kept outdoors until a few days before

# Umbrella stand pops up in value

By Anne McCollam  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

I have a pottery umbrella stand that is in excellent condition. It is decorated with grapes and grapevines against a high-gloss glaze. The height is about 23 inches and it will hold a large newspaper or straw cover it with plastic. Store the soil from the hole where it will remain fluffed out until you use it to plant the tree in January.

To make pretty wreaths and indoor decorations, you can prune your grapevines, because they will grow with a layer of mulch to protect the soil from dry winter winds.

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# This umbrella stand, a good example of Louwisa pottery, was made circa 1900 and would probably be worth about \$1,600 to \$1,800.

An acclaimed artist who worked for Wilbur until around 1905.

Your umbrella stand was made circa 1900 and would probably be worth about \$1,600 to \$1,800.

Q. Enclosed is the mark on the bottom of a china saucetub from 1895 to 1918. The name of the potter was inspired by Wilbur's daughter, Louise. "Lou," along with the first three letters of his last name, "Well," and his initials, "S.A."

I would appreciate any help you can give me with evaluating my umbrella stand.

A. Sam Weller thanked his pottery

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# All ads placed FREE on the internet!

(up to \$87.00 value)

# HOME TOWN REAL ESTATE

www.hometownlife.com

3000-4980 REAL ESTATE

• Located in the City of Brighton, close to shopping, restaurants, golf courses and medical facilities.

• Open and creative floor plans with views of wooded areas.

• A stone gable.

• Oak cabinets, hardwood floors, tiled flooring in bathrooms.

• One fire place in great room, cathedral ceilings & 1st floor master suite.

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• Open and creative floor plans with views of wooded areas.

• A stone gable.

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• Starting at \$239,900.











Parental Guide #27

# "THE SUPPORTIVE HUG"

(Please see diagram below.)

- 1 I aced both my exams today, Dad.
- 2 LIFT BOTH ARMS IN AN UPWARD ARC.
- 3 APPROACH CHILD WITH ARMS OUTSTRETCHED.
- 4 PAUSE (WITH POSITIVE EXPRESSION).
- 5 BEND AND EMBRACE.
- 6 EXTEND VERBAL CONGRATULATORY COMMENT.  
That's my girl.

IT'S REALLY NOT THAT DIFFICULT.

Want your kid to graduate high school? A little encouragement can mean more to your kids than you could ever imagine.

DON'T DROP OUT ON YOUR KIDS. CALL 1-877-FOR-A-KID.

