

POLICE REPORT

I.O.U.
Novi police were called to the Speedway gas station at Haggerty and 14 Mile roads after a man saying he would be back to pay didn't show up fast enough. Police were called to the station on March 18 at about midnight by a station attendant explaining what happened. The attendant said an unknown man pumped \$8.26 in gas at about 4 p.m. March 17 and said he didn't have the money, but he would be back. The moneyless gas pump left his license plate number with the attendant. When midnight rolled around, the worker decided to call police. A Novi officer called the station later in the day and learned the man did eventually return to pay for his gas.

Over achiever
Novi High School's resource officer was observing the lunch room on March 18 at 12:30 p.m. when he noticed a former student enter the lunch room and

approach a table of students. The officer recognized the male as a last-year graduate and observed he was not wearing a visitor's badge. The man was approached and advised to leave. As the resource officer went to the visitors parking area to make sure the 19-year-old left, he saw him sitting in the passenger seat of a 1999 Honda Civic. The officer told the former student he suspected he had been drinking. The student admitted he had been drinking at a party the night before. A marked patrol unit with a PBT unit was called to the scene. The man blew a .07 and was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol by consumption.

Centennial cheer
A 40-year-old male bearing an identification card from Germany was arrested by Novi police last week after too much Irish cheer. An officer was driving eastbound on 10 Mile approaching Haggerty Road on St. Patrick's Day at about

2 a.m. when the car in front of him abruptly swerved out of the center through-traffic lane toward the right, cutting off all traffic. As the vehicle continued onto Haggerty Road, the Novi officer followed. The Nissan Altima was straddling the dotted white lines of Haggerty, weaving between the two southbound lanes while traveling 15 mph above the speed limit. According to the report, the driver spoke little English and presented a drivers license from Germany. The officer stated, while performing the Romberg portion of field sobriety tests, he had to literally catch the man from falling over as he tilted his head back. The man blew a .192 and was arrested by police.

What's worse
A Novi male learned what is worse last week - the wrath of police or the wrath of his mother. A Novi officer was running sta-

WL Relay for Life set for late June

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority will be hosting its 1st Annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life from 10 a.m., Saturday, June 28 until 10 a.m., Sunday, June 29. The Relay will take place at the Walled Lake City Hall Field located on E. West Maple between Decker Road and Pontiac Trail next to Walled Lake City Hall.

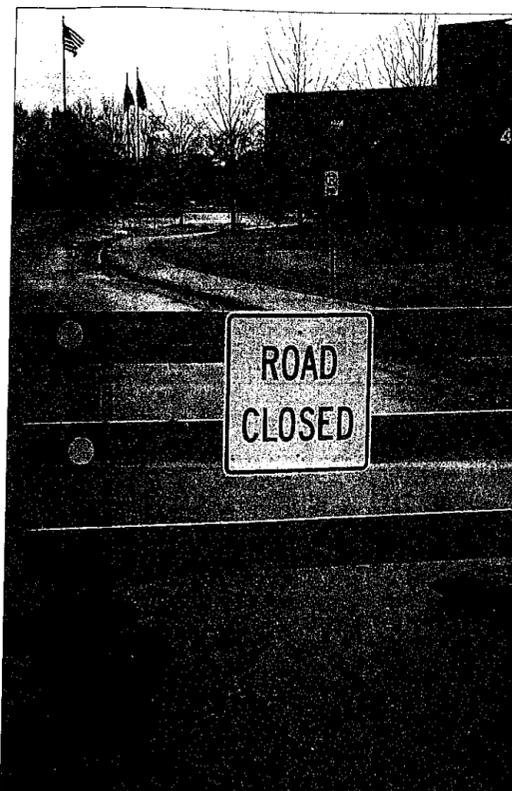
Relay For Life is a team event. Participants organize teams made up of 10 or more people. The teams raise money for the American Cancer Society by selling laminated bags to be used for the candlelight tribute to cancer victims on the evening of Saturday. The teams will be camping out on the City Hall Field during this 24-hour event while taking turns walking the track.

The purpose of the Relay For Life is to celebrate those who are surviving their fight against cancer, to pay tribute to those who

have lost their fight and to raise valuable funds for the American Cancer Society. The funds raised are used to fund cancer research and to develop our community's cancer support, education and prevention programs. Relay For Life is a fun event for everyone. There will be clowns, magicians, bands, DJ's, speakers and many other forms of entertainment throughout this event.

There will be a kick-off party for the Relay For Life on Wednesday, April 2 at Modern Floors, 1145 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake and all are invited. Registration and appetizers will be at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6 p.m. Opportunities to help with this event include: sponsorship, teams, survivors, in-kind donations and volunteer hours. Come and find out how you can be involved with this worthwhile cause.

For more information please contact Pat Wlodarczyk at Modern Floors, (248) 624-0333.



Novi Public Works Department employees put up barricades in front of the Novi Civic Center and Police Department last Thursday. City officials took the measure after the Office of Homeland Security declared a Code Orange terrorist threat level.

CITY: Changes permeate Novi

Shortly after Sept. 11, an exercise simulating a chemical leak was held with the fire and police departments along with Twelve Oaks Mall.

Six months ago, a surprise, simulated tornado disaster tested all city agencies along with Community E.M.S. and Providence Hospital.

"Since Sept. 11, 2001, we have implemented several security improvements, particularly regarding our communications systems, employee identification systems and facility security," Helwig said.

Novi's police chief does stress, despite the barriers placed directly in front of the station and the department's increased responsibilities, the force is still focused

ANTI-TERRORISM, SAFETY AND SECURITY SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL NOVI:

- BUSINESSES**
- Little or no-cost actions:
 - Increase visible security personnel presence whenever possible.
 - Rearrange exterior vehicle barriers, altering traffic patterns near facilities.
 - Institute or increase vehicle, foot and roving security patrols.
 - Implement random security guard shift changes.
 - Arrange for security vehicles to be parked randomly near entrances and exits.
 - Approach all illegally parked vehicles in and around facilities, question drivers and direct them to move immediately. If owner cannot be identified, have vehicle towed.
 - Limit the number of access points and strictly enforce access control procedures.
 - Alter primary entrances and exits if possible.
 - Implement stringent identification procedures to include conducting 100 percent "hands on" checks of security badges for all personnel. Require security badges whenever possible.
 - Remind personnel to properly display badges and enforce visibility.
 - Require two forms of identification for visitors.
 - Escort all visitors both entering and departing.
 - Inspect packages, handbags, briefcases, etc.
 - Validate vendor lists for all routine deliveries and repair services.
 - Actions requiring some cost:
 - Increase perimeter lighting.
 - Remove vegetation in and around perimeters, maintain bushes to not higher than 30 inches and trees trimmed to at least six feet.
 - Institute a vehicle inspection program to include checking under the undercarriage of vehicles, under the hood and in the trunk.
 - Conduct vulnerability studies focusing on physical security, structural engineering, infrastructure engineering, power, water and air infiltration.
 - Initiate a system to enhance mail and package screening procedures.
- INDIVIDUALS**
- Develop a family communications plan.
 - Prepare your home as if you had to make it on your own for at least three days.
 - Think first about fresh water, food and clean air.
 - Store one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and sanitation in clean, plastic containers.
 - Store food that won't go bad and does not have to be heated or cooked. Suggestions include fruit bars, dry cereal, granola, canned foods and juices, peanut butter, dried fruit, nuts, crackers and baby food.
 - Be prepared to improvise with what you have on hand to protect your nose, mouth, eyes and cuts in your skin from an type of terrorist attack sending pollutants into the atmosphere.
 - Anything fitting snugly over your nose and mouth, including any dense-weave cotton material, can help filter contaminants in an emergency.
 - In case of an air-contamination attack, quickly bring your family and pets inside, lock your doors and close windows, air vents and fireplace dampers. Also, turn off air conditioning, forced air heating systems, exhaust fans and clothes dryers.
 - Seal all windows, doors and vents with plastic sheeting and duct tape or anything else you have on hand if an air-contamination attack occurs.
 - Prepare two kits of essential items. In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other kit should be a lightweight, smaller version you may take with you if you must get away.
 - Remember to include and periodically rotate medications you take every day such as insulin and heart medicine.
 - Store basic supplies such as a flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, first-aid kit, utility knife, local map, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, soap, garbage bags, plastic sheeting, duct tape and extra cash and identification.
 - Think about your family's unique needs. Pack diapers, formula, bottles, pet food, comfort items, books, paper, pens, a deck of cards and other forms of entertainment.
 - In all cases, remain calm.

Source: City of Novi Police Department Source: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security

SCHOOL: District readies for anything

continued from front

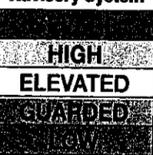
Schram said that elementary level students, kindergarten through sixth grade, will not be watching any war coverage on television because generally those schools don't have televisions in place. However, the faculty staff will be notified of what's going on. Students will not be notified because at that age the school district is going to rely on the parents presenting that information to them.

The middle school and the high school students, on the other hand, will be informed of what is going on.

"The high school students have a higher level of maturity, so the kids will be allowed to watch television where it's appropriate and will be able to discuss what's going on as well," Schram said.

"We have confidence that we are prepared, even though we don't know what might come, but we know we can't get any more prepared than we are now, Oakland

Homeland Security Advisory System



Schools is having a terrorism expert come in to do a workshop with all the schools, so we try to update our skills and when we went to code orange we talked to the city and asked what they are doing and we asked what we should be doing. We talked to Oakland County, we talked to Oakland Schools, so we called in all those resources so we could get as much information as possible."

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

DO YOU FEEL GOING TO WAR WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

"Yes, I believe it was the right thing to do. I think Saddam Hussein needed to be stopped. He is obviously a very evil, destructive person who is affecting the entire world. I trust President Bush and his administration that they know what they're doing and I salute the troops and I believe that they are stopping a madman. I believe very strongly that we are doing the right thing. I'm glad that we are there, and I'm glad that Bush is president. I think it was a divine appointment."

Susan Barton - Walled Lake

"I think going to war was the right thing to do for the fact that it's going to boom our economy big time. I know that's kind of heartless to say, but at the same time it's kind of helping the Iraqi people. They're being pretty much belittled by Saddam Hussein and his whole entourage. The war is definitely a good idea. The only thing I don't like seeing is the American soldiers dying for a cause that doesn't even help for the most part."

Michael Law - Walled Lake

"It was definitely the right thing to do because it is a moral issue for one thing. The attack on, for one thing, the Twin Towers needs to be rectified, so if we allow them to say, 'Hey, we can take this abuse and not have a counter action,' is to say, 'Yes, you can do whatever you would like to us.' So we say know the retaliation as far as, if you offset the boundaries, you have to suffer the consequences. Their tactics are for the military, obviously. But yes, they deserved it."

Deborah Kaufman - Wixom

"Yes, because I think Saddam is hiding things from us and it will keep America and the rest of the world a safer place by taking him down."

Jared Perres - Novi

"Yes I do think we should because I think we have enough evidence that Saddam is hiding things from the United States. I think that in order to protect the United States properly we need to go in and get rid of the things that he is hiding from us."

Kristi Timar - Novi

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2003 Ranger XLT 4x2

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- 5 spd Automatic O/D Trans.
- Power Window/Lock Group
- TR Steering/Speed Control
- Interior Entry
- XLT Appearance Group
- ABS
- and more...

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With \$2,636 customer cash due at signing.

Includes security deposit, excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is not of all rebates. Payment includes \$500 renewal cash, plus \$2500 RCL cash.

2003 Taurus SES

NICELY EQUIPPED WITH...

- 3.0 L V6 6-cyl. Engine
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- Power Driver Seat
- No-Charge Power Moonroof
- AM/FM/CD
- Rear Spoiler
- Four-Wheel Anti-Lock Brakes and more...

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Includes security deposit, excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is not of all rebates. Payment includes \$1500 renewal cash, plus \$2000 RCL cash.

2003 F-150 XLT 4x2

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- and more...

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\$278 per month

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Includes security deposit, excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is not of all rebates. Payment includes \$1500 renewal cash, plus \$1400 RCL cash.

2003 Explorer XLT 4dr

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- 5 Speed Automatic O/D Trans.
- Power Moon Roof
- 5 Spk. Pkg.
- Off Road Pkg.
- Trailer/Towing Pkg.
- CFR Front AC and more...

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Children & War: Dealing with these difficult times

By Linda A. Lewandowski, R.N., Ph.D.
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF MICHIGAN AND WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



Lewandowski

fantasy of TV and the reality of war. If your children are older, discuss with them how they have been seeing on television, talking about it at school or reading on the Internet. Explain to your children that it is OK to find a situation like war and politics confusing—it can be hard for adults to understand too. Parents should also accept the fact that your children may not be as interested in the war as you are. Some children may seem unconcerned about what's going on, while others may become fixated on war details. These children may need some re-direction back to other interests and activities. Don't wait for older kids or teenagers to bring up their concerns; take the lead and ask them what they think.

Use this opportunity as a "teachable moment" to talk with your children about some important issues such as your values and beliefs; your freedom to express our opinions about our government leaders (a freedom some people in other countries don't have); what it means to stand up for a cause; why we shouldn't stereotype a group of people or religion by the actions of a few. Allow your children the freedom to disagree with you, and help them understand the values and beliefs they are supporting by the views they express.

Children Need to Do Something - Although we cannot control the big events going on in the world around us, it is often helpful for children to feel they are contributing to the situation in a positive way. "Doing something" helps children feel more in control and more secure. It is also a way for families to spend some important quality time with one another during times of crisis.

- TAKING STEPS**
- Here are some ways you and your children can get involved:
- Write letters to the president, world leaders, Congress or newspapers.
 - Have children draw pictures of how they feel or what they are worried about.
 - Attend prayer services, rallies, or other group expressions of your beliefs.
 - Say special prayers at home or conduct other rituals from personal faith traditions.
 - Talk to other people about war and how they feel about it.
 - Send an e-mail to someone in the military.
 - Send cards or pictures to people affected by the war.
 - Collect money for a relief agency that helps those in need.
 - Read about other countries, cultures or religions.
 - Write a report about war for school.
 - Talk about how to bring peace to schools or neighborhoods.

Children Need to Feel Safe - Some children may fear for their safety and that of their family. As a parent, you need to validate your children's feelings, and help them express these feelings in a safe and positive manner. Assure your children that the war is far away by showing them the distance between the United States and Iraq on a map or globe. You can also let your child know the planes flying over your house are regular airplanes and do not contain bombs. Remind your kids that it is alright to feel anger, fear, sadness or confusion over what's going on overseas. Try to limit exposure to TV news reports, new papers or magazines with graphic pictures or stories. Since breaking news can interrupt at any time, it may be helpful to play a video when you are unable to monitor your younger children's television viewing. Reassure your kids that world leaders, the military, police and other adults are working hard to keep everyone in this country safe.

Remember, children tend to take their cues from significant adults, so you may need to take time to deal with your own feelings as well. Younger children may not understand what is going on, but they can still feel the tension or concern displayed by the important adults in their world. Help children recognize that you may be upset and less patient because you are concerned about what is happening, not because of something they have done. You may even want to spend some extra time hugging, cuddling or giving extra attention to your children. It also helps to keep home and school routines the same and try to maintain a calm atmosphere at home.

Children who have a family member or friend in the military, or children who have experienced recent stressful events such as a death, divorce or a major illness may be especially affected with what is going on. These children may need additional support or intervention. If your child shows significant changes in behavior (for example, they need to be quiet and are now very active and irritable, or they may have been outgoing and are now very withdrawn) or noticeable school, sleep or behavior problems, it may be beneficial to seek professional help.

Children Need Appropriate Information - It's important to talk to your children in a way they can understand. Be honest with what you tell your children, but don't give them more details than they need. For younger kids, you may need to explain the difference between the

Council ponders question: Should Catholic Central replace trees?

