



Novi News

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50c

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INSIDE



A handful of beauty

Nothing is more exquisite than a butterfly. Its gracefulness and beauty can be appreciated by both young and old. Staff from Fox Run organized a butterfly release during which 50 butterflies were set free into a garden in front of Meadowbrook Elementary School in Novi. Shown is Rachel Shuman of Farmington Hills, a fourth-grader.

— back page

SPORTS

Dream Team selections

This year, we can easily say was one of the toughest when it came to picking our All-Area Dream Team athletes for girls track and field. Normally, we have stars who stand out in their respective fields and dominate the competition each and every time they take to the track. This year, however, was a bit different. We had some of the most competitive teams in the histories of our schools.

— 1B

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Hospitals move to block plans

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A collection of five hospital groups have challenged the constitutionality of a controversial state law that would allow three Detroit hospitals to transfer up to 600 beds to west Oakland County, including 200 to Providence Hospital and Medical Center's Novi campus.

June 10 the state's Certificate of Need (CON) commission, acting on the advice of the state Attorney General's office, opted not to vote on whether or not to block plans by St. John's Health System (Providence's owner), Henry Ford Health Systems and the Detroit Medical Centers (DMC) to each move 200 hospital beds from sites in Detroit to Novi, West Bloomfield and Commerce Township respectively.

Shortly after officials from Henry Ford Health Systems filed a letter of intent with Michigan

Department of Health June 16 outlining their plans to move beds to West Bloomfield, attorneys with Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett LLP (representing Botsford General Hospital, Trinity Health-Michigan, Covenant Medical Center, William Beaumont Hospital and Mount Clemens General Hospital) filed suit against the Department of Health, the state Department of Consumer and Industry Services and Henry Ford.

While the move came as no surprise to anyone following St. John's and Henry Ford's efforts to expand their west Oakland operations, Rose Glenn, Henry Ford's vice president of marketing and public relations, said "it was very disappointing to learn today that a few health systems are suing the state to place other barriers in our way. We are confident that those barriers will be overcome and that we will be able to proceed as

"These transfers help Detroit hospitals that are drowning in red ink, and also make health care service facilities available to growing areas."

Nancy Cassis
state senator

planned." The five health care organizations' attorney, Stephen Afendoulis, maintains that the provisions of Public Act 619 that would allow St. John's and Henry Ford to create new hospitals without going through the CON process violates the state's constitution.

At the June 10 CON hearing in Lansing Assistant Attorney General Ron Styka told commission members that the provisions of PA-619 that would allow them

to block the bed transfers was unconstitutional. He also told them that they didn't have enough confirmed members to vote on the provisions even if they were constitutional.

In the past Providence representatives have argued that opposition from other Oakland County hospitals to their plans to move beds to Novi have been little more than attempts to protect market shares by using the CON process.

Afendoulis countered, "The important thing to understand is

that in 1972 the legislature passed the statute creating CON review. And, in the 30 years since, anyone who wanted to build a hospital has been required to go through the process."

He noted in his suit that Beaumont, which operates a 226-bed hospital in Troy and a 997-bed hospital in Royal Oak, was denied a CON for a new hospital in west Oakland County.

State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-

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Proper retirement



Photo By Lynne Garcia

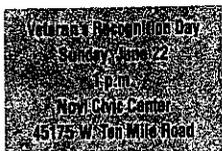
American Legion members from left, Jim Petersen, Ray Garcia, Anthony Lolli, Kevin Bartlett and sons Kiefer and Konner Bartlett prepare an American flag for the Flag Retirement ceremony that took place on Saturday at the Novi Expo Center.

Calvary unit, flag designer featured at veterans' event

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

More than 100 veterans' groups are expected to gather at the Novi City Center at 1 p.m. Sunday for the community's annual Veteran's Recognition Day observances.

Highlighting this year's event will be appearances by Bob Heft (the man who designed the flag that's flown over American homes and Armed Forces since 1958) and The Blue Devils, a cavalry unit representing the United States Army Reserve, the 88th



Regional Support Command and the American Legion.

Novi spokesman Karen Amolsch said that while the Blue Devils have been a fixture at the Millford Memorial Day Parade for the past few years, this will be the

group's first appearance in Novi. The Blue Devils traces its lineage back to World War II when the 88th Infantry Division created a mounted Reconnaissance Platoon using captured German horses and former cavalrymen in the Division's ranks.

Today's Blue Devils includes six horses. They include a German Trakehner; a Netherlands bred Saxon Anhalt, purchased from the Netherlands National Police in 2001; and an English Shire/Irish thoroughbred presented to the group as a gift from the Queen of

England. Heft was a 17-year-old high school junior living with his grandparents when he designed the current 50-star flag as a class project. Heft initially received a B-minus from his teacher for his efforts, but the teacher promised a better grade if he could get Congress to adopt the design.

Along with a better grade, Heft's efforts have made him the guest of nine presidents and led him to visit all 50 states and 37

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Jeanne Clarke passes away

■ Former Novi News columnist dies at age 81

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Long-time Novi resident Jeanne Clarke, who wrote a column, "Novi Highlights" that appeared in the Novi News for close to 30 years, died June 15 at her home. She was 81.

A native of Pennsylvania, Clarke became a member of the Novi Police Department in 1955. She started as a dispatcher and later became Novi's first female police officer. She was also an employee of the Novi Township and Village of Novi Police Department for many years.

Clarke retired from the police department after 32 years as administrative secretary to the former chief of police, Lee BeGole, now a certified police officer with the Green Oak Township Police Department.

"In the township and village days, she was the glue that held the police department together. She had to handle police and fire matters," said BeGole, former Chief of Police for

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Novi Meadows' Terry Garcia earns NEF's top teacher honor for 2003

■ Educator wins car of her choice for one year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It has been almost two weeks now since Novi Meadows sixth grade teacher Terry Garcia was selected to be the Novi Educational Foundation Teacher of the Year and she is enjoying the benefits to the maximum. She was given the opportunity to choose a car of her choice to drive for a year, free of charge from the

Suburban Collection on Haggerty and Grand River Avenue in Novi, and she couldn't be any happier about it.

After taking all the time she needed to choose from 25 vehicles, Garcia finally picked a Mazda Tribute as her free lease. "I can drive the car for a year and I don't pay anything," she said. "I don't even pay insurance. I just put gas in the car and enjoy the trips. If it needs any maintenance I can take it back to the dealership, oil changes, anything that has to be done to the car. If I have to have a lamer, I can get one for the day. It's a wonderful program."

Garcia, a 22-year veteran of the

Novi Community School District, found out that two of her colleagues, para-professional Candy Litman and reading specialist Judy Sauer, nominated her back in March. The two also contacted a former student of Garcia's, Chelsea Thorpe, who did the student component of the nomination. Thorpe, who is a freshman at Novi High School, was Garcia's student in the fifth and sixth



T. Garcia

grade.

"It was a total surprise," Garcia said. "I didn't know anything about it. A few Mondays ago I was teaching my class and I was interrupted by (Meadows Principal) Dr. (Tim) Falls and I saw some people out there in the hallway - but we always have groups of people coming into the building and checking out the facility and curriculum. I just assumed that's what it was. As Dr. Falls approached the class, he called me over and started talking to my class, as opposed to talking to me. I just thought that was kind of odd because he usually doesn't share this information with the students."

From there, different people just started to make their way into Garcia's classroom. She saw Superintendent Emmett Lippe, along with other men, but what really tipped her off was when Litman walked in.

"She told me on Friday that she was taking a personal business day and when I saw her, I knew something was up," Garcia said. "Then they brought in my family and my husband's parents and I was really totally speechless. I didn't expect it. I hadn't even thought about it. I figured that by the time June rolled around they had pretty much made the deci-

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POLICE REPORT

Gone and back

Carmen Bickel of Novi reported June 8 that someone stole her bicycle from the deck of her home. About two hours later she recovered the bicycle while walking her dog.

no taillights. He charged the driver, a 29-year-old South Lyon man, with OUIL after the man failed field sobriety tests. According to reports, the man registered a preliminary BAC of .134.

Too fast, too intoxicated

Larry Furton told Officer Steven Balog that someone smashed the dollar bill acceptors out of vending machines on the third and sixth floors of the Novi Hilton June 6. The hotel's loss was estimated at \$150.

Officer Scott Bastens stopped a car headed south on Beck Road, south of Grand River at 10:17 p.m. June 11 after he clocked it traveling 56 mph in a 40 mph zone. He charged the driver, a 61-year-old Novi man, with OUIL after the man failed field sobriety tests. The man reportedly had a BAC of .15. He was released after posting a \$100 bond.

Missing music

Gerald Davis Officer Louis Bigliardi June 9 that sometime in the last two months someone stole a Gilbransen Digital Hymnal from Wonderland Music in Novi.

Dump your empties

Outside the lines

Officer Erick Zinsar stopped a 2003 blue Dodge truck June 12 after he watched it cross the center line of Novi Road four times while driving south of Nine Mile at 1:58 a.m. He charged the driver, a 50-year-old London, Tenn., man with OUIL after the man failed field sobriety tests. According to Officer Zinsar's report, the man registered a .18 in a blood alcohol content (BAC) test nearly a hour after the traffic stop.

Officer Jeremy Stempien stopped a 27-year-old Dansville man driving a 1998 Dodge Intrepid at 1:55 a.m. June 10, after he reportedly clocked the car traveling 80 mph on I-96. Officer Stempien charged with man with open intoxication after he found four open beer bottles in the car.

One-eyed Jack

Can't phone home

Jason Crete of Wixom told officer Brian Tillman that someone stole his cellphone while he was at Breaktime Billiards. Crete said the phone, worth an estimated \$500, disappeared while he was in the restroom.

Officer Brian Woloski stopped a car on Wixom Road near 11 Mile at 8:54 p.m. June 10 after he noticed its passenger side headlight wasn't working. He charged the driver, a 21-year-old Howell man, with OUIL after the man failed field sobriety tests. The man reportedly registered a .191 preliminary BAC and was later released after posting a \$100.

School damaged

Lights out

Officer Paul Leslie stopped a 1993 Jeep on eastbound Grand River, west of Meadowbrook at 12:24 a.m. after he noticed it had

Richard Schaffhauser told Officer Mark Stone June 9 that someone did \$2,000 damage to Hickory Woods Elementary School. He said vandals smashed two roof vents, broke a concrete ashtray and tossed a piece of asphalt through a window in a door.



Calvary unit, flag designer featured at veterans' event

continued from front page

countries. Heft also served Napoleon, Ohio, as mayor for eight terms and was president of Ohio's Mayor's Association.

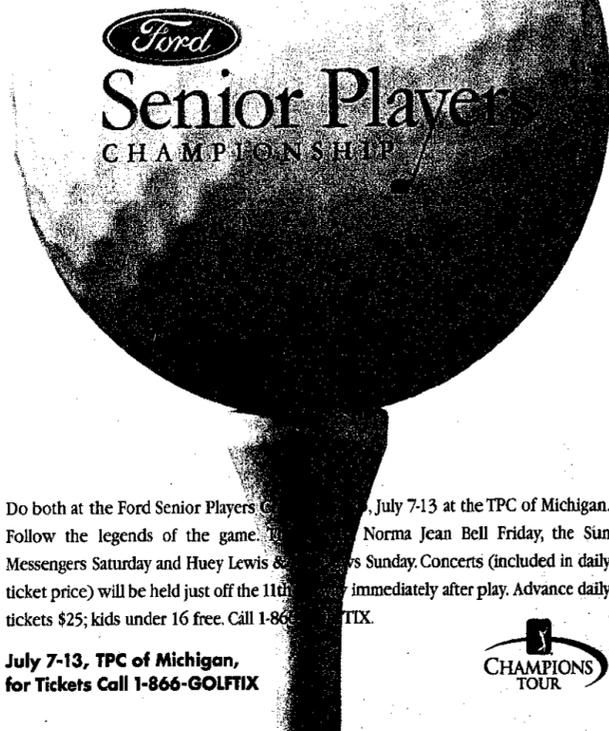
Heft, who now lives in Saginaw, once taught at Northwest State Community College, and is a real estate broker. Only one other version of the stars-and-stripes flag has flown over the U.S. longer than Heft's design.

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.

The Blue Devils, a cavalry unit representing the United States Army Reserve, the 88th Regional Support Command and the American Legion, will appear at Sunday's event.

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Hospitals move to block plans

continued from front

Novi), who drafted the legislation allowing the bed transfers, said the region's shifting population has created new needs. "Hospital bed transfers are necessary, especially in southeast Michigan. That's where the people are," Cassis said. "These transfers help Detroit hospitals that are drowning in red ink, and also make health care service facilities available to growing areas."

While the suit could ultimately block St. John's and Henry Ford from adding in-patient services to their west Oakland facilities, it has no immediate effect.

Henry Ford's attorney Jane Schelberg argued successfully before Ingham County Judge James Gidding against issuing a temporary restraining order. Noting that a planning commission review for their project is still months away, Schelberg said there would be no irreparable harm in letting Henry Ford to proceed with its plans.

"As of today nothing's changed," she said. "In two weeks they will argue for a preliminary injunction, but as of today we're continuing with our

project and we're fully confident we'll be able to move ahead with the project."

Zoila Brown, manager of mediation relations for St. John's Health, said her group filed a letter of intent with the Michigan Department of Health sometime after Henry Ford's, so it's likely St. John's lawyers will be in Lansing June 30 when lawyers for Henry Ford and the other five hospital square off in front of Judge Gidding for the next round.

For the moment, though, Brown said her group is "keeping right on schedule."

At the last CON hearing in Lansing, Providence President Rob Casalou said he expected to break ground on a patient tower by fall and have it open by 2005. Brown said St. John's is pressing ahead with its plans for Novi because "we feel it's important enough for the community we serve."

Both Brown and Schelberg said they're confident that Cassis' legislation will be upheld.

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.



Funds for 'life, art and healing'

Providence/U of M Assarian Cancer Center in Novi recently received \$10,000 from the Novi Chamber of Commerce. Funds were donated to the center with proceeds from the Chamber's annual Charity Auction, "A Celebration of Life, Art and Healing," April 12. Pictured, from left, are: Lou Martin, chairman of the Novi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and director of public relations for Providence Hospital; Nora Champion, Chamber president; Rob Casalou, president of Providence Hospital; Priscilla Khoury, president, Providence Health Foundation; and Nikki Pearse, president of Forum Entertainment and member of the Chamber Board of Directors.

Photo by Pam Fleming

Community leader Jeanne Clarke passes away at age 81

continued from front

the City of Novi and Director of Public Safety for the township and village of Novi.

"She eventually became my secretary and was very important to the department," McGee said. "Clark served as a volunteer for the Girl Scouts for 40 years and for Novi Youth Assistance for 46 years."

She was also active in the First Baptist Church of Novi, Friends of the Novi Library, Charter House of Novi, the Novi Historical Society, the Novi Beautification

Committee, the Novi Social Club and the Rebecca Lodge.

"She continued to be active in the church even after she had to drop other activities due to her declining health," said Pastor Gary Elfrer of the First Baptist Church of Novi.

"Even after she could no longer come to church, she still performed duties for the church," she said.

"She lived almost all of her life in Michigan, moving here when she was about 10 years old," said her son-in-law Pete Timko. A graduate of the Walled Lake High School Class of 1939, Clarke

was also active in the Novi Schools Pen Pal Group and Another Way Pregnancy of Novi. She served as a foster mother for 42 children over the years.

Brenda Borders, analyst planner for the Novi Police Department, worked with Clarke during the last two years of her career with the department.

"She was a wonderful person who was always trying to help other people. She was very active in the Novi Youth Assistance program," Borders said.

Judge Brian MacKenzie, First Division, 52nd District Court, first met Clarke because of her column

and then more closely as a board member of Novi Youth Assistance.

"Jeanne served as treasurer of the organization all the time I knew her," he said.

"Jeanne was one of those people who made Novi a good place to live. She had a passionate concern for doing good and was fiercely protective of those things that she thought improved the city and helped the people of Novi," MacKenzie said.

"I think everyone read her column every week," he said. "What she wrote becomes a real, rich treasure trove about how the city was at the time that her

column appeared even more so maybe than what's on the front page because from a historical perspective it covered the day-to-day lives of people," the judge added.

MacKenzie said he had known Clarke since about 1980. "I think the best thing about Jeanne is how she cared about people," he said. "She was civic-minded but not so much for the city but for the people who live in the city."

Survivors include daughters Karen Timko of Novi and Sharon Horton of Traverse City; a brother, Dr. Jim Travis of Tupelo, Miss.; seven grandchildren and 10 great-

grandchildren. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church of Novi, 45301 Eleven Mile Road. Interment will be at Oakland Hills Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the First Baptist Church of Novi, 45301 Eleven Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375, or Novi Youth Assistance, 41575 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

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Novi Meadows' Terry Garcia earns NEF's top teacher honor for 2003

continued from front

sion and I just was not one of the candidates, so it was just a total shock." After she was told what was going to happen to her, Garcia was taken to the Suburban Collection to choose her car. "They got me a substitute who took over my class," she said. "Once I arrived I had a choice of 25 cars to choose from. I could test drive any of the cars and I had the whole day to choose. It was a total real carpet day."

After a while of debating, Garcia got hungry, so she was taken to lunch. "It took me the entire day to pick the car," she said. "I hadn't seen the Mazda car

line and I had mixed feelings about whether I wanted a car or an SUV. I told them I wanted to check out the Mazda's and communication travels faster than me because I got there and the Mazda's were there. I picked the Mazda Tribute and they told me to come back later that night to pick it up after they could have it all prepped for me. It was like being a queen for the day. My wish was their command. It was just a wonderful experience and one that I will never forget."

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

Courtesy photo

NEF's pick for teacher of the year, Terry Garcia, and her husband, Jack, with the car she picked out as this year's winner.

Better late than never: Novi's new fire station finally opens

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

More than a year after its original planned opening, Novi city officials will put the city's newest fire station into service June 28. According to Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan, the opening of Fire Station Number Four at Wixom Road and 10 Mile will mean more than three miles of roads away from a fire station.

Prior to this, the nearest similar training facility was located in Wixom.

Work on the project was stalled last year when the original contractor, Greystone Construction, defaulted, leaving several sub-contractors unpaid. Although the project was funded, which meant the city didn't lose any money, the default created a furor among residents who were unhappy the city hired the same contractor responsible for the troubled Main Street development.

While there has been some talk of using the Fire Department's 11 Mile and Beck facility as a storage area for Parks and Recreation Department equipment, the city has yet to make a final decision. The new station will be staffed by five full-time firefighters and a training officer. Mondays through Fridays and serve as home base for 14 paid on-call firefighters.

The grand opening of the new facility will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 28 with a ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m.



Novi FD Photo/Capt. Don Roy

Rollover

A 21-year-old Novi woman was cited for failure to yield to traffic at the corner of Wellington and Pontiac Trail June 5. According to Novi Police reports, the woman's silver 2002 Pontiac struck a black 1995 Pontiac Grand Am driven by a 26-year-old Wixom woman. The Wixom woman lost control of her car and it rolled over in a ditch. The Wixom woman was taken to Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township, where she was treated and released, according to reports.

Retired Ford executive makes mayor's race a three-way

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

"If you're gonna complain, you'd better get in there and make changes." That, said retired Ford Motor Company executive, Jane Sheridan, is the reason she decided to throw her hat in the ring to be Novi's next mayor.

"I was talking with a neighbor the other day and she said, 'You're always complaining about things. You ought to do something about it,'" said Sheridan, recalling the day she decided to run for mayor. One of the things Sheridan

complains about a lot is traffic congestion. During the 21 years she's lived in the city, Sheridan said she's watched as more and more vehicles have crowded onto the city's streets.