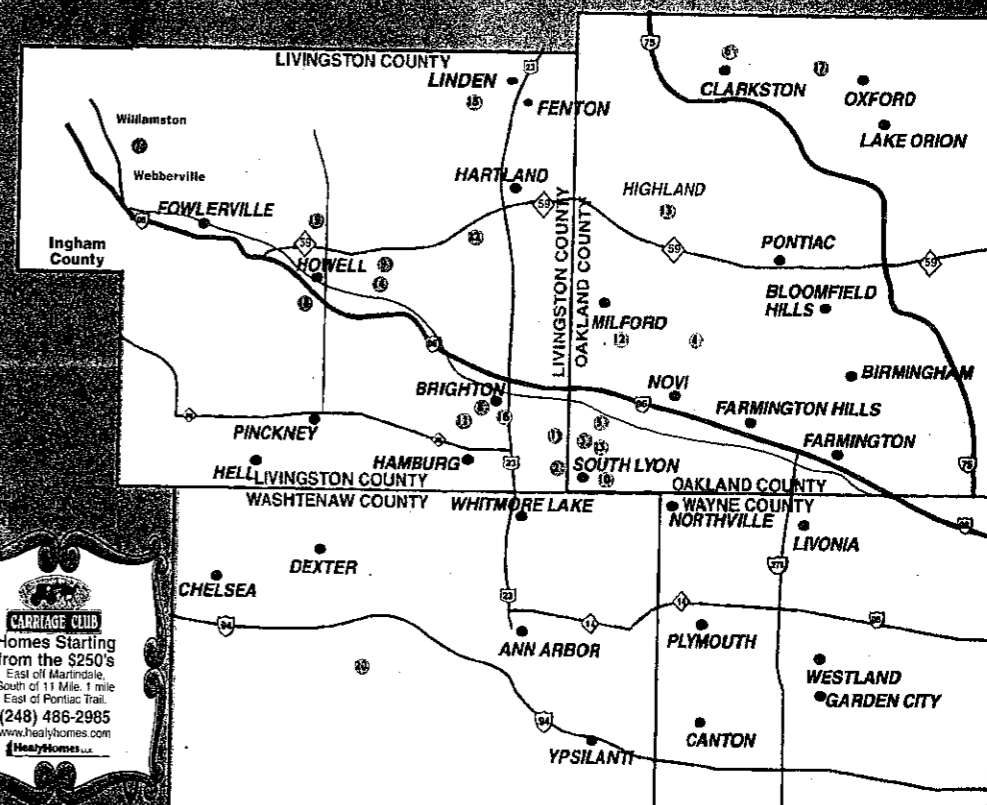
Ad Council

U.S. ARMY

art and design by J.J.Sedelmaier Productions

# Live Your New Home for the Holidays!

HOMETOWN



- 1 Custom Homes Priced from \$260,000 South of 10 Mile between Redman & Dixboro (248) 486-2930 Tony Van Oyen Development, LLC
- 2 SOUTH LYON Trotters Pointe Village Total 115 units available. • Safe way groups available • New cutting 1/2 of in basement • 100% for a limited time • Home owners never available. On the Northeast corner of Pontiac Trail & 11 Mile Rd. (248) 486-4979 J.B. Williams
- 3 CARRIAGE CLUB Homes Starting from the \$250's East off Marquette, South of 11 Mile, 1 mile East of Pontiac Trail. (248) 486-2985 www.homes.com
- 4 JULIUS 248-336-2915 White Lk. Top World Lake Schools. Near lakes & rec. areas. Large lots. Slicker utilities, many wooded. Willow Lk. Rd. south of Elizabeth Lk. Rd. www.diamondhomes.com Accepting Reservations Phase II (248) 659-8280
- 5 Stonebrook Orchards of Lyon (248) 446-2061 7 Different Models Starting at \$250,000
- 6 Exclusive Custom Estates 1+ acre wooded homesites Home Pkgs. from \$750,000 Homesites from \$150,000 Located North of Charleston off Holcomb Rd. BRIDGE VALLEY (810) 220-6603
- 7 GRAND MEADOWS of Williamston charming new build neighborhood. From the mid \$160's West Lane Road Ave. 7 miles west of town. Design/Decorated. Model Now Open! Information Center (979) 855-5272 Presented by: Sharp Homes, Inc. (810) 609-1280
- 8 Brighton Lake Village Single Family Homes from 240's on Brighton Lake Road 1 Mile West of Grand River ADVANCE CRAFT HOME BUILDERS (810) 229-2752
- 9 Stonebrook Pineridge 248-336-2915 Duplexes and Single Family Homes Starting in the low \$200,000 on a spectacular site!
- 10 FROM Mid \$200's On 8 Mile 1/8 mile east of Pontiac Trail in Lyon hwp. (248) 486-4663
- 11 RESORT LIVING at Villas of Oak Pointe from the low \$300's Brighton Rd. 2 miles west of Downtown Brighton Deltor (810) 220-4800
- 12 WILDWOOD OF WIXOM Single Family Homes Starting at \$249,900 (248) 624-4141
- 13 Cobblestone LUXURY COUNTRY ESTATE HOMES Starting at \$379,999 N. of M-59, between Hickory Ridge & Millford Road 248-889-7768
- 14 Woodland Springs Homes Rd. N. of Grand River, across from Lake Charles & Public Access. Homes from the Mid \$200's Model Grand Opening (517) 545-1300 & (517) 545-7580 www.homes.com
- 15 Arbor Meadows Open Sat. 1-4 & Sun. 1-4 1/2 Mile W. of US-23 east 25 to Winans Lk Rd Homes from \$300's Adjacent from Metro Park Call Lillian Montalvo Preview Properties.com (810) 220-1400
- 16 Hometown Village of Waterstone from the low \$200's Boyer Lake Rd. west of Lapeer Rd. west of Oxford. Deltor (248) 969-3200
- 17 Hometown Village of Marion Neighborhood pool, fitness center, sidewalks & park. Howell Schools 1.5 miles S. of I-96, W. of D-19 from the low 200's to \$300's Deltor (517) 540-1300
- 18 HITECH BUILDING 1 acre lots, homes starting from \$240's Showings by Appointment Please call 248-417-5594 or 248-770-2298 57400 Spaulding Court South of 12 mile, West of Millford Rd.
- 19 Castlethorpe Starting from \$120,000 Located on Byron Rd. 1/4 mile N. of M-59 Adjacent to Town Commons Call for more details 517-540-9772
- 20 Hometown Village of Ann Arbor from the low \$200's Liberty/Scio Ridge Rd. Deltor (734) 302-1000
- 21 For More Information Call Lori at: 517-548-7398
- 22 CENTEX HOMES Hardland Autumn Woods Single Family Homes from the \$220's \* Hardland Schools \* Wooded and cul-de-sac homesites (810) 632-2095 On Fishland Rd. (M59) West of US 23 www.centexhomes.com
- 23