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER



L. Lorenzo



R. Clark

"It is important to apply the standards across the board with regard to the ordinance."

Laura Lorenzo
Novi City Councilwoman

"Here we have a development that is positive to the community."

Richard Clark
Novi City Mayor

Members of the Novi City Council have a decision in front of them.

Should they vote to amend a portion of Novi's woodland tree replacement ordinance governing the replacement of trees on city property?

What has city council members reading slowly and residents voicing their extreme concern is the request for the ordinance amendment was submitted by Detroit Catholic High School.

If adopted, the amendment would provide an avenue of relief in the law stating entities must replace, relocate or put equal value in the city's tree fund when removing a tree from a dedicated woodland in Novi.

A preliminary addition to Chapter 37 of the city's ordinance code receiving prior first-reading approval states an applicant who demonstrates qualifying criteria may request an approval of an alternate compliance plan.

The criteria includes presenting a plan showing tree relocation and replacement to the maximum extent reasonably feasible, the land in question must be committed for use for the foreseeable future by an educational institution demonstrating a history of excellence in education and other endeavors in the public interest and the applicant must be prepared to execute and record a conservation easement to assure preservation of not less than 60 percent of the land as open space.

If the not-yet-approved amendment perimeters are met, the applicant may be granted an alternate woodland tree replacement compliance plan by members of city council.

Attorney Tom Ryan, representing the parochial school, made the request to see if the future Novi neighbor could make alternate arrangements in lieu of full tree replacement or total contribution to the tree fund.

Catholic Central's Father Eimer said the funds are just not there to replace the nearly 1,700 trees needing removal at the Wixom Road south of Grand River Avenue site for baseball diamonds and other playing fields adding up to close to \$1 million.

"We can't go along with the ordinance as it is," Eimer said. Eimer said more than 2,000 trees will remain at the site and the educational institution agreed to replace 700 trees on the property.

Ryan said the institution is willing to work out a number of alternatives including:

- Opening up their environmentally rich campus to Novi students and teachers for educational purposes.
- Configuring an arrangement to share the high school's indoor and outdoor athletic facilities.
- Directing the 10 hours of community service per student requirement for the benefit of the city, amounting to close to 10,000 hours each year.
- Spreading the ordinance requirements of either replacing the trees in other parts of the city or paying the fund over an extended period of time, like 10 years.

Another idea put forth was to have Catholic Central students plant the required replacement trees, eliminating labor costs of two-thirds of the \$325 per tree replacement cost.

Novi City Attorney Gerald Fisher said the amendment would essentially have narrow application to circumstances involving a public or private school where a majority of the site is being preserved for the long term and where other public interest components are involved.

"It is an attempt to exchange public interest for public interest and a matter within the sound discretion of the council," Fisher said.

Novi City Councilwoman Laura Lorenzo said she is concerned this is a "wholesale change" to the woodlands ordinance which hasn't changed since 1986 and has only been appealed twice.

The councilwoman is fearful the amendment would undermine the intent of the ordinance.

Lorenzo said she wants to work with Catholic Central, but would prefer to see a development agreement instead of an ordinance amendment.

"It is important to apply the standards across the board with regard to the ordinance," she said.

Novi City Councilman Kim Capello said he feels there is a lot Catholic Central could offer the city. Services such as Catholic Central students refereeing Novi's basketball, soccer and other games would put money back into Novi's system.

Also, Capello said, Catholic Central students could possibly provide summer camps for hockey, basketball and soccer.

Novi Mayor Richard Clark said as far as he is concerned having Catholic Central in Novi is a plus.

"Here we have a development that is positive to the community," he said.

The ordinance amendment passed first reading and will be up for second reading approval next month. Catholic Central received preliminary site plan approval on Feb. 12 and hopes to break ground in July.

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

PC ired by Detroit school's ignorance

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER



D. Ruyle

A request made to members of city council for an amendment to an ordinance governing Novi's dedicated woodland tree replacement procedure irked members of the Novi Planning Commission who felt the request should have come to them first.

"Something is rotten in the woodland somelace," said planning commissioner David Ruyle. "I can't believe that it was not discussed and brought to himself before going in front of this (city council) body."

Ruyle and other members of the commission were shocked and offended after learning that Catholic Central was requesting leniency from the woodlands ordinance via a city council meeting.

The commission body had been working through the preliminary site plan process with the parochial school marked for home on Wixom Road south of Grand River Avenue for quite some time and said they had never heard any echoes of non-compliance.

The planning commission unanimously granted Catholic Central its preliminary site plan review in February.

"We meant no disrespect to them (PC)," said Tom Ryan, attorney representing Detroit Catholic Central. "Law making isn't for the faint of heart."

Ryan said the only reason he brought the ordinance amendment request before the city council instead of the planning commission was because the city council is the body with the authority to amend Novi laws.

But nonetheless, members of the planning commission still wanted their opinions on the matter heard.

"Our ordinances say if you

tear down a tree, you put one in its place," Ruyle said. Ruyle is also afraid an amendment may be opening the door to another lawsuit against the city.

"I think Catholic Central should be held to the same standards as everyone else," remarked planning commissioner Gwen Markham.

Markham believes amending a specific ordinance for a specific development sets a bad precedent.

She also expressed concern that the commission was provided with all possible information about the project during preliminary site plan reviews.

The planning commission needs to know that all relevant information is brought to our attention during the preliminary site plan review process, Markham said.

"I think it's disrespectful and inappropriate," he said.

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

"We have a planning commission that is madder than a hornet."

David Landry
Novi City Councilman

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Publication Number USPS 396290

LET'S TALK

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
GEMOLOGIST

SEEING RED

When judging the color of ruby, an outstanding collection. For the think of its hue as being a blend of two colors, purple and red. When rubies are viewed from different directions while in motion, it is sometimes possible to see these two colors. This is due to an optical property called dichroism, in which light is split into two different colors that are polarized at right angles to another. Dichroism is a major consideration when cutting ruby. The purest, most desirable color is produced when the stone is cut and oriented so that only a single direction of red color emerges through the top of the gemstone. The purer this color and the lower the dichroism, the higher the per cent price.

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Revised road ahead

Resident input regarding the redesign of South Lake Drive prompts changes to preliminary design

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

In response to residents' concerns and council members' comments on how South Lake Drive will be redesigned, city officials are in the process of making adjustments to the preliminary design presented earlier this month.

As a step forward in the process, Novi City Engineer Nancy McLean prepared an outline detailing suggestions and comments derived from council members during the March 3 meeting where consideration of citizen feedback and information had to be heard.

The lot of modifications was discussed with Griffiths-Webster Engineers, the firm contracted by the city to design the new roadway in an attempt to implement some of the items.

"Griffiths-Webster is completing the final design plans for availability in April," said Clay Pearson, City of Novi assistant city manager.

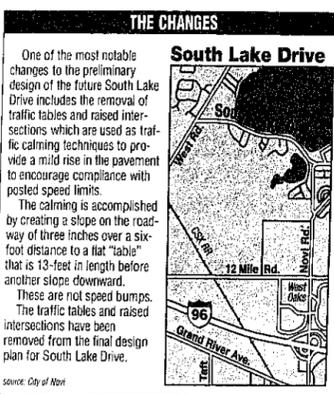
Person and April is when the redesign is expected to come before city council again.

The lot of modifications includes:

- The proposed lane width for the entire South Lake Drive is to be 10 feet.
- The roadway will be bituminous asphalt.

- The sidewalk/bike path will be placed on the south side of the road, adjoining the residences.
- The boulevard sections at Pompton Drive, Lilley Trail and the intersection of Old Novi and 13 Mile roads will be designed as shown on the preliminary plan.

- Two roadway cross-sections will be used:
 - at from West Park Drive to Henning Street and from Lake Shore Park to Old Novi



Source: City of Novi

One of the most notable changes to the preliminary design of the future South Lake Drive includes the removal of traffic tables and raised intersections which are used as traffic calming techniques to provide a mild rise in the pavement to encourage compliance with posted speed limits.

The calming is accomplished by creating a slope on the roadway of three inches over a six-foot distance to a flat "table" that is 13-feet in length before another slope downward.

These are not speed bumps. The traffic tables and raised intersections have been removed from the final design plan for South Lake Drive.

Two 10-foot lanes, concrete curb and gutter with cuts for drainage as needed and an 8-foot asphalt bike path separated from the roadway by a greenbelt.

From Henning Street to Lakeshore Park, two 10-foot lanes, integrated 5-foot asphalt bike path, mountable concrete curb and gutter on the north side gutter with cuts for drainage as needed.

Bioswales will be incorporated into the design of the drainage system from West Park Drive to Lilley Trail and east of Lilley Trail.

The alignment and bike path layout in the section immediately east of Lake Shore Park will be reviewed, eliminating the permanent acquisition of right-of-way, and

- No traffic tables or raised intersections will be used.

Warming weather causes potholes to bloom

Drivers in Oakland County are warned to be on the alert for potholes, thanks to the abrupt change in weather that occurred over the first week, creating the perfect environment for the annoying roadway cavities to occur.

"When we go from being in the 20s and snowing to being in the 60s in about a week, there are bound to be a lot of potholes," explained Tom Meszler, director of Highway Maintenance for the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC).

Potholes form when water flows into cracks in the pavement, then freezes and expands. When it melts, it creates an unsupported air pocket under the road surface. When cars, and especially trucks, drive over such an area, they cause the road surface to collapse, creating a pothole.

RCOC Highway Maintenance Department employees spend a great deal of time patching potholes. While they watch for and patch potholes year-round as needed, this becomes one of their main activities in the spring.

Unless there is a particularly dangerous pothole, patching crews typically do not operate during rush hour, when they would tie up traffic. Because of the danger to patching crews, typically several trucks are involved, with one serving as a "shield" behind the crew, to ensure they cannot be hit by oncoming traffic.

"Patching potholes in the middle of a busy road or freeway is no picnic," Meszler said. "When you've got cars and large trucks speeding past you at 70 miles an hour, you want all the protection behind you that you can get."

RCOC uses a high-performance material to patch potholes. The material can last a year or more. "Of course, the best long-term

solution to potholes is to resurface the road," Meszler said. Unfortunately, available funding limits the amount of roads RCOC can afford to resurface.

Every year, RCOC workers hand shovel more than eight million pounds of patching material into potholes. Including labor, material and vehicle usage, the annual pothole repair price tag is more than \$5 million.

While RCOC monitors its road system closely in an effort to patch potholes in a timely manner, it welcomes calls from the public reporting particularly large potholes. Anyone who spots such a pothole can call the Road Commission's Department of Citizen Services toll free at (877) 858-4804. Motorists can also report non-emergency pothole problems by sending RCOC an e-mail through the Road Commission Web site, www.rcocweb.org.

Detroit Edison's tree-trimming continues locally

Detroit Edison line-clearance crews will continue their year-round tree trimming work in more than 40 communities, including Novi and Wixom, in March and April. The utility trims an average of 800,000 trees each year to reduce the potential for power outages and to help ensure safe and reliable electrical service for its customers.

The utility removes from customer property smaller branches and debris that result from its line-clearance program, however, larger trimmed branches are cut into firewood length and left behind for customer use or disposal.

Customers are responsible for keeping tree branches from their service drops, the lines that run from utility poles to their homes. Detroit Edison recommends customers hire a professional tree service to do this trimming. Visit www.detroitenergy.com and search for the word "trees" to find more information about line clearance and proper tree planting.

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BUSINESS

Phil Foley, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 pfoley@ht.homecomm.net

Paintball makes splash in Walled Lake

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

John Taormina has gone from helping people decide which wine will go best with the brie they're going to serve at lunch to helping them decide which paintball marker will best suit their needs or whether they should use goggles or a full face shield.

After a quarter century in the gourmet grocery trade, first with Vie's Markets and later as a founding partner in Brighthouse's Taorello's, Taormina checked it in August to open what he's billing as "Michigan's premier indoor paintball arena and proshop." He and partner Tom Solomon hope to transform Atomix Paintball into a national franchise operation.

And while the shift from organic eggs to paintballs may seem a little radical, Taormina observed philosophically, "Retail is retail."

Paintball, as a sport, has been around for about 20 years. It has a lot of variations, but essentially comes down to cowboys-and-Indians and capture-the-flag, played by teens and adults shooting at each other with gas-powered guns (or markers, as the aficionados like to call them) that

lob paintballs at their opponents at painfully high speeds.

Taormina explained that the "guns" are called markers because the original device was used by loggers to mark trees and ranchers to mark cattle. "Eventually a couple of guys messing around after work started shooting at each other," he said.

That, said Taormina, spawned a \$850 million industry with more than 12 million people nationwide participating in leagues like bowling. However, he noted, "Paintball is a heck of a lot less dangerous than bowling."

"Taormina should know, he took up the sport himself four years ago. "The greatest thing about this sport," he said, "is regardless of your age or physical condition, everybody can be equal."

It didn't take him long, though, to notice that while there are scores of paintball fields around the state, the nearest indoor paintball arena was in Toledo. Teams from Western Oakland County were eagerly driving there and to Exotic Sports' Hell Survivors near Pinckney.

"The Toledo indoor area is tucked behind a Sears," he said. "The first time I went there, I drove around for hours and couldn't find it."

It didn't take long for Taormina to start thinking of this sport as a business. "I just did some research and made it better," he said.

While Atomix Paintball looks somewhat scruffy to the uninitiated, Taormina insists it's a veritable palace compared to most indoor venues. Because the paintball residue is so difficult to clean up, he said, most indoor arenas cover the floor with dirt and use industrial pallets and old cars as bunkers.

Atomix Paintball uses the same stuff for artificial turf found on Ford Field over a layer of impact absorbing rubber chip. The arena's obstacles, or air bunkers as they're known, are basically giant balloons made of the same material used for whitewater rafts. Weighted with sandbags on the inside, they come in various sizes

and shapes and can be moved around to reconfigure the playfield daily.

After months of looking for just the right location, Taormina stumbled across an unused, 50,000 square foot industrial building on Decker Road in Walled Lake. One area community had already rejected his plans to move into an industrial park, but Walled Lake officials worked with him and amended the city's zoning ordinances to allow recreational uses as a special use in industrial areas.

"Walled Lake pretty much agreed that the way economy is going, there are a lot of manufacturing shops that were doing staff for the Big Three that are going to stay empty for a long time," he said.

Taormina said when he opened the doors in December, he was banking on drawing 200 players a week, but he's already up to 460 a week and the building could handle as many as 200 a day.

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This business is fun with 30 employees and only three, including Taormina, are full-time. The rest are high school kids who often spend most of their pay at the arena. He said that while he had to struggle to find qualified employees at Taorello's, when he set up shop with Atomix Paintball, "we got 275 applications without running an ad."

Taormina is already scouting new locations, and they've had franchise inquiries from people in Cleveland, Orlando, Minnesota and Colorado.

He said his Web site has already logged more than a million hits since the business opened. "I had no idea we'd achieve this status in the paintball industry in such short time," he said.

Taormina attributed his success to the way he's approach Atomix Paintball. "It's a sport, but it's a business," he said.

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.



Walled Lake businessman Paul Taormina and partner Tom Solomon have seen the future and the believe it's paintball. The pair have converted an old Decker Street factory into a paintball arena, which the plan to expand into a national franchise.

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BUSINESS SHORTS

Ahmed tops at Stein Group

The Stein Group of Northwest Michigan has named Ahmad A. Ahmed as its new Chief Financial Officer. Ahmed, 41, was named to the position after serving as the group's Controller for the past two years. He has a B.S. in Finance from Eastern Michigan University and a CPA. Ahmed will be responsible for the group's financial operations, including budgeting, forecasting, and tax planning. He will also be responsible for the group's financial reporting and compliance. Ahmed has been with the Stein Group since 1998. He has a proven track record of financial success and is a highly motivated professional. He will be reporting to the group's President, John Stein. Ahmed's new position is a key role in the group's success. He will be working closely with the group's management team to ensure the group's financial health and growth. Ahmed is a dedicated professional and is excited to take on this new challenge. He will be starting his new position on April 1, 2003.