She said part of the problem has been allowing too much of the city to be zoned for apartments and commercial uses. "There is so much room for improvement," she said. "I want to work for the long-term benefit of the community."

Sheridan said her recent retirement from Ford, where she spent 33 years climbing through the ranks to become vehicle distribution manager for foreign sales, created the perfect opportunity to

put her expertise to work in the city. "Now that I'm no longer in corporate America and my children are grown, I have the time to give back to my community."

It is, however, her first run for office. "I really don't have a political background," she said, "but I think actions speak louder than words."

The end of this month, she promised to get into action — going door to door across the city to get better known. "I think I am well known in the community, I just not that well known," she said.

Her husband, Jerry, a retired barber, was active in Rotary and was one of the early organizers of

what's now known as the Music and Motor Fest.

Sheridan is swarming off against Novi City Council Member Lou Cordas and Mayor Pro Tom Michelle Bononi, both of whom have long histories of city service.

However, Sheridan said she doesn't think Novi City Council has been open minded enough when it comes to citizen input. Along with taking steps to alleviate what she sees as excessive traffic congestion in the city, Sheridan said the city needs to place more emphasis on developing parks and recreation space around the city. She said she watched as the city's open spaces slowly disappeared as her children were growing. "It's very important for children to have safe places to play," she said.

Sheridan said her family used the city's parks and recreation facilities heavily when her children were growing up, and she wants to make sure that the expansion of park facilities keeps pace with the city's growing population.

Sheridan studied business and finance for three years at Oakland University, but got most of her training on the job at Ford. In her last position with the Number Two automaker, Sheridan was responsible for exporting U.S.-built Ford vehicles to every country in the world except Canada

and Mexico. "I used to joke with my staff that while Fitness Fogg got around the world in 80 days, I could do it in eight!" She said working at Ford meant learning how to deal with a lot of diverse people and cultures. "When I was working for Ford, I had a reputation for getting the job done," she said. Sheridan wants to bring that reputation to city hall and put it to work.

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.

DeRoche sponsors election reform bill

State Rep. Craig DeRoche on June 11 helped unveil a major election reform initiative that he hopes will increase voter turnout and save taxpayer dollars by establishing a set number of election days in Michigan.

DeRoche joined state Rep. Chris Ward, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, State Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom and many of the bill's sponsors at a morning news conference to advocate election consolidation. Many local and county clerks who support the initiative were also in attendance.

The bipartisan package has nine bills including House Bill 4821, sponsored by DeRoche, mandating that all elections, except special elections called by the governor, be held on certain specified dates four times a year. These dates would be:

- the fourth Tuesday in February;
- the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May;
- the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August; and
- the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

"Election consolidation will save the state and local units of government a lot of time and money," said DeRoche. R-Nowi. "This will also get rid of the so-called stealth elections that happen at random times throughout the year on local issues. By having more issues on the ballot at a given election time, voter interest and in turn participation will increase."

The bills now move to the House Local Government and Urban Policy Committee.

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Rotarians begin new year with awards presentations

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's Rotary Club launched its 44th year at the Wyndham Garden Hotel by joining the exclusive ranks of Rotary Club's with 100-percent Paul Harris Fellowship membership.

A Paul Harris Fellowship, named for the Chicago attorney who founded the worldwide service club in 1905, represents a \$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation. The foundation funds \$80 million annually in humanitarian and education grants globally.

According to Novi Rotary member Max Sanghvi, only 350 of the more than 30,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide can claim 100-percent Paul Harris Fellowship membership. Outgoing club president Joe Carrier noted that next month the club will be swearing in three new members, which means the club will have to bump up its fund-raising a notch.

"We have no problem with that," laughed Sanghvi.

Along with having Paul Harris Fellowships in all its members' names, Sanghvi noted the club donated a fellowship in the name of retiring Novi Mayor Richard Clark in recognition of his years of service to the city.

The club also swore in its 2003-04 officers with Vic Merritt taking over for Joe Carrier as president. Other officers include Randy DeMore, treasurer; Jeff Wright, secretary; Maryanne Cornelius, president-elect; and Sanghvi, senior past president.

Sanghvi was also presented with the club's Everything Rotary Award. "He is Mr. Rotary," declared Carrier. "He must put in 40-plus hours a week. He knows how to get things done. He is the go-to guy."

DeMore, who is coming back for a second year as the club's treasurer, was presented with the club's outstanding service award for his efforts heading up the group's annual golf outing.

Cornelius, who is stepping up the board ranks from secretary to president-elect, was presented with the club's outstanding secretary award.

Chris Reed took home the Christmas award for his work on the club's annual Christmas raffle as well as the club's Christmas in April program.

Lisa Ludechi was recognized with a special event award for her work on the club's annual Veterans events and Easter program.

Ted Mieth, who renewed his commitment to the club by becoming chairman of the community committee, was honored with the Come Back Award.

Gerry Krause was presented with the club committee award for his work as chairman of that committee.

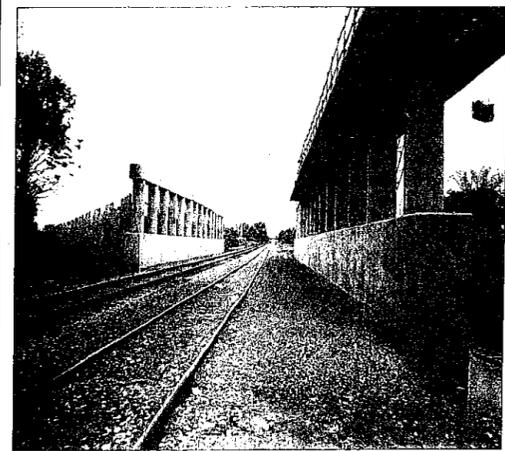
Tony Musu's relentless efforts in all facets of the club were recognized with his Rotarian of the Year award. He serves as program director.

Novi Rotary meets at noon Thursdays at the United Methodist Church of Novi, 41671 10 Mile Road.

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.



Vic Merritt, left, is taking over as Novi Rotary's president, taking the gavel from Joe Carrier, right.



It's getting there
The abutments for the Grand River Avenue bridge are near complete and the reconstruction of the train tracks-spanning portion of the Novi road is continuing.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday during the summer. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Tall Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Hours

Brochures describing the 2003 Summer Reading Program, "Laugh It Up @ the Library," are now available. Sign-up for the program, which is for children in the 4th grade and below, begins Monday, June 23.

L.O.L.

Kids going into the 5th grade and beyond are invited to sign up for "L.O.L. @ NPL." We'll feature awesome programs and prizes throughout the summer. Sign-up begins June 23.

Middle school book discussion

If you love to read and are going into grades 7-9 this fall, join our brand new book discussion group! We'll meet at the library for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Summer of the Monkeys" by Wilson Rawls on Tuesday, June 24, from 4-4:45 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Bubbles, bubbles everywhere

Bubbleman Ron Loyd will create larger-than-life bubbles on Wednesday, June 25. There will be a 1 p.m. show for children age four and up, and a 7 p.m. show for children of all ages. No registration is required for the 45-minute programs.

Drop-in story time

Story time for children ages four to seven will be held Thursday, June 26; story time for two- and three-year-olds will be held Friday, June 27. Each 30-minute session begins at 11 a.m. No registration is necessary.

The Drum Lady

Drum Lady Lori Fithian will teach children age 4 and up how to form a "drumunitary" on Wednesday, July 2, from 1-2 p.m. Kids will learn fun percussion techniques in this unique, interactive program. No registration is necessary.

Bagging Bill's magic workshop

Magician Baffling Bill will use some tricks of the trade on Monday, June 30, from 1-2 p.m. You'll be able to take home cool magic supplies to master your magic tricks. There is a \$2 materials fee for this workshop. Please register in advance in the library's Teen Area.

Craft programs

We have two craft programs scheduled for Tuesday, July 1. Crafts for children ages 5-6 will be at 1 p.m.; crafts for children age 7 and up will be at 2 p.m. There is a \$1.00 materials fee for each 40-minute program. No registration is necessary, but space is limited.

BUSINESS

Northville residents take a Walk UpCountry at their new store

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

When Northville residents Dave and Cindy Stieber, owners of the new UpCountry furniture store at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi, first started looking for new furnishings for their home in the late 1990s, they just couldn't find anything they liked.

So, Dave Stieber went to a furniture show in Toronto in search of trendy designs. He found them at UpCountry.

Several years later, the Stiebers have opened their second UpCountry store in the metro Detroit area. They are in the process of selling their interest in the first store they opened in Birmingham in November 2001 and are focusing on the new Novi location.



Dave Stieber and his wife Cindy lounge on the Biba chaise in their recently-opened UpCountry furniture store in Novi's Fountain Walk. The lounge chair goes for \$1,350.

The new 6,000-square-foot store at Fountain Walk features hardwood floors and glass walls at its corner location on Orchard Drive.

"We encourage browsing," Dave Stieber said. "We're more low key than some furniture stores."

One of the things that the Stiebers pride themselves on is the fact that any fabric can be used on any upholstered piece in the store.

"All of our items are by special order only and take about two months," Dave Stieber noted.

The minimalist, clean lines are reminiscent of classic designs around 1910 or 1920, Stieber said. "These designs lasted; they're not faddish," he added.

"When we first got married, we had early American, traditional colonial furniture," Dave Stieber said. "But over the years, this type of furniture began to appeal to us a lot more."

"I remember one customer telling us, 'I don't have to go to San Francisco to buy my furniture anymore,'" he said.

This designer, artistic furniture that looks like it belongs in a trendy loft setting doesn't appeal to everyone, however, according to the Stiebers.

But if you're used to shopping for furniture in Toronto, Chicago or New York, you can now find many of those same designs right here in Novi.

"Most of our products are exclusive to us," Dave Stieber said. "Teachers by profession, the Stiebers suffered from, for lack of a better word, burnout, after many more than 20 years in the field."

"We were looking for a new business and were going to open a restaurant," Dave Stieber said. "But he was so excited after seeing the UpCountry furniture in Toronto that he approached owner Iwaskiw a couple of years ago about opening a store in this area. All the upholstered designs are Iwaskiw's creations."

"We had two partners at the Birmingham location who had worked in the Toronto store," Dave Stieber said.

The Stiebers are excited to now be working in the western suburb.

"We live in Northville and knew what the area was doing, so we thought we'd take a chance on opening a store in Novi," Dave Stieber said.

All of UpCountry's furniture is bench made in Toronto, with one line coming from Vermont, according to Dave Stieber.

Accessories in the store are like those found in such magazines as Metropolitan Home, Elle Decor or Interior Design.

The owners plan to introduce some vintage metal furniture to customers over the summer.

"We're always looking for new vendors," Cindy Stieber said.

They would like for their store to serve as a meeting place for area architects and interior designers, Dave Stieber said.

"We want to host some events here," Dave Stieber said.

They also plan to have an upholstery sale in August and some type of open house in the fall.

Other staff members at UpCountry in Novi include Bryan Hegan and Kelly Bridges, who serve as co-managers, and Bea Flannigan, sales associate.

UpCountry staff members even make housecalls, scheduling appointments at area residences to give decorating advice.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pffleming@nlh.comcomm.net.

BUSINESS SHORTS

Inventor group launched

INCAT will sponsor the launch of the Motor City Autodesk Inventor User Group at a special event at 6 p.m. June 24 at Novi headquarters.

"This is something we considered for more than two years," said Dan Sperstein, INCAT GMB Sales Manager.

"This initiative will provide a forum for users of Autodesk solutions located in the metro Detroit area the opportunity to gather quarterly to share knowledge and information," he added.

The quarterly meetings will offer featured speakers, product demonstrations and open discussions. It will be one of only three such groups in the Midwest. To register for the June 24 event, visit www.incat.com/cauing.

Business Activity Index up

The Detroit Area Business Activity Index increased to 103 in May, up three points from April's level of 100. A year earlier the index stood at 106.

"Despite a second consecutive month of improvement, the metro Detroit economy is running 3.9 percent below year-to-date May levels of 2002," said David Littman, chief economist with Comerica Bank.

"In May, steel output soared to the highest level in years, confirming the tariff barriers that were enacted. And, retailing activity picked up dramatically. Car and truck sales are still playing catch up from the war-depressed levels from March and April."

Other staff members at UpCountry in Novi include Bryan Hegan and Kelly Bridges, who serve as co-managers, and Bea Flannigan, sales associate.

UpCountry staff members even make housecalls, scheduling appointments at area residences to give decorating advice.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pffleming@nlh.comcomm.net.

Automation Alley hires new director

Automation Alley has hired Dr. Thomas Anderson as the new director of the Automation Alley Technology Center in Southfield.

Anderson will spearhead the business incubator/accelerator that will be developed in the Automation Alley SmartZone in Troy.

Conceived in 1998, Automation Alley is a consortium of high-tech businesses and organizations in Southeast Michigan that is recognized as one of the most dynamic and affluent regions in the United States.

Wixom business makes connection

Trimax Systems Inc., a business-to-business Electronic Data Interchange and single-source solutions provider of integrated software products in Wixom, recently provided software and services to Tobatsu.

The software will allow Tobatsu to trade and track electronic data.

Tobatsu, based in Santa Fe, continued on B

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BRIGHTON 315 E. Grand River (East of Main St.) 810.227.7440	HARTLAND 10112 Highland Rd. (M-59 & Old US-23) 810.632.9300	MILFORD 101 E. Commerce (at Main St.) 248.684.7440	OKEMOS 4738 Central Park Dr. (Next to Panera Bread) 517.349.0300

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Historic moment

Novi Mayor Richard Clark (right) presents Alan Rotherberg with a plaque honoring his seven year's service on the Novi Historical Commission. Rotherberg, a Civil War buff, stepped down from the commission after moving to a nearby community.



BUSINESS SHORTS

continued from 7

Spring, Calif., needed a solution that would allow the company to track transactions electronically with their customer base.

Lean Learning video available

The Lean Learning Center in Novi, a leading provider of lean curriculum to a variety of industries, and The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), announce the availability of a new video, "Learning Lean Through Simulation."

The video was written by Lean Learning Center partner Jamie Hinchbaugh and contains an interview with Hinchbaugh and comments from fellow partner Dennis Panley.

Produced and distributed by SME, the video costs \$2.99 for SME members and \$25 for non-members. Order it online at www.sme.org/videos or by calling (800) 733-1763.

Army contracts up for grabs

The Army's National Automotive Center (NAC) in Warren recently announced it plans to award more than \$20 million this year in contracts to small businesses. The NAC is looking for businesses interested in working on a series of collaborative technology development projects that would benefit the military and the commercial industry.

The program will be outlined at meetings from 8 a.m. to noon June 20 at the University of Detroit Mercy, McNichols Campus and June 23 at Macomb County Community College, South Campus, on 12 Mile Road. Registration is required by calling Greg Beck at (586) 446-9340 or by e-mailing him at gbeck@uodm.edu.

Attendees must pay a registration fee of \$25. The next forums are scheduled on June 24 in Troy, on July 17 in Detroit and on July 29 in Livonia.

Airport Authority co-hosts forums

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), which operates Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports, has teamed with the State of Michigan to host a series of business forums targeted at providing information to local companies on airport business opportunities.

The business forums will provide information to local companies on airport business opportunities. The next forums are scheduled on June 24 in Troy, on July 17 in Detroit and on July 29 in Livonia.

In addition, the authority will host a forum in Macomb County later this summer. The business forums will provide information to local companies on airport business opportunities.

Denise Roberts, owner of D.A. Roberts & Associates and author of "Painless Prospecting," will present the program. Cost is \$15 for Automation Alley members and \$25 for non-members. Register online at www.automationalley.com or by calling (800) 427-5100.

Index predicts modest expansion

The Advance Economic Barometer (AEB), Comerica Bank's predictive index for the state's economy, registered 4.0 points in May, unchanged from April's 4.0, but far below the year-earlier level of 5.2, according to David Littmann, chief economist for Detroit-based Comerica Bank.

"The Advance Economic Barometer predicts expansion for the Michigan economy over the balance of 2003 but at a relatively modest pace compared with the national economy," Littmann said.

Networking seminar planned

Automation Alley's Technology Business Committee will sponsor "The Art of Networking" from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with networking from 5:30 to 7 p.m. June 26 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy.

The goal of the event is to arm people with the tools needed to network effectively in today's competitive economy. Cost is \$15 for Automation Alley members and \$25 for non-members. Register online at www.automationalley.com or by calling (800) 427-5100.



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TCF Bank to construct new branch in Novi

Building will include six drive-through stations

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

TCF Bank will open a new branch in Novi soon in the Westmarket Square shopping center on the northwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Beck Road.

"We'd like to have something up and running by the end of the year," according to Larry Czekaj, senior vice president of TCF Bank.

Members of the Novi Planning Commission approved a preliminary site plan for the bank branch at its May 28 meeting.

The bank is proposing a 6,000-square-foot, single-story building with six drive-through transaction stations on the 2.5-acre site.

Several members of the commission expressed concern over the number of parking spaces provided in the plan which is in excess of ordinance requirements.

The plan calls for 93 spaces and only 40 are required. TCF Bank officials, however, want to provide the additional 53 parking spaces for the expected future development within the Westmarket Square shopping center.

"The problem is that if nothing is built north of the bank we're stuck with a sea of asphalt," Antonia Nagy, planning commission chair, said.

There was also concern expressed about the configuration of the building and the number of barrier-free or handicapped parking spaces, which does not meet code requirements. The code requirements are based on the number of parking spaces proposed in the area of construction.

TCF Bank officials, however, said the number of handicapped parking spaces provided for the entire development is more than the number of barrier free spaces required.

A five-foot-wide pedestrian safety walk will also be constructed along the west side of Beck Road. This is required by the city's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan section of the Master Plan for Land Use.

The front of the bank will face I-96 and southbound traffic on Beck Road, according to Czekaj, with the drive-through lanes facing the south side of the building on Grand River Avenue.

Planning commission member Lynne Paul said she was disappointed with the amount of parking being offered at the bank and thinks the proposed building is backwards and the front of it needs to face Grand River Avenue.

"I'm concerned because the intent of the master plan is to develop two buildings north of this area, and the proposed configuration may interfere with this construction," Paul said.

"I have a concern with traffic in this area," Nagy said.

"From a safety standpoint, it seems it would be better to redirect the drive-through to the north and have the building moved to the south," Paul said.

Commission members, however, decided to approve the bank's plans to have the front of the building face I-96, Czekaj said.

He noted that extensive landscaping will be done on the south side of the building, increasing the attractiveness of the property on the Grand River Avenue side.

"In fact, we exceeded the landscape requirements for the City of Novi," Czekaj said. "After talking with city consultants, who are considering a new landscaping ordinance, we were sensitive to the proposed new requirements."

Bowers & Rein Associates, Inc. of Ann Arbor, are the architects and planners on the project.

TCF Banks recently added branches at 14 Mile and Haggerty in Commerce Township and at 6 Mile and Haggerty in Northville Township.

"This Novi branch completes a triangle of branches in this area. We look forward to serving the residents and businesses in the Novi area," Czekaj said.

He noted that the corporation is involved in a major expansion plan over the next few years.

TCF Financial Corporation, a financial holding corporation based in Wayzata, Minn., with \$12 billion in assets.

