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# Novi News

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Thursday, January 22, 2004

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Novi, Michigan

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## SPECIAL PHOTO PAGE

### Life lessons

It's all about survival in the great outdoors. Novi Meadows annual trip to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center went off without a hitch with students learning about wildlife, respecting themselves and others, and survival skills during the two-and-a-half day trip.

— Page 15A

## BUSINESS



### New digs for vets

Meadowbrook Veterinary's of Drs. Joe Osbourne, Morris Christleib and Mary Collioli take a look at office cats "Sam" and "Guy" (who's doing the licking). Meadowbrook recently opened up shop at the shopping plaza at northwestern corner of Ten Mile Road.

— Page 13A

## REGIONAL MARKET

### Looking good

Town & Country Eyecare's new home is only the second location for the optometry practice founded by Dr. Timothy Kirk in February of 1994.



— Page 6B

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# Mayor: Novi's stock keeps climbing



Lou Csordas

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

In an atmosphere reminiscent of a Big Three new product rollout, complete with a flash video to kick things off, Novi Mayor Lou Csordas painted a rosy picture of the city at the Hotel Baronette Tuesday with the Sandstone debacle behind it

and a long list of residential and commercial developments ahead of it. Incoming Novi Chamber of Commerce Chairman Keith Wilson declared the new mayor, "the kind of guy who can take 'NO' out of Novi." Wilson said the city's "silent majority" spoke out this fall and elected someone who will listen to the city's residents

and business community. Csordas promised that "balance, common sense, respect and flexibility will be the key" to City Council in Novi. He said the city will uphold and update its land-use master plan, while adopting "zoning that makes sense." The mayor, who fell afoul of the city's sign ordinance himself during the campaign,

said the ordinance needs to be amended to allow for signs for one-day special events. He added the city needs to re-examine its prohibition on residential garages that exceed 1,000 square feet. Overall, however, Csordas focused on the city's accomplishments over the past year. He pointed to the city's recent bond rating upgrade by

New York's Moody's Investor Service, which will save residents thousands of dollars, and to the city's office occupancy rate, which is five percentage points better than the region's. Csordas cited "prudent fiscal decisions" for allowing the city to move forward without

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## Penalty may change for violating zoning and sign ordinances

Offenses could become infractions, not misdemeanors

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Novi Planning Commission members unanimously approved Jan. 14 a recommendation to City Council to change the penalty for violations of zoning and sign ordinances from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction.

This means that zoning and sign ordinance violations could be treated more like parking tickets than criminal offenses in the near future. It may sound like a minor change in city policy, but it actually has some rather far-reaching consequences.

First, the amendments would decriminalize these minor offenses

### MASTER PLAN MEETING

The public is invited to attend another Master Plan & Land Use Citizen Input Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 24 in City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center. This is the second in a series of meetings in which planning commissioners are requesting ideas and feedback from members of the community. For more information, call Darcy Schmitt at (248) 347-0586.

committed by ordinary citizens. Second, since such violations would be subject to a formal hearing and not a preliminary exam, no juries would need to be involved. Third, and probably most importantly, with a civil infraction, a judge

continued on page 6

## Financial news better and better for schools

Per pupil grant reduction could decrease yet again

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Officials in the Novi Community School District know that the state will be cutting its per pupil foundation grant, but the amount of that reduction keeps getting lower and lower.

Governor Jennifer Granholm's original proposal of a \$196 reduction was cut to \$96 last month, then to \$84—and it may go even lower.

According to State Budget Director Mary Lannoye, the state of Michigan completed closure of

### CLARIFICATION

Last week's article "Per pupil foundation grant reduced to \$84" should have stated that the state's per-pupil grant will be reduced by \$84. Governor Jennifer Granholm's original proposal of a \$196 reduction was cut to \$96 last month and then to \$84. The Novi Community School District currently receives \$8,310.

its financial books for fiscal year 2003 on Dec. 23 with publication of its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The school aid fund closed with a year-end positive balance of \$113.7 million, more than originally anticipated.

continued on page 5

### Prepare for landing



Photo by John Heider

Kevin Preville, 16, of Commerce, enjoys a tumble through the air after launching off a homemade ramp while sledding down North Novi Park's hill last Thursday afternoon.