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On-Line Soon with a Virtual Tour

HOMETOWN

to feature  
New Homes

# Michigan's #1 CENTURY 21 Firm!



**CANTON** - Plymouth-Canton Schools! 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath updated Colonial includes KIT, windows, furnace, central air, finished basement, 2 car attached garage. Above ground pool, corner lot. Hardwood floors & HPP! \$190,000 (44ARD) 734-455-5600



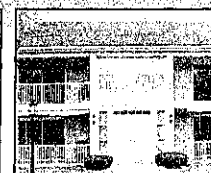
**PLYMOUTH** - Downtown Plymouth! 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch. Close to parks & on a quiet street! Hardwood floors in living room & bedrooms. Newer windows, furnace & central air. Updated electrical, hot water heater, partial finished basement. \$179,900 (73KEL) 734-455-5600



**PLYMOUTH** - Home tour candidate! This charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath home built in 1910 has recently been renovated & restored to its original character living room with cozy fireplace & 3-season finished porch for added square footage. This is a must see! \$254,900 (81STA) 734-455-5800



**NORTHVILLE CAPE COD.** Ready & waiting 3 bedroom cape offers updated kitchen, newer carpet and finished lower level. Perfect for starters, near schools and downtown. It's cute, it's clean, what more could you ask? Call for an appointment now. \$269,000 (41BAS) 248-349-5600



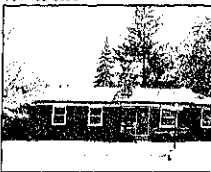
**BEAUTIFUL LIVONIA CONDO.** All you have to do is move in your personal belongings. Remodeled kitchen, both baths & laundry room. Newer furnace & air conditioning. Newer windows. All appliances stay + washer & dryer. Carport, pool & grounds maintenance. \$129,000 (28ANN) 248-349-5600



**COUNTRY PLACE END UNIT 2 BR.** 2.1 BA 2 story townhouse w/Novi schools & Northville mailing. LR w/natural fireplace. Garage with opener. Private patio, updates, basement & neutral throughout. All appliances stay. \$154,900 (29GLE) 248-349-5600



**GARDEN CITY** - Just like new. 2 bedroom, 2 car garage, newer roof, furnace, copper plumbing, windows, C/A, H2O tank, cement, circuit breaker. Berber carpet, (12x10) Florida room, steel entry doors, deep lot. Immediate occupancy \$129,893 (71BAL) 734-455-5600