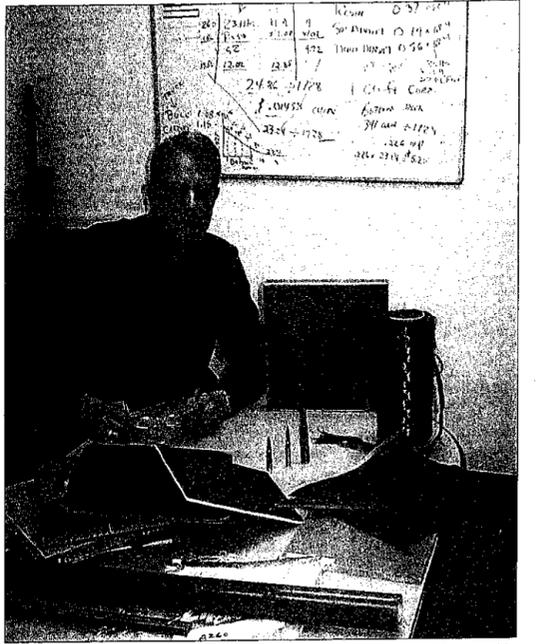
TCF has 394 banking locations in six states, including Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Colorado and Indiana. Michigan has 53 TCF banks, with the majority of branches located in the metropolitan Detroit area.

The company has the fourth largest supermarket banking system in the United States and is the 16th largest issuer of VISA debit cards.

TCF affiliates provide leasing and equipment finance, mortgage banking, discount brokerage, and investment and insurance sales.

Novi entrepreneurs developing composite for use by military

By Phil Foley STAFF WRITER



It can be as white and shiny as a slab of vanilla Turkish taffy or as flat and gray as finely trowelled concrete, but in either case, a pair of Novi entrepreneurs' think Moldite is the next big thing in composites.

Recently the privately-held company's material, Moldite, met the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Level IV requirements for ballistic armor protection.

According to company president Lawrence Kimberly, during tests at the University of Dayton a one-inch slab of Moldite stopped a 7.62 mm standard NATO round. "A 7.62 will go right through and engine block," noted Kimberly.

The advantage of Moldite, said Kimberly, is that while it "rivals steel for strength and stiffness," its specific gravity is low enough that it floats in water. He added the material can be screwed, glued and clamped, just like wood.

Kimberly and partner David Demarest originally started developing the material for use in a golf club driver head in 1997.

From there their company developed pieces to replace steel reinforcement bars in a plastic cargo pallets. The advantage in that application, said Kimberly, is that unlike steel the Moldite bars spring back into shape when struck by material handling equipment.

Another advantage of Moldite, said Demarest, is that a trailer made of steel that would weigh 2,000 would weigh only 400 pounds if made of Moldite.

Passing the government's NIJ tests for armor panels, "is only the beginning," said Tom Clinton, the company's CEO. He said the company is working with Integrated Concepts & Research Corporation to develop a wide variety of military and civilian applications for the material.

Demarest noted Moldite could be used to make bridge deck panels that weigh 40 percent lighter than concrete that tips the scales at 120 pounds per square foot.

Kimberly added the material could be used to make window panels that weigh roughly a quarter of what similar steel panels weigh or could be machined into window frame parts that don't rot like wood or promote condensation like metal.

Part of what makes Moldite so versatile, said Kimberly, is that it can easily be bonded with reinforcing materials like carbon fiber or Kevlar. "Aluminum was the breakthrough material in the aircraft industry 30 years ago. Moldite is today's breakthrough material," he said.

He said decks and bulkheads in today's commercial aircraft are typically made with an aluminum honeycomb material that has layers of fiberglass or similar materials glued to it. With Moldite, said Kimberly, fiberglass matting can be incorporated into the material, eliminating the concern for delamination and things like electrical wiring can be imbedded in the material.

Clinton pointed out that Moldite won the Aviation Week & Space Technology award in 2001. That was followed up last year by Automotive Engineering International's readership voting the material one of the 20 highest rated products of the year. And earlier this year Aerospace Magazine presented the company with its technology award in the new advance composite material category.

Still, for all the accolades and ideas, Moldite hasn't got a product in production yet.

Citing security restrictions, Kimberly and Demarest are a little fuzzy about what they have in the works, but they said the should have a product to market by late summer.

"Phase One of developing a military-driven project should be complete by July or August," said Kimberly. "Then we'll begin Phase Two — building a prototype." He said that product alone could spell \$10 million in annual sales for his company. "That's the headline story."

However, he added, Moldite's business plan is not to get involved in manufacturing, but rather license the use of the material and handle the innovation process.

"Eventually we'd like to have a full innovation center here," he said.

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

Larry Kimberly and his partner, David Demarest, believe their product, Moldite, is the next big thing in composites. The Novi entrepreneurs' material recently met the U.S. military's stringent level IV National Institute of Justice requirements for ballistic armor protection. They hope to be using their product in a major application for the military by the first quarter of 2004.

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 03-016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow an office building at 25480 Trans-X Drive from the date of the meeting until June 20, 2004.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 500 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2003 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 to consider **CATHOLIC CENTRAL SIGHT SCHOOL, SE 02&S1, LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF WIXOM ROAD SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING FINAL SITE PLAN AND REVISED WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL.** The applicant is proposing a private college preparatory high school on a 60 acre site.

SARAH MARCHIONI SECRETARY
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(6-19-03 NN 65085)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **CATHOLIC CENTRAL SIGHT SCHOOL, SE 02&S1, LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF WIXOM ROAD SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING FINAL SITE PLAN AND REVISED WOODLAND PERMIT APPROVAL.** The applicant is proposing a private college preparatory high school on a 60 acre site.

LOCATION MAP NOT TO SCALE

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments will be heard at the public hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LYNN KOZAN, SECRETARY
(6-19-03 NN 65183)

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ENGAGEMENTS



Walker-Dinning

Jim and Brenda Walker of Howell announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Cody Dinning, son of Colleen Dinning of Fowlerville and Terry Dinning of East Lansing. The bride-elect graduated from Howell High School in 1998. She is currently attending Lansing Community College and is an advertising executive for the Novi News. The groom-elect graduated from Fowlerville High School in 1996 and is currently employed by Superior Electric as an electrician. An October 2003 wedding is planned.



Norris-Zinke

Susan and the late Stephen Norris of Brighton and Mr. and Mrs. James Zinke of Sterling Heights announce the engagement of their children, Jennifer Norris and James Zinke. The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Highland High School and a 2000 Michigan State University graduate. She is currently employed by HomeTown Newspapers. The groom-elect is a 1989 graduate of Sterling Heights High School. He graduated from GMH in 1994 and Oakland University in 1997. He is currently employed by American Axle and Manufacturing, Rochester Hills. A November 2003 wedding is planned.



Schell-Miller

Cheryl and Ken Schell of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Erin Schell, to Christopher Scott Miller, son of Cheryl and David Miller of Commerce Township. The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Novi High School and is currently a junior in the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. A June 2005 wedding is planned.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 6/19
 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Intro to Windows
 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Line Dance
 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. Travel Meeting
 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Senior Survival Workshop
 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
 12:15-12:45 Lunch
 12:45-1:15 p.m. Bridge
 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer-Fund. of Internet

Friday 6/20
 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Stretch & Strength at Novi Civic Center
 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Body Recall cancelled
 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
 noon Strawberry Festival
 advanced ticket required
 12:30-1:00 p.m. Bingo-cancelled
 12 p.m. Clogging *
 12:30 Dupl. Bridge

Monday 6/23
 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Stretch & Strength
 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Intro to Computers
 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Body Recall
 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
 noon Lunch

12:30-1 p.m. Pinch *
 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Healing Touch
 6:30 p.m. Clogging *
 1,000 Island-Canada Trip

Tuesday 6/24
 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Massage Therapy
 9 a.m. Pancake breakfast
 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Line Dance *
 10 a.m. Crafts & Asian Pacific
 11 a.m. "New Diseases", Sharon Tomaszewski, RN
 noon Lunch
 12:30 p.m. Bingo held in activities room
 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Dance

Wednesday 6/25
 9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
 10 a.m. Body Recall
 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure
 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
 11 a.m. TOPS Class
 noon Lunch
 12:30 p.m. Clogging *
 Fireworks 2003 Trip

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

OBITUARIES

Jeanne L. Clarke

A funeral service will be held Thursday, June 19 at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Novi, 45301 Eleven Mile Rd., Novi. In state will be at 10 a.m. until funeral service. Interment will be at Oakland Hills. Donations may be made to First Baptist Church of Novi, 45301 Eleven Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375 or Novi Youth Assistance, 41575 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Thomas L. Donahue

Thomas Donahue of West Bloomfield died June 16, 2003. He was 84. Survivors include his wife, Helen; seven children, James (Barbara), Thomas Jr. (Linda), Mary Jo (John) Baker, Dennis (Catherine), Donald (Kathleen), Therese (Stephen) Cousins, and Richard; 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and three siblings, Kathryn Donahue, Nancy Rotin and S.R. Barbara Donahue SSI/SPCC. Visitation will be held Friday, June 20, 2 p.m.-9 p.m. with a Family Prayer Service at 7 p.m. at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

Gilbert V. Kinsler

Gilbert Kinsler died June 11, 2003 at home. He was born January 1, 1931 in Detroit to the late Philip and Marion Kinsler. Formerly of Northville, he moved to South Lyon seven years ago. He retired from the Detroit Police Department as a detective sergeant in 1978 after 25 years of service. He enjoyed old cars, fishing and gardening. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Margaret Kinsler of Green Oak Township; three children, Cynthia (Ralph) Petty of Novi, Linda (Mark) Lucas of Basingstoke, England, and Mark (Sue) Kinsler of Grand Rapids; seven grandchildren; and a sister, Betty Koleski of New Baltimore.

Deborah Ann Comb

Deborah Comb, formerly of Northville, died June 11, 2003 in University Hospital in Ann Arbor. Mrs. Comb was an elementary school teacher with the Livonia Public Schools. Survivors include her husband, Douglas Comb of Milford; two sons, Andrew (Kimberly Smallwood) Comb of Milford and Michael Comb of Milford; her mother, June E. Yaw of Northville; and two siblings, William (Karen) Yaw of Buffalo, New York and Patricia (Koriat) Atty of Northville. Preceding her in death was her father, Charles W. Yaw. Funeral services were held June 17 at First United Methodist

Funeral Home

Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi. Instate Saturday 10:30 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11 a.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 16000 Pembroke, Detroit. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. The family requests contributions be made to any hospice or charity of your choice. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi.

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CLASS NOTES

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

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Fuerst Scholarship Award

In the spring of 1996, the Novi School Board of Education entrusted the Novi Educational Foundation with the management of the funds provided to the school district by the estate of Ruby Fuerst. Fuerst's will provided that the school district use the funds from her estate to provide scholarships, based primarily on need, to any resident of the school district who planned to continue their post-secondary education. The following people received the scholarship this year:
 • 2003 Novi High graduate Ashley Atkins
 • 2003 Novi High graduate Amy Harton
 • 1999 Novi High graduate Jennifer Seid
 • 2002 Novi High graduate Elizabeth Stevens
 • 2002 Novi High graduate Joshua Wainner

Student Art Purchase

The Novi Board of Education honored 2003 Novi High graduate Margo Wolowicz as one of the outstanding high school artists. Wolowicz's work recently was selected as an addition to the Board of Education collection gallery of high school student art now housed at the Educational Services Building. Wolowicz will be continuing her studies in fine arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She received four silver keys for her drawing and one certificate for her painting at the Scholastics Art Competition. A check for \$100 was also presented to her at the school board meeting on June 5.

Recognition Honoring Retiring School Employees

Novi Middle School's math club has accomplished some things that other middle schools in Michigan can only aspire to. The group has taken second place for two years in a row in the Michigan Mathematics League State Competition and has been consistently among the top finishers in recent memory. "We finished second place in the last competition in February," Serenson said. "We did a lot of work, a lot of morning practices and the kids spent a lot of time on their part doing things. I have done this for so many years and with all the practice we have and if the kids are willing to give me their all, we can do well!" For next year's competition, the club is shooting for first place. "When we had the Liao brothers here we were tops in the state every year they were in competition," Serenson said. "That's what we are trying to do again. I have been doing this competition for a really long time and I have put in lots of hours on my own separate



Photo by Stan Barke

Luau at Orchard Hills!

Like mother, like son, Orchard Hills kindergartner Ethan Coghlan and his mom, Lisa, dressed in bright colors for the year end "Luau." The kids and their parents enjoyed the food, games and sunshine for the last party of the school year.

Math club finishes second in as many years

Novi Middle School's math club has accomplished some things that other middle schools in Michigan can only aspire to. The group has taken second place for two years in a row in the Michigan Mathematics League State Competition and has been consistently among the top finishers in recent memory. "We finished second place in the last competition in February," Serenson said. "We did a lot of work, a lot of morning practices and the kids spent a lot of time on their part doing things. I have done this for so many years and with all the practice we have and if the kids are willing to give me their all, we can do well!" For next year's competition, the club is shooting for first place. "When we had the Liao brothers here we were tops in the state every year they were in competition," Serenson said. "That's what we are trying to do again. I have been doing this competition for a really long time and I have put in lots of hours on my own separate

"Bring a Friend a Lunch" program raises \$319 at VO Elementary

Food and money to benefit Oakland County Food Bank

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

For National World Hunger Awareness Day, which was on June 5, Village Oaks Elementary participated in a service-learning project called "Bring a Friend a Lunch" to benefit the Food Bank of Oakland County. According to Cheryl Girvan, coordinator of the project at Village Oaks, locally, the Oakland County Food Bank is trying to educate children about hunger issues in America, but most notably, hunger issues in Oakland County. "I challenged the third graders to use their own money and to compete with the fourth graders here," Girvan said. "Quite a few kids did bring in their own allowance. I went to each lunch period and I spent about five minutes giving the kids some infor-

mation about what a food bank is. It's kind of a warehouse to store food and the Oakland County Food Bank has at least 200 organizations that they dispense the food to. Most of them are churches or shelters of some kind. "Bring a Friend a Lunch" was a success at Village Oaks as \$319.80 was raised. Nineteen students cleaned out their piggy banks and 397 cans, 103 boxed goods and 18 jars of peanut butter were all collected. "The one fact I really made sure the children understood was what a food bank was and what a traditional soup kitchen was," Girvan said. "It's not just a place you get soup, and for every four people in America who receive a free meal, one is a child. This program is really keying in on children who are hungry. From what I have gathered from my conversation and from my research, this whole program is about educating children, so they in turn, can understand the impact of hunger on a local basis. I put all of the kids to a challenge to not just ask their parents for money but to use their own money. The Oakland County Food Bank will come and collect all the food from us."

To prepare the students for the project, Girvan made a poster, which she hung up in the hallway. It read, "Children CAN make a difference helping to feed the hungry. It just takes common SENSE." Girvan also gave kids ideas of how they can save money: By putting 25 percent of their allowance away for one whole year. "The point there was just to try to give children ideas that they have direct ways they could help," she said. "If nothing else, it gave their parents ideas."

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

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Traynor heads for Grand Rapids to spend time with family

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Rita Traynor, Ph.D., assistant superintendent for instructional services for Novi schools for 11 years, will retire June 30. She's looking forward to a new life in Grand Rapids with her family.

Dr. Traynor came into the district in 1972 and started her 31-year career with Novi as a fourth-grade teacher at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Then she moved to Novi Woods Elementary, where she taught fourth and fifth grades. After serving as a Title I teacher at Middle School North she moved to the central office as coordinator of funded projects.

"I moved to the central office because I had written a grant with the food service director for integrating nutrition into the curriculum," she said.

Her next title was director of nutrition education, after which she went on to serve as director of gifted and talented students in the district.

Dr. Traynor's assignment after this job was as special programs coordinator, then as director of communication and special programs.

After serving as director of educational programs, she landed the job as assistant superintendent of instruction.

"I'm the first person to hold this position. As the district grew, the need for administrative people grew," she said.

Dr. Traynor also taught curriculum studies at Madonna University in Livonia and Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti in the past. And, she edited a booklet, "Metaphors for Leadership," by Novi Galileo Teacher Leaders published this year.

A native of the Bronx, she moved to Michigan in 1969 and lives in Novi.

"I'm going to do some volunteer work and some writing," she said.

Dr. Traynor said in her many years in education, she enjoyed working with children and seeing their progress as well as working with teachers.

"I just enjoyed the whole teaching and learning atmosphere. And I loved working in Novi. It just seemed like the time to move on, spend time with my family and start new ventures," she said.

Greg Carnacchi, assistant principal at Novi Meadows Elementary, may be leaving the Novi school district when he retires June 30, but he's not leaving education.

In fact, he'll be starting a new position soon as principal of St. Mary's School in Royal Oak, a parochial school whose classes range from preschool through eighth grade.

"I have always been very committed to my faith and spirituality and have wondered if God had something in store for me," he said.

After 29 years in Novi, "I'm looking forward to it and the chance to start my own school and live a different life," he said.

Carnacchi began his career in 1974, teaching third-graders and fifth-graders at Village Oaks Elementary School. He became heavily involved in a program started a year or two before called the Outdoor Education Program.

Now the program, which meets at the Walled Lake Outdoor Center, is a permanent part of the curriculum for all fifth-graders in the Novi school district.

"Close to 500 kids are involved in the two-and-a-half-day program," he said, in which they stay overnight in dorms and attend classes in the forest community, pond life, wildlife and survival tactics.

When Carnacchi moved to Novi Meadows Elementary as an administrative intern, "We'd actually go out and teach classes at the outdoor center. It was a great opportunity for us and for the kids to see us in a different light. It showed that we had a love of the outdoors but also how important it is to have an understanding of the environment and how it impacts our everyday lives," he said.

"We believed in the program enough that we've kept it going for 30 years," he said.

Carnacchi worked as a media specialist at Novi Meadow for two years before being promoted to the assistant principal position.

Volunteer Appreciation Assembly honors retiring Imrick at Parkview

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Parkview Elementary's staff and students surprised their retiring principal, Joseph Imrick, last Friday during the school's annual Volunteer Appreciation Concert. The event, which is normally to thank the school's PTO and other volunteers, was a big tribute to Imrick this year as students sang songs with a "Forever Summer" theme.



Photo by Lynn Garcia

From left, Sarah Campbell, Mary Campbell and Brendan Campbell say good luck to retiring Parkview Elementary principal Joseph Imrick on Thursday during a PTO organized celebration.

"Every year we do a special PTO program to show our appreciation for the volunteers who do so much for us at Parkview," Parkview Music Teacher Suzanne Krzyz said. "This year Mr. Imrick is retiring and we wanted to do something extra special for him and to show how special he is for our school. What greater gift is there to give than the gift of the kids? Our music all centered around 'Forever Summer,' which is what he is going to be having now."

Korzyz started to plan for the concert back in January, when Imrick made his announcement to retire. "It took a lot of time to prepare for the concert," she said. "After he made his announcement, I think the wheels just started to turn. I thought of what kind of songs we should use and what kind of things we could do."

The PTO song is one that is performed every year because it shows how important the volunteers are to the school building. For this year's concert, however, a couple of the songs had to be made up because Korzyz couldn't find any retirement songs for the kids to sing.

"For the last song, 'Retired,' I took snippets from each of the songs that the children had performed and made that into our retirement song," Korzyz said. "I knew Mr. Imrick wouldn't want aappy, sentimental program. He needed to not know about this. I just took little pieces of each of their songs and included it into the bigger song, which had to be made up."

The kids had to keep a lot of other things a secret from Imrick as well. A glass bowl was purchased for him which came with special wishes, along with other gifts that he can enjoy.

Imrick was pleasantly surprised at the concert. "They wanted me to leave the building when they were practicing the day before, so I thought they were just practicing a song to sing to me," he said. "So, I left the building and I went to some bogus meeting that they had set up for me so that they could practice their song. I didn't realize they were going to sing to me for the whole program because they have a retirement party for the community scheduled on Thursday. But as I think about it now, this was probably the only time that they could get all the kids together and guarantee that they would all be together to do something special. I'm glad it was light and fun and not sappy. The decorations in the school alone were amazing. The whole staff and the kids really did a nice job. I enjoyed it very much."