A. Ahmed

Digital Dash

Ford Motor Company engineers are racing to set a record for vehicle development. Set to begin production at the Wixom Assembly Plant next spring, the Ford GT sports a 5.4-liter V8 engine. Ford engineers say they will shave months off the process by eliminating 90 percent of the prototype builds through the use of Digital Development, a virtual reality software. The software is expected to lead Ford build three production Ford GTs in time for the company's centennial celebration in June. Ford executives said they plan to produce about 1,500 of the supercars per year at Wixom over the course of the program. The car will carry an MSRP of under \$150,000, final pricing will be announced closer to full production.



The new Ford GT sports car.

Alzheimer's Association. Gregory Gluck has been tapped to be the village's Development Director. A navy veteran, Gluck was most recently the Senior Design Manager for the new Northwest Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport. He joined Klempner, who left America in July 2000 to become Controller at Henry Ford Village in Dearborn was recently promoted to Regional Controller, to head the finance departments at both the Dearborn and Novi facilities. After 28 years in human resources with the Oakwood Health System and the Henry Ford Health System, Sharon Menz joins Fox Run as its Director of Human Resources. Menz was most recently director of human resources at Riverside Hospital.

Run for it

The Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be hosting its 1st Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life from June 28-29. The DDA is holding a Kick-off party for the event April 2 at Modern Flavors, 1145 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Registration and appetizers will be at 5:30 pm and the program begins at 6:00 pm. Opportunities to help with this event include sponsorship, teams, surveys, in-kind donations and volunteer hours. Come and find out how you can be involved with this worthwhile cause. For more information please contact Pat Wlodarczyk at Modern Flavors. (248) 624-0333.

All Smiles

Novi Dental Aesthetic Centre is participating for a fifth year in Smiles for Life. Through the end of June, said center manager Pat Welch, 100 percent of the fees for teeth whitening will be donated to the Smiles for Life foundation. "We just love the patients" write the check to them. Last year Dr. Allen Tackkiper's patient's raised more than \$5,000. Since it's creation in 1998, the foundation has raised more than \$14 million for juvenile dental care and distributed it to some 300 charities. For more information contact Pat Welch. The center can be contacted at (248) 348-3100.

Miller joins Bailey

Robert H. Miller has joined John Bailey & Associates Inc., Public Relations (JB&A), a Troy-based public relations firm, as an account supervisor. Miller, a resident of Novi, has responsibilities

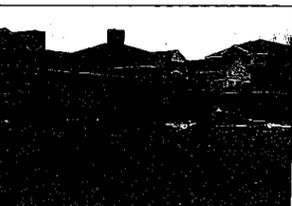
with automotive, real estate, architecture, newspaper and not-for-profit accounts. Miller comes to JB&A after eight years with Farmington Hills-based Marx Layne & Company, a marketing and public relations agency, where he was most recently a senior account executive. During his nearly 25-year professional career, Miller's experience includes stints with the Detroit Tigers and Baltimore Orioles, as well as freelance writing, editing and reporting for newspapers, magazines and radio. Miller holds a B.A. journalism degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Stay in touch

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business looking in an exciting new direction, celebrating a new anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. E-mail your business news to news@now.com. If possible, attach a color photograph. You can also mail your business news to Phil Foley, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville 48167.

FOX RUN VILLAGE

W. 13 Mile Road West of Haggerty



Size: Approximately 730,000 sq. ft. Phase One, which includes two residential buildings and a clubhouse. Owner: Erickson Retirement Communities - Baltimore, Md. User: Retirement community. General Contractor: John M. Olson Company. Architect: Nordstrom Samson Associates, Novi. Completion Date: The grand opening of the first residential and community building is set for June 27, 2003.



UP AND COMING

Guernsey Farms Dairy's Easter Drawing

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Hours
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Gardening for kids
Master Gardeners Susan Beaton and Marycarole Haring present a hands-on program for young gardeners on Friday, April 4, from 1-2:30 p.m. Participants will get an opportunity to begin growing a bean seed through a maze, learn about worm composting, and much more. Please bring a shoebox to create a maze for your bean seed and a two-liter pop bottle for worm composting. The program is for students in grades 3 and up. Please register in advance by calling the library at (248) 349-0720.

Chapter Club
The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, April 5, from 11 a.m.-noon. We'll be discussing "The Graduation of Jake Moon" by Barbara Park, snaking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

Book discussion group
Our April selection is "An Unquiet Mind" by Kay Redfield Jamison. The group meets Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Senior book discussion
Senior booklovers are reading

works Islam, Afghanistan, and current issues for their April meeting. The group meets in the library meeting room on Thursday, April 10, at noon.

Mastering the mouse for seniors
A hands-on class designed to introduce seniors to using the computer mouse will be held Thursday, April 3, from 10-11 a.m. We will complete a self-guided online tutorial, learning and practicing all of the basic functions of the mouse. If you've never used a mouse, this class is definitely for you! The class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Please register in advance for all Internet classes in person or by calling the library.

Introduction to the Internet for seniors
Learn the basics of the Internet in a relaxed, supportive environment on Wednesday, April 9, from 1-3 p.m. You will discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information.

Introduction to ancestry trees
Learn how to find family trees, indexes, and marriage and death records, as well as how to view actual census records on Thursday, April 10, from 7-9 p.m. Note: This is a hands-on class, so a solid understanding of Internet searching is necessary.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 3/27	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy	1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class Begins-New	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Line Dance*	6:30 a.m. Clogging*
9:30 a.m. Travel Club	9 a.m. Line Dance*	Friday 4/1
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by Appl.	9:30 a.m. Line Dance*	9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
noon Computer Class Lab	10 a.m. Line Dance*	9 a.m. Line Dance*
1 p.m.-2 p.m. Lunch & 12:15 Bridge*	11 a.m. Line Dance*	NO CRAFTS
2 p.m. Line Dance-Beginners	12 p.m. Line Dance*	NO CRAFTS
2 p.m. Line Dance-Advanced	12 p.m. Line Dance*	NO CRAFTS
Friday 3/28	9 a.m. Stretch & Strength	10 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m. Body Recall	10 a.m. Blood Pressure	10 a.m. Blood Pressure
10 a.m. Lunch	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Bingo	11 a.m. JOPSS Class
12:30 p.m. Clogging*	11 a.m. Clogging*	11 a.m. Clogging*
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge*	12:30 p.m. Clogging*	12:30 p.m. Clogging*
Triatic Trip Monday 3/31	9 a.m.-11 a.m. Stretch & Strength	10 a.m. Body Recall
10 a.m. Lunch	11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Sundry Shop Open	12:30 p.m. Pinocchio Tournament*

IN THE SERVICE

Diana Krause
Air Force Airman Diana L. Krause has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Krause is the daughter of Shari Minko of Novi. She is a 2002 graduate of Novi High School.

Daniel St. Clair
Daniel St. Clair of Novi was named to the Dean's List and Commandant's "List" for fall semester, 2002, at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. St. Clair is a 2002 graduate of Novi High School.

Jason May
Lept May, son of Carol and Tim May of Novi is currently on deployment in the Persian Gulf. Jason is a flight crew member on C-130 aircraft assigned to VMGR234 of the 3rd Marine Air Wing. May is a 2001 graduate of Novi High School and entered the Marines in August 2000 as part of the Corps, delayed entry program.

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Novi Meadows sixth graders visit 52nd District Court

Real life court teaches kids valuable lessons

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As part of a legislative law unit, students in Cathy Verduce's Novi Meadows sixth grade class visited the 52nd District Court last week, but little did they know that they would get more of a lesson than they bargained for.

According to Verduce, the reason for the trip is because the class is studying ancient civilizations and how legislative laws started in ancient Greece, but when students actually see real-life cases involving drug offenders, other lessons arise.

"The trip began by other teachers in the past going for government issues," Verduce said. "I decided to take my kids last year and again this year. What ends up happening is, we not only do it for the judicial systems, but the students get a lot more out of it too. I want them to get an idea of how the court systems work, but also the D.A.R.E. program that we do

here is phenomenal and the officer from the courts comes in and teaches us how drugs and alcohol affect your life, then we see real cases. Kids and adults alike are there in court because of drugs."

While at the courthouse, Judge Brian W. MacKenzie constantly told the students how most crime stems from alcohol and drugs. "I want the kids to know the real life situation that if they do drugs and alcohol, there is going to be a problem in their lives," Verduce said.

"Judge MacKenzie loves the kids being there and being a part of his courtroom and he uses the people whose cases are being tried as an example."

Students T.J. Butler and Courtney Morelock enjoyed their visits and learned a lot.

"We went to the 52nd district courthouse and I thought it was really interesting," Butler said. "I learned a lot, and Judge MacKenzie got to talk to us before we went in any of the courthouses. He talked about

the people that would be in the courthouse and about drugs because he really doesn't like kids taking drugs. I was surprised at how many people pleaded guilty because with all the court cases I hear about, nobody ever pleads guilty, but everybody pleaded guilty at the ones I saw."

Morelock agreed that the visit was worthwhile. "Judge MacKenzie let us sit up in the jury bench and he told us all about the district court. I thought it was really cool," she said. "I didn't expect it to be that fun because I thought it would be going from case to case, then it would be over, but it wasn't. All of the cases I saw were about drugs and people taking drugs."

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@nl.homecomm.net.



Courtesy photo

Girl Power

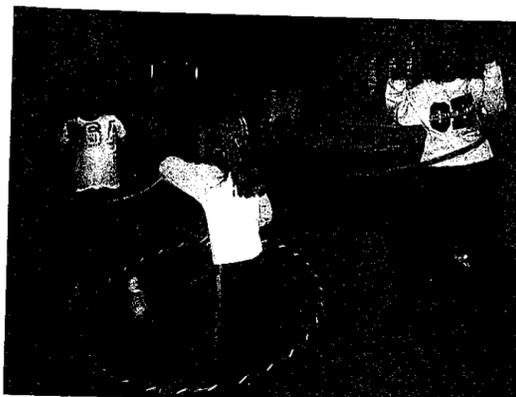
Above, Novi Junior Girl Scout Troop 2385 enjoys a beautiful sunny day up at Girl Scout Camp in Metamora. The troop consists of fourth graders from Orchard Hills, Deerfield and a home schooler.

Cupcakes at Parkview

Right, Parkview fourth grader Christopher Vera-Burgos enjoys a cupcake in honor of the birthday of author Dr. Seuss. Parkview volunteers distributed cupcakes to each student and used the celebration to kick off National Reading Month on March 7. Teachers also took the time to read Dr. Seuss books out loud to their classes on that day.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Hula Hoopin'

Orchard Hills first grade teacher Susan Anderson leads students doing the hula hoop as part of Fun Family Fitness Night on March 14.



Courtesy photo

Clown college

Students from Mrs. Walle's Orchard Hills Kindergarten students perform at the ABC-123 circus. Pictured from left to right are: Ian Hanley, Danny Savela, Olivia Ghannam and Noah Chasse

Bands perform well at district festival

By Patti and Charlie Hockett

On March 8 the three symphonic bands from Novi High School played a District Band Festival at Brighton High School. All three bands performed very well, but The Concert Band, under the direction of Assistant Band Director Matt Ovnly, received an overall Division II rating as did the Symphony Band under the direction of Director of Bands Mark Hourigan. These bands are very young, consisting of mostly freshmen.

The more experienced Wind Ensemble, also under the direction of Hourigan, received straight Division I ratings. It will proceed on to the State Band Festival to be held at Novi High School May 2-3.

At Festival each band performs three pieces before a panel of adjudicators, who then rate their performance on

all aspects of musicianship. They are then given a rating based on that performance from I - III. The bands then retire to a separate sight reading facility where they are rated on their sight reading abilities. All three bands received a 1 in sight reading.

The directors were very proud of the bands performances, and the Wind Ensemble is looking forward to performing at State Festival in May. That event will begin on Friday, May 2 in the late afternoon and continue on through Saturday at Novi High School. Admission is free and top rated bands and orchestras from around the state will be performing. All are welcome to attend.

Patti and Charlie Hockett are vice presidents of publicity for the Novi High School Band Boosters.



Courtesy Photo

Story time

Left, Novi Mayor Richard Clark shares a story with Orchard Hills second graders as part of March is Reading Month.



Courtesy photo

Book Fair

Students at Deerfield Elementary are able to buy their favorites during the school's book fair. It started on Monday and goes through tomorrow and all profits go toward purchases for the learning center. Parents may also purchase books on Wednesday, April 2 from 6-8 p.m. and Thursday, April 3, also from 6-8 p.m.

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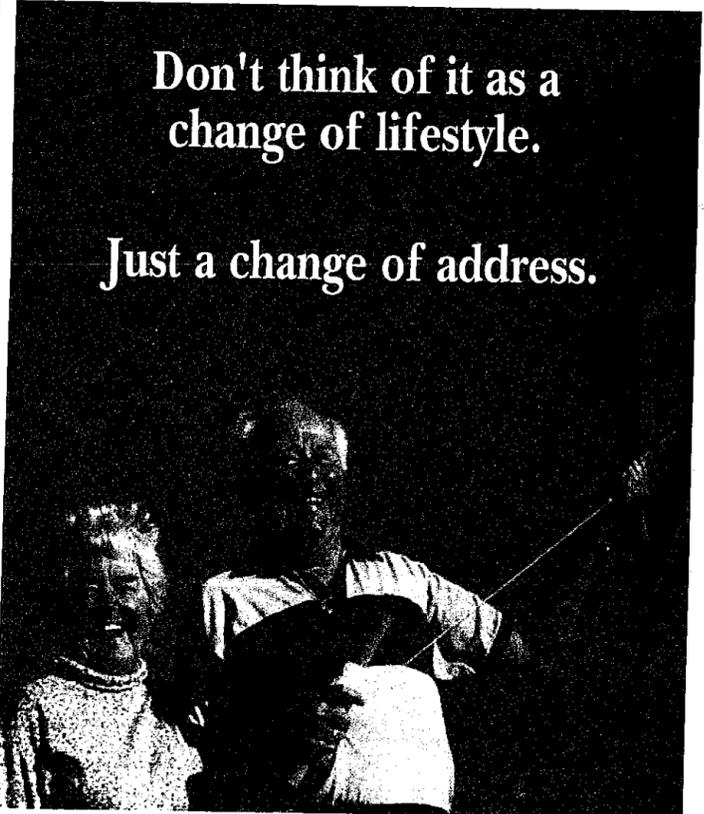
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

This operation is a great one

As the United States' war with Iraq gets under way, it's amazing how many people and organizations have come forward to show their support for the country's leaders and soldiers with programs meant to help the families of those serving in the armed forces.

To help organize all these efforts, State Sen. Valde Garcia, Michelle McManus and Laura Toy have sponsored a new umbrella program called Operation Adopt-a-Family, which provides information about the vast financial, emotional and spiritual support systems available in Michigan communities.

The operation is intended to help Michigan families in the deployment of their spouses or family members in three ways: 1) Local organizations will be enlisted to help families in their search to alleviate hardships directly resulting from the deployment of their spouses or parents; 2) Partnerships will be formed between the local organizations and public service

OPINION

novinews.com



Photo by John Heider

Red Hen and Sly Fox
Novi librarian Margi Karp-Opperer reads "Red Hen and Sly Fox" Monday morning to kindergarten students at Village Oaks Elementary School. Karp-Opperer visited the school as part of its celebration of March is Reading Month.

LETTERS

Why special treat for Catholic Central

I am writing today to inform the residents of the proposed ordinance change that will allow Catholic Central High School to remove and NOT REPLACE 2,500 trees to build their new high school/sports complex in Novi.

The ordinance currently says that if a developer removes trees with a diameter greater than 8 inches they must either replace the trees on their property, somewhere else in the city or pay into the city's tree fund for the city to use for tree replacement. They are claiming that it is a financial hardship to replace the trees.