**LIVONIA** - Homeowners pride! 3 Bedroom brick ranch on a double wide corner lot. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen with newer floor, counters & white cabinets. Newer Wallside windows. Partial finished basement. \$184,900 (75LYN) 734-455-5600



**BRIGHTON** - Nestled in the woods! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, On 1.2 acres. Winans Lake access! Raised ranch, living room with fireplace, newer carpet, DR w/sky-light & wooded views. Kitchen w/newer cabs, floors. Newer septic, furnace. \$253,000 (91TEA) 734-455-5600



**LOOKS LIKE A NEW HOME.** Come at your own touch to this ready & waiting beautiful spacious 4 bedrooms home. Second floor laundry & lots of closet space. Full basement, gas fireplace in great room, island kitchen, CA, large master bedroom, vaulted ceilings. \$285,900 (52TIM) 248-349-5600



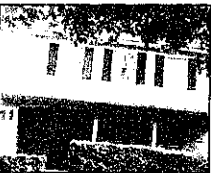
**LIVONIA.** Premium court location. This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch has all the bells & whistles. Totally updated kitchen w/oak cabinets. Fresh & taste decor t/o. Family room, living room w/fireplace, basement, 2.5 car heated garage & more. Approximately .64 wooded lot. \$239,900 (11MAS) 248-349-5600



**CUT ABOVE.** Amenities abound in this 4 bedroom colonial with soaring ceilings, 2 staircases, granite counters, plantation shutters, brick patio/wrought iron, cul-de-sac location. Professionally landscaped with Northville schools. \$565,000 (97AUT) 248-349-5600



**SUPERIOR** - Exceptional Colonial! 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath. Recently renovated! Entry level w/large eat-in KIT area & lots of cabs & counters. Formal dining room, oversized family room, 2 bedroom & library. 2 Bedroom APT in upper level. \$284,000 (90CHE) 734-455-5600



**SUPERIOR** - Attractive Colonial! 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath. You must see to appreciate this home in quiet Oakbrook Sub. Close to schools & Parks. Finished basement, 2 car garage. Many updates & fresh paint. \$167,900 (94MAN) 734-455-5600



**PLYMOUTH** 705 South Main St. 734-455-5600  
**NORTHVILLE** 175 CadyCentre 248-349-5600

## Michigan's #1 Century 21 Firm!



**COUNTRY LOT AND MORE.** This spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch has finished basement, fireplace, updated windows, shingles, freshly painted and carpet t/o. Livonia schools. All this on an approximate .38 acre lot. \$199,900 (03LIV) 248-349-5600



**PICTURESQUE WOODED LOT.** Approximately 1 acre with 4 spacious bedrooms, 3.5 baths and custom thru-out. Private deck off master suite. 2 story great room with fireplace. Finished walk-out basement. Extensive landscaping with lighting. \$449,900 (01SIL) 248-349-5600



**CANTON** - Exquisite! 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath Fox Plan Colonial on private wooded lot! Circle drive, 2 story foyer, hardwood floors & spiral staircase. Living room columns, formal dining room, large kitchen w/Island, fireplace. Master suite. \$398,800 (04DEE) 734-455-5600



**WESTLAND** - Immaculate! 3 bedroom brick ranch with many updates! Newer kitchen with white washed oak cabinets, Corian counter and Tiffany lamp. Newer furnace & hot water heater. Newer windows. Cathedral ceiling, newer carpet. \$134,900 (48BAN) 734-455-5600



**MOVE-RIGHT IN.** This spacious N. Garden City ranch has 3 bedrooms, 1 + 2 half baths, family room with fireplace, basement, dining room and more. All appliances are included. Come take a look. \$159,900 (11BRI) 248-349-5600



**COTTAGE ON LAKE.** 3 bedrooms with newer windows, walk-out basement. Lake frontage with dock. Great vacation home or rental. Live on an all sports lake. \$210,000 (77NSH) 248-349-5600