Imrick said he's thoroughly enjoyed his career in education. "There's lots of opportunity for problem-solving," he said. He and his wife will be moving to the west side of the state since their daughter, son and four grandchildren live in either Holland or Rockford.

"We've had a condo on Lake Macatawa in Holland for the last six years and have been commuting on the weekends so we could be with our family. We kind of have a life going there already," he said.

He'll be looking for some possible involvement in the school system there. "I may volunteer, teach or serve in another capacity. It's possible I could get involved with the school that's associated with the Catholic church in the community," he added.

Imrick will miss the Novi school district, however. "It's not a district that's satisfied with the status quo," he said. "It's always trying to improve itself."

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@homecom.net.

Imrick may work in school system on west side of state

Joe Imrick, principal of Parkview Elementary School, opened the Novi school 14 years ago. Now he's headed for the west side of the state when he retires June 30.

A native of the east side of Detroit and resident of Northville, Imrick started out wanting to be a priest and received a degree in philosophy from Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit.

But he quickly found that education was his dream and celebrates 37 years in the field.

"I just decided that being a priest wasn't the life for me. I wanted to have a family, so I switched to education. It's very challenging work. You get to work with people instead of auto parts although we're starting to treat students like auto parts with the new No Child Left Behind model," he said.

Imrick attended University of Detroit, receiving a master's degree in education and a teacher's certification. Next he attended Wayne State University, earning an education specialist degree in elementary education administration.

He taught sixth-graders and seventh-graders for four years at St. Clare Elementary School in Grosse Pointe, then served as director of teacher certification for Catholic schoolteachers at the University of Detroit.

Next he served as principal at St. Rita's Elementary in Detroit for four years.

Then went to Woodliff Elementary School in East Grand Rapids, where he served as principal for three years.

After that, he was principal of Orchard Hills Elementary in Novi for eight years and principal of Novi Meadows Elementary for three years.

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Imrick said he's thoroughly enjoyed his career in education. "There's lots of opportunity for problem-solving," he said. He and his wife will be moving to the west side of the state since their daughter, son and four grandchildren live in either Holland or Rockford.

"We've had a condo on Lake Macatawa in Holland for the last six years and have been commuting on the weekends so we could be with our family. We kind of have a life going there already," he said.

He'll be looking for some possible involvement in the school system there. "I may volunteer, teach or serve in another capacity. It's possible I could get involved with the school that's associated with the Catholic church in the community," he added.

Imrick will miss the Novi school district, however. "It's not a district that's satisfied with the status quo," he said. "It's always trying to improve itself."

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@homecom.net.

Carnacchi to assume top job at Royal Oak school

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Greg Carnacchi, assistant principal at Novi Meadows Elementary, may be leaving the Novi school district when he retires June 30, but he's not leaving education.

In fact, he'll be starting a new position soon as principal of St. Mary's School in Royal Oak, a parochial school whose classes range from preschool through eighth grade.

"I have always been very committed to my faith and spirituality and have wondered if God had something in store for me," he said.

After 29 years in Novi, "I'm looking forward to it and the chance to start my own school and live a different life," he said.

Carnacchi began his career in 1974, teaching third-graders and fifth-graders at Village Oaks Elementary School. He became heavily involved in a program started a year or two before called the Outdoor Education Program.

Now the program, which meets at the Walled Lake Outdoor Center, is a permanent part of the curriculum for all fifth-graders in the Novi school district.

"Close to 500 kids are involved in the two-and-a-half-day program," he said, in which they stay overnight in dorms and attend classes in the forest community, pond life, wildlife and survival tactics.

When Carnacchi moved to Novi Meadows Elementary as an administrative intern, "We'd actually go out and teach classes at the outdoor center. It was a great opportunity for us and for the kids to see us in a different light. It showed that we had a love of the outdoors but also how important it is to have an understanding of the environment and how it impacts our everyday lives," he said.

"We believed in the program enough that we've kept it going for 30 years," he said.

Carnacchi worked as a media specialist at Novi Meadow for two years before being promoted to the assistant principal position.

He also taught the Love and Logic program, a parenting program developed by Dr. Foster Cline, a psychiatrist, and Jim Fay, a school administrator.

"We've taught it to parents, teachers and other support staff," he said.

Carnacchi said he will miss Novi but is looking forward to his new venture.

"It's been difficult to say goodbye to people I've worked with or come into contact with for 29 years. I consider myself very blessed to have worked with so many wonderful people over the years, and I'll cherish those memories."

"The greatest joy has been to be a part of the lives of the students, parents and staff. When people open up to you and allow you to be a part of their life, it's very special," he said.

"I also want to recognize my wife, Leslie, and my children—Chris, Sara, Emily and Marco—for the support they have given me during my career in Novi," Carnacchi said.

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Fry to embark on new career as independent consultant

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Jim Fry, director of technology programs for the Novi Community School District, will retire on June 30 after 30 years of service.

"This is the only district I've ever worked in," he said.

But he, like many of the district's recent retirees, will continue in the field when he opens an educational consulting business.

"I'm starting my own one-man company, J.S. Fry Consulting. I'll be consulting and contracting in educational technology—helping school districts with their technology planning," he said.

Fry worked as a teacher at Novi Middle School for three years, then moved to Novi Woods Elementary when it opened in the fall of 1976, where he taught fourth-graders and fifth-graders.

A native of Birmingham and resident of Plymouth, Fry received a bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant and a master's degree in education from Wayne State University in Detroit.

"My main priority is the instructional use of technology, such as the computers in the classroom and the district network that connects everything together," he said. He also oversees the media center program.

"We have a team of support people solving any problems—making sure e-mail and phones are working," he said.

During his 30 years of service to the district, Fry said the Internet has been the biggest change in how teachers and students use technology. "The Internet's resources and communication ability has made a huge impact on education. The next trend I see is wireless and hand-held devices being used in the classroom. I think that's where things are headed," he said.

Fry said even textbooks can be accessed through the Internet today.

"You have access to online research databases just by having a driver's license," he said. "This has made a huge impact on what we do."

He added that the Novi community has been extremely supportive of new technology by passing millages to help pay for advances in educational technology as well as other improvements in education.

Fry believes it is essential to offer students what they need in today's world.

"They want more than just a good education. They want that extra edge," Fry said.

Fry said he's enjoyed his long career with the Novi schools.

"It's been a great group of people to work with. The school board has given their support also. Everybody really works together well, and it's a fun and challenging place to work," he said.

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Courtesy Photo

Up, up and away!

Several Orchard Hills fourth graders show off the rockets they built, painted and then launched from the school's soccer field as their year came to a close.



Photo by Sue Burke

Letter Parade!

Orchard Hills' kindergartners recite a poem using hand motions for their proud parents as part of the Letter Parade program which included numerous songs, poems and recitations. The youngsters drew lots of oohs, ahhs, smiles and claps.

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Village Oaks students create clay-animation

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Fourth grade students, under the guidance of Village Oaks art teacher Kris Broderick, spent their last days of school making clay animation cartoons, which can be viewed on the Internet.

Thanks to a grant obtained from the Novi Educational Foundation, Broderick was able to purchase a new camera, along with a whole lot of clay for the kids to use.

"I wanted to be able to do clay animation with the children at this level and to give them the experience to put together some kind of a story," she said. "They were able to use their language arts skills, along with other skills to make a point of a presentation."

This year the school's theme focused on the earth, and Broderick chose to use "bite-cycles" as a science theme for the students. They watched movies like "Chicken Run," which used clay and they looked at a Web site that showed how that film was made.

"We made some simple animation foot books so they would have an idea of what they had to do,"

Broderick said. "When they got ready to do the project, they wrote their own stories and they made clay animatons. We used a still video camera because the district bought this new program called claymotion, which allows you to use a still video camera."

The project was a learning experience for everyone, even Broderick. "I had to learn about the claymotion program and I had to learn about cameras," she said. "I'm learning to use the camera in many ways because the one I bought is a little more finer tuned than what we had available for the kids here. They put it all together and we can add sound and voices to the claymotion through the computer. This is just the first step, just trying to make clay appear to move."

"The kids loved it," she said. "They were so excited to be able to do that. I feel this is a real pertinent project because it relates to three-dimensional construction in art, a

visual demonstration that relates to language arts, it relates to science, history, social studies and everything that they're doing."

The four cartoons that were made are entitled, "Egg to Dinosaur," "Tadpoles to Frogs," "Egg to Chick," and "Adventures of Sprout and Bloomie." Student Dayna Denoyer worked on "Egg to Dinosaur." "You had to take a lot of clips for the features because some of them didn't turn out too good," she said. "It was really cool and my class was the only one to do it. It was a really cool experience. You need a lot of clay too."

Student Josh Nemith, who worked on "Egg to Chick," also enjoyed the project. "It was a lot of fun and you really need a lot of pictures to be able to work on the project," he said. "Some of the letters got messed up, but I liked doing it a lot."

To view all four cartoons, visit www.novi.k12.mi.us/vclaymotion.htm.

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



Deer-Field Day!

The light rain on June 10 didn't dampen the athletic efforts of 500 Deerfield Elementary School students as they participated in a Field Day. Throughout the day, in two and a half hour time segments, students rotated through 10 events such as the Relay Race, the 50 Yard Dash, Tug of War and a Three-legged Sack Race. The events were held at Novi Middle School.

Event chair Ann Marie Jocz noted that one consideration in planning the Field Day was to come up with events that would appeal to kindergartners through fourth graders. One event that was a big hit with all ages was "Dirty Laundry." In this relay-like event, students ran to a barrel of soaking wet clothes, grabbed one item, then ran to hang it up on a clothes line. At the end of the day, each student received a participation ribbon and the satisfaction of knowing they did their best. About 100 parent volunteers helped plan and run the Field Day events.



Pizza Time!

Above, students from the Treehouse section at Deerfield Elementary School celebrated the upcoming end of school with an outdoor picnic. Coordinated by parent volunteers, the students picnicked on the playground, eating pizza and decorating cupcakes. The warm and dry weather helped all the students get excited about their upcoming summer vacation. Here, first grade student Anisa Haque gets ready for a big bite of pizza!



Girl Scout Bridging!

Sixteen girls from Daisy Girl Scout Troop 2287 at Deerfield Elementary School have now completed their bridging from Daisy Girl Scouts to Brownie Girl Scouts. The ceremony was held in the outdoor courtyard in which the Daisy's had recently planted flowers. The leaders of the troop are Cindy Webster and Thea Felice.

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Bus drivers honored!

Right, several Novi bus drivers posed after the Bus Driver Appreciation Brunch sponsored by the Orchard Hills PTO at the Courtyard by Marriott. Dan Tooman, director of transportation, said, "These are a diverse group of men and women. However, they all share the common goal of keeping Novi's kids safe."



Waxing eloquent

Left, Jason Park and Matt Wright portrayed Orville and Wilbur Wright at the Orchard Hills fourth grade wax museum a few weeks back.



Orchard Hills Field Day!

Left, Orchard Hills fourth grader Aradvan Farhad "leaps for the gold" at the long jump event which was part of the Orchard Hills Field Day.



Parkview, Novi Meadows and Village Oaks among schools throwing parties

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The last day of school, which was last Friday, was a day that Novi elementary school students won't soon forget. Many of them participated in last day celebrations complete with monthbooks for the fourth graders and "Pomp and Circumstance" music.

Parkview has a tradition where all the teachers and students line the hallways as the fourth graders parade through the school. They all receive yearbooks, complete with an autograph session.

"This is a Parkview tradition from Principal Inrick, the staff and the PTO to give the children a fond farewell as they journey to Novi Meadows," Michelle Kulis said, chairman of the fourth grade celebration. "It's our way to wish them all the best for the future."

They all parade down the school and all the teachers and students applaud them. The parents are in the north side of the building awaiting their children and we all applaud them and wish them a fond farewell. It's really exciting and it's really nice for the kids."

Novi Meadows held its annual awards ceremony which recognized students who participated in math competitions, math Olympiads, the Michigan Mathematics League, the Fine Arts Camp Scholarship, the Novi Meadows sixth grade Band Leadership Award, the Most Improved Player Award, the Novi Knights of Columbus Essay Award, Festival of the Arts, the District Calendar Award, Student Council, perfect attendance and outstanding attendance. Different mementous items were also brought in to put into a time cap-

sale which won't be opened up until the class of 2009's senior all night party. Some of the items included a yearbook, a stack of newspaper clippings about Novi Meadows from the Novi News, and other mementous items.

At Village Oaks students were led into the gymnasium where perfect attendance and safety awards were given out. Then, similarly to Parkview, classes in grades kindergarten through third grade lined the hallways as the fourth graders marched through. The office staff even burned "Pomp and Circumstance" on the loud speakers as the students paraded down the hallways.

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

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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.

Fest is back on the streets again

It's just too much fun to stop. That's what the organizers of the annual Music and Motorfest will tell you. For the last 16 years they have put on Novi's annual community festival and if you've never attended, you're missing out. Mark your calendars for July 24-27 and plan to be on Main Street in Downtown Novi for great music, classic cars, carnival rides, great food, friends and fun. Main Street takes on a whole new appearance that weekend. Streets lined with commercial and food vendors, car dealers, beverage stations, musical acts, carnivals, classic cars, you name it. It's fun to see and do, it's there! And there is something a bit different this year as well: the musical acts are all free of charge. Broughouse Networks, the festival's major sponsor, is providing acts starting on Thursday afternoon and running through Sunday evening free for your enjoyment!



Those acts include The Sun Messengers, Stewart Franke and Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, Gary's super group from the late '60s and early '70s produced such hits as "This Girl is a Woman Now," "Over You," "Woman, Woman" and the two number one hits "Young Girl" and "Lady Willpower." Gary Puckett will be appearing on Saturday night July 26th right in the middle of Main Street. It's a show you won't want to miss!

There will be plenty of other free entertainment throughout the weekend as well. You'll be able to check out the complete schedule of events in the Official Guide to the Music and Motorfest published by HomeTown Newspapers or simply call our office at (248) 349-1950.

As many people know, this is truly a community event. All of the proceeds go right back to the city in various forms. Many community groups use this event as a major fundraiser for their own goals and everyone who works there is a volunteer. That is where the fun of the event is. It's the citizens of Novi that make this event possible. From the many corporate sponsors who contribute their time and dollars to the City itself, which lends a overwhelming amount of support for the last 16 years that this event is possible. We all couldn't enjoy it without your support. For that, we thank you.

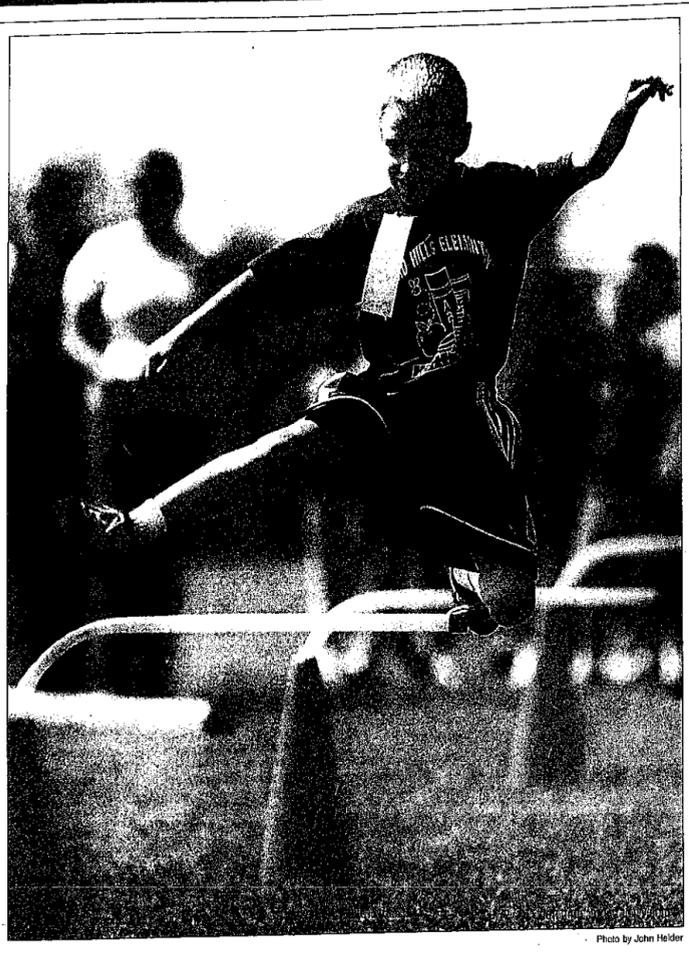
Over the next few weeks we will be reporting on what's new for the 2003 festival, including a special attraction sponsored by the Detroit Pistons, an expanded family area and a special appearance by the original Bazo the Clown! There will be many popular events returning as well. We couldn't have this festival without the Classic Car show and the Granddaddy of all Cruises, the Annual Grand River Cruise on Sunday evening!

We are putting the final touches on what promises to be the best festival Novi has ever seen. We hope you join us! In the interim, mark your calendars for July 24-27 and visit our website at www.musicandmotorfest.com for more information. We look forward to seeing you!

One of the festival's organizers, Phil Webb can be reached at (248) 349-1950.

OPINION

novinews.com



Leapin' Lumley!
Daniel Lumley takes part in a hurdles competition during field day activities for Orchard Hills Elementary School. The field day, held each year the week before school lets out for the summer, featured the Twinkie relay, the three-legged sack race and the very popular shoe-kicking contest.

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts. If you feel we have missed anyone, contact us at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113.

- United States Senate**
- Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
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Local office:
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Suite 1810
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1508
FAX: (517) 377-1506
- Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)
702 Hart Senate Office Building
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(202) 224-4822
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Local office:
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(517) 203-1760
- United States Congress**
- 11th District
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(202) 225-8171
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Local office:
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Livonia, MI 48152
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- Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville)
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(517) 335-7858
- State Senate**
- 15th District
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- 38th District
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- 9th Commission
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LETTERS

Still fighting for interchanges

On Friday, Gov. Granholm announced she will veto 34 pending road projects including funding for two projects on I-96 in Novi at both the Beck Road and Wixom interchanges. This is an outrage for the residents of Novi. I cannot state strongly enough how important it is for these projects to be reinstated.

The Michigan Department of Transportation asked Novi residents to increase taxes to help support these projects and for the last three years we have been paying our share.

Gov. Granholm is breaking a major promise to Michigan drivers. This is going to lead to more headaches and traffic congestion and will cost the taxpayers a lot of money when we eventually get around to completing these projects.

There is a dire need to get these projects back on line and I will do everything I can to convince the governor that this needs to happen.

I will continue to work with Sen. Nancy Cassis and our local government officials to build public support for the Beck and Wixom roads interchanges. We won't stop fighting.

You can do your part by calling Gov. Granholm at (517) 373-3400 and encouraging her to build these projects that Oakland County was promised.

State Rep. Craig DeRoche
Novi

Goodwill noted

Many times goodwill goes unnoticed. I would like to acknowledge several efforts from the business community and a Beautification Commissioner who shared goodwill and expected that it would go unnoticed.

First, and foremost, is Barb Greenberg, who is the leader in the Wild Flower Rescue. As a Beautification Commissioner

Lynne Paul
Novi Planning Commissioner

A small cemetery in Novi

In 1836, the Aldrich family designated one-half acre of their farm as a burial site. It was named Knapp Cemetery in memory of Henry Knapp, who was laid to rest there. This burial ground is located on 9 Mile Rd., east of Novi Rd., near the CSX railroad tracks. Most of the soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The years took their toll on this field of remembrance. It became overgrown and tombstones laid in disarray.