## Sobriety Court graduates celebrate redemption

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

If there's anything that quickens an American's heart quite like beating the odds, it's redemption.

Last Tuesday night at the Novi Civic Center was all about beating the odds and redemption.

One by one the 42 graduates of the latest session of the 52-1 District's Sobriety Court came to the city council chambers podium and told a bit of their story.

They used words like toxic, miserable and lonely.

According to Judge Brian MacKenzie, these are not people who tipped one too many at a wedding reception or stayed too long at an office party. Sobriety Court graduates are people who were on their last chance.

"My heart is beating as fast as the day I got pulled over," said Cheryl McDowell, standing at the podium. By the time she got to MacKenzie's court, she'd racked up five arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol—and that wasn't even the record.

That went to another defendant who came in with nine. "We're talking people with serious substance abuse problems," said the judge. Mike Cantanzaro, who has been sober for a year now, said he was "on my way to death" before he found himself in Sobriety Court. He said completing the program was "just like being born again."

Melissa Carr talked about the look in her father's eyes when she was put in a squad car for the last time and the sleep her mother lost worrying over her. When these people entered Sobriety Court, they were not the kind of people you'd trust to watch your dog, much less your kids, and yet many of them have kids themselves.

Denise Benavides admitted that "my three daughters had been put through hell their whole lives and I didn't know it until I went through this program."

Before the program, said Kevin Carlson, "I had one friend—my bottle of booze." Today he's engaged. Kimberly Austin, who just got her driver's license on Jan. 15, said, "I'm getting bits of my life back."

MacKenzie said the youngest graduate from Sobriety Court this time is only 19, the oldest is in his mid-60s.

He said he expects to see few of any of them back in front of his bench again. Judge MacKenzie noted that of the 254 people sentenced to Sobriety Court since it began in 1999, including the 60 peo-

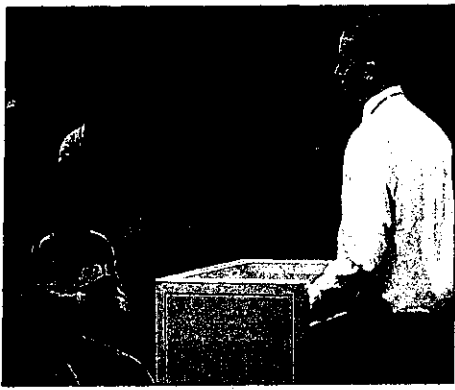


Photo by Phil Foley

Jermy Wolosonowich address the audience at the 52-1 Sobriety Court.

continued on page 5

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# Focus On HEALTH

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## The Straight Scoop: Digital Hearing Aids Can Significantly Improve Your Quality of Life

According to the U.S. Department of Health, 28 million Americans, or 1 out of every 10 people have a treatable hearing loss.

Hearing loss occurs very gradually. If you or someone you know has untreated hearing loss, you know how increasingly difficult it is to interact with friends and loved ones.

Quality of life declines as the hearing impaired individuals begins to avoid situations where hearing is important. Worse yet, most individuals put off help for years because of the stigma attached to wearing hearing aids. "It is very sad that millions of people are letting vanity and denial get in the way of treatments that could significantly improve the quality of their lives."

Dr. James Firman,  
National Council on Aging

You'll be surprised to learn that digital hearing aids are very affordable today and are available in a variety of styles and sizes. Yet they still deliver superior digital hearing aid and performance.

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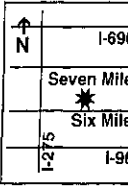
"Patient satisfaction is directly related to the hearing professional's expertise. Hearing Professionals can more accurately evaluate, correct and program the hearing aids to the unique needs and lifestyles of the patient. Comprehensive evaluation techniques, specialized fitting and programming flexibility and post fitting care will ensure your complete satisfaction. If you or a loved one suspect an untreated hearing loss, you should contact your local hearing professional.

Anthony Muraski is a 30 year resident of Ann Arbor, a University of Michigan Graduate & is a Ph.D. Clinical Audiologist.

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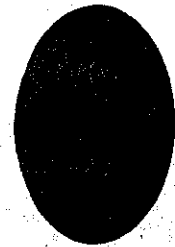
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## Csordas: Novi's stock is on the rise

continued from front page

cutting staff or services as the state's rainy day fund dried up and state revenue sharing was slashed. "It is good to be a fiscally responsible, growing community," he told Novi Chamber of Commerce members.