They are building a \$35 million complex with a school, a 4,000 seat football stadium, multiple baseball/softball and practice fields on land valued at \$30 million that was donated to the school. They are before our City Council asking for a change to a 17-year-old ordinance so that they can have all of their sports facilities but not replace the trees.

The cost to pay into the tree fund is currently estimated to be \$90,000 plus. It was offered that the school use community service hours required by their student body and replace the trees over a period of years. In that situation it would cost an estimated \$250,000 over the years the project is done. This was suggested at last week's City Council meeting and the school was not responsive to that.

I am not against CC building in Novi and I realize they need to remove some trees to build on the donated site. However, they should be treated just like any other developer and have the tree ordinance enforced. A special exemption for one developer is going to get us in legal trouble with other developers in the future. Just last week in the Novi News there was an article about another church who is building on 13 mile and is waiting to see the outcome of the CC proposal so that they can possibly get the same exemption. Novi has had enough legal trouble. We don't need to open this can of worms.

If CC can't afford to build the proposed sports complex and comply with the ordinance then they should build the sports facilities in stages as they can afford them. The answer is not to leave our city with 2,500 less trees. Other churches in this city have done building and renovation projects and great costs to them. Why should CC with its politically connected alumni get an exemption?

The Planning Commission approved the site plan with the understanding that CC would meet the requirements of the tree ordinance. After receiving the Planning Commission's approval they introduced the proposed ordinance change to City Council. This seems rather underhanded. At the last two City Council meetings it appears that Mayor Clark, councilmen Cappolo, Landry and Csordas are willing to sacrifice the ordinance and the needs of our city for this special interest request. Let's watch closely as our elected officials (some of which are up for reelection this fall) make a decision to protect or give away 2500 trees in OUR city.

Mayor Clark. I will not make the mistake of voting for Mr. Clark again.
Laura Millichamp-Lawrence
Novi

Thank you, bowlers

We would like to thank the following for making the 21st annual Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon presented by St. John Health, Providence, and Brighton Hospital a great success. Thank you to the lane sponsor's Drs. Andrew, Efring, Jr. and Novak, Bank One, Cityscape Architects, Copper, Shifman, Gabe, Quin & Seymour, Dan's Auto Repair, Financial Planning & Investments, Hirtzel, Jackson & Swain, P.C., Kinko's, Liberty Tax Service, Nordstrom Samson Assoc., Novi Education Assoc., Novi Expo Center, Novi Family Bank & Mary O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Bob & Mary Parkins, Pilot 1, Provident Dentistry, Reelsound Audio Services, Mr. & Mrs. Hartland, Robin Aire Heating and Cooling, Spillane Orthodontics, Town & Country Eyecare and T-Mobile. Thanks to all the local businesses that made donations Ah Wok, Antonio's Cucina Italiana, Bank One Charter One, City of Novi, Coffee Trader, Detroit's Chiropactic Life Center, Domino's, Double Tree Hotel, Grand Coney Island, Hilton-Nowi, Kerby's Koney Island, Carolyn Kirin, Lifetime Fitness, Linda's Hair & More, The Little Flower Shop, Malsone's, Max Printing & Copy Center, Merynn's, Novi Community School, Novi Parks Recreation and Forestry, Novi Police Department, Picasso Cafe, President Tuxedo, Salon Agape, Steve & Rocky's, The Wyndham Garden Hotel, The Novi Seniors and Joan Morris. Thanks to all the bowlers who turned out to help support all of NYA programs.

Kim Wagner
Novi

Miffed at mayor

It is surprising that Mayor Richard Clark would disregard the vast amount of experience, knowledge and competence that John Chambers, CPA and Kathy Mutch have generously given to Novi and to our library. Based on Victoria Sadlocha's article, Mr. Chambers and Ms. Mutch are incredibly qualified individuals and Novi is certainly fortunate to have such community-minded individuals volunteering for any office. This is just one more disappointment Mayor Clark has presented to the citizens of Novi. Mr. Chambers and Ms. Mutch have apparently given many years of dedicated, unselfish volunteer service to the people of Novi and they deserve better thanks and certainly more respect than such shabby treatment from

John P. O'Brien
Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon Committee

Show your bravery and leave town

Chicago-based ShopperTrak reports U.S. retail sales have fallen nearly 10 percent since the beginning of the war with Iraq. Northwest Airlines is blaming the war for a fall off in business leading to the layoff of 4,900 employees, including nearly 1,000 in our neighborhood.

Local travel agents are concerned that their phones aren't ringing. And well they should be, phones not ringing today means other people won't be working tomorrow.

Quite simply put, one of the most patriotic things you could do today is leave town.

Go to Disney World. See Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin in southwest Wisconsin and take a boat ride through the Dells. Book a room at Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada, Fla. and watch the sun set from the second floor bar of Worldwide Sportsman.

It may not be as gutsy a move as riding up the highway to Baghdad with the Third Infantry Division, but it's no less important.

We have harbored their oil. They can harm our economy simply by scaring us.

Think of it as the modern equivalent of the Benjamin Franklin thoughts on want in 1757. "For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost. If resort owners don't fill their rooms, they don't buy cars, there are layoffs at Wixom Ford. If there are layoffs at Wixom Ford, people don't shop in your store.

Do the right thing, leave town.

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.

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: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

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OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@ht.homecomm.net

Don't expect a budget resolution anytime soon

Those interested in how Michigan's budget crisis is going to turn out are in for a long wait. I don't expect Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the legislature to finally resolve the \$1.8 billion deficit for the fiscal year that begins this October until the very last moment.

To understand why, you need only to identify the powerful interests whose oxen were gored by Granholm's initial budget proposal and to watch how these interests will be lobbying the legislature to stanch the wounds. Consider this very non-inclusive list:

- Organized labor, which represents thousands of state employees whose wage increases are now at risk from Granholm's budget cuts.
- Michigan's 15 public universities and 29 community colleges, whose appropriations have already been cut by 3.5 percent and which face another 6.5 percent cut in the governor's proposed budget.
- The families of thousands of Michigan high school seniors who scored well on the MEAP test and who had expected thereby to earn a \$2,500 state-funded scholarship to college. Gov. Granholm's budget proposes to cut this to \$500.

These are non-trivial constituencies, and there are many, many more. The lobbying intensity, the partisan disagreements between Democrat Granholm and the GOP-dominated legislature, will be intense, time-consuming and very, very political.

Another factor, less immediately obvious, is the peculiar pressure cooker atmosphere that pervades the six square blocks around the state capitol. Simply put, this atmosphere is at once completely consumed with politics and entirely insular. Legislators typically arrive in Lansing in time for session on Tuesday morning. They don't spend literally all their time in the capitol and thrust of legislative duties — hearings, caucuses, phone calls, meetings, wheels and

acceptable (maybe even fair?) level of pain to all concerned.

2) The sudden realization that one simple step — delaying the scheduled reductions of the state income tax by 0.1 percent increments — will produce hundreds of millions in extra annual revenue. It does not take legislative genius to realize that the extra money would go a long way to solving the budget crisis and even save some important programs that would otherwise be killed or maimed. But this realization will inevitably be accompanied by loud cries that such a step amounts to a tax increase and that doing so amounts to certain political suicide.

Here's how the numbers work. The current state income tax rate is 4.1 percent of adjusted taxable income. As a result of tax cutting legislation passed during the Engler years, that rate is scheduled to go down to 3.9 percent in fiscal 2003 and to 3.9 percent in fiscal 2004. The main gas plicated because of the difference

between calendar year (used for tax purposes) and the state's fiscal year (which starts on October 1). The bottom line is that if the scheduled tax reductions for 2003 and 2004 are deferred, the result is around \$400 million in extra revenue for the state.

So the gut check will be whether the no-tax article of faith that drives so many decisions in a hermetically sealed and increasingly frantic legislature makes any difference at all to most folks who live or work outside the Capitol

Tough decision to be made

There is quite a decision looming around members of city council. Many fears against the ordinance amendment have been voiced.

For starters, could the amendment open up the doors to a future lawsuit against Novi because of the special circumstances behind its inception?

Even if authors of the ordinance feel it is air-tight, could another developer slip through?

Then there are the moral issues. Is it fundamentally OK to change a law for one entity?

What about all the other entities and residents who have complied with ordinance over the many years?

And more importantly, what about all the entities and residents who will still have to comply with the ordinance after CC is excused?

Additionally, if approved, what would the amendment say about Novi's dedication to woodlands and quality of life?

There are also those residents I have spoken to that add the school will bring more traffic and will be a taker of city resources instead of a giver because the institution will not pay property taxes.

That is not completely fair though. Just that out there there though because the school is offering to share its resources with the community and has worked very hard to meet and, in some circumstances, exceed city site plan guidelines.

What I take from the situation is CC is sincere with their request and their offer to give back to Novi in other ways in lieu of the

stated tree replacement ordinance. But is sincerity enough to get the job done?

As you can see, the decision is loaded.

Novi City Councilman David Landry said he is from the school where unique circumstances require unique responses.

What I take from the situation is CC is sincere with their request and their offer to give back to Novi in other ways in lieu of the stated tree replacement ordinance. But is sincerity enough to get the job done?

There is no doubt that is true. Having Catholic Central in Novi would be quite a feather in the city's cap, and there is no doubt some sort of arrangement should be attempted to help them out, but exactly how is the million dollar question.

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

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There is no doubt that is true. Having Catholic Central in Novi would be quite a feather in the city's cap, and there is no doubt some sort of arrangement should be attempted to help them out, but exactly how is the million dollar question.

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

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's annual charity auction takes place Saturday, April 12 at the Hilton. For a list of items being auctioned, turn to the back page. Call (248) 349-3745 for more information.

NOVI NEWS STAFF

Grace Perry - Publisher
gperry@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120

Cal Stone - Editor
cstone@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 113

Jennifer Walker - Asst. Exec.
jwalker@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102

Victoria Sadlocha - Staff Writer
vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 105

Phil Foley - Staff Writer
pfoley@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 108

Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer
rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 110

Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer
seggleston@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104

John Heider - Staff Photographer
jheider@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106

Karen Whitehart - Receptionist

Marcia Cronas - Receptionist
mrcronas@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700

Did You Know?

When you file an extension for your tax return, it extends the time to file, not to pay? If you owe taxes you need to send a payment in with the extension in order to avoid a penalty for late payment of taxes.

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Severe Weather Awareness Week prompts assembly

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

In the spirit of Severe Weather Awareness Week, Parkview Elementary School invited two local State Farm agents, Todd Krygiel and Kevin Thompson, to do a presentation on tornado safety to second and fourth grade students.

According to Krygiel, the purpose of the presentation was to educate the kids on the safety issues associated with tornadoes, flooding and thunderstorms. "Michigan has severe weather and State Farm sponsors the Severe Weather Campaign for the state of Michigan," he said. "My kids go to school here at Parkview, and I felt as though I would like to help the kids learn educational and safety issues. That was the sole purpose of it."

Students watched a video which showed what a tornado is and what kind of damage one can cause. After that, Thompson and Krygiel explained that a tornado can stay on the ground on average less than 40 minutes, going five miles. They also explained that a tornado watch means that the conditions in the atmosphere are right for a tornado, but a warning means that one has actually been spotted.

"I think the most important thing is that the kids know that, although it's fascinating and they could be scared, it's nothing to be scared of and they need to be able to know how to

react in different situations," Krygiel said. "If they see a tornado, we have given them the education to know that you go low, like a basement, or if there is a flood, you go high. It's important for kids, when they don't understand certain circumstances, to be taught. And as they get an education, just like for anybody, they know how to make better decisions."

Throughout the assembly, the two men gave away long distance phone cards to kids who answered their questions correctly. They also acknowledged five students who entered a severe weather poster contest.

"We had this contest in the beginning of February," Krygiel said. "I visited this school almost two months ago and spoke to the fourth grade class about what the program was and that they had an opportunity to make severe weather posters."

Nobody from Parkview won the statewide competition, but students were recognized for their efforts by Thompson and Krygiel.

"There were four winners in the state," Krygiel said. "The top winners get honors for school depending on what place they came in. The four top posters are being displayed in the state's capitol."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the *Now News*. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@lt.hon.com.net.



Photo by John Heider

Meteorologist Kevin Thompson answers some questions last Thursday morning at Novi's Parkview Elementary on his presentation on tornadoes.



Courtesy photo

Powerful point

Wendy Fosdick's fifth grade class at Novi Meadows put together powerpoint presentations using modern technology last week. "After the students got all their information down, they were able to go into the actual layout of the presentation and they could add various sounds and different side transitions," Fosdick said. "They were able to really spend some time and have some fun. I wanted them to see how technology can be fun and very useful for them at their age groups. This was a first for me as well. We do speeches in general, so this was tied in with the speech and they were evaluated on their overall presentation." Fosdick found that using the technology was a lot easier than she originally thought. "I think people sometimes think technology is hard and they are fearful of it," she said. "It is a little intimidating at first, but once you dive right into it and get started, it's easy. I observed from the children that they can do it so quickly and they can retain a lot of information. They were able to retrieve clip art from the Internet. It's very impressive."



Courtesy photo

Electric Charge

Highly Contagious Education visited Parkview on March 7 to talk to students about weather and climate. Presenter Marcey Walsh used water, a leaf blower and a smoke machine to discuss weather with students. Here she demonstrates how an electrical charge passes with the help of students Hannah Gurney and Paul Hoag.

CMU honors Subir Chowdhury

Novi resident Subir Chowdhury, a 1993 graduate of Central Michigan University's College of Science and Technology, has been chosen for CMU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

A dinner ceremony to honor Chowdhury and nine other alumni award recipients will take place at 6 p.m. March 29 at CMU's Finch Fieldhouse.

Chowdhury has made significant contributions to the manufacturing industry through his work in quality engineering and management.

He earned his master's degree in industrial management at CMU and is currently chairman and chief executive officer of ASI Consulting Group in Livonia. A respected quality strategist, his clients include global Fortune 500 companies as well as small organizations in both the private and public sectors.

Hailed by *The New York Times* as a "leading quality expert," Chowdhury is a best-selling business management author. More than a million copies of his recent books on Six Sigma have been sold, and the books have been translated into more than 20 languages. He is the author of nine published books, including the international best sellers "The Power of Six Sigma: An Inspiring Tale of How Six Sigma is Transforming the Way We Work," "Design for Six Sigma," "The Talent Era" and "Management 21C: Same Old We'll Manage This Way."

Most engineering and business schools throughout the world use Chowdhury's engineering and management books in undergraduate and graduate programs.

The American Society for Quality named him one of the "Voices of Quality in the 21st Century." He was honored as one of the "40 under 40" rising business people by *Crain's Detroit Business*.

Chowdhury has received numerous international awards for his leadership in quality management and major contributions to various industries worldwide. He was honored by the Automotive Hall of Fame, and the Society of Automotive Engineers awarded him its most prestigious recognition, the Henry Ford II distinguished Award for Excellence in automotive engineering. He also received the honorable U.S. Congressional Recognition and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers' Gold Medal. In May 2003, the American Society for Quality will honor him with the first Philip Crosby Medal for writing the most influential business book on Six Sigma.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 03-006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Brookhaven Development LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow one construction trailer at 5022-23-451-001 (Brookhaven Subdivision), Ra 42400 Ten Mile Road from April 2, 2003 until April 2, 2004.

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

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on April 2, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to April 2, 2003.

SARAH MARCHIONI
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415
(3-27-03 NN 45993)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 03-007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Art Van Furniture is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a tent sale at 27775 Novi Road (Art Van Furniture) from April 4 - 8 and April 11 - 14, 2003.

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

This request will be considered at 3:15 p.m. on April 2, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to April 2, 2003.

SARAH MARCHIONI
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415
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PBS star shines at home show

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Roger Swain, the longest running host for PBS' popular "Victory Garden," will bring his trademark red suspenders and Amish-style beard to the Novi Expo Center next weekend for the 7th Annual Spring Home & Garden Show presented by Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA).