In July 1989 a boy scout, Life Scout Matthew Hoffman, chose as his project to become an Eagle Scout by restoring this cemetery. It entailed the clean-up of the grounds, repair and restructure of tombstones, erection of a split rail fence and the building of a cemetery sign. His proposal had the approval of his Scout Leaders and the City of Novi. (The City has title to the cemetery.) With the help of scouts from Troop #54 and #407, young Matt went to work. The scouts did such an outstanding restoration that Novi Historical Commission posted a plaque designating this as a historical site!

Just recently the split rail fence was removed and we were appalled to see that the City had sliced into the cemetery to lay a concrete path running parallel to several grave sites. This is an extension of the controversial new bike path on 9 Mile Road. A forbidding steel guard rail has also been installed in front of the concrete path. This historical and sacred burial ground has been violated!

Progress?

Shame on us...Lest we forget.

Clay Perry
Novi

Was Bush slick?

The question is did George W. Bush lie to the American people about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction? He is an oil man first and last. So, go figure. Is that grounds for impeachment?

Elizabeth Nicastri
Wixom

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.

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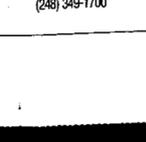
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OTHER OPINIONS

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

Will more voter participation improve our democracy?

Turns out they had school elections last Monday. School board candidates were elected and defeated, millage and bond issues were resolved and our magnificent structure of local control of education ground on its state-by-way.

Only problem was almost nobody voted. Statewide turnout statewide was less than 5 percent, with some districts notching less than 1 percent. Historically, these numbers are not unusual for education election choices.

In response, Secretary of State Terri Lant, Rep. Chris Ward, R-Brighton, and Sen. Beverly Hanson, R-Temperance, have renewed long-stalled efforts to consolidate elections in Michigan. If their nine-bill package makes it into law, elections could be held only on the fourth Tuesday in February and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, August and November. Rep. Ward is a former township clerk, so he knows what he's talking about when he speaks about the "frustration" of voters not knowing when elections will be held.

Their arguments are relatively straightforward. Consolidating elections onto certain dates overall saves money. Michigan has 555 K-12 school districts and 57 intermediate (county-wide) districts. They produce a lot of election on the average 600 per year over the state. And each election is expensive. It costs the city of Farmington Hills, for instance, \$30,000 to run a school election.

Moreover, concentrating election choices into a few of the dates reduces voter confusion and apathy and, hopefully, increases turnout. Shrewd school folks — board members, superintendents, principals, PTOs, teacher unions, whatever — have more than once conspired to schedule elections at times when a low turnout makes it possible for a dedicated minority to pass things like bond issues. More than once, I've heard a school superintendent argue, "We certainly don't want all these people voting in our election!"

So on the surface consolidating elections into specified dates seems like a no-brainer. Who can possibly argue against something that brings wider democratic participation? But before the legislature lurches into action, I'd like to add a couple of thoughts.

First, be careful about November. Our November ballot in Michigan is what the political scientists call a "bed sheet ballot" which means the number of races and propositions on it makes the ballot paper look as long as a bed sheet. President, U.S. Senate and House, governor, state senate and house; local mayors and city council; judges; and by local or statewide; and various state and local propositions. With all this stuff on the November ballot, it's easy for school matters to get lost in the shuffle.

My second thoughts are about consolidating elections. It's not going to get a lot of news coverage and editorial guidance in November elections. Responsible home town newspapers such as this one spend a lot of time covering all kinds of races and inter-addresses of each local candidate. But time is not endless and space in the newspaper is limited. Adding school elections to the already-crowded November ballot can only worsen the crunch of trying to provide solid coverage for important local races.

A better alternative would be to lump together all education races into one single election election. Voters could select members of local school boards, community college boards and governing board members of the U-M, MSU and WSU. Confronted with an entire election dealing with matters educational, the voters media would actually be obliged to cover the races, to question candidates, evaluate qualifications and question policy and positions. "Name" candidates would get less of a leg up. Citizens would have a chance to think about the totality of education policy and practice in Michigan — the biggest single item in the state's budget.

Interestingly, this is exactly what we did in Michigan prior to the 1963 Constitution. Back then, education races were clustered into one spring election held in odd-numbered years. I've never understood why the Constitutional Convention overturned such a sensible system.

My second thoughts about consolidating elections are, regrettably, "mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive," as my old philosophy tutor used to say.

Sure, doing something to increase voter turnout is as American as apple pie. High turnout is the best way to prevent a small, highly motivated minority from dominating public policy, whether that minority be members of the teacher unions pushing for more money to go into schools or right wing bigots trying to sabotage education policy.

But the obvious follow up question is: In a higher turnout election what kind of voter is likely to be turned out? Do we really want people who have no interest or knowledge in education to be voting in decisions? What kind of voting decision is the marginal (and likely uninformed) voter likely to make?

In other words, is increased voter participation actually likely to improve our democracy? This is a problem that has been debated for literally centuries. And I have to confess that as I get older and grumpier, I'm beginning to think that mere democratic participation is not necessarily the best solution for all of our social and political ills.

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

GUEST COLUMN

Boating safely serves everyone

Many may not know that water safety is one of the large responsibilities of a sheriff. With 450 plus navigable lakes in Oakland County alone, you can see this is often a daunting task. With the summer here, let's work together to make it safe and fun.

Please take some time to check all the safety equipment on your vessel. Make sure that if your boat is required to have a fire extinguisher, you inspect it. Most extinguishers have a needle type gauge. The needle should be pointing in the green or good area. Also, make sure the extinguisher is Coast Guard Approved. The materials used to assemble the Coast Guard approved extinguishers are different from the type you may have in your home.

Life preservers also need particular attention. Approximately 90 percent of all boating fatalities are drownings. When a person becomes unconscious or suffers injuries that prevent them from keeping themselves afloat, they can soon become a victim. Check the life preservers for mildew and rotting. Being in the boat all winter often subjects them to great humidity.

Life preservers must be Coast Guard approved as well. There are a number of items on the market that are not Coast Guard approved. Items such as ski-bells, inflatable swim rafts and water toys are not approved. Look at the preservers to make sure they are the appropriate size for the people who will be using them. The preservers may have been purchased when the children were younger, and now they have outgrown them. Do you have enough preservers? At the very minimum, each person on board a watercraft must have one. If a boat is over 16 feet in length, a wearable life jacket is required for each person on board plus one throwable life preserver. All children under six must wear a life preserver on any Michigan waterway? These are just a few of the requirements required by law.

Also, the skipper needs to sharpen his or her boat handling abilities. Among the duties is to be responsible and knowledgeable about the actual driving of the boat, and knowledgeable about the equipment items needed to make the outing safe and enjoyable. The Oakland County Sheriff's Office Marine Division, in conjunction with many communities, offers the Michigan Safe Boating Course. The course is designed to teach all the boating requirements a skipper needs to operate safely and within the law on our inland and Great Lakes. Youth between ages 12 and 16 need a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat. Additionally, anyone who, after Dec. 31, 1978 is required to have a Boating Certificate to operate personal watercraft.

Next, a tremendous but often overlooked piece of information, is the float plan. Similar to a flight flight plan, the float plan is information that is filed with the local sheriff's office about your boat's trip. Many times people have been lost at sea for several days to weeks without anyone being aware they were missing. Hopefully, a well-drafted float plan will never be used, but if your boat captain, swamps, or you get lost on the water, a float plan proves itself invaluable. Not only is it important to your well being, it helps the rescue people find you quickly and safely and limits their chances of being put in harm's way. So how do you "file" a float plan? float plans are not filed with any rescue organization. But, when a person is deemed missing, the float plan can be filed with the United States Coast Guard or any local agency attempting to locate the missing person. The information provided to the rescue agency can help them locate the missing person or persons more quickly and accurately. Actually, the float plan should be "filed" with a responsible person.

A person who can fax, e-mail or call the correct information into the local rescuing agency when it is realized a person or people are missing.

Many items could and should be included in your float plan. Names, ages, telephone numbers and addresses of each boat occupant are very important. The boat make, model, color, registration number (MC number) and boat name. Also, include a mapped route of your trip, including the homestead and where your trip will terminate. Equipment should also be listed (i.e., life preserver types, fire extinguishers, vhf radios, flares, first aid kit, GPS, radar, etc.). You may also want to list any emergency water and food you may have onboard.

Now one might say all this is common sense for Great Lakes boaters. However, what about the inland lakes? Many times boats are taken out for some rest and relaxation. It is in these times, if an accident occurs (i.e., capsizing, swamping or collision) no one would know where you were. Rescuers may spend valuable time checking to see if they arrived home or may be places other than on the water. Rescuers could also waste a great deal of critical time trying to determine when a missing person was headed. Also, knowing who or how many were in the boat helps rescuers determine the method of rescue that is most suitable.

Many parents already require "float plans" before their child leaves the house everyday (i.e., where they are going, what time will you be home, who are you going to be with, what is their phone number, etc.) So why not let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Please, file a float plan with someone; it may help save your life!

The Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is responsible for patrolling the numerous lakes of Oakland County.

Judging essay contest was an honor

Last month I received an e-mail from a Father's Day essay contest that was going on at a local business in Novi called Ready, Set, Paint! At first it looked like just another brief that I should put in the newspaper, until I read it more closely. It was addressed to me and it was asking if I would be the judge for the contest.

My very first thought was, "No way! With a story list that was close to 40 ideas, not to mention graduation, the senior all night party and school board meetings I have to attend, there is no way I could possibly give of myself all the attention this contest needs."

Needless to say, after thinking about it some more and getting the thoughts of my editor and other office colleagues, I reconsidered my decision and I think I did the right thing. I realized what an honor it is for someone in the community to recognize my ability to judge an essay contest. I have never been asked to do anything like this before in my life and I would like to take the time to thank Kristin Schenden Russell of Schenden Communications, Inc. and also Kristin Ashare, owner of Ready, Set, Paint! for choosing me.

The contest asked students of Novi schools, ages six to 12, to write an essay about what makes their dads the coolest, bravest or funniest in 100 words or less.

After the deadline passed, I received all the entries and was given a week to go through them all. Well, as it turned out, I didn't need that long at all. I took them all home with me on the night of June 10 and read through all of them. It was very hard to choose because so many of the essays were very good, but after a few hours of debating with myself, I finally picked the first place winner, along with four other winners

who all came in second place. The winners I chose were:

- Kylie Bielski, who will win a \$50 gift certificate to Ready, Set, Paint! for winning first place;
- Danielle Johnson, who will win a \$25 gift certificate to Ready, Set, Paint! for being one of the second place finishers;
- Krista Tice, who will win a \$25 gift certificate to Ready, Set, Paint! for being one of the second place finishers;
- Austin Reed, who will win a \$25 gift certificate to Ready, Set, Paint! for being one of the second place finishers; and
- Liz Taylor, who will win a \$25 gift certificate to Ready, Set, Paint! for being the last of the second place finishers.

All were excellent essays and should be commended on a job well done! I had a really nice time reading them and I see a lot of potential in the writing samples. Hopefully some of these kids will grow up to be new colleagues of mine.

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

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What are you waiting for?



Novi girl organizes sweet fundraiser for the needy

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

For a 10-year-old, Makena Baus of Novi has been pretty busy the last few weeks.

The fourth-grader at Deerfield Elementary School has been convincing local businesses, friends and family members to join her in a sweet adventure—a peanut butter and jelly drive June 7 benefiting Lighthouse of Oakland County.

This charitable organization has been a beacon of help, hope and encouragement for Oakland County's low-income families and senior citizens for more than 30 years.

Lighthouse Emergency Services, a subsidiary with locations in Pontiac and Clarkston, responds to families and seniors who have an immediate need for medicine, medical transportation, temporary shelter or food.

The daughter of Kathryn and Douglas Baus, Makena organized the peanut butter and jelly drive that coincided with a walk in the Willowbrook subdivision at the southeast corner of Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. June 7. Walkers were asked to bring a jar or two of the sweet stuff with them prior to the walk.

Makena collected more than 90 jars of peanut butter and jelly through the "Willowbrook Walk and Roll," family members,

friends and local businesses. She and her younger sister, Madeline, delivered the donations to the Lighthouse of Oakland County June 9.

"Minutes after the girls placed the peanut butter and jelly on the pantry shelves, they witnessed some of it being bagged up for three needy families. Makena is grateful to all those who supported this event," Kathryn Baus said.

Kathryn Baus said her daughter took on the community service project all by herself.

"Our neighbor, Julie Argoniss, used to work for a local radio station. They had done a peanut butter and jelly drive in the past for Lighthouse, and she explained the program to Makena," Kathryn Baus said.

"I thought about it for a couple of minutes after she told me about the program and decided that I'd like to do something like that," Makena Baus said.

"I didn't have a goal, but I'd like to be able to provide peanut butter and jelly for as many people who need it," she said.

"It's one of my favorite sandwiches," she said of the popular combination.

"She approached several area businesses to help her, and they were all very supportive," Kathryn Baus said.

She even typed her own letter and hand-delivered it to several businesses and planned the walk

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

K. Noreen Keating, president of the Lighthouse of Oakland County, accepted much-needed jars of peanut butter and jelly June 9 collected by Novi 10-year-old Makena Baus, left, who organized a peanut butter and jelly drive for the organization. Her younger sister, Madeline, helped her deliver the items.

First-ever Galyan's Solstice Run this Saturday

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For some runners out there, it's been a long time since this area had a distance race of its own.

That time is over.

The first-ever Galyan's Northville Solstice Run will take place June 21 at 7:45 a.m. with a five-kilometer race taking place through downtown Northville.

The run, which also has a walk to go with it and a kids' fun run, will find such benefits as ChampionChip timing, a telecast race by Comcast, and awards for overall winner, the Masters Division and for each Age Division.

"Doug Kuris and I wanted to start a new event in Northville," said Alan Whitehead, the race director. "Northville is a beautiful setting for a race, and many runners just love to take

part in events in this community."

Whitehead and Kuris, who is a world-record holding runner, came up with the idea of this particular event.

"Doug and I actually had the idea about bringing back a race to Northville about three years ago," Whitehead said. "Later, I told Doug that I was willing to direct it if he agreed to assist me and join the staff."

And Kuris was just one of many good additions to the staff.

"We have added experienced staff with Mark Cryderman, Jerry Mitman and Craig Mettel," Whitehead noted.

The race, which costs \$19 to enter prior to the day of the race and \$21 to enter on the day of, will find all of the money raised going to Northville Parks and Recreation projects and activities.

"Running the race helps the

community," Whitehead said. "It's really a thank you to Northville for allowing us to use the beautiful downtown area to hold this event."

The race is expected to bring in over 1,000 runners and walkers. The run, which will include such names as Chris Toloff of Michigan State and Kathy Rink, who is an Olympic Marathon runner.

Comcast is going to condense the race into a half-hour telecast that will be put over 59 cities in the Detroit-Metro area as they use four cameras and a pace car. And in the pace car? Kuris of course. The well-known runner will be doing commentary for the event.

Some of the highlights of the race include the five-kilometer run which starts at 8:15 a.m. with the 5K walk starting five minutes later. The kids fun run will start at 7:45 a.m. over a 1-mile course.

There will be prizes awarded for the overall winners with a \$100 gift certificate and gold medals going to the winners; \$50 gift certificates to the second place finishers and a \$50 certificate going to the master's division winner. The overall winner will also receive the "Doug Kuris Winner Award" and all age group winners will receive a medal award for their accomplishments.

The event will also have an entertainment venue hosted at Northville's Ford Field. Tommy Vale and the Torpedoes will be playing for four hours throughout the day, while kids can hit the face-painting booth and all participants are welcome to a large food and refreshment buffet.

For anyone who has registered before the day of the event, a colorful award t-shirt is also going to be received.

"This is going to be a lot of fun," Whitehead noted. "I'm really looking forward to being a part of this."

For more information, visit www.novivillaparksandrecreation.org or www.runmichigan.com. Those interested in registering online can go to www.signnewsports.com/15969.

Race packets can be picked up the week of the race event at the Parks and Recreation office (for hours: 248-349-0203 Ext. 1408) located at Hillside Middle School, 700 W. Baseline Rd. at Center Street. Race packets and timing chips are only available on race day at the registration tent before 7:30 a.m. at Ford Field in downtown.

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



Courtesy photo

A day for the Daisies

New York pitcher Roger Clemens went for his 300th career victory on June 1 in the Tigers vs. Yankees game. One hundred and fifty-six Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts from NSU 31 in Novi went to Comerica Park with their dads, grandfathers, uncles and older brothers to take in a baseball game as part of the yearly Me & My Guy Event. In all, 285 people attended, and they couldn't have asked for better weather or a better game! And although most didn't stay to run the bases after the game, the game went for 17 innings, Peter Lau and daughter Chelsea certainly had a great day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Henry Ford Health System Alternative Medicine Learning Series
DATES: Wednesday, June 25
TIME: 9-9:55 a.m.
LOCATION: Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty
DETAILS: \$55 per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.
PHONE: (248) 380-6201 or www.henryford.com/vim, to register and for more information on topics.

Rose show
DATE: Saturday, July 19 (rescheduled from June 7)
TIME: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
PHONE: Pat Hibbard at (248) 449-4626.

Wilson Historical Society Flea Market
DATE: Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21.
TIME: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Minshaw House, Pontiac Trail, next to Wilson City Hall.
PHONE: Linda Griffith at (248) 344-1026.

Novi Co-Op Preschool Open House
DATE: Wednesday, June 25
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Co-Op Preschool at Novi United Methodist Church, 11671 10 Mile Rd., Novi.
DETAILS: Meet teachers Tracey Smith and Joan Williams. Accepting applications for fall preschool.
PHONE: Linda Griffith at (248) 344-1026.

Novi Co-Op Preschool Open House
DATE: Wednesday, June 25
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Co-Op Preschool at Novi United Methodist Church, 11671 10 Mile Rd., Novi.
DETAILS: Meet teachers Tracey Smith and Joan Williams. Accepting applications for fall preschool.
PHONE: Linda Griffith at (248) 344-1026.

Quick Date
DATE: Tuesday, July 15
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Fifth Avenue Ballroom, 25750 Novi Road, Novi
DETAILS: Meet 10-15 new people for five minutes each. It's fast-paced, fun & exciting! Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$40. Ages are 25-35 and 35-45.
PHONE: (517) 552-0673 or visit www.quickdateinfo.com

ON-GOING

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9:10-10 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wilson (Parking is behind the church)
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
PHONE: Nancy & Susan (248) 926-8332, or by e-mail at harvest-fellowship@comcast.net

Experimental Watercolor
DATE: Tuesdays through June 17
TIME: 6:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Community Education, 615 N. Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Select and trace beautiful images provided, then incorporate techniques using clear wrap, salt, cheese cloth and rice paper. Create four small paintings.
PHONE: Register for class at (248) 956-5000 or on-line at walledlake.k12.mi.us/ce/

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 meet-

Foundation golf outing
Novi Educational Foundation's 8th Annual Golf Outing will take place Thursday, June 26, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Links of Novi. All proceeds from the fundraiser will enhance educational opportunities for Novi students by providing support for student enrichment programs, scholarships, classroom equipment, teacher grants, and more. Open to only two annual fundraisers for the nonprofit foundation, the popular event includes lunch between the 9th and 10th holes and dinner. Participants may register individually as a foursome or as a hole sponsor. This year hole-in-one sponsors are provided by Varsity Lincoln Mercury, Marty Feldman Chevrolet and Sun-Holzer Ford.
For more information or registration, please call Bob Coleman at (248) 439-1423.
Founded in 1969, the Novi Educational Foundation encourages excellence in teaching and learning by supporting programs which are above and beyond what the district can provide. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer community Board of Trustees. The annual golf outing and a winter takes-all traffic which will be held in the fall, are the primary sources of funds.