In the decade ending at the turn of the century, Novi saw its population burgeon 43 percent to 50,000. Csordas noted the when he moved to Novi in 1976, there were only four restaurants. Today, he said, there are more than 100. He added that the city, and the region, is served by more than 2 million square feet of retail space.

To house Novi's growing population, 19,717 housing units have been built. Half of them are single family homes ranging from modest homes on 30-foot lots in a subdivision that was platted in the 1920s to the 15,000 square foot estate homes located on 10 acres, said the mayor. The balance of the city's housing stock, he said, is split between condos, 23 percent; apartments, 16 percent; and mobile homes, 11 percent.

He noted that in one development, Bellagio, on Beck Road, the average home is selling for \$1 million, which generates

\$10,541.60 in city revenue annually.

Still, he noted, "Novi is the sixth lowest taxed community in Oakland County. "We are in interesting company. Bloomfield Hills, Orchard Lake Village, Rochester Hills, Lake Angelus and Troy," Csordas credited that to "the fiscally responsible decisions that have been made by this and prior City Councils."

Boasting a conservative budget philosophy, the mayor declared, "There is no pork in Novi's budget."

At the same time he pointed to a \$6 million voter-approved bond issue that has led to major road improvements along 12 Mile Road, Grand River Avenue and Beck Road. The latest is the reconfiguring of the Beck Road interchange with I-96 - slated for completion next year.

"Am I optimistic?" asked the mayor. "You bet I am, and for good reason. Our future is so bright, I have to wear sunglasses - and I just can't stop smiling."

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

## New ambulance home opens

By Philip Allmen  
HOMETOWN NEWSWRITERS

Six months after starting service in the area, Huron Valley Ambulance has a new home.

The Plymouth-based company opened a station off Pentac Trail in Milford Township, Milford Village and Wixom for emergency transport services.

"Southwest Oakland County is a growing area for HVA, and we need to have a station there," said Paul Hood, vice president for HVA's eastern operations. "We would like our medics to become as much a part of the community as possible."

Under normal conditions, three ambulance crews are stationed throughout the three-community area to keep response-times to a minimum. Huron Valley Ambulance already has a station in South Lyon.

The new station is located at 5224 Dennis Court, just west of the Wixom city border.

"The municipalities invited us to come in to provide 9-1-1 services," said Joyce Williams, spokeswoman for HVA. "We never go into an area where we're not invited."

Depending on the victim's conditions, HVA paramedics will transport patients to their hospital of choice, according to Vince Waryas, HVA paramedic supervisor.

"It hinges on the patient condition and choice. Their medical condition will help determine that choice."

Someone requesting transport to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak while suffering a heart attack is not appropriate, he said. For southern Milford and Wixom, the closest hospital is Providence Hospital in Novi. Further north the closest medical center is Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

According to Waryas, HVA averages five to seven calls in a 24-hour period in the Milford-Wixom area.

"We have to be close to limit the response time," he said. "With this new station, we can limit the response time to two minutes instead of 10 minutes."

For more information on Huron Valley Ambulance, check them out online at [www.hva.org](http://www.hva.org).

Philip Allmen is the editor of the Milford Times. Reach him at (248) 685-1507 ext. 20 or by e-mail at [pallmen@hi.homecomm.net](mailto:pallmen@hi.homecomm.net).

## Bush's tax policies examined in Novi

Organizers of the Citizens for a Sound Economy are promising that their Bush Tax Cut Symposium won't simply be an advertisement for the administration's economic policies.

US Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-11th District) will join with two local economists in the McKenzie Room at the Novi Expo Center at 7:30 p.m. today in a discussion of the Bush tax cut

policies moderated by State Rep. Craig Roche (R-Nowi). Joining McCotter will be Harry Veyser, Walsh College's economics chairman, and Dr. Don Byrne, who teaches at both Walsh and University of Detroit-Mercy.

The trio will evaluate the Bush tax cut program, discuss the state's economic picture and take questions from the public. The event is free.