Swain did his first bit, a two-minute segment on the onion, for "Victory Garden" in 1987, and that led to a 15-year run with the show and more than 500 episodes.

While many people identify the show by Swain's jutting jaw and flapping square-cut beard, he was actually the show's third host. WGBH, PBS' Boston affiliate began producing the show as "Crockett's Victory Garden" in 1977 with James Underwood Crockett as host and Russell Morash as executive producer.

In the third season Crockett died and was replaced by another venerable New England horticulturist, Bob Thomson. Swain was brought in as Thomson's "side-kick" when Thomson's health began to fail. So, when PBS fans turned on their televisions this season and saw a clean-shaven face following the opening credits, many of them thought Swain too had gone on to that great compost pile in the sky.

However, Swain in his office at Horticulture Magazine in Boston, where he's been science editor since 1978, insisted he's very much alive. "I'm only 52," he declared.

Swain's tenure as host of "Victory Garden" ran afoul of the vagaries of corporate wheeling and dealing. While "Victory Garden" was the oldest of three shows produced by Morash for WGBH, it was the weakest financially. "Most pockets in green industry," explained Swain, "are very shallow."

That was not true of the underwriters for Morash's second show, the wildly popular "This Old House," or it's spin-off, "The New Yankee Craftsman." Eventually all three shows shared budget, production crew and locations.

"Most people don't know Norm's workshop was my garden shed," Swain laughed.

Eventually, "This Old House's" success drew the attention of media giant Time Warner, which bought the show and its magazine from Morash last year. Swain said WGBH's management rejected an offer to buy "Victory Garden," but without "This Old House" to subsidize its costs, they opted to cancel the show, keeping only its name and theme music.

"All good things come to an end," he said.

That means Swain will be touting a new show when he arrives in Novi for his fifth visit. Four months after being "retired" by WGBH, Swain was approached by Paul Tukey, owner/editor of "People, Places & Plants," a regional gardening magazine

based in Maine, who convinced him to help make a gardening television show of the same name. Unlike "Victory Garden," which has been a PBS staple for decades, Swain's new show is being directly marketed to commercial television stations. He said it opened with a half dozen New England stations in March and he hopes to see it go national within a year. Swain said the show's producers are already talking to a Detroit television station.

Swain, who spends a fair amount of time on the garden show circuit, said he looks forward to coming to Novi. "I like the state," he said, "I've spent so much time in Michigan, it feels like a home coming."

He said one of the things he likes about the Novi show is how many people come back year after year and want to share with him how his advice from the previous year worked out.

"I don't do much give speeches as hold conversations," he said. He said the one bad thing about coming to Novi in early spring is that so many people want him to see their garden. "I've seen the bones of more gardens," he chuckled. "They always say the same thing, 'You should see this in August. Well, I'm on my farm in New Hampshire in August.'"

Swain said he's looking forward to "teaching people the 10 steps to a B-plus lawn." He added, "In a time when we're looking for something that we can unite behind, let it be gardening." He

called it the "glue of community, because it allows us to be generous."

In addition to hosting "Victory Garden" and serving as "Horticulture Magazine's" science editor Swain has written five books on plants and gardening and, in 1992, the Ph.D. received the American Horticultural Society Award for writing "The Massachusetts Horticultural Society honored him with its Gold Medal in 1996 for his 'power to inspire others.'"

Joining Swain at the show will be more than 200 exhibitors offering the latest products and services to help homeowners with their spring home and garden projects.

"The Spring Home & Garden show is ideal for those who have a home or garden project planned, or even those who are just thinking about one," said Steve Perlman, BIA president.

"Everything you can imagine for the home and garden is here, as well as hundreds of the areas top experts to answer questions and get you started."

Along with Swain, Nancy Lindley, Michigan's Rose Lady, who will give tips on rose growing and WXYT's Handyman, Joe Gagnon and WJR's Mr. Home Improvement, Murray Gula, will be on hand to talk about how to fix things inside the house.

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

IF YOU GO

7th Annual Spring Home and Garden Show
Presented by Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan.
Novi Expo Center, I-96 and Novi Road
Friday, April 4
12 Noon - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 6
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TICKETS:
Adults: \$6; Seniors: \$5
Children under 12 will be admitted FREE

FEATURES: More than 200 exhibitors offering the latest technology, products and services for the Home and Garden, including: kitchens, baths, doors, windows, remodeling, furniture, arts and crafts, home office, decorative accessories, spas, electronics, heating and cooling, appliances, and garden supplies, designs and tools.

Featured attractions of the show include:

- Detroit Tigers' former announcer, Ernie Harwell on Sunday, April 6, from 1-3 p.m.
- Roger Swain, of PBS' "The Victory Garden," at the Garden Theater
- Parade of Homes, featuring a pictorial display of new homes
- WXYT's Handyman, Joe Gagnon
- WJR's Mr. Home Improvement, Murray Gula
- Clear Channel's "Dear John" complete bathroom makeover contest
- Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes

For additional information, please call (248) 862-1019 or visit www.builders.org.

Call Jane Thomas at (248) 349-1950 to volunteer your services for the Music & Motor Fest.

NOVI CITY BRIEFS

Easter Egg-streme

The City of Novi invites all families to take part in Easter Eggstravaganza Saturday, April 12. The fun-filled day will include games, prizes and crafts along with special holiday cheer. More information will be coming soon, but remember to keep the date open.

Memorial Day Parade

Calling all groups and businesses interested in being part of the City of Novi 2003 Memorial Day Parade. The annual event will serve as a special opportunity to bring recognition to those who have served our country. Entry forms are available at the Novi, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department or by visiting the

city's Web site at www.ci.novi.mi.us. The parade will take place 10 a.m. Monday, May 26. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, May 2, Confirmation and instructions will be provided by mail. For more information, call Tracie Ringle at (248) 347-0400.

Please see BRIEFS back page

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

File art show
DATE: through April 19
TIME: week hours: M-F: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., weekends: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center's Gate VI Gallery
DETAILS: Jeannette Givens exhibits silkprint and watercolor art.
PHONE: (248) 596-1270 or vgeschj12@yahoo.com

Seventh Annual Spring Home and Garden Show
DATE: Friday, April 4-Sunday, April 6
TIME: Friday, noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center, 136 and Novi Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Adults \$5, children \$2.50. Children under 12 will be admitted FREE. Featuring the latest technology, products and services for the Home and Garden. WXYZ's Handyman, Joe Gagnon, WJBK's Mr. Home Improvement, Murray Gita will be featured attractions of the show.
PHONE: Please call 248-362-1019 or visit www.homeshow.com

City Rose Gardens
DATE: Friday, April 4
TIME: 7:30-9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: Diane Schmitt of Birmingham will present a slide program of rose gardens; free and open to the public.
PHONE: (248) 449-4626

Saturday Strzler - Diabetes Support Group
DATE: Saturday, April 5
TIME: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Bostford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River Avenue, located between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi
DETAILS: The Diabetes Management Program at Bostford Center for Health Improvement presents "10,000 Steps to Good Health," which is open to persons with diabetes and their loved ones. From this remarkable resource for controlling diabetes and optimizing health, participants will learn weight loss strategies from a registered dietitian and fitness tips from a personal trainer.
PHONE: (248) 477-6100

Wixom Library used book sale
DATE: April 10-12
TIME: 7:30 p.m. - 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Public Library, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Hardbacks will cost \$1, paperbacks will cost 50¢, in addition to some

OH-GOING
Adoption Playgroup
DATE: First and Third Fridays of the month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Rd. between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River Rd.)
DETAILS: We are a not-for-profit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Our twice a month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation. During the summer, we meet at specially designated times and locations.
PHONE: For more information contact Michelle Pergeau 248-887-9555 or Sandra Norman 248-960-3257.

Church of the Holy Cross Lenten Studies
Tuesdays, through May 20, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Study of The Gospel according to Mark with The Rev. Fred Brunson, beginning with a pot luck supper.
Wednesdays, through April 16, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The Spiritual Disciplines, beginning with simple supper of soup and bread.
Thursdays, through April 10, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. An Introduction to People of the Bible.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi
PHONE: 248-349-1175.

Paintings on Display - Novi resident artist
DATE: March-on going
TIME: M-F: 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Picasso's Cafe, 39915 Grand River, Novi. (W. of Haggerty.)
DETAILS: Barbara Eko Murphy of Novi will have watercolor paintings on display.

Business referrals
DATE: every Wed. ongoing
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.
TIME: 7: 8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
PHONE: (734) 462-6460 for specifics

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.

Cassio's Coffee & Conversation
DATE: Friday, May 2
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Leon's of Novi, 39455 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Senator Nancy Cassio, R-Nowi, will be hosting her first of regular Cassio's Coffee & Conversation hours for people in the 15th District. All constituents are welcome to come and take part in discussing issues facing western Oakland County.
PHONE: 888-38-NANCY

Robbers sought
By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER
 The investigation continues into finding out who kidnaped two Ferret Township residents by gunpoint and drove them to Novi to rob \$1 million in jewels from a West Oaks Mall store.
 The investigation continues and we are working it with several different fronts," said Detective Sgt. David Molloy of the Novi Police Department.
 Three gunmen are suspected in the crime involving a female manager of Jared Galleria where the men stole diamonds and watches and then fled the scene in a gold 2001 Chrysler Strling with a black soft top.
 Novi Police said that on Wednesday, March 19 at about 9:30 p.m., three men with weapons were hiding in the garage of Leonard and Deborah Harrington's property when they arrived home.
 Police said the couple was then forced inside, tied up and robbed of their personal jewelry.
 The couple's 22-year-old son was also bound after he came home to the crime.
 Novi Police said early the next morning, one of the gunmen took Deborah to the Novi jewelry store she manages.
 Preliminary investigations indicate the robbers knew the woman managed the store and was a reason the family was targeted, police said.
 Novi detectives in charge of the case said while in the store, the suspect stuffed a bag with watches and jewelry totaling \$1 million.
 Half of the total value taken was in watches and the other half included necklaces and diamonds.
 After the man fled, the woman contacted Novi police.
 Police said the other two men still guarding the father and son in their Genesee County home fled around January 28.
 Molloy said reward money totaling up to \$10,000 is being offered through Sterling Jewelers, the parent company of Jared Galleria.
 Anyone with information call the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100 or Crime Stoppers at (800) 773-2587.

New TOPS chapter in Novi
DATES: Wednesdays
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in, 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: \$20 yearly membership registration, includes handbook, \$1/meeting.
 New members welcome.

Oakland County Health Division breastfeeding support sessions
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake.
DETAILS: Information covered includes pumping, solving common problems associated with breastfeeding, taking care of mom, growth and development of the breastfeeding infant including: growth spurts, starting solids, and weaning.
PHONE: (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: First Nazarene Church, Haggerty near Eight Mile Road
TIME: 7: 8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
PHONE: For more information, call Colleen at (248) 685-9226.

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, starting January 28.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: There is no need to call ahead and register.
PHONE: If you have any questions, call Colleen at (248) 937-5017.

Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@tl.homecomm.net.



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Here's a partial list of items to be auctioned at the Novi Chamber of Commerce's April 12 benefit for the Michigan Cancer Center at Providence Hospital. For more information, call (248) 349-3743.

- Travel certificates
- Gift Certificate one free birthday party
- Anti-therapy Basket
- Green glass vase & framed art
- Weight Scale
- Beautiful toy box
- Model cars
- Package of 3 Natural Healing Books
- 2 Cases wine
- Dinner Certificate 2
- Spa Baking Stones
- Dinner for 2
- Gift Certificate one week at ...
- Utah Mexico
- Outdoor folding chair
- Bottles of wine
- Dinner for 6
- 2 tickets to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- Suits 213 @ Palace of Auburn Hills
- Pizza Coupons
- Gift Certificate One night stay in deluxe suite
- Radio Cassette Stereo CD (A1WA)
- 5-1lb. Bags of coffee beans & 10 travel mugs
- Weekend Car rental up to full size
- Golf for 2 (18 holes + cart)
- Deluxe furnished dollhouse
- Flexible garage organizing system
- \$55 Certificate for Seacape Pedicure
- \$1,500 in Orthodontic Treatment
- Small table lamp (waterford crystal)
- Dinner for 4 Certificate
- Mirror
- Figurine by Lladro
- Deluxe 1 night stay w/breakfast & manager's reception
- Custom made piece of jewelry
- Oriental Rug and Lamp
- Yellow Harley Motorcycle
- Body care gift basket
- Dallas Cowboys #22 Jersey (Enmett Smith)
- Guitar
- Signed 13x20 picture of the "Russian 5"
- 4 Tiger tickets & parking pass
- Kitchen Utensils
- Puppy Gift Certificate
- Easter Gift Basket
- Herbalife Nutrition Basket
- Dinner Certificate for 4
- 4 Tiger tickets & parking pass
- 20-gallon freshwater aquarium system
- 2-1lb. Bags of Coffee Beans
- A Day at the Capitol with Sen. Cassis
- A Day at the Capitol with Rep. DeRoche



- Gift Certificate 18 holes of golf for 4 people with carts
- Nautica Sunglasses
- Variety of toys
- Spa package
- U.S. Flag flown over U.S. Capitol w/dated Certificate
- Writing desk and chair
- One week rental of a Lincoln
- 20-gallon freshwater aquarium system
- Detroit Pistons autographed Ball
- Tanglewood Golf package including cart
- Dinner package for 4 at Pages DVD/CD player from Paulson's Audio and Video
- Red Wings Home Jersey and Stanley Cup02 Hat
- Dinner for three at Outback Steakhouse
- Franklin Covey Day Planner and accessories
- Panera Bread once a month for a year
- Embassy Suites overnight weekend package
- TPC Golf package with cart included

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NOVI CITY BRIEFS

continued from page 19

Calling all Veterans

On Sunday, June 22 at 1 p.m., the City of Novi will recognize the men and women of our community and the surrounding area serving in the armed forces from 1945 to 2003 at the Veteran's Recognition Day event. This event will honor veterans of the Cold War, Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Somalia and Kosovo. Additionally, we recognize that many men and women in our area have been called to active duty from the Reserves or National Guard Units and, while they may not be able to attend, we would ask that their families join us so we can honor them. Please contact the City of Novi Community Relations

Office, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 or (248) 735-5628 for a registration form for this event.

Annie
The Novi Theatres' Performance Plus, Children's Annex and Little People Players is proud to present its production of "Annie." Tickets for the musical will be on sale at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department beginning April 1. All reserved seats are \$17. Performances will take place at the Novi Civic Center Friday, May 9 through Saturday, May 10 and Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

Annual Ice Show
The Novi Ice Arena's annual ice review titled "At the Movies" will take place this weekend. Come and

see area skaters perform to some big screen hits. Performances will be held 7 p.m. Friday, March 28 and 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the arena or at the door. The Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Arena Drive, east of Novi Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads. For more information, call (248) 347-1010.

Novi Ice Arena
The Novi Ice Arena offers open skating Monday through Friday from noon to 1:50 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 4:50 p.m. The charge for the Monday through Friday sessions is \$2. Open skate on Saturday is \$4 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. Skate rental is \$2. The Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Arena Drive, east of Novi Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads. For more information, call (248) 347-1010 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

DeRoche Breakfast Club
State Rep. Craig DeRoche's next breakfast meeting will take place Friday, April 11, at the Novi Expo Center. The topic of discussion will be "The Tax Cutting Agenda" and will feature guest speaker U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia). A legislative update will also be provided by DeRoche. The intent of the "DeRoche Breakfast Club" is for the former councilman to meet with leaders in the community to have a dialog on timely, important topics. The one-hour, 7:30 a.m. program is free to the public. However, a breakfast buffet is available for \$15. A coffee-and-conversation session will take place before the program at 7 a.m. The event will take place in the McKenzie Room inside the center at 43700 Expo Center Drive. For reservations, please call Shanna Wycoff at (517) 373-0827.