**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Largest lot 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 bath Colonial at the end of a dead end street! Huge deck off KIT, custom etched glass entry door, dual staircase, skylights in family room. Neutral decor. 2 car garage & basement. \$399,000 (87ELM) 734-455-5600



**TAYLOR** - Well maintained! 3 Bedroom, 1.5 bath. Many updates in this home including newer KIT, vinyl siding, windows. 4th Bedroom in now upper laundry room. 2 Car attached garage. Family room with fireplace. Shed. Corner lot. \$187,900 (03PAM) 734-455-5600



**SOUTH LYON** - Many updates! Don't miss this beauty with many updates. Vinyl windows in '88, landscaped in '96. Updated kitchen & electric w/breakers in '99. Basement w/glass block windows & ready to be finished. 2 car garage. \$171,000 (15VAS) 734-455-5600



**BENCHMARK OF QUALITY.** 4 BR. 3.2BA cape cod w/3 fireplaces, FR, DR, GR, gourmet kit w/granite & nook. Kohler fixtures. Baldwin hardware. Central vacuum & 2nd floor laundry. Speaker system & Anderson windows. 40 yr shingles & Hardiplank exterior. \$819,900 (491NV) 248-349-5600



**EXECUTIVE COLONIAL** with view of lake from extra large deck, plus hot tub. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths with island kitchen and first floor laundry. Library has closet and adjacent bath, could be in-law suite. Soaring ceilings in family room with natural fireplace. \$336,000 (88TAR) 248-349-5600



**CONDO ON THE LAKE.** Sharp 2 bedroom, 2 bath story unit with finished basement and vaulted ceilings. 1 car garage. Deck off kitchen. Laundry on main floor. Private entrance and close to x-ways. \$154,900 (50BAY) 248-349-5600



**LIVONIA** - Simple outstanding! Light & airy decor. Large updated bath with updated tub. Huge master. Possible 3rd bedroom in basement. Deep lot with private backyard. 2 Car garage. \$145,000 (80FAR) 734-455-5600



**NORTHVILLE** - Arts & Crafts. Exceptionally updated home in the heart of Northville! 3 Bedroom, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, magnificent cherry kitchen. Family room with panoramic view of private treed lot. \$349,900 (36RAN) 734-455-5600



**GARDEN CITY** - Stunning! 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch with open floor plan. Oak floors thru-out living room, kitchen and bedrooms. Updated kitchen with Merritt cabinets, overlooking family room with brick fireplace, cathedral ceilings and driveway to deck. Finished basement. (02WIN) \$174,900 734-455-5600



**BURTON HOLLOW CAPE COD.** Quiet cul-de-sac setting for this charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath cape cod. Hardwood floor under most carpets. Walking distance to swim club and Cass Elementary school. Appliances included. \$304,900 (95FAL) 248-349-5600



**WALLED LAKE-LAKEFRONT HOME.** Wow! Stop! Look! Buy! This home is priced to sell. Move-in ready dothouse on Walled Lake is ready for your entertaining. Private lake lot with seawall and dock. Bring your fishing rods and sunscreen. \$259,900 (05EAS) 248-349-5600



**BEAUTIFUL END UNIT.** 2 BR, 3 BA 1-story in a wooded lot w/pond. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, Ipl in LR & oak kitchen w/all appliances. MBR w/walk-in closet/master bath. Finished lower level could be 3rd bedroom. 1st floor laundry. Complex offers pool & tennis ct. \$217,900 (11DAN) 248-349-5600



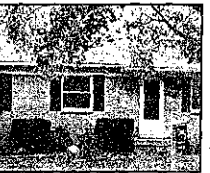
**DEARBORN** - Bright & beautiful! 2 Bedroom, 2 bath condo and unit. Mirrored baths. KIT with cherry cabinets. 3rd level with master suite. 2 level with living room, DR, BR, bath & laundry. Lower level w/storage & entry to garage. 3 Sided fireplace. \$153,900 (26GEO) 734-455-5600