887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257.
Send calendar items to Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48168 or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider WEST PARK CONDOMINIUMS, RE-LOCATED ON WEST PARK DRIVE, NORTH OF WEST ROAD. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SITE CONDOMINIUM, AND WOODLAND PERMIT. The developer is proposing an 18-unit condominium under the single family residential cluster color:

COMMERCIAL TYP. CITY OF WALLED LAKE
WALLED LAKE
Location Map

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments will be heard at the public hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2003.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LYNN KOON, SECRETARY
(6-19-03 NN 65182)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider SITE PLAN NUMBER 03-18, ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI PHASE 5A, LOCATED WEST OF WILSON ROAD BETWEEN ELEVEN MILE AND TEN MILE ROADS, FOR A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN AMENDMENT TO THE RUD AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED. The applicant is proposing a waterfront park with a boat launch.

LYON TOWNSHIP
KEY MAP
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments will be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be sent to the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 25, 2003.
(6-19-03 NN 65183)

LET'S TALK Jewellery
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GEMOLOGIST

DEFINING COLORLESS

With respect to diamonds, color usually refers to the amount of yellow (or brown or gray) (or all three). The most treasured diamond color is the "colorless" grade. Today, the Gemological Institute of America's standard color grading scale starts with D for perfectly colorless stones, and gives a Z color grade to diamonds having a noticeable yellow tint, every letter in between indicates the many possible gradations. In the early 1900s, there was no uniform color rating system, and dealers would arbitrarily assign grades of A, B, or C, or A, AA, AAA. In 1931, the new GIA system grew with symbols that have no attachment to the past, hence the D-Z designation.

Diamonds, as well as other precious gem purchases, should always be handled by a qualified gemologist.

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Fox Run, students set butterflies free

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Nothing is more exquisite than a butterfly. Its gracefulness and beauty can be appreciated by both young and old.

Local senior citizens, students and staff from Fox Run Retirement Community - scheduled to open at the end of the month - recently had an opportunity to enjoy this wonder of nature firsthand.

Staff from Fox Run organized a butterfly release June 6 during which 50 butterflies were set free into a garden in front of Meadowbrook Elementary School in Novi.

The school, part of Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, is just around the corner from the new retirement community on 13 Mile Road. Fox Run employees and residents started last year helping students plant a butterfly garden in front of the school in hopes of attracting the insects.

"The butterflies were overnighted and kept on ice prior to the event," said Julie Ianni, events and community outreach coordinator at Fox Run. The group of Meadowbrook fourth-graders enjoyed opening the small, triangular cardboard boxes that contained the sleeping insects.

Even Barbara and Roy Birmingham of Livonia, the first residents scheduled to move into Fox Run June 30, came out to share the experience and help plant flowers that butterflies love.

"They like marigolds, zinnias and alyssum," said Nancy Turner, a special education resource teacher at Meadowbrook.

"Color masses are important as well on perennials used," she added. "Butterfly bushes has bright colors. Turner noted that host plants for the caterpillars are different than the nectar plants that butterflies enjoy.

"Host plants include daisies, milkweed and trees," Turner said.

The students have been researching butterflies, including their likes and dislikes, since last year, according to Turner.

"And the garden's going to get bigger every year," she said.

Fourth-grader Molly Gillies of Novi liked the butterfly release.

"I think that was really cool," she said. "Whenever they're released, they usually come back to the same spot," she noted.

"I thought it was amazing that they had a butterfly in a box and it



Rachel Shuman of Farmington Hills, a fourth-grader at Meadowbrook Elementary School in Novi, shows a butterfly she just released from a box outside the school.

just flew out," said Rachel Shuman of Farmington Hills.

"I never saw a butterfly like those," said Anthony Shina of Farmington Hills.

Fred Moschetta, director of sales and marketing for Fox Run, said Glenda's Garden Center in Novi donated the flowers for Meadowbrook's new butterfly garden.

"Residents went to the school to help students paint garden stakes to attract butterflies. The garden was created last year," he said.

"Next year, the students will come to Fox Run to start a butterfly garden there," he added.

"We want to make this an annual event," Moschetta said. "It's a big community involvement."

Fox Run is a very active retirement community whose residents plan to contribute their gifts and talents to the surrounding community.

This summer, 200 apartments will open with a \$2,000-square-foot clubhouse. Amenities include a market, bank, two restaurants, computer lab, billiards room, fitness club with pool and on-site trainer.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News and the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.



Photos by Pam Fleming

Residents and students added annuals to the new butterfly garden started last year at Meadowbrook Elementary School in Novi. Fox Run Retirement Village staff and residents also had a butterfly release June 6 during which 50 butterflies were set free. Students will start a butterfly garden next year at Fox Run.

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Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER
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Novi News

hometownlife.com

Thursday, June 19, 2003

SWEET DREAMS

All-Area Dream Teams have a slew of talent

By Sam Eggleston
and Stan Frank
SPORTSWRITERS

This year, we can easily say was one of the toughest when it came to picking our All-Area Dream Team athletes for girls track and field. Normally, we have stars who stand out in their respective fields and dominate the competition each and every time they take to the track. This year, however, was a bit different. We had some of the most competitive teams in the histories of our schools.

After going over the list multiple times, the sports writers of HomeTown East have managed to piece together the team that we feel would bring us a state championship time and again. Below are the girls that not only make the competition hang their heads in defeat but also lead by example by being the best they can be.

DISTANCE

Who doesn't like distance running? Well, besides out-of-shape sports writers who get winded walking to the concession stands. Running has become one of the most popular pastimes and most anticipated events in this country, and it shows when it comes to the distance events of track and field in our area. We're more than happy to announce we have some of the top distance runners in metro Detroit and fully expect that they are more than capable of crushing the competition.

Lisa Canty

Milford junior
Milford's Lisa Canty qualified for the state meet in a pair of events, placing second in the 3,200-meter run and third in the 1,600-meter run at this season's regional tournament. A junior, Canty recorded personal bests in both the 1,600-run (5:15.4) and 3,200-run (11:32.5).

Tiffany Kaid

Milford junior
Milford's Tiffany Kaid ran the second leg of the Mavericks' 3,200-meter relay team, which at the regional tournament, finished third in qualifying for the state meet. Kaid followed that performance at that KVC tournament by registering the fastest split in the Mavericks' second-place finish in the 3,200-relay. A junior, Kaid recorded personal bests in both the 800-meter run (2:24.9) and the 1,600-meter run (5:34).

Katie Kramer

Milford senior
Milford senior Katie Kramer returned from an injury-riddled junior season with positive results. At the regional tournament, Kramer qualified for the state meet in three events, placing third in the 3,200-meter run and fourth in the 1,600-meter run, while anchoring the Mavericks' 3,200-meter relay team, which finished third. Kramer then delivered second-place performances at the KVC tournament in both the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter runs. Kramer leaves Milford holding school records in both the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter runs, along with the 3,200-meter relay. Ironically, despite all of her success on the track, Kramer intends to play soccer at college.

Heather Moehle

Northville senior
Moehle has been a staple in Northville track and field since she first took to the sport at the varsity level. A competitive distance runner, Moehle made her mark throughout the season as she took to the Western Lakes Activities Association and left the majority of her competition in the dust. A great leader and a determined athlete, the one thing that you can always expect from this runner is a great showing. We're proud to have her as a member of our All-Area Dream Team once again, and we can assure the readers that her shoes will be tough to fill when this time of year comes around in 2004.

Devon Rupley

Northville junior
Rupley is one of those athletes that we just love to watch. She's remarkably talented and dedicated. Not only does she push herself to the limits each and every time she takes to the track, but she manages to keep her teammates smiling to be the best they can be. Rupley is a hard worker, taking second in the state finals in the 800-meter dash and a very controversial 1,600-meter run. Rupley is a true athlete.



Kiersten Isgrigg
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

As a junior, South Lyon's Kiersten Isgrigg continued to make her mark as the most dominant hurdler this area has ever known. Isgrigg placed first in each the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles at both the regional and KVC tournaments. She then followed those performances at the state meet by earning medals with her third- and fourth-place finishes in the 100-hurdles and 300-hurdles, respectively. Her effort in the 100-hurdles earned her All-State recognition. In addition to her mastery of the hurdles, Isgrigg captured a title in the 200-meter dash at the KVC meet and ran the second leg for the Lions' winning 400-meter relay team at the regional event. Isgrigg's time of 14.4 seconds in the 100-hurdles proved a meet record. In three years, Isgrigg has compiled school records in both hurdles events (14.2 in 100-hurdles, 44.0 in 300-hurdles), the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, and the 400-meter and 800-meter relays.

Rupley wasn't concerned. She's well aware that come next year, she'll have another chance to take home the first place finish.

Nina Schmitt

Novi senior
What's not to like about Schmitt? She's smart, she's friendly and she's a great all-around athlete. This year, Schmitt took her distance running to the next level, taking the regional titles in both the two-mile and mile events against some of the best competition in metro Detroit. Unfortunately, Schmitt's battle against bronchitis slowed her down to the point that she missed out on showcasing her true abilities in the state finals meet but still managed to give a gritty performance. Schmitt is headed off to run for the Spartans at Michigan State University, and once again, we are honored to name her as one of the top HomeTown Newspapers track and field stars.

SPRINTS

Running fast, clearing hurdles: That is the kind of stuff that our sprint runners like to do. Though we find ourselves in a position where we had to pick a few out of a slew of talented runners, we feel confident that these are the cream of the crop. One thing is for sure: We couldn't beat them in a dash, and we doubt much of the competition could either.

Kate Maxwell

Lakeland senior
Lakeland's Kate Maxwell capped a stellar career for the Eagles' track and field team by earning medals at the state meet for her performances in the long jump and both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles. During the season, Maxwell set new school records in all three events. The senior also finished first in the 300-hurdles at the Oakland County meet. In addition, Maxwell also anchored the Eagles' 1,600-meter relay team that qualified for the state meet. In what proved a captivating high school career, Maxwell captured seven medals at the state level. She plans to compete next year at Central Michigan University.

Amber Pearsall

Milford freshman
As a freshman, Milford's Amber Pearsall earned her stripes and wore them well, finishing second in total points scored for the Mavericks. In her first tour of duty, Pearsall qualified for the state meet by finishing second in 100-meter dash at the regional tournament. Also at the regional meet, Pearsall helped Milford in qualifying for the state meet in both the 400-meter and 800-meter relays. At the state meet, Pearsall anchored the Mavericks' 400-relay team that set a school

record. In that event, Pearsall's split was a tidy 12.1 seconds. Other Pearsall highlights from this season include a 16-9 1/2 inch leap in the high jump; a mark of 12.7 seconds in the 100-dash; and a blistering cut of 26.3 seconds in the 200-meter dash.

Emily Reid

Novi sophomore
This little Novi Wildcat that could will surprise more than a few people with her ability in the hurdles events. Though she doesn't stand too tall, Reid is more than capable of clearing the hurdles that stand between her and the finish line. This year, Reid not only continued to excel in the sport, but showed that she has even climbed higher than what most people may have expected of her this year. Though Reid didn't get out of a very tough Milford Regional to compete in the state finals, we are well aware that her time as a star athlete has just begun. Expect to see her name not only printed more in the papers of HomeTown Newspapers, but also as a member of future All-Area Dream Teams.

Katie Thomas

Lakeland junior
Lakeland's Katie Thomas this season made her third appearance at the state meet and made it count, placing eighth in the 100-meter hurdles in earning her first medal at the state level. A junior, Thomas was also instrumental in leading the Eagles' 1,600-meter relay team in qualifying for the state meet.

Andrea Watts

Northville junior
Watts really shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone, but she was. The junior came off of some hampering injuries that prevented her from showing her true colors in previous seasons, and when she did, it was noticed. This Mustang has little trouble making her way over the hurdles and she loves to take on fellow sprinters in an intense foot race. The kind of athlete you can look to for multiple points, Watts is only going to grow and improve come next year as she has shown that injuries are a thing of the past for her. We expect good things from this Northville track star, and have no doubt that with a healthy season come next year, she'll be on our Dream Team once again.

FIELD EVENTS

You just have to love field events. Throwing, jumping, leaping, hurling—it's all fun. Below, we have the top field event participants in our coverage area. Once again, this was a difficult choice, but we think that it doesn't get much better than this. Field events can make or break a track team, and our selections definitely help make ours.

Jena Amell

Milford senior
In her final season at Milford, Jena Amell earned a title in the pole vault event at the KVC tournament. Amell, who was undefeated in dual meets this season, also set the school record with a vault of 11 feet. She plans to compete next year at Central Michigan University.

Whitney Fuelling

Milford junior
For the second consecutive season, Whitney Fuelling was the leading point scorer on the Mavericks' track and field team. During her junior campaign, Fuelling was crowned the high jump champion at both the regional and KVC tournaments. At the state meet, Fuelling earned a medal for the second consecutive season with her performance in the high jump. At the regional event, Fuelling also won the 200-meter dash, anchored Milford's winning 1,600-meter relay team, and helped the 800-meter relay team to a second-place finish. Fuelling set career highs in both the high jump (5-6) and 400-meter dash (61.2) this season. Fuelling has won four medals at the state level during the course of her career.

Christina Lis

Novi sophomore
Lis, who stands 6-foot, seems as though she was built to compete in the high jump. Her height lends her to the event, and her ability lets her excel in it. Going 5-5 at the Division I state meet was a huge accomplishment in itself, but clearing it to take second-place in the finale meet was even bigger. The sophomore has two seasons still ahead of her as she looks to continue improving and going higher and higher. We here at HomeTown Newspapers have no

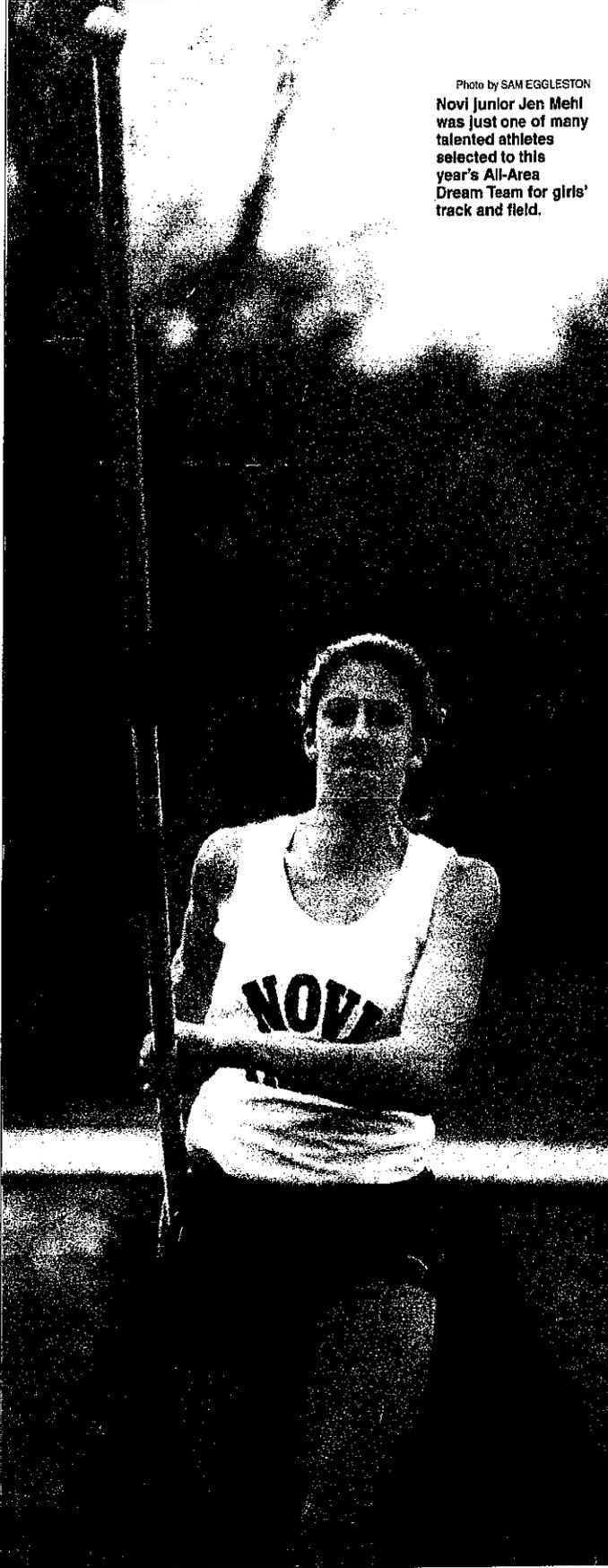


Photo by SAM EGGLESTON
Novi junior Jen Mehl was just one of many talented athletes selected to this year's All-Area Dream Team for girls' track and field.

doubt that Lis will indeed find herself reaching those lofty goals, and we're more than happy to have her as one of our best athletes.

Jen Mehl

Novi junior
This athletic pole vaulter lets everyone know one thing: She's here to compete. The kind of athlete that we just love to put on a Dream Team list like this one, Mehl has proven to be a versatile and dedicated athlete for the Novi Wildcats. Though through much of the season she didn't have the competition necessary to drive her above and beyond the call of duty, Mehl has managed to excel in the sport that her name has become synonymous with in the Kensington Valley Conference over the past couple of seasons. This year, she was only one spot out of earning an All-State nod, but she knows full well that there is another season ahead of her for her senior year.

Samantha Smith

South Lyon junior
Those who thought when the sea-

son began that South Lyon was a one-woman show were wearing pie on their face when the season concluded. Samantha Smith proved that Kiersten Isgrigg isn't the only Lion in town after a stellar junior campaign. Smith earned a pair of long jump titles during the season, leaping 16-10 at the regional tournament and 17 3/4 inches at the Oakland County meet. Smith eventually capped the season by earning a medal at the state meet with a jump of 17-2 in placing seventh. Earlier in the season, on her 17th birthday, Smith turned in her finest performance of the season, posting a mark of 17-4 in setting a new school record. Smith also made her mark in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing second to Isgrigg at the regional tournament, while snaring another medal at the state meet with a fourth-place finish (14.83). As its anchor, Smith helped lead the Lions' 400-meter relay team to a first-place finish at the regional tournament. At the state meet, that team, with Smith again anchoring, set a new school record with a time

of 49.7 seconds.

Jackie Yurkunas

South Lyon junior
South Lyon discus thrower Jackie Yurkunas broke the 100-foot barrier for the first time in her career at the Lions' first meet of the season. Proving that performance was no fluke, Yurkunas placed second at the regional tournament with a throw of 114.4 in qualifying for the state meet. The junior then followed that performance by earning a KVC title with a mark of 118.5, which proved a tournament record. Yurkunas' season-best came on a throw that sailed 119.8.

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 seggleston@ht.homecomm.net. Stan Frank is the sports writer for the South Lyon Herald and the Milford Times. He can be reached at (248) 685-1507, ext. 275 or frank@ht.homecomm.net.

Boys' team overflowing with pure athletes

By Sam Eggleston and Stan Frank
SPORTS WRITERS

Can any of these All-Area Dream Teams ever be easy to pick? It sure doesn't seem to be that way, as 2003 marked another tough year for us to decide just who we felt were the best of the best.

This season we leaned heavily on a remarkable senior class through our coverage area. You can't ask for much more out of seniors that are about to graduate other than to thank them for giving all they could even in the face of their new beginnings in the collegiate ranks.