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Just like that and it's gone

Former Wildcat Fred Napier falls victim to budget cuts as Michigan Tech axes football program

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Over 80 years of football tradition and it disappears in an instant — or that's how it seemed to the players at least.

The Michigan Tech Huskies, a Division II program out of Houghton in the Upper Peninsula, announced March 18 that the football program would be eliminated — effective immediately.

The move came in the midst of an extremely challenging financial situation for Tech.

"Everyone needs to understand the crisis that the state and the university are in financially," MTU football coach Bernie Anderson said. "With such a large deficit, (cutting) football was an answer to all the problems in the athletic department. It is an opportunity for other programs to become stronger at the expense of one program."

Unfortunately, the removal of the football program means the end of an era — and the possible end of an athletic career for players such as Fred Napier. Napier, a runningback with the Huskies, was an all-around athlete for the Novi Wildcats during his years there. Hockey, football and lacrosse were some of the sports that he earned recognition in — and the future seemed bright for the freshman.

"I made third-string and beat out two other runningbacks (for the position)," Napier said. "I traveled with the varsity on

away games and learned a lot. It was a lot different than the football at Novi. Instead of option football, Tech runs power with big linemen blocking for you."

Napier said that he and the other Huskies were waiting for the coaching staff to show up for the squad's morning run and once they did they brought with them the news of the program being cut.

"It was a big surprise," he said. "Everyone was very shocked. I've never seen so many men cry in a single room before. A lot of seniors just stood there, amazed, because they were told that their careers had just come to an end."

Football at Michigan Tech began in 1920 and through the years they have been under the leadership of 14 different head coaches — the winningest of all being Anderson with 73 wins.

"There's this hallway we have with about 50 yards of football pictures," Napier said. "Just football pictures. There are no hockey, basketball or volleyball galleries, but there is a football gallery. There are pictures of All-Americans and all of the old teams. There is so much history, and they decided to cut it."

For players like Napier, there are options. With the ax falling on the football team, he and his fellow graders are allowed to search elsewhere in hopes of gaining a scholarship with another team. Those who choose not to look elsewhere

"They train these students and this faculty to be creative leaders and problem solvers. That's what we want to be, is leaders of an opportunity to find a solution and not just leaders of a program that's been eliminated."

Bernie Anderson
Michigan Tech University Head Football Coach

will continue to receive their scholarship assistance through their graduation as long as they remain in good academic standing.

"For the guys that are pursuing business degrees it shouldn't be a problem," Napier said.

"They can pretty much go to any school for that. Guys who are in engineering like myself don't have a lot of choice. There aren't many good engineering schools in Michigan with a good football team."

Napier noted the removal of the program came at a time when the Huskies were poised to be a power in a conference that had three nationally-ranked teams in 2002 — including the national champions from Grand Valley State.

"It came at our best time," Napier said. Anderson agreed. "There is no question that

we've worked hard to build this program," he said. "We were very optimistic based on those we have returning in the next two years. We've been playing with a sophomore-heavy program and for the next two years we will have a very veteran team."

Anderson wasn't speaking in the past tense like many might expect. Instead, his hope and that of the team is that the football program will be able to keep the doors open.

"As you'd expect, the alumni have responded in great numbers and have expressed their concerns," he said. "They would like to see the do re-opened."

Anderson said that he's asked his team to wait a week before looking at other colleges and universities — a request that Napier said that he and many of his teammates have complied with. "We are going to continue to work for a way to keep the door

open," Anderson said. "We only have a week, so time is against us."

The projected numbers indicate that for the program to continue operating, the Huskies will have to come up with a substantial sum of money.

"It would take 10 million dollars to solve all of the problems," Anderson said, responding to a figure that was indicated by the university. "If we had 10 million dollars, we would mathematically be able to run the program for 25 years without running out and that doesn't include interest. We want to work on and explore a real number."

And that's what Michigan Tech teaches student like Napier to do.

"They train these students and this faculty to be creative leaders and problem solvers," Anderson said. "That's what we want to be, is leaders of an opportunity to find a solution and not just leaders of a program that's been eliminated."

Anderson noted that he is optimistic about the program's continued existence.

"I'm optimistic, but I'll have to leave it at that," he said. "There is great work to be done, but I'm optimistic. In the next few days, if we're given the chance, time will tell."

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

Time for a tweak?

Sometimes, a writer sits back and wonders if what they are producing is what their readership wants. Well, today I am one of those writers.

I guess, as a sports writer, I often wonder if those who pick up my section each week enjoy or dislike the product. Is there more I can do? Is there a different angle I should take?



Sam Eggleston

For the most part, I don't get much feedback. Occasionally I get an email or a phone message saying that a particular reader did or didn't appreciate a story I wrote or the way I reported on it, but other than that I have no clue to what the readers want.

Learning the ropes at daily newspapers taught me one thing — the fans want to know what happened in a game. It's true that each week we put out a game report based on the happenings and we go into a pertinent amount of detail on those events. A recent thought brought to my attention is that maybe the readers of a weekly community paper like this one don't want that type of information. Maybe, instead, they want to read about the athletes and the coaches instead of game reports that are a week old.

Sure, we would still report on the scores and who scored, but there would be a lot less of the breakdowns of each event and what transpired that day. Instead, the simple numbers would tell the tale while the writing would gear more towards those who play the sports.

I guess what I'm asking is to hear from you, the readers. You know what you want and how you want it. Are you happy with the game reports and what they tell you, or would you rather see the figures and then see more in the way of feature stories in these pages?

I'm sure that many of you will be more than happy to lend me your opinion. Don't worry, the names of those who make comments won't make their way into the paper, though I would appreciate that if you want to give your opinion that you leave a name and a number for me to discuss it with you. That's really the only way I can adjust the sports section and what it brings to you on a weekly basis.

Remember, this is a lot like voting. If you like the pages the way they are, you'll have to let me know that. If you dislike them, I'll need to hear that opinion too. If you don't bother to write in or call me, then I'll have to form my judgment based on those who did.

If you're interested in making a comment, feel free to call me at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or email me at seggleston@ht.hometownlife.com.

The more people I hear from, the better. We want to bring you the best sports section around, and the only way we can do that is if you let us know what makes it the best.

Any comment is welcome, and ideas are always accepted — though not always used. During weeks in which sports are slow, or during the summer months, stories are much more likely to make their way into the paper, where during the high school sports season my attention is pretty much on the high schools and the sports those athletes play.

I hope to hear from a whole bunch of you soon. The best kind of sports section is that which the readers are eager to pick up each week — and I want this sports section to be the one that you're looking forward to.

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

Want to play old-school ball?

Wayne Titus and the Eclipse Baseball Club are looking to recreate the true and pure baseball experience in Northville

By Pauline Lupercio
and Sam Eggleston
STAFF WRITERS/SPORTS WRITER

Do you ever look at modern sports and just think about how great it would be if they still had the purity of days long past?

Wayne Titus did, and now he's decided to do something about it.

Titus, a Northville resident, found himself being asked about his vintage-baseball uniform that he wore during the Victorian Festival — from there spawned the idea that Northville would be a great area to start a squad in.

"I used to play vintage baseball and I wore my uniform (at the Victorian Festival)," Titus said and noted that was about the time the idea came to him. "Someone walked past and recognized my uniform and asked me if I had played for the team. I started thinking how neat it would be and what a great town Northville would be for a vintage baseball team."

And from that idea has risen the Eclipse Baseball Club. Playing by the rules of the game as adhered to between 1855-1870, the club will have players outfitted in replicas of the original uniforms and is expected to play the inaugural season at Northville's Ford Field.

Besides getting out and hitting the ball around, the club also wants to promote the great game itself.

"We're forming because I love baseball and I want to promote an



Submitted Photo

This is just an example of one of the old-style vintage teams with their uniforms, bat and ball. Note that there isn't a single glove in sight — that's because there weren't any yet.

understanding the history of the great American past time," Titus said. "The second reason is to attract interest and to support families coming to downtown

Northville and the Millrace Village programs, and really sharing with everybody what a beautiful town we have."

The club will need at least nine players and an umpire, but Titus noted that it would be nice to have a tally keeper and some "cranks" — a term to describe the fans of the sport. If more than nine players sign up, Titus noted that it would be possible for two teams to form.

"A lot of people have asked for requirements," he said. "You don't need an A in history or a baseball scholarship. All you need is a love for the game or a love of history. It will fit either bill."

Everyone is welcome to participate in the club, and registration is going to be through Northville Parks and Recreation. And if you're old and gray and still want to throw the ball around, it's not a problem either — there are no age requirements.

"I have played against teams that have had gentlemen on their teams in their 80s," Titus said of his days

playing with the Canal Fulton Mules in Ohio. "The usual age is 20s to 70s."

And what about equipment? Can a player bring out the Spaulding baseball glove? Nope. There were no gloves being utilized in that era of the game. "We only have a bat, a ball and flour bags for the bases," Titus said. "Gloves weren't used until much later."

The club is expected to consist of two "series" of matches and stretches from mid-June to the first weekend in October. Some of the away series will take players on the road to museums, parks and other Michigan locations. In addition to the Mill Race nine series and the away series, the club is expected to participate in two or more vintage tournaments too.

If an interested player is thinking that this is going to be like their high school days, they better think again. In a vintage game during the Victorian Festival between the Northville Eclipse and the

Plymouth Lone Star, the final score came out to something along the lines of 55-30 — after three and a half hours of play.

"It was a fast paced game," Titus said. "Baseball was not a slow game back then."

There will be an informational meeting held on Monday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northville township hall, located at 41600 Six Mile Road. Registration will follow through the first week of April. Cost to register is \$30 and the purchase of your own costume (\$75-\$100). For more information, please contact Wayne Titus at (734) 673-2810.

Pauline Lupercio is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 109 or by e-mail at plupercio@ht.hometownlife.com.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at seggleston@ht.hometownlife.com.

BETTER CHECK YOUR DICTIONARY

Wanna be a pitcher? How about a catcher? Well, if you want to take up those positions in vintage baseball, you better brush up on your lingo.

A batter in the game as it was played between 1855-1870 was known as a striker. The logic is quite simple, as a striker is the player that struck the ball.

A pitcher? Well, back then you would have known them as a hurler thanks to the throws coming down from the mound. Pitching wasn't associated with the game for some time and actually came from the pitching of horse shoes.

A catcher was known as the behind. Though plenty of jokes could come from that, the idea was that the catcher was practically the backstop of the game — and is "behind" the striker.

Oh, and the stands aren't filled with fans either. In those days, cranks were the ones that wanted to root, root, root for the home team. And there weren't score keepers either — they were known as tally keepers then.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats

TO CHANGE OR NOT TO CHANGE

Stephanie Sabo earns All-American

Denison University swimmer helps 200 freestyle relay team to second-place finish in the country in Division III national finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's not every day that a swimmer can see they made the All-American team. Northville's Stephanie Sabo can attest to that.

Sabo, a junior at Denison University in Ohio, earned All-American status after she was part of the Big Red's 200 freestyle relay team that took second in the Division III competition with a time of 1:35.40. The relay team was comprised of sophomore Sarah Peck, junior Christy Hlavach, Sabo and senior Erin Stanky.

"It hasn't really hit me yet," Sabo said in a phone interview. "When I was up there standing on the podium, I was just looking down at everyone. My parents were clapping. After having a rough first two years, to find that feeling made it all worth it. I was an amazing feeling."

Sabo didn't go to be a part of the winning team though. Instead, her coaches decided that she would help them out by swimming the preliminaries.

"I was there to just pretty much back up for the prelims," Sabo said. "It was so our somewhat

decent swimmers didn't have to swim. I had a really fast time and I ended up staying for the afternoon and the finals."

Sabo noted that the word didn't come until the coaching meeting when the team was informed that thanks to the impressive preliminary time for the 200 free relay, the squad would be staying the same through the final day of competition.

"We were at the meeting, talking about who would swim, and the coach said that he wanted to keep it the same as that morning," Sabo said. "My mouth dropped. I was like 'Are you joking?'"

As if being in the national finals didn't bring enough pressure to Sabo and her fellow Big Red tankers, a television crew from CBS was present for a documentary on Division III swimming.

"That added so much pressure," Sabo noted. "I do well under pressure though, but I don't know why. It helped me swim better."

Sabo, who graduated from Northville High School in 2000, earned her All-American nod after two rough years at Denison — two years that have found her stretching her major to keep up with the pressures of swimming, scholastic

and the demands of an academic scholarship.

"I'd much rather be on an academic scholarship than an athletic scholarship," Sabo said. "I prefer to be expected to perform in the classroom than in the pool."

Sabo maintains a GPA of about 3.0 while studying for a communications major with a biomedical studies minor. She noted that with all of her time dedicated to swimming and school, it's nice to have a group of people to support her.

Her father and mother, Joseph and Barbara, make it to as many meets as they can along with Sabo's little brother Brandon — including the nationals in Atlanta. She also has major support from her roommates Christy, Meghan and Carrie.

"They are all amazing," she said. "My roommates come to all the home meets and they make posters. They are all over in our room right now and the decorate it before each meet."

Sabo said that she's planning on swimming her senior year, but at the same time she is enjoying the break from the rigorous schedule.

"I would swim five hours a day and my time in class changed

depending on the day," she said. "I was always studying or swimming. Now, I have a little more time to get things done, though the procrastination is starting to stick in."

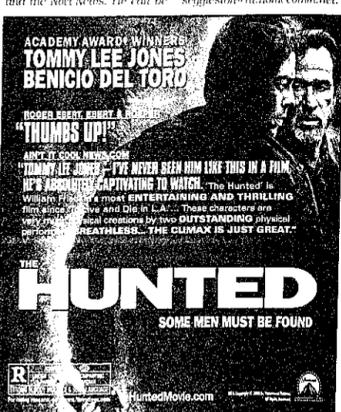
Swimming in Division III is something that Sabo enjoys doing, but she also knows that when it comes to athletics and college, her education is what comes first.

"Education is definitely more important," Sabo said, who is looking at a possible career in mediation negotiation. "I always look at my education and then at sports secondly. The coaches are very supportive of that too. They are always there and help out when they can by getting us tutors. They believe that academics come first and then swimming."

Now that she knows what she's capable of, will Sabo be in the hunt to repeat her performance?

"In the big meets, when I'm tapered and rested I'll probably be able to get to the break-out times more," she said. "In the normal season, probably not. The times are definitely improving, especially now that I know what I feel like."

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 eggleston@h1.homecomm.net.



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SPORTS SHORTS

Basketball tryouts slated

The Northville NOYS Basketball Club will be having its annual basketball tryouts April 2 and April 3 from 6-9 p.m. Tryouts for current 5th-7th graders will be from 7-9:30 p.m. each day and current 8th-11th graders from 7:30-9 p.m. each day.

All tryout sessions will take place at Northville High School. Coaches are also needed at certain age groups.

Questions should be directed to (248) 348-6677.

years of age interested in becoming umpires. Umpiring allows individuals to stay involved with the game, practice leadership skills and earn some great money as well.

Scheduling is very flexible. NLA will be holding its annual Umpire Clinic at Northville Township Hall/Hemming Park on May 3 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and May 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Clinic attendance is mandatory.

Questions should be directed to Bob Bushaven, Umpire Director, at (248) 347-5915.

The program is geared toward septa players moving up to the pee wee level, as well as pee wee and human players needing instruction on the techniques of checking.

Areas of emphasis during the two-hour clinic will include proper checking techniques, how to receive a check, how to avoid a check, sick checking, huck checking, angling and body positioning.

The fee is \$45 per participant. For more information, call (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com.

Aaron Knieper (Montclair Express), Lee Berke (Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame) and Jessie Milosek (Bowling Green University Softball).

Hitting, pitching, fielding, baserunning and more will be covered in this fundamental camp. Participants will be put on the radar gun for arm speed as well.