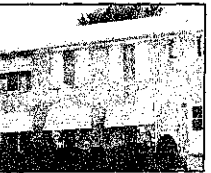
**NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP** - Farmhouse, approximately 100 year old home on 1.5 acres! 3 Bedroom, 2 bath & room to roam! Newer vinyl siding, A/C & copper plumbing. Fireplace in living room with parlor. Mud room. \$328,900 (00SEV) 734-455-5600



**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Exquisite colonial. Beautifully maintained & updated 3 bedroom colonial. Home is ideal for entertaining, relaxing & romantic nights. Professionally finished basement w/walk bar, in great room. Heated pool, oak trim thru-out, hot tub & so much more. (56WHI) \$229,900 734-455-5600



**WELCOME HOME** to this well-maintained 3 bedroom ranch. Lower level includes kitchen and 2 bedroom completely updated and freshly painted. Door wall off kitchen leads to spacious newer deck. Large fenced yard. A must see. \$188,000 (42OXF) 248-349-5600



**LAKE ANGELA CO-OP.** A \$200 monthly fee includes: taxes, insurance, heat water an all maintenance. Newer kitchen. Great view. Private basement. Move-in condition. \$59,990 (94SAN) 248-349-5600



**WONDERFUL UPPER UNIT** with view of woods or pool. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with spacious kitchen and large dining room. Cozy abode could be used as office space. Enclosed balcony for 3 season use. Kitchen appliances included. Carport. \$134,000 (67NOR) 248-349-5600



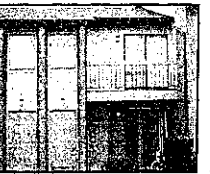
**CANTON** - 3 Bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial in Lexington Square Sub! Huge patio, updated KIT with counter tops & sink, armstrong Laminate wood floors. Formal dining room, living room with fireplace & basement. 2 Car garage. \$249,900 (52HAR) 734-455-5600



**CANTON** - A real pleasure. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial located on 19th fairway presents spacious kitchen w/island & walk-in pantry, family room & doorwall to deck. 3 car attached garage, appliances, basement, master suite/cathedral ceiling & sitting room. \$394,900 (29SOU) 734-455-5600



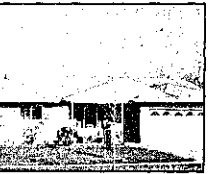
**PLYMOUTH** - Immaculate! 2 bedroom, 2 bath spacious ranch condo. Open floor plan. Updated kitchen and breakfast room with appliances included. Large living room with gas fireplace, finished basement. End unit with extra wide doors. Handicap accessible. (00WOO) \$183,900 734-455-5600



**AFFORDABLE LIVONIA CONDO.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit with carport and one car garage. Completely remodeled with natural maple cabinets, upgraded appliances & large laundry storage room. Neutral paint & carpet. Great floor plan. \$138,900 (29EIC) 248-349-5600



**THIS COULD BE IT.** Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath colonial on private setting. Built in 1996. Hardwood floors, dual staircase. Large kitchen with maple cabinets & walk-in pantry. There are many, many upgrades. Home warranty included. \$499,900 (21HIL) 248-349-5600



**TAKE A LOOK AT THE REST,** then come see the best. Absolutely move-in ready. From the beautiful oak kitchen with B-I leaded wine cab to the professionally finished yard. Super family room with stone fireplace, fresh decor + carpet, 2-level deck, pavers, patio and more. \$229,900 (10LYN) 248-349-5600

254 E. Brown Birmingham (248) 642-8100 4820 Rochester Road, Troy (248) 524-1600 2600 Union Lake Commerce Trw (248) 363-1200 930 W University Rochester (248) 652-8000 7:25 Orchard Lake West Bloomfield (248) 626-8800 705 S. Main St., Plymouth (734) 455-5600 175 Cady Centre, Northville (248) 349-5600



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