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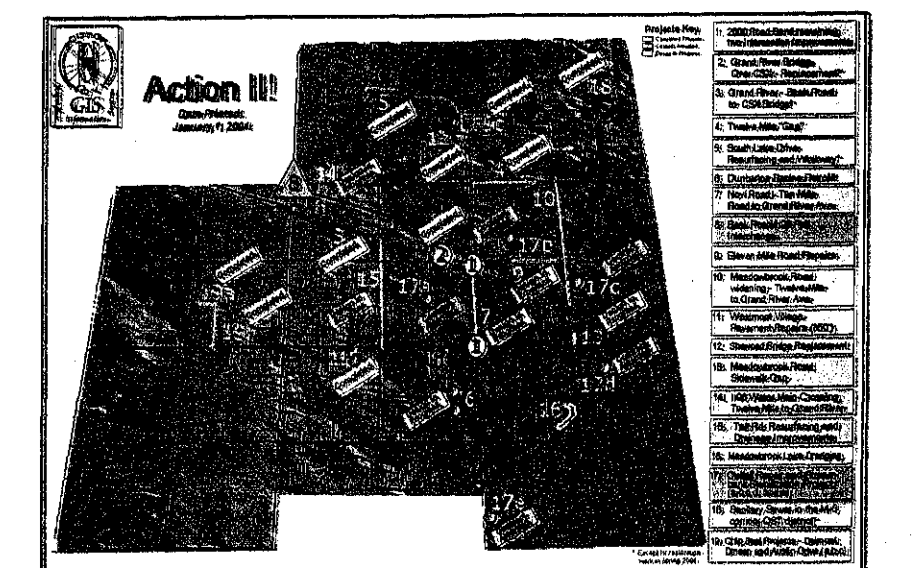
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Mayor Lou Csordas discussed the various projects in the City of Novi and the stages they are in.

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**OPEN SATURDAYS**



Lori Winans of Cleveland grooms her standard poodle "Dijon" at the dog show held at the Novi Expo Center the weekend of Jan. 17. Winans was grooming the poodle on Friday afternoon for a judging to take place later that day.



Golden retrievers "Chynna", left, and "Secret" hang out with their owners Sue Thomas and Monica Everts while scanning the crowd for other dogs during the show.

a photo essay by JOHN HEIDER

# IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



A soft-coated Wheaten terrier awaits more grooming for his eyes-hiding fur.

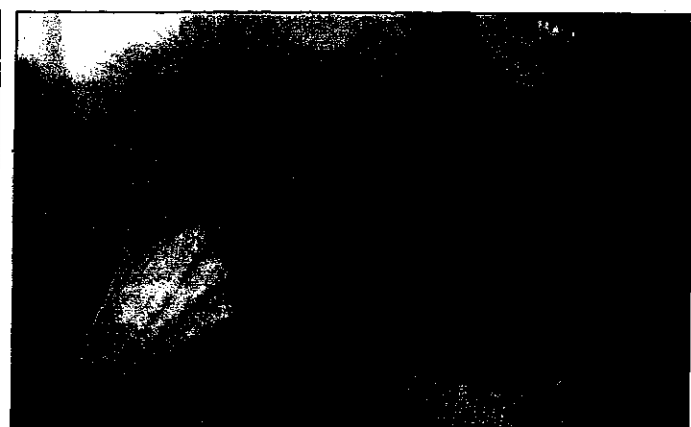


Dog biscuits, renamed "Dalmatian Donuts," are sold by a vendor, but there were also food treats available for the humans at the show.

Vizsla "Kelly" has a seat with her owner, Rita Chavez, as they both await the judging of the sporting breeds on Friday afternoon.



A quintet of German pointers and their handlers, including one at the left who bends down to share a kiss with her pooch, await their fate from the judges during the recent Livingston County Kennel Club Dog Show held at the Novi Expo Center. The three-day event brought dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds and their owners from all over the Midwest to Novi.



Mona Seering of Clare carries her pomeranian Tyler, who is a mere four months old.

## Grads celebrate

continued from front page

people who didn't complete the program, only four have been arrested again for DUI.

The judge noted that of all first-time DUI arrestees, one in three are arrested a second time. "With this group," he observed, "you'd expect a much higher recidivism rate."