The camp will run April 21-23 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Novi Powers Park. The cost of the camp is \$135 per player with a \$10 discount for a second child. It is open to athletes ages 7-17 years old.

Space is limited. For more information, or to register, call (248) 628-0166 or e-mail totalball-wixom@aol.com. Please visit their Web site at www.ecam.com/totalballbaseball.

Umpire Clinic

Northville's Umpires Association (NUA) is currently looking for people at least 14

Learn to Check

Suburban Hockey Clubs will hold its Learn to Check Clinic at Novi Ice Arena Thursday, April 3.

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DREAMCATCHER

Katie Shinkel is headed for Utah

12-year-old Novi skier competing in Expert Division of NASTAR national event in Salt Lake City



Skier Katie Shinkel, 12, demonstrates how she waxes her skis to her brother Ryan, 9, last Friday afternoon in their Novi kitchen.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Watch out, Utah — here she comes.

Katie Shinkel is one of the lucky participants to take the trip to the 2003 NASTAR National Championships held today through Sunday in Salt Lake City.

"It's really fun," Shinkel said. "I love to downhill race."

And race she does. Shinkel participated in the Recreational Division of the event last year, but her improved times and skill have vaulted her into the ranks of the Expert Division this year. The 12-year-old Shinkel, who attends Novi Meadows, earned the trip by being one of the top three skiers in her age group at Crystal Mountain resort this year. Her time of 22.59 seconds is only second to Ashley Caracino of Traverse City with her time of 22.35.

Shinkel's time not only ranked her second at her resort, but 10th in the state and 21st in the nation.

"She's been improving and improving," Shinkel's mother, Peggy, said. "She started skiing when she was five and has always been a good athlete in a lot of sports. She took to it quickly and wanted to challenge herself."

Pretty soon, she was whizzing down the NASTAR course and we just kept encouraging her."

Shinkel's interest in skiing has taken her places already, with Utah just being the pinnacle at this point in her career. The NASTAR nationals draw a slew of competition through different age divisions, and a nice array of skiing guests as well. This year, Boole Miller, A.J. Kitt, Doug Lewis and Erik Schlegel will be in attendance, as will Picabo Street.

No doubt, all of the skiers, including the guest stars, all enjoy the same thing that Shinkel does about the sport.

"I like to go fast," she said. "Really, really fast."

Compared to last season when Shinkel was a member of the Recreation Division, she has greatly improved her time and her skill — a lot of which is thanks to the instruction of Jeanne Thoren, who suggested some techniques for Shinkel to use as well as some new equipment.

This year, Shinkel has been utilizing a canted-heel design on her ski boots which allow her to lean forward and over her harness on the way through the course — a great technique to increase speed and control. Shinkel also uses Scott racing poles, Rossignol skis, a spandex ski suit, gortex gloves and, of course,

"I like to go fast. Really, really fast."

Katie Shinkel
Skier from Novi

a helmet.

"We've always used helmets," Shinkel said, noting that it is was some thing her parents, Bernie and Peggy, have taught her and her brother, Ryan, to use.

"To prep really for a run, Shinkel walks the course and imagines herself skiing down the slope just as she nears the start gates.

"I saw her face last year when she was getting ready," Peggy said. "She was focused and concentrating on the race."

The kids in Shinkel's class support her, as does the school as they make arrangements for her work and studies while she is traveling like for the NASTAR nationals. They also announce her achievements over the public address system at the school.

"They think it's really cool and most of them have never done it before," Shinkel said of her class-

mates. "People have told me that they think it's really cool that I ski and that it's really awesome. They say that they would never do that."

Since her interest peaked with the sport, Shinkel has taken many of her friends along with her for some weekend skiing at places like Mount Brighton.

"A lot of friends have gone up to ski," she said. "They all liked it."

She said that hopefully, she will get the chance to take it into the high school ranks if a team is formed by then — or maybe even form a team herself.

"I would like that," she said. "I will probably keep skiing, but I don't want to ski with USSA. It's just too competitive."

Who knows what the future might hold for a skier like Shinkel. If she keeps to her game, learning the ropes from the likes of Thoren and admiring those like Street, Shinkel might find herself taking to the slopes with the best of them.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or eggleston@h1.homecomm.net.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Eggleston, (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 seggleson@ht.homecomm.net hometownlife.com

VIRTUAL VIC

Dear Virtual Vic:

Is there anything on besides war coverage when it comes to television? I don't know if it's the war and the images that I've seen, but I'm becoming more and more depressed when it comes to myself. I'm overweight, balding, single and, like everyone else, overworked and underpaid. Am I just going crazy and need to see a head doctor, or is this just a phase? Help me out, Vic!

Depressed in Northville



Victoria Sadlocha

Dear depressed in Northville:

Wow! That is a lot you have swarming around in your head. First off, if you feel completely overwhelmed or feel like you really are going insane, you should consult your physician. But in case your madness is temporary, I'll try to take a stab at your question. I'm going to break this into two parts. Your first issue is watching war coverage on television and quite possibly too much. Watching images of our troops being killed and captured and bombs exploding throughout Iraq is not your average Friends episode.

Our country is at war and if that didn't create enough uncertainty and terror, there is live coverage 24-7. I sympathize with your plight because I myself have had a tough time dealing with my emotions after being mesmerized by the 24-hour coverage. Feelings that you can't miss any information or watch anything "trivial," which is just about everything when comparing to war, death and destruction, are hard to set aside.

For a lot of people, when their basic needs are taken away, every other problem in their lives seem magnified. For example, your need for basic security may be compromised by our war against Iraq. The more you watch the coverage, the more you feel inadequate and the more your other perceived problems like your

weight and hairline (or lack of it) seem worse. So now that you know there is a legitimate connection between war-time depression and self-esteem what do you do?

For starters, turn that dial. Try and wean yourself off of watching continual Iraq Operation Freedom coverage. You can always allow yourself to watch some coverage, but then turn off your TV. Believe me, when you turn the set on again, I'm sure there will be a recap of events on about 30 channels at any given time and day.

There is also something called a newspaper which comes out every morning with recaps of prior day war events. Just because you don't devote yourself to this war doesn't make you a bad person.

Then there is everything else. You say you are overweight, balding, single and don't make enough money. All of these factors are under your control and only you can make the changes. Overweight? Try a diet. Balding? Buy a hair piece, but or just completely shave your head.

Single? You can try a dating service, but I say just accept the fact you are single. Trust me, you will never find a girlfriend unless you are happy with yourself and you really do not sound like you are in that place right now. Over worked and underpaid? Start looking for a new job.

I realize all of these suggestions are easier preached than acted on.

Losing weight may be a struggle and the thought of finding a new job may be paralyzing, but even though these seem like a lot of different problems, they may be resolved with one solution. You need to embrace, accept and love yourself.

Once you possess self-acceptance and self-happiness, many of your personal traits you now dislike, will fall into place. So along with changing your T.V. channel, I suggest you start learning and reconfirming why you are important and all the good things in your life.

One way to do this is by keeping a journal and before you go to bed every day, write down all of the things you are thankful for and what you like about yourself.

It may sound cheesy, but it works. Also remember liking yourself includes inside and out. The better you feel and the more you learn what isn't working for you, will help lead to the route of self improvement. Anyone can go on a diet, but you won't really lose your weight until you figure out why you eat too much, or stay at a dead-end job for that matter.

If I haven't motivated you enough, take these words from Dr. Normal Vincent Peale author of "The Power of Positive Thinking." Dr. Peale says, "fill your mind with thoughts of faith, confidence and security. This will force out or expel all thoughts of doubt, all lack of confidence."

If you need advice, a little help or a complete over-haul, please forward your questions to vsadlocha@ht.homecomm.net or seggleson@ht.homecomm.net. No topic is off limits, unless it violates the paper's family-friendly rating. If your question is chosen, you just may see it in the next edition of your local paper. And please remember to provide an alternate name or we will provide one for you. Our intention is to give you advice without exposing you to your neighbors.

SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Coming to theaters this week-end is the futuristic adventure "The Core" which follows geophysicist, Dr. Josh Keyes (Aaron Eckhart), who discovers an unknown force has caused the Earth's inner core to stop rotating.

Goofy political satire "Head of State" is the story of a presidential candidate who dies unexpectedly in the middle of the campaign. The Democratic party picks an unlikely candidate, Washington, D.C. alderman, Mays Gilliam (Chris Rock), as his

replacement. "Head of State" is a DreamWorks Pictures release and rated PG-13 for language and drug references.

Crime and military thriller "Basic" stars John Travolta as Agent Harry of the Drug Enforcement Agency who is brought in by an old friend to investigate the disappearance of several Army Ranger cadets and their legendary drill instructor, West (Samuel L. Jackson), during an exercise at a basic training camp in Panama. "Basic" is a Sony Pictures release and rated R for violence and language.

As the planet's magnetic field rapidly deteriorates, our atmosphere literally starts to come apart at the seams with catastrophic consequences. To resolve the crisis, Keyes, along with a team of gifted scientists, travel into the Earth's

Women Stand Up & Celebrate Your Achievements!

This publication will celebrate women and allow you to share your success story with our readers!

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WALLED LAKE WESTERN SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Varsity Baseball Coach: Brad Scheck
3/26 South Lyon 400 H
3/28 Harrison 400 H
4/1 Novi 400 H
4/5 Lakeland 1000 H
4/7 Stevenson 400 A
4/9 Churchill 400 H
4/11 Franklin 400 A
4/14 Canton 400 H
4/16 Salem 400 A
4/20 Central 400 H
4/22 Northville 400 A
5/5 Churchill 400 A
5/7 Wayne 400 A
5/9 Franklin 400 H
5/10 Bedford 1100 A
5/12 Canton 400 A
5/14 John Glenn 400 H
5/17 Berkeley 1100 H
5/19 Northville 400 H
5/21 Playoff 400 A
5/22 Oxford 400 H
5/27 Districts TBA A
5/30 Districts TBA A
6/3 Districts TBA A
6/7 Regional TBA A
6/10 Qtr. Finals TBA A
6/13 Semi-Finals TBA A
6/14 Finals TBA A

4/15 Franklin 400 A
4/17 Canton 400 H
4/19 Hally Relays 1030 A
4/20 John Glenn 400 A
4/21 Troy Athens 930 A
4/23 Northville 400 A
4/24 Regional TBA A
4/25 Conference 900 A
4/26 Oakland City TBA A
4/27 Oakland City TBA A
4/28 Finals TBA A

Varsity Softball Coach: Ron Repleky
3/26 South Lyon 400 H
3/27 Milford 400 H
4/2 Harrison 400 A
4/7 Stevenson 400 H
4/9 Churchill 400 A
4/11 Franklin 400 H
4/12 Dowagiac 1030 A
4/14 Canton 400 A
4/16 Salem 400 H
4/20 Central 400 H
4/22 Northville 400 A
4/23 North Star TBA A
4/24 North Star TBA A
4/25 Churchill 400 H
4/26 Wayne 400 H
4/27 Franklin 400 A
4/28 N. Farm. 800 A
4/29 Canton 400 H
4/30 John Glenn 400 A
4/31 Marian 400 H
5/1 Northville 400 A
5/2 Playoff 500 H
5/27 Districts TBA A
5/30 Districts TBA A
6/7 Regional TBA A
6/10 Qtr. Finals TBA A
6/13 Semi-Finals TBA A
6/14 Finals TBA A

Varsity Golf Coach: Scott Street
3/25 South Lyon 300 H
4/1 Novi 300 A
4/8 Milford 245 H
4/11 Brighton Invite 930 A
4/16 Regionals TBA A
4/20 Conference TBA A
4/22 Rain Date TBA A
4/23 Finals TBA A

Varsity Soccer Coach: Bill Stevanovic
3/25 Lakeland 700 A
3/28 Milford 530 H
4/2 South Lyon 530 H
4/8 Berkeley 1100 A
4/7 Hartland 530 A
4/9 Wayne 400 A
4/12 Farmington 1100 A
4/14 Central 530 H
4/16 Northville 530 A
4/18 John Glenn 400 A
4/30 Canton 400 H
4/31 Northern JV 530 A
5/5 Franklin 530 H
5/7 Churchill 530 H
5/9 W. Bloom. 530 A
5/12 Stevenson 530 A
5/14 Salem 530 H
5/19 Playoff 530 H
5/21 Playoff 530 H
5/22 Districts TBA A
5/23 Districts TBA A
5/24 Regionals TBA A
5/27 Districts TBA A
5/30 Districts TBA A
6/7 Regional TBA A
6/10 Qtr. Finals TBA A
6/13 Semi-Finals TBA A
6/14 Finals TBA A

Varsity Tennis Coach: Kerry
3/27 Kettering 400 A
4/2 South Lyon 400 H
4/7 Mott 400 H
4/11 Central 400 H
4/14 Northville 400 A
4/16 John Glenn 400 H
4/28 Canton 400 H
4/30 Franklin 400 H
5/2 Churchill 400 H
5/5 Stevenson 400 A
5/7 Salem 400 H
5/9 Wayne 400 A
5/10 JV Conf. TBA A
5/13 Conference 900 A
5/16 Regional TBA A
5/30 Finals TBA A

Varsity Baseball Coach: Mark Kowalczuk
3/26 N. Farmington 400 A
3/27 Notre Dame 400 A
4/5 Novi 1230 A
4/7 Franklin 400 H
4/11 John Glenn 400 A
4/12 Lakeland 1000 H
4/13 Stevenson 400 H
4/15 South Lyon 400 H
4/16 Canton 400 H
4/28 Salem 400 A
4/30 Western 400 A
4/10 Churchill 400 A
4/12 Novi Invite V TBA A
4/15 Franklin 400 H
4/16 Canton 400 A
4/17 St. Louis 900 H
4/18 St. Louis 900 H
4/19 St. Louis 900 H
4/20 St. Louis 900 H
4/21 St. Louis 900 H
4/22 St. Louis 900 H
4/23 St. Louis 900 H
4/24 St. Louis 900 H
4/25 St. Louis 900 H
4/26 St. Louis 900 H
4/27 St. Louis 900 H
4/28 St. Louis 900 H
4/29 St. Louis 900 H
4/30 St. Louis 900 H
5/1 St. Louis 900 H
5/2 St. Louis 900 H
5/3 St. Louis 900 H
5/4 St. Louis 900 H
5/5 St. Louis 900 H
5/6 St. Louis 900 H
5/7 St. Louis 900 H
5/8 St. Louis 900 H
5/9 St. Louis 900 H
5/10 St. Louis 900 H
5/11 St. Louis 900 H
5/12 St. Louis 900 H
5/13 St. Louis 900 H
5/14 St. Louis 900 H
5/15 St. Louis 900 H
5/16 St. Louis 900 H

Varsity Softball Coach: Gordon Glennie
3/25 Howell 400 A
3/26 Novi 400 H
4/1 Franklin 400 A
4/11 John Glenn 400 H
4/12 South Lyon 1000 A
4/14 Stevenson 400 A
4/16 Canton 400 H
4/18 Canton 400 H
4/19 Canton 400 H
4/20 Canton 400 H
4/21 Canton 400 H
4/22 Canton 400 H
4/23 Canton 400 H
4/24 Canton 400 H
4/25 Canton 400 H
4/26 Canton 400 H
4/27 Canton 400 H
4/28 Canton 400 H
4/29 Canton 400 H
4/30 Canton 400 H
5/1 Canton 400 H
5/2 Canton 400 H
5/3 Canton 400 H
5/4 Canton 400 H
5/5 Canton 400 H
5/6 Canton 400 H
5/7 Canton 400 H
5/8 Canton 400 H
5/9 Canton 400 H
5/10 Canton 400 H
5/11 Canton 400 H
5/12 Canton 400 H
5/13 Canton 400 H
5/14 Canton 400 H
5/15 Canton 400 H
5/16 Canton 400 H