We are confident that this year's squad is one of the best ever assembled in this area. Some of the best competition around haunts the Kensington Valley Conference and the Western Lakes Activities Association. And, when all of our teams are brought together for the Regional meet, we are always certain we will see some of the top talent looking to showcase their abilities.

Adam Craig
Lakeland senior
Lakeland's Adam Craig turned in a first-place performance at the KVC tournament in 3,200-meter run. Craig, a senior, qualified for the state meet in that event by placing sixth and registering a personal best time of 9

minutes, 36.8 seconds at the regional tournament.

Dan DeRusha
Milford junior
With a cut of 4 minutes, 17 seconds in the 1,600-meter run, Milford's Dan DeRusha at the MTTCA state team tournament recorded the third fastest time in the state this season. A junior, DeRusha earned a pair of medals at the state meet, placing seventh in the 1,600-meter run, in addition to anchoring the Mavericks' 3,200-meter relay team, which finished second in posting a school record mark of 7 minutes, 49.6 seconds. DeRusha had qualified for the state individual tournament in three events with his performance at the regional event, where he placed second in the 1,600-meter run, while anchoring the Mavericks' winning 3,200-meter relay team at the KVC tournament. DeRusha also qualified for the state meet in the 800-meter run, an event in which he won a title at the KVC tournament.

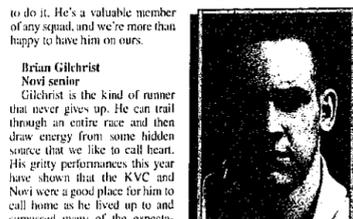
Mike Gabrys
Northville senior
Gabrys is a first guy to watch when he placed second in the best moments for him and for us was when he took to the mile event in the state finals meet and led for over half of it. We could tell when he was finished that it was a great way for him to end his senior year. Always a competitor, we know that the better Gabrys is going to do, the better the state meet in that event we needed a text-book race to be run, we could look to Gabrys

to do it. He's a valuable member of any squad and we're more than happy to have him on ours.

Brian Gilchrist
Novi senior
Gilchrist is the kind of runner that never gives up. He can trail through an entire race and then draw energy from some hidden source that we like to call heart. His gritty performances this year have shown that the KVC and Novi were a good place for him to call home as he lived up to and surpassed many of the expectations that others had for him. Something tells us that he didn't surpass his own expectations though, as he probably knew all along that he was more than capable of accomplishing everything this year. We know we can always expect him to perform, and he doesn't mind being a team player and a teacher when needed either.

Mark Moore
Novi sophomore
This Wildcat has shown that his abilities are far greater than many would expect from him. Tall and lanky, Moore looks as though he belongs throwing the discus or going for a high jump mark rather than trotting along with the best-of-the-best in the distance events.

Seth Thibodeau
Milford junior
Milford's Seth Thibodeau finished fourth in the 3,200-meter



run to earn a medal at this year's state meet. In finishing the event in 9 minutes, 19.1 seconds, Thibodeau broke the school record. Thibodeau had qualified for the state meet by finishing first in the 3,200-run and fourth in the 1,600-meter run.

Chase Chandler
Novi senior
We like to think of Chandler as liquid lightning. This guy just can't sit still. It seems that if he isn't right in the thick of things, he's going to simply explode. That's one of the reasons that we like him so much, because we

know that he won't ever quit working hard and trying to improve himself in one way or another. A key leader on and off the track for Novi this season, we're happy to know that we can look to Chandler to lead by example and show the rest of the squad what it means to push themselves to the limit and then push a little harder. Chandler has been a staple on All-Area squads all year, making the football, basketball and now the track Dream Teams. We're proud to have him as a member once again.

Kim Dalton
Northville junior
How could we even think about turning our back on Dalton? He has speed, stamina and, most importantly, desire. You can always count on this Mustang to put forth a heck of an effort, and he always runs a smart race. You can basically expect that Dalton is going to be in the top of the pack no matter which race you ask him to take to. He, along with Brad Stoner,

Continued on B3

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CHANGES ARE MADE IN DETERMINATIONS OF BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS FOR THE CITY OF NOVI, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

On May 3, 1993, the Federal Emergency Management Agency identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, through issuance of a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration has determined that modification of the elevations of the flood having a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year (base or 100-year flood) for certain locations in this community is appropriate. The modified Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for the FIRM for the community.

The changes are being made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and are in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65.

Table with 3 columns: Location, Existing BFE (feet), Modified BFE (feet). Rows include Interstate 96, Grand River Avenue, etc.

A hydraulic analysis was performed to incorporate the placement of fill in the SFHA and the excavation of several detention facilities. This analysis has resulted in a revised delineation of the SFHA, and higher and lower BFEs for an unnamed pond along Shaw Creek, located approximately 150 feet upstream of Interstate 96, and three unnamed ponds along West Branch Shaw Creek, located approximately 30 feet southwest of Grand River Avenue. The table below identifies existing and modified BFEs for selected locations along the affected lengths of the flooding source cited above.

The Honorable Richard Clark
Mayor, City of Novi
4511 West 10 Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375
248-547-0455

(6-121)-03 0N 318189

BOYS: Dream Team has plenty to offer

Continued from B2

was a major factor in the Mustang victories this season, especially in the relays. Unlike his senior friend, Dalton will be back again next year as he looks to improve on his already impressive times and hopes to make a mark at the state level.

Kyle Plummer
Milford senior
Milford's Kyle Plummer finished second in total points scored for the state champion Mavericks. Plummer, a senior, assisted the Mavericks' 800-meter relay team to a first-place finish at both the regional and KVC tournaments. That same team earned a medal at the state meet in finishing fifth and also broke the school record with a mark of 1 minute, 29 seconds. Plummer also helped the Mavericks' 400-meter relay team to first and second-place finishes at the KVC and regional tournaments, respectively. Plummer won individual KVC titles in both the 110-meter and 300-meter hurdles, one week after having placed third in both events at the regional tournament. Plummer will attempt to make the football team at the University of Michigan as a preferred walk-on.

Brad Stoner
Northville senior
Stoner is the kind of sprinter that can do so many things for a team. A good 400 runner, a top-notch 800 guy and even the kind of athlete you can ask to go shorter or longer in terms of distances and be a competitor. Stoner made the trip to the states again this year as a member of some outstanding relay teams with Northville, but it was his regular season individual efforts that drew our attention and helped us decide that he would be invaluable as a member of our Dream Team. We're proud to say that Stoner would be a key part in many of our relay events, as well as a phenomenal addition to our sprinting staff.

Dan Wheatley
Milford senior
Milford's Dan Wheatley earned a medal at the state meet in helping to lead the Mavericks' 800-meter relay team to a fifth-place finish. That team's mark of 1 minute, 29 seconds set a new school record. At the regional tournament, Wheatley, a senior, assisted the Mavericks in qualifying for the state meet in each of the 400-meter, 800-meter and 1,600-meter relays. The 800-relay finished first at both the regional and

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Novi pole vaulter Dan Thelen clears 10'9" in the regional track meet at Milford High School. Thelen was selected as a member of the All-Area Dream Team.

proud to have him as a member of the Dream Team.

Korey Padilla
Milford senior
Padilla gill managed to finish fourth in total points scored for the Mavericks' state championship team. A senior, Padilla earned a shot put title at the KVC tournament with a throw of 50-8 1/2 inches. Also at that meet, Padilla placed second in the discus event. At the regional tournament, Padilla qualified for the state meet in the shot put with a throw of 49-9. He fell inches short of qualifying for the state meet in the discus event despite throwing a career best 145-4.

Rantz Teeple
South Lyon senior
South Lyon's Rantz Teeple placed his first trip to the state meet in the long jump event by leaping 22-7 1/2, a mark that broke his own school record. A senior, Teeple won long jump titles at each of the regional, KVC and Oakland County tournaments. Teeple also qualified for the state meet in the 300-meter hurdles, placing second with a time of 39.6 seconds.

Dan Thelen
Novi senior
Thelen had a break-out season in 2003, not only in the pole vault but also with his hair. The normally tame athlete came out

in his senior track season sporting a very blonde look. The new hair style must have been a sign, as Thelen went on to be in competition during every meet he was in, including the state finals where he was one of the few to battle through the elements and make opening marks and beyond. Thelen may have been looking for more out of his senior year, but we weren't, and we're happy to say that he is a perfect fit as a member of our All-Area team.

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MI-DAN advertisement for Michigan Newspapers Inc.

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MARK WAHLBERG THE ITALIAN JOB advertisement.

Now Showing at Theaters advertisement.

TWO THUMBS UP advertisement for the movie 'The Italian Job'.

Unlike any movie you've ever seen! Disney/Pixar advertisement.

FINDING NEMO advertisement.

The Best Romantic Comedy Of The Year advertisement.

ALEX & GEMMA advertisement.

The Evolution of Dumb advertisement.

DUMB AND DUMBERER advertisement.

Guffey headed to Western Michigan

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

As high school and high school sports along with it fade into the background, Darren Guffey is looking forward to new experiences and new friends in his next year at college.

Guffey managed to stay busy between sports, school work, and friends in high school. "My favorite thing to do is weight-lift. I like to workout, hang out with friends, and music," Guffey said.

Guffey is working at Soft Touch Car Wash for the summer and likes that job pretty well. "I love that job. It's good money, interesting people and good hours," he said.

Right now Guffey is driving a 2002 Chevy Blazer which he is very fond of.

As far as food goes, Guffey's favorite restaurant is P.F. Chang's.

As he moves on from Novi High School, Guffey had just one piece of advice for all those coming into that age group or younger.

"Be nice to everybody," he said. "It will all come back to you one day."

Guffey is also a member of the Novi High School football team.

Guffey also has a younger sister, Jill, who will be attending Novi High School next year.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY listing various churches and their contact information.

Call Sherry at 517-548-7375 for more information on the Golf Directory.

MONEY

HomeTown Newspapers

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Pet pampering

Companies thrive on providing pampering services for Southwest Florida pets



Kim Page massages the joints of one of her customers. "They can look five years younger once they start receiving therapy," she says.

Four-year-old Wilbur Bettes had a birthday party to remember.

He shared his big day with hundreds of people and pets he'd never met. There were dog dauquiris and a dog cake. A highlight was a "barkin'" contest for dogs sporting bikinis.

It was OK with Wilbur that his party went to the dogs. After all, he's a dog himself — a Great Dane whose owners consider him part of the family.

Dozens of businesses offer a variety of pet services, from doggie daycare and spa treatments to party planning and memorials. There are certified professionals offering massages for dogs, cats and horses. There are boutiques selling fresh baked treats, thong collars, pearl necklaces, cowboy hats, designer sweaters and car seats for pets. There's even a taxi service in Naples, Fla., that will take furry friends to the vet when their owners have to work.

Carl DeMoss, owner of The Critter Cafe on Marco Island, Fla., says her company and others like it are thriving because pets are playing a more pivotal role in the lives of their human companions.

"Pets have really become a big part of the family," DeMoss said. "The owners treat them just like their kids."

When the Critter Cafe opened in January 2001, it strictly sold pet supplies — everything from fleecy jackets and rhinestone collars to car seats and front carriers for small dogs. With its recent expansion, DeMoss has added a variety of services for animals, including spa treatments and doggie daycare.

Dog owners pay \$7 for a half day and \$12 for a full day of daycare. Days in daycare programs usually go to "school" two or three times a week.

"The clients will usually say it's the best money they've ever spent because they can go home and sleep at night," said Karisa Kelly, an assistant manager at Critter Cafe. "It's real peaceful at home."

Critter Cafe also offers grooming and pet-sitting in people's homes. There are plans to add a bakery that will sell homemade biscuits and custom birthday cakes for pets.

The bakery won't be the first of its kind in town. In nearby Fort Myers, Fla., Dudley's Dog Bakery sells ice cream cones in such flavors as Pawberry (strawberry) and Chubby Puppy (peanut butter).

Birthday parties for dogs have become more popular and more extravagant, as people have come to appreciate their animals more, owner Vickie Bettes said.

Recently, one of her customers spent close to \$500 on a birthday party for a dog. Besides having a cake made for the special occasion, the woman passed out treat bags to the other dogs that attended.

There are handful of professionals in Southwest Florida who make a living rubbing down cats, dogs and horses. Kim Page, owner of Equine Massage Therapy of Naples, has been massaging horses for about three years. She says massage can help horses live longer and better lives, she said.

"A lot of people think horses are just like vehicles — you get on them and ride them and that's the end," she said. "But they are more like athletes. Athletes get massages to stay in shape and horses need massages, too, because they are athletes."

She's given massages to show horses and jumping horses. She's worked on older horses struggling to stay fit and pet horses that have suffered injuries and are less active. The rubdowns can completely change a horse's temperament, she said.

"I've had some horses that were not really people-friendly turn into lovable animals after a routine of massages," Page said.

Christy Rescight of Bonita Springs, Fla., who has been practicing alternative medicine for 17 years, has focused on animals for the last 3 1/2 years. She offers massages for a variety of animals. She also uses aromatherapy, reiki and acupuncture to heal dogs, cats and horses and to deal with their behavior problems, including separation anxiety. She charges \$75 for a house call, which generally lasts about 1-1/2 hours.

"I go in and work with the animal's mind, body, heart and soul," she said. "I address all aspects of the animal. An animal is not just a body. There is a spirit there. They have feelings and emotions the same as people. I look at them as a unique individual."

Story By Laura Layden ■ Photos By Lexey Swall ■ Scripps Howard News Service

Logos help small businesses get name 'out there'

By Jonathan J. Higuera
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Promotional products are an industry unto themselves, with last year's U.S. sales reaching nearly \$17 billion.

The marketing technique of plastering your business's name and logo on a pen or coffee mug is not just a practice reserved for large corporations with huge promotional budgets. Small- and medium-size businesses have embraced it with a fervor of their own.

The reason? It gets the firm's name out there each time someone uses a T-shirt or mouse pad emblazoned with the company logo.

"Today it's probably more popular than it's ever been," says Randy Klug,

owner of Proforma Ameribiz, a Tucson, Ariz., franchise distributor of promotional products. "Everybody wants to keep their name in front of their prospects as much as possible."

In addition to clothing items with a company's name or logo, hot products include stress balls, screen cleaners, mouse pads and other desk items. But don't discount the tried and true calendar — industry professionals say 80 percent of clients who use a particular business calendar eventually will buy from that company.

"It's common knowledge that calendars hold the greatest response rate of any specialty-type item," Klug says.

That may answer the skeptics who wonder if promotional items really

work. It depends on your goal and what you're measuring, experts say. Calendars notwithstanding, it's rare for a customer to call because he or she saw the business name and logo on a pen or coffee mug.

But with so many consumer choices, repeated exposure may eventually result in a sale, proponents say.

Patrick Quigley, co-owner of Q&A Financial Group, a Tucson financial services firm, says he recently met a potential client who told him he used a coffee mug with the firm's name and logo every day. "One of the reasons he was willing to see us is because we weren't an unknown commodity. He said that."



Randy Klug poses with a hat, shirt and bag with company logos from Proforma Ameribiz. More than ever, small businesses are using small promotional items to brand their logo and company name.

Photo by Aaron J. Latham

Finding love in workplace can create dilemma

By Jonathan J. Higuera
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Dating services, photography classes and singles bars are all places where people can meet their potential soul mate.

But the most likely place to meet someone, conventional wisdom goes, is at work.

That may be the case at large businesses, where every floor and department holds a potential match or two. But it's not so common at small businesses where it's tough to conceal a workplace romance — and even tougher to work together if the fire cools.

A recent QuickJob.com Business survey found that just 12 percent of small-business owners and managers had ever dated an employee.

More than two-thirds said it would be ethically wrong to do so. And 58 percent said they would never date a customer.

"It's always a very delicate thing mixing business and romance," said MJ Jensen, who owns her own marketing and promotions firm in Tucson, Ariz.

She learned her lesson early in her career when she dated a co-worker. "I never felt it worked out," she said. "Usually someone gets hurt, and the relationship is dead."

But passing up a possible life partner because you work together may prove to be easier said than done. Sometimes the heart wins out over the head.

"I wouldn't rule it out simply on the fact there was an employer-employee relationship," said Chris Landi, president of a Tucson online job board. "If it's meant to be, it's crazy not to have that person in your life. But that's only if you believe life is above work."

Even rational, level-headed people may find it challenging when faced with such a dilemma.

"Intellectually, I would say no. It's fraught with too many risks," said Janina Latack, a Tucson career consultant and coach. "But these are extraordinary times where people are extraordinarily busy. The question becomes, how do busy small-business owners meet people if not in business?"

For those who do choose to date someone at work, experts recommend some rules:

- Avoid public displays of affection.
- Don't deny if co-workers inquire.
- If there appear to be conflicts of interest, inform the bosses as soon as possible.

■ If you are the boss, reconsider. The power differential between a boss and subordinate involved in a romantic relationship is never good.

"The key is maturity and open communication," said Latack.

Dating a client can be as tricky as dating a boss, subordinate or co-worker.

"If I'm coaching someone, you are already in a complex and personal relationship," said career consultant Jan Aalberts. "To cloud that with an emotional romantic relationship would cause you to lose objectivity."

Buying art at auction a matter of patience

By Jennifer Grant
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Get your paddles poised. It's time to bid. Not so fast, says an old pro. This is where patient persistence wins out.

C. Hugh Hildesley, executive vice president of Sotheby's auction house in New York, has a lot of experience backing this theory of patience. It's a virtue that can come in handy at auctions.

And being the professional he is, he offers some tips. "Take a good look at the item," he says. "Too many times people bid on something just because it sounds good."

Buyers need to understand their own response to the art. "Then, if you fall in love with it and have a passion for it, figure out what sort of money you're willing to pay."

Hildesley says unfortunately sometimes "people run away with themselves" during the bidding process at auctions and don't realize what they're bidding on or how high.

"Make a decision as to a price range rather than an actual bid," he says. Sometimes there's only an estimated value listed, but it is possible.

In an event such as local charity benefit auctions, though, buyers can't go wrong because "it's a fair process and you're not trying to keep a gallery open, you're helping a good cause."

Just remember when bidding and buying at auction that it's "all under the context of 'I have to have this,'" he says. "The idea is to live with the thing and love it."

One more tip Hildesley offers up to those bidding at auction: "Don't jump in too quickly. Come in toward the end and stay out of the fray." It's that sort of patience that wins out in the end.

HOME & GARDEN

HomeTown Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



"Simple Knits for Sophisticated Living" by Barbara Albright (Rockport, 2003). Comment: The subtitle is "Fast Home Projects from Beautiful Chunky Yarns." Have at it.



"Knitting Pretty" by Kris Perival (Chronicle, 2002). Comment: Includes a pattern for a beer cozy!



"Hollywood Knits" by Suss Cousins (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2002). Comment: Includes patterns for a water bottle and cell phone holder.



"Comforts of Home: Simple Knitted Accents" by Erika Knight (Maringale, 2000). Comment: Lots of pillow patterns here.



"Knitted Throws and More" by Linden Phelps (Maringale, 2002). Comment: Features lovely throws, lovely art and lovely recipes.



"Knitting for Your Home" by Nicky Epstein (Taunton, 2000). Comment: Designs ranging from fun to classic to funky.

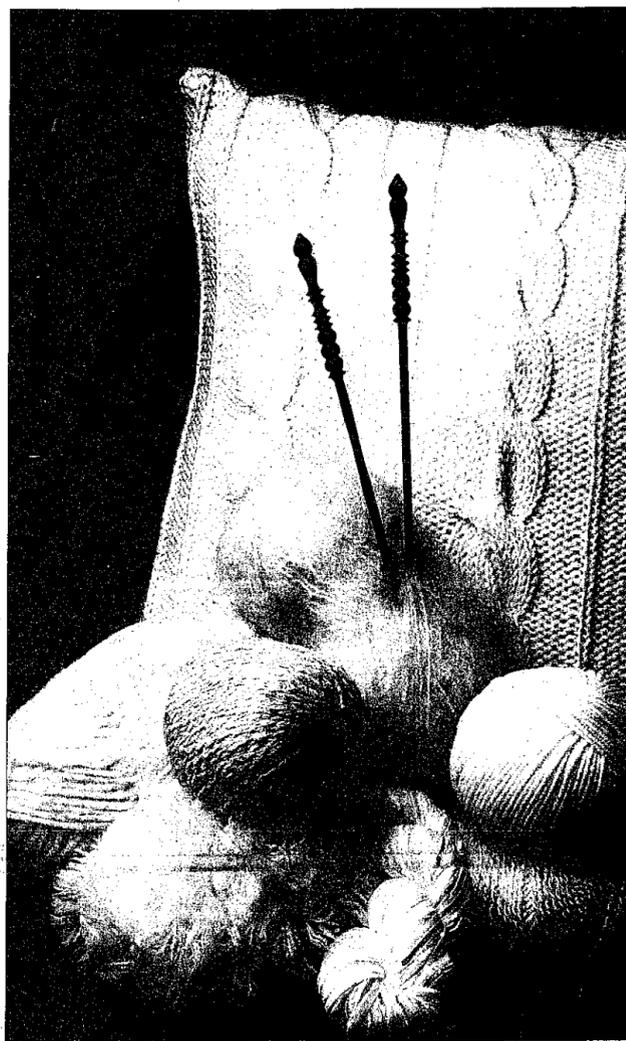


Photo by Paul Magraw / Raleigh News & Observer

yarn

Twist thread into simple accessories to feather your nest

By Marcy Smith Rice
RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

Knitting is the new yoga, some say — all the stress relief without that pesky muscle strain.

There is something of a nesting impulse in the recent madness for knitting.

The movement actually started about 1999, says Linda Pratt, owner of Great Yarns in Raleigh, N.C., and former marketing director for Classic Elite Yarns. With the recession starting, "You've got that cocooning thing happening," she says.

That drives people to yarn stores, like magpies seeking out bright strands to feather their nests.

Both new knitters and experienced knitters are looking for something fast and fun, said Carol Handy of Shuttles, Needles and Hooks in Cary, N.C.

The boom in knitting has been only good news for knitters. Shaws have sprouted like mushrooms in urban areas like Manhattan and Los Angeles. Fibers have bloomed into a plethora of colors and textures.

Knitting isn't really about thrift anymore. Knitters will pay big for fibers that make a statement.

Edith Eig, Hollywood's knitting guru, has spun a career from transforming luxurious fibers into terrific accessories with a few clicks of super-high needles. On her show "Krit One, Purit Two" on the DIY network, Eig makes knitting immediately accessible to viewers.

Some money and a little time can yield a thing of beauty: a lush scarf, a radiant beret, an impossibly precious baby hat.

Kristin Nicholas, former creative director and lead designer for Classic Elite Yarns, is banking on this upscale knitter niche in marketing her exquisite pillow designs, featured recently in Home and Garden.

The tapestry-like designs — created from Nicholas' own Goddess Yarns — are aimed at knitters willing to invest a bit more time to create something that looks more like artwork than beach support.

"The nice thing about making a pillow," Nicholas says, "is that you only need to make one side of it." You then attach the knitted square to a fabric backing.

A pillow is a great way for lapsed knitters to get back into the craft, because it's far less of a commitment than, say, a sweater, Nicholas says.

In terms of decor, a pillow knitted in a fabulous fiber — think red fur or a hand-dyed multicolored yarn — can add quite a punch. Compared to a handmade silk pillow, the cost is modest — plus a knitted pillow, unlike the silk pillow, is hand-washable.

Duplicate the rich layered fabric look with pillows knitted in a variety of colors and textures.

Or make several pillows in the same tone, focusing on different textures — cables or a stitch pattern. It's a fine way to learn new stitches without committing to a huge project.

Things to keep in mind

While you're surrounding yourself with knitted goods, where do you keep the tools of the trade?

Beginning knitters can simply put their yarn and needles in a basket on the table (home product catalogs like Pottery Barn frequently use knitted stuff as props). It's quite lovely. In fact, a designer friend who is not a knitter plans to buy a batch of luxe yarns for the sole purpose of decoration.

For the knitter, though, soon the baskets will multiply and bags of yarn will pile up behind chairs and sofas. This is not lovely.

A sympathetic spouse of a knitter friend dealt with the encroaching skeins by finishing two bookcases and fitting them with shelves for the trade.

"I keep my stash in an antique chintzy cupboard with a door to keep them from spilling out."

In addition to its bag-shed benefits, a designated keeping place will protect the spoils from pets and children. For years, we have lived with a cat who doesn't give a meow for fibers. We recently welcomed a puppy, though, who has learned out to be a yarn hound, sniffing out balls of yarn and reducing them to nests of fiber in record time, and making a hobby of evicting pillows.

Suffice it to say that it will be some time before I invest in a Nicholas pillow for my living room — but maybe that's just me for my workspace, off-limits to the pup.

The ABCs of A/C

By Leo B. Weaver
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Remember, it's not the coolest you're feeling; it's the absence of heat.

The next time you take refuge from the summer sun in the air-conditioned comfort of your home or office, don't express your gratitude by saying, "Boy, that A/C sure has cooled this place down!"

Rather, say, "Boy, the evaporation process has certainly allowed a pressurized refrigerant to successfully transfer heat from this indoor environment to the outdoors."

Granted, it's not great small talk, but it is — at the very least — technically accurate, says Greg James, of Gene James Air Conditioning & Heating in Wichita Falls, Texas.

"Basically, the air-conditioning process works on evaporation," James says. "When a liquid evaporates into a vapor, it takes on heat from its environment."

Just how does the air-conditioning process make hot places cool? Why are there units inside and outside? And will a hot room cool down faster if the thermostat is set on 50 degrees?

Central air conditioners are made up of a "split system," James says. Outside the house is the compressor, also called the condensing unit, while the evaporator is found inside. The air handler is also part of the evaporator unit.

While the air inside and outside ideally remain separate, the refrigerant used to transport the heat from inside to outside travels in a continuous loop between the two environments.

And since the decision to turn on the air conditioning is usually triggered by an uncomfortably warm room, that's as good a place as any to begin tracing the air-conditioning circuit.

The air inside the room is pulled through the return air vents in by the air handler and into the evaporator. Once inside, the warm air passes over the evaporator coils, which are filled with refrigerant.

Commonly known as Freon (a Dupont-owned brand name), refrigerant is a substance which absorbs heat by changing states (evaporating) from liquid to gas. It releases heat by changing states (condensing) from gas back to liquid.

The refrigerant enters the evaporator in its liquid state and then passes through a metering device that decreases the pressure on the liquid, causing it to expand and change into a super-cooled vapor.

The warm air passing over the coils filled with this vapor loses its heat to the refrigerant, typically lowering the air's temperature by 15 to 20 degrees.

The cooled air is then blown back into the room through a supply vent.

(Dehumidification is a key by-product of this cooling process; cool air simply can't hold as much moisture as warm air.)

Water released from the air condenses on the evaporator coils and collects in a pan or runs down a drain.

Next, the refrigerant, still in its vapor state, flows out of the evaporator and outside to the compressor. Inside the compressor, the refrigerant serves double duty. First, it's used to cool off the components inside the unit, much like antifreeze in an automobile engine. And second, it's compressed into a hot gas and then returned to its liquid state for use inside the evaporator.

While still a vapor, the refrigerant is dumped into the interior of the compressor, cooling off the working parts. This is the only way the unit can be cooled, so it's essential that the refrigerant be in the vapor state as it exits the evaporator, James said.

If, through some malfunction, the refrigerant is still in liquid form when it leaves the evaporator, it will still effectively cool the compressor, causing unnecessary wear upon or failure of the compressor.

The refrigerant is then compressed into a hot gas, which is forced through the condensing coils. Outside air is pulled over these coils by the fan on top of the compressor. This air cools the refrigerant and returns it to the liquid state.

The refrigerant then is carried back into the evaporator.

Those who think their soiling stylish about sinks haven't seen Franke's new line.

After years of making upscale kitchen sinks and accessories, the company is making a splash in the bath market with its new sink-vanity combination, the Atlantic.

The stainless-steel sink is set in a cultivated teakwood top — splatized, of course — the practicality of the sink sides found in turn-of-the-century houses. Today's version is made of stainless steel. This model, which is 33 inches wide, is \$2,190.

For more information on Franke's products — which include everything and the kitchen sink — call 1-800-626-5771 or visit www.frankestore.com.

In sink with style

By Nicole Hvidsten
MINNEAPOLIS-STAR TRIBUNE

Those who think their soiling stylish about sinks haven't seen Franke's new line.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, June 19, 2003

BUSINESS BRIEFS

HomeTown Web site hits record usage

The Novi News' Web site, www.hometownlife.com, has recorded record usage for the month of May and extraordinary growth over the past six months, HomeTown Newspapers General Manager Rich Perlberg announced today. Total site hits for May were 22,783,303, up 58 percent from December 2002.

The number of "unique visits" by individuals who logged onto the Hometownlife.com site is up 31 percent over the same six months, according to Perlberg. "These statistics plainly show the Novi News is offering local residents a uniquely informative web site to go along with our local newspapers," he said.

Another index of high usage for the site, according to Perlberg, is the number of page views per visit -- 5.02, up an entire page from last December. The number of visits per hour -- an index of how many individuals were logged on to the site at any one moment -- was 638 in May, up 31 percent from December.

Hometownlife.com brings Web users the very best of HomeTown Communications Network's 40 Michigan community newspapers and 21 telephone directories, according to Dan Sutton, HomeTown Digital general manager. "The site includes local news from all the newspapers, as well as searchable listings of their classified and retail advertising," he said. HomeTown Communications Network is the parent company of The Mirror newspapers and HomeTown Digital.

The hometownlife.com site offers links to help-wanted ads placed by employers, with views up 78 percent May over December. "Putting a help-wanted ad in the Novi News, plus extending its reach through our web site, is the best way to get lots of applicants, right around the corner," Perlberg said.

The site also includes listings of real estate for sale downloaded daily from Multiple Listing Service computer files. More than 21,000 individual homes for sale were reviewed by prospective buyers on the hometownlife.com site in May alone.

In addition to the hometownlife.com site, HomeTown Digital offers custom Web design services, together with electronic business cards and eBrochures. They may be reached at 1-800-989-4614.

Local Keller Williams agents honored

Seventy-three Keller Williams Realty Northville real estate agents were honored April 29 during a morning awards breakfast at their Northville office. Agents that produced over \$500,000 in written volume in 2002 were recognized and awarded by their Team Leader/Managing Broker Louis Ronayne.

L. Ronayne

Natalie Reed, with over \$5.5 million in production last year, was named Keller Williams Northville 2002 "Rookie of the Year."

N. Reed

New doctor at Main Street

Dr. Jason Postula-Stein has joined Northville-based Main Street Family Medicine. Postula-Stein is a 1993 graduate of the University of Michigan and completed his medical residency program in 2000 at Christ Hospital in Oaklawn, Ill. He will begin seeing patients in July.

Metaldyne appoints Grimm

Metaldyne Precision Forming announced that Northville resident Doug Grimm has been appointed vice president and general manager of the company's Precision Forming division. In the position, Grimm will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Driveline and Transmission Group's Precision Forming operations.

ADVERTORIAL

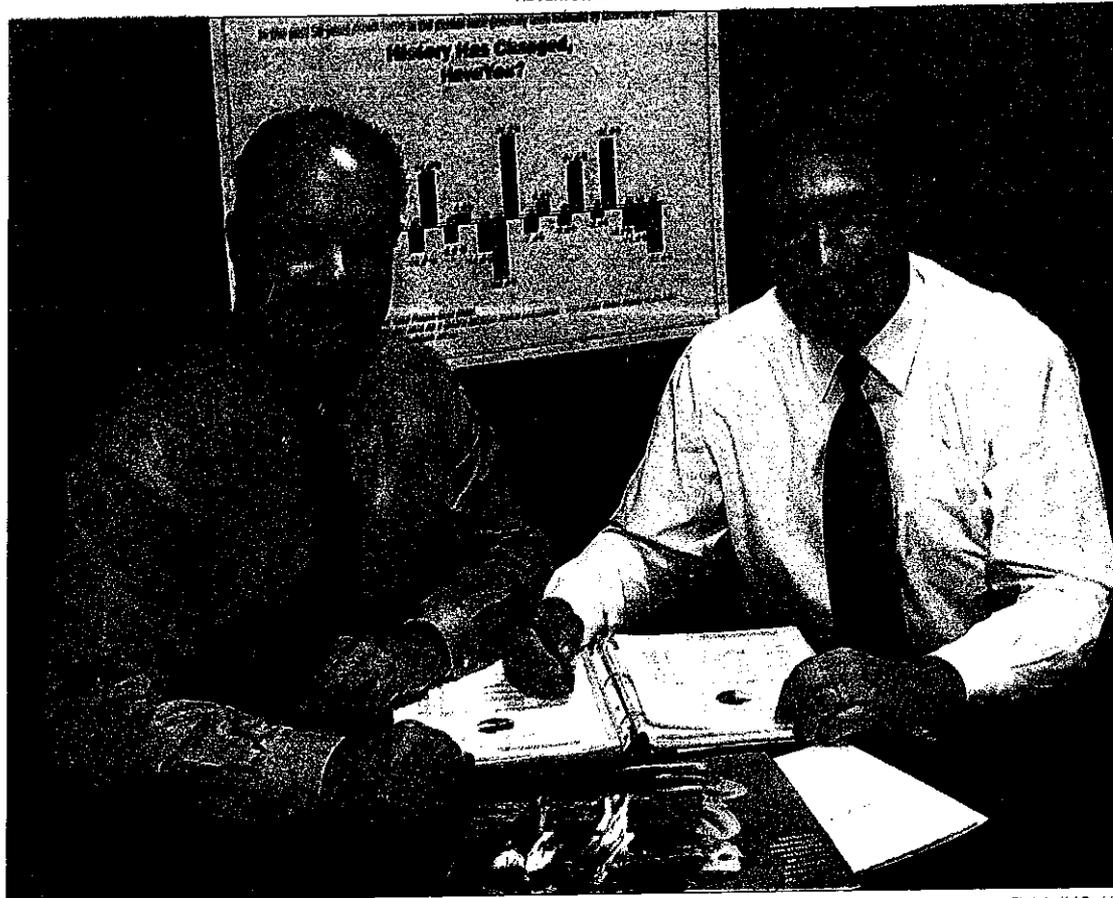


Photo by Hal Gould

Chris Sobczak, a mortgage loan officer, and Jeff Tubbs, an investment consultant, can help with a variety of financial services at Wealth Management Group, located at 415 S. Lafayette in South Lyon.

Sound financial planning helps weather uncertain market

As an investment consultant, Jeff Tubbs provides planning services in money management in accordance with his clients' goals, risk tolerance and income needs. He plans for long-term care solutions to preserve and protect assets. The Wealth Management Group is his network of independent financial professionals that specialize in mortgage services, tax, insurance and legal support. All work together by taking a synergistic approach for the best interest of their clients.

The market today has shown some slight signs of recovery, but investors need to move cautiously.

"For the first time in 50 years, we have experienced three consecutive down years in a row," Tubbs said. "Investors have stood by and watched as the nest eggs they planned on for kids education, weddings, second homes and retirement have dwindled away."

For those who are employed and still have time, it's not nearly as devastating as for seniors who live with the thought and reality that they may outlive their income.

"The investment strategy of buy-and-hold may be a good approach for some, but given the past market declines and the portfolio reductions, one has to ask themselves, 'How has this affected my financial goals, and what can I do today to get back

on track,'" Tubbs added.

What an independent financial consultant like Tubbs can do is help stop or reduce the bleeding, shore up portfolios and jumpstart a recovery plan to meet financial goals.

"The best advice we can give today is to first reevaluate your financial needs and goals," said Tubbs. "Have they changed based on a declining investment portfolio? Second, consult with financial professionals to help identify any shortfalls and to find out what it is you can do to get back on track. And last, you need to act now. Ignoring today's market and not opening your financial statements is just not a viable investment strategy."

As independents, Jeff Tubbs and the Wealth Management Group are able to offer a full range of comprehensive products and services. Services include retirement planning, educational planning, portfolio analysis, long-term solutions, estate and Medicaid planning, tax advice, and mortgage services. Products they work with include annuities, mutual funds, CDs, insurance products, wills and trusts, tax documents, and residential mortgages. Fee-based planning has gained popularity over the last few years. Instead of the financial planner being paid the traditional commission on transactions, the fee is based on a percentage of the

portfolio value. The benefit is that the arrangement puts the planner on the same side of the table as the client, and both will gain if the account performs well. "which eliminates any doubt that the client may have when the planner makes a recommendation," Tubbs said. "Is the planner working in my best interest or his? These accounts are generally 100-percent liquid, with no up-front sales charge and no deferred charge. So if the client is not happy with the performance or service, he can remove his assets in the program at no charge."

Financial institutions are meeting the challenges of today by coming out with new investment products. An equity-linked CD is one product that allows investors to participate in the market and yet guarantee their principle against any future losses if held to maturity. Tubbs said this product offers "the power of the market and the safety of the CD."

Tubbs is affiliated with Sigma Financial Corporation in Ann Arbor. "It's this relationship that makes it all possible," he said. Through Sigma, Tubbs is able to offer his clients the freedom of product and service choices, and "the ability and edge needed to offer the best that there is."

Sigma Financial Corporation is the largest preferred independent broker dealer in the

state, with more than 500 financial planners.

While Tubbs works to increase and protect assets, Chris Sobczak, a business associate and partner of the Wealth Management Group, works on managing their clients' debt issues. Interest rates today are at historic lows, with the 30-year fixed rate hovering around 5 percent. Those who take advantage of this window of opportunity will save thousands, which can help towards building education and retirement plans. Sobczak specializes in no-hassle refinancing, purchase transactions, construction financing and creative mortgage solutions. He represents Ross Mortgage Corporation, a 50-year old company headquartered in Royal Oak. As a lender, Ross performs all the requirements relating to a mortgage transaction, processing, underwriting, and closings, to ensure efficiency and professionalism. Loan approvals can be done in less than an hour, and closings for refinancing, are generally done for clients in the convenience of their homes.

"We do not ship our clients off to title companies for closings; we provide personalized service," Sobczak states.

In the current economic environment, it's in everyone's best interest to review current mortgage programs. There are many mortgage programs available

DETAILS

Jeff Tubbs and the Wealth Management Group provides a full range of comprehensive financial services. They help families accumulate, preserve, and distribute assets. Jeff Tubbs and the Wealth Management Group is located at 415 S. Lafayette in South Lyon. Call (248) 437-7200 for information on securing your financial future.

that can help maximize tax benefits or consolidate debt, Sobczak explained.

Other business associates at the Wealth Management Group include attorney Phillip Weipert, this year's People's Choice winner. He provides estate planning and drafts necessary will and trust documents. James Carey, a long-time local CPA, provides tax and planning services.

The financial services business is constantly changing, and it is difficult for any one professional to know it all. The professionals at the Wealth Management Group are specialists that take a synergistic approach -- all work together to provide the best end result for their clients.

"The best advice we can give today is to first reevaluate your financial needs and goals. Have they changed based on a declining investment portfolio?"

Jeff Tubbs
investment consultant

JEFFREY TUBBS
& THE WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Right Direction for Your Way of Life

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