He credited the program's success to its intensity. He said that while most similar programs last a year or less, he opted for an 18-month program after talking to substance abuse researchers at the University of Michigan.

MacKenzie said that rather than follow the model of the state's first Sobriety Court, which sentenced every one to a program, he decided to follow the Albuquerque model, which focuses its resources on a small percentage of the population.

"It gives a chance," said Carol Ravicchio, director of the Oakland County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, "to people who have problems facing their demons."

Ravicchio was one of the scores of people filling the Novi City Council Chambers for Sobriety Court graduation.

While MADD has been most noted for its aggressive push to criminalize drunk driving and its demands for tougher sentences, Michele Compton, a MADD member who sits on the Sobriety Court's advisory board, said, "We just want to get drunk drivers off the road, and we don't care how it's done."

David Wolock, who served in the Wayne County prosecutors office for 29 years and is now a defendant's advocate, called the program "tough and smart." He said it gives people the "tools and support" they need to change their lives.

MacKenzie said that one of his earlier graduates who had been addicted to heroin, cocaine, marijuana and alcohol for two decades has gone back to school to get a degree in social work so he can help others.

David Boyce summed up a lot of graduates' feelings. "I've got a lot of work to do and I know I can do it."

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

## Financial news better and better for schools

continued from front page

In addition, joint actions (including the passage of a six-month pause in the personal income tax reduction) of Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Legislature in December identified nearly \$90 million in additional funds to support K-12 education in the current fiscal year.

Locally, that means the Novi district's foundation grant of \$8,310 per pupil will now be reduced by only \$79 to \$84. That's still a decrease in funds from the state, but it's a far cry from \$196.

That amount could decrease even more in February to reflect

### HOW NOVI IS MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE

Regardless of the reduction in cuts, the Novi Board of Education has implemented a reduction of \$229,700 from its budget through eight cuts of its own, which are still in effect.

Measure taken	Savings
• Discontinue all district funded conferences	\$42,405
• Discontinue all district funded instructional field trips	\$12,497
• Reduce district-wide capital outlay	\$20,000
• Reduce non-instructional supplies	\$50,000
• Reduce custodial overtime	\$30,000
• Reduce secretarial overtime	\$10,000
• Eliminate imaging project (transferring district records to CD format)	\$34,184
• Do not fill current maintenance position vacancy	\$30,614

decisions from the Revenue Estimating Conference held last Wednesday. It paints a slightly

rosier picture for the school aid fund in the 2004-05 school year because of anticipated growth in

the economy. That could mean even better news for Novi next year.

"At this point, we're looking at between \$79 and \$84 as of last Thursday, but that's not even set in stone," said Jim Koster, Novi's assistant superintendent of Business and Finance. He estimates the latest state reduction for Novi will now drop from \$610,000 to somewhere between \$450,000 and \$510,000.

"I'm making these calculations based on what I think it should be, but we have received no clarification on that from the state yet," he said.

Romez Khari is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkharu@hhomecomm.net.

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SHOWTIMES 12:25 / 1:29  
CHASING LIBERTY PG-13  
6:50, 9:25, 11:50  
KIDZEE PG  
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40  
LOVE ACTUALLY PG  
7:50, 10:15  
THE CAT IN THE HAT PG  
12:25, 2:50, 5:15  
THE MISSING PG  
6:50, 9:25, 11:50  
THE BURIED MYSTERY PG  
12:25, 2:50, 5:15  
LIST IN THUNDERBOLTS PG-13  
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50  
FRODO PG  
11:50  
BIG BROTHER PG  
7:45, 10:15  
FRODO PG  
11:50  
12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50  
BROTHERS BEAR PG  
11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20  
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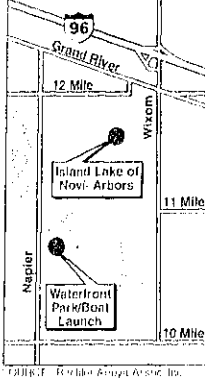
# Island Lake of Novi projects on the move for Toll Bros.

## Planning Commission preliminary approvals OK'd

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills based developer Toll Brothers Inc. recently won approval from the Novi Planning Commission to go forward with their private waterfront

### Island Lake of Novi



## Penalty may change for violating sign, zoning ordinances

continued from front page

can actually order the