Varsity Soccer Coach: Steve Serra
3/26 Lakeland 330 H
4/1 Novi 300 A
4/7 Franklin 400 A
4/11 John Glenn 400 H
4/12 South Lyon 300 A
4/14 Wayne 330 A
4/11 Brighton Invite 930 A
4/16 Canton 300 H
4/14 Canton 300 H
4/16 Franklin 300 A
4/17 Northville 245 H
4/18 Regional TBA A

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

Varsity Baseball Coach: Mark Kowalczuk
3/26 N. Farmington 400 A
3/27 Notre Dame 400 A
4/5 Novi 1230 A
4/7 Franklin 400 H
4/11 John Glenn 400 A
4/12 Lakeland 1000 H
4/13 Stevenson 400 H
4/15 South Lyon 400 H
4/16 Canton 400 H
4/28 Salem 400 A
4/30 Western 400 A
4/10 Churchill 400 A
4/12 Novi Invite V TBA A
4/15 Franklin 400 H
4/16 Canton 400 A
4/17 St. Louis 900 H
4/18 St. Louis 900 H
4/19 St. Louis 900 H
4/20 St. Louis 900 H
4/21 St. Louis 900 H
4/22 St. Louis 900 H
4/23 St. Louis 900 H
4/24 St. Louis 900 H
4/25 St. Louis 900 H
4/26 St. Louis 900 H
4/27 St. Louis 900 H
4/28 St. Louis 900 H
4/29 St. Louis 900 H
4/30 St. Louis 900 H
5/1 St. Louis 900 H
5/2 St. Louis 900 H
5/3 St. Louis 900 H
5/4 St. Louis 900 H
5/5 St. Louis 900 H
5/6 St. Louis 900 H
5/7 St. Louis 900 H
5/8 St. Louis 900 H
5/9 St. Louis 900 H
5/10 St. Louis 900 H
5/11 St. Louis 900 H
5/12 St. Louis 900 H
5/13 St. Louis 900 H
5/14 St. Louis 900 H
5/15 St. Louis 900 H
5/16 St. Louis 900 H

Varsity Soccer Coach: Bill Stevanovic
3/25 South Lyon 300 H
4/1 Novi 300 A
4/8 Milford 245 H
4/11 Brighton Invite 930 A
4/16 Regionals TBA A
4/20 Conference TBA A
4/22 Rain Date TBA A
4/23 Finals TBA A

Varsity Tennis Coach: Kerry
3/27 Kettering 400 A
4/2 South Lyon 400 H
4/7 Mott 400 H
4/11 Central 400 H
4/14 Northville 400 A
4/16 John Glenn 400 H
4/28 Canton 400 H
4/30 Franklin 400 H
5/2 Churchill 400 H
5/5 Stevenson 400 A
5/7 Salem 400 H
5/9 Wayne 400 A
5/10 JV Conf. TBA A
5/13 Conference 900 A
5/16 Regional TBA A
5/30 Finals TBA A

Varsity Softball Coach: Gordon Glennie
3/25 Howell 400 A
3/26 Novi 400 H
4/1 Franklin 400 A
4/11 John Glenn 400 H
4/12 South Lyon 1000 A
4/14 Stevenson 400 A
4/16 Canton 400 H
4/18 Canton 400 H
4/19 Canton 400 H
4/20 Canton 400 H
4/21 Canton 400 H
4/22 Canton 400 H
4/23 Canton 400 H
4/24 Canton 400 H
4/25 Canton 400 H
4/26 Canton 400 H
4/27 Canton 400 H
4/28 Canton 400 H
4/29 Canton 400 H
4/30 Canton 400 H
5/1 Canton 400 H
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5/16 Canton 400 H

Varsity Soccer Coach: Steve Serra
3/26 Lakeland 330 H
4/1 Novi 300 A
4/7 Franklin 400 A
4/11 John Glenn 400 H
4/12 South Lyon 300 A
4/14 Wayne 330 A
4/11 Brighton Invite 930 A
4/16 Canton 300 H
4/14 Canton 300 H
4/16 Franklin 300 A
4/17 Northville 245 H
4/18 Regional TBA A

Varsity Softball Coach: Gordon Glennie
3/25 Howell 400 A
3/26 Novi 400 H
4/1 Franklin 400 A
4/11 John Glenn 400 H
4/12 South Lyon 1000 A
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5/16 Canton 400 H

Varsity Soccer Coach: Steve Serra
3/26 Lakeland 330 H
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4/11 Brighton Invite 930 A
4/16 Canton 300 H
4/14 Canton 300 H
4/16 Franklin 300 A
4/17 Northville 245 H
4/18 Regional TBA A

Varsity Softball Coach: Gordon Glennie
3/25 Howell 400 A
3/26 Novi 400 H
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5/16 Canton 400 H

Varsity Soccer Coach: Steve Serra

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 27, 2003

MONEY MATTERS

Shopping for insurance online

If you've purchased life, health, auto, home or disability insurance online, you are part of a growing population of consumers that's broken away from the long time tradition of purchasing policies from local insurance agents.

Are you buying from a reputable company, protecting your identity online and getting the best possible rates and coverage?

The Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS)—the government agency that regulates insurance entities in Michigan—has some cautionary words of advice for consumers who buy their insurance over the Internet.

Do your homework. Before you begin shopping, decide what kind of coverage you want. If, for example, you're a Michigan driver in the market for auto insurance, state law requires you to purchase no-fault insurance—coverage that will pay for your injuries no matter who is at fault in the accident. For details on the minimum amount of coverage you're required to buy before you receive your car's license plates, consult the OFIS 2002 Buyers' Guide to Auto Insurance in Michigan. You can access the guide by clicking on the publications link at www.michigan.gov/ofis. For an explanation of additional kinds coverage and tips for saving on insurance, check out the Better Business Bureau's (BBB) Auto Insurance Basics guide at www.bbb.org/library/autoins.asp.

There are a multitude of other questions to ask before buying life, health, disability and homeowners insurance. The following Web sites provide answers to commonly asked questions about coverage.

- Health: www.ahepr.gov/consumer/insurance.htm
- Disability: www.hiaa.org/consumer/disability.cfm
- Homeowners and renters: www.nw.gov/doi/guidecho.html

The Internet is a great research tool, but don't rely on it as your sole source of information. Check with your employer for insurance information and talk to close friends and family about their policies and providers.

Verify the company and agent. A company and agent must be licensed to sell insurance in the state of Michigan. Contact OFIS toll free at (877) 999-6442 for a list of companies that are licensed in Michigan. Verify with OFIS personnel that the company is licensed to sell the insurance product you are interested in purchasing, and the agent you're dealing with is a legitimate representative of the company. You'll also want to find out whether the company has a good record of handling complaints.

Protect your personal information. Once you've found a policy that suits your needs and you're confident the company and agent are credible, you're ready to purchase your policy. Before you make your purchase, OFIS recommends taking the following precautions to protect your personal information.

- Confirm you are transmitting across a secure site. Look for a small key or closed lock icon on the bottom of your screen. A secure site address may begin with <https://> instead of <http://>.
- If you are unsure whether the site is secure, contact the company and submit your paperwork by fax or mail.

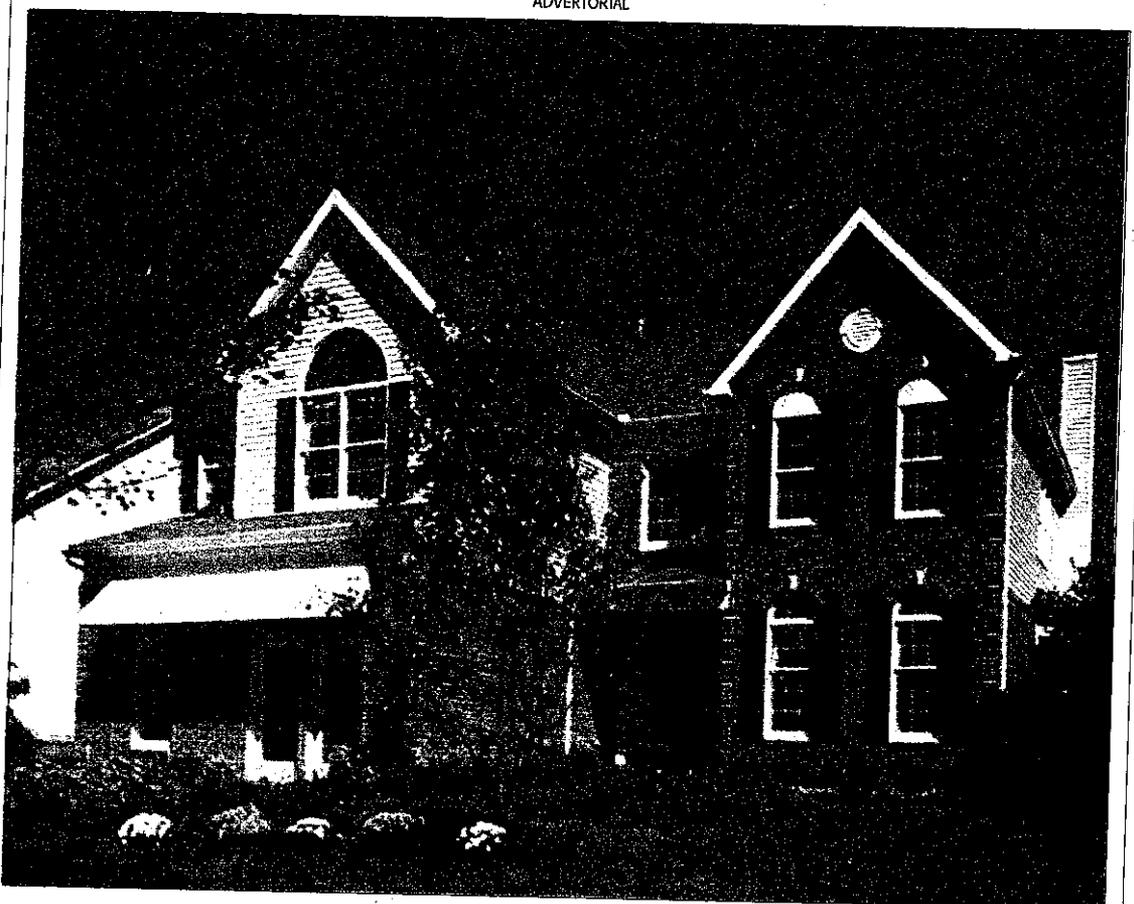
- Review the Web site's Privacy Policy before transmitting any information online.
- For added security, use a credit card that is equipped with anti-theft precautions.

Start a paper trail. Get rates and key information about your policy in writing. Should you purchase a policy online, keep a copy of all forms you complete and sign, as well as any other paperwork including correspondence and payment receipts. If you don't receive an original copy of your new policy within 30-60 days of purchase, contact the company right away.

Beware of insurance scams. If a company is pressuring you to purchase coverage without first conducting research, think twice about buying their policy. Further, if the company requires you to deposit a large sum of money into an account, contact a reputable insurance agent or your financial advisor before doing so. As always, if the transaction makes you feel uncomfortable, don't buy the policy.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcad@mcul.org.

ADVERTORIAL



Eight models are available in Trotters Pointe Village, ranging from 1,900 to 2,900 square feet. Prices start at \$260,000.

Courtesy photo

New home community has value and quality

By Elizabeth Heer
SPECIAL WRITER

The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village, Toll Brothers' luxury home community in South Lyon, has just released the last 24 home sites available for sale. The final homes in this highly desirable community are expected to sell fast.

Trotters Pointe Village, a community of 340 homes, was created as a result of extensive focus group studies and national tours of other developments. The resulting upscale development promotes hometown charm and appeals to move-up families and young professionals.

The location is just one of those many charms. "South Lyon has quickly become one of the most desirable locations for new home construction in Metro Detroit," says Charlene Bargert, Sales Manager for The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village. "Our location provides the small town charm that is so appealing to new homebuyers, plus we are just minutes from the expressways and major business centers like Novi and Southfield. The combination of location,

unbeatable value, and quality Toll Brothers construction has made Trotters Pointe Village the most sought-after new home community in South Lyon."

A new floor plan has been added for the final phase in the Estates of Trotters Pointe Village. The four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath Creighton features a lavish first floor master suite. In all, eight models are available, ranging from 1,900 to 2,900 square feet, with prices starting at the affordable \$260,000s.

All of the magnificently appointed, single-family homes are set on large home sites within the rolling natural woodlands. Each home is appointed with stylish design features which includes master suites, ceramic baths, and hardwood flooring in the grand entrance foyer, kitchen, and powder room. Dramatic nine-foot ceilings on the first floor and formal dining and living rooms or great rooms allow for spacious family living. In addition, each home is designed with a five-point energy plan that reduces the amount of energy needed so precious resources are pre-

served. "The quality of our homes exceeds all other builders in the area," said Bargert. "We take that extra step with customer service to ensure that our customers are delighted with their home."

Those extra details show in the many standard features built into the homes at Trotters Pointe Village, like deluxe kitchens appointed with GE appliances, Andersen windows throughout, wood-burning fireplaces, central air, gutters, and attached two-car garages.

"We take pride in providing nice finish work, such as molding and trim work," she added.

Hundreds of other options allow homeowners to select the features that perfectly suit their lifestyles and tastes. "We give people that flexibility in predetermined options to customize their own home. For example, homeowners can choose among brick, stone, or marble finishing for their fireplace," Bargert said.

Environment is equally important at The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village. The exclusive community was designed to preserve the natu-

ral environment with a winding site plan that incorporates wooded home sites and cul de sacs. By preserving open spaces, woods, and wetlands, a 22-acre nature preserve complete with a nine-acre pond was set aside for residents to enjoy. Walking trails, children's play area, tot lot, and a private tennis court provide recreation and exercise opportunities. Lighted sidewalks, street lights, and full city services complete the community.

The amenities and location of Trotters Pointe have quickly made it one of South Lyon's most prominent addresses. Located within the exemplary South Lyon school district and adjacent to the high school, the Estates of Trotters Pointe Village is just minutes from quaint, historic downtown South Lyon.

Numerous golf courses, the nearby South Lyon Rail Trail into Kensington Metro Park, bustling shopping centers and a variety of restaurant and dining options are also nearby. Convenient access to I-96, U.S. 23, I-696 and I-275 make for easy commutes to major business centers, health facilities, and Wayne County

DETAILS

The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village, a Toll Brothers' luxury home community in South Lyon, is located on Eleven Mile Road, west of Pontiac Trail.

The Sales Center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call (248) 486-4979, or visit the Web site at www.tollbrothers.com.

Metropolitan International Airport.

Toll Brothers, Inc. is the nation's leading builder of luxury homes, serving both move-up and empty nester buyers in six regions of the country. Toll Brothers currently operates 172 communities in 22 states and is the only public home builder to have won all three of the industry's highest honors: American's Best Builder from the National Association of Home Builders, the National Housing Quality Award and National Builder of the Year.

"The quality of our homes exceeds all other builders in the area. We take that extra step with customer service to ensure that our customers are delighted with their home... Our location provides the small town charm that is so appealing to new homebuyers, plus we are just minutes from the expressways and major business centers like Novi and Southfield."

Charlene Bargert

The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village sales manager



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MORE LUXURY...
MORE VALUE!

TROTTERS POINTE VILLAGE

Luxury Homes
from the \$260s

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Toll Brothers
America's Luxury Home Builder

There's More to Living at
The Estates of Trotters Pointe Village!

- Eight luxury home plans offer traditional colonial or first-floor master bedroom designs with 3 or 4 bedrooms and 1,900 to 2,850 sq. ft. of living space
- Impressive features include 9 ft. first-floor ceilings, crown molding, hardwood flooring, 42" kitchen cabinets, Andersen™ windows, and much more!
- Minutes from downtown South Lyon, Novi, and just two miles from I-96
- 22 acres of parks, tennis, and trails
- Excellent South Lyon schools



Located on the northwest corner of Pontiac Trail and 11 Mile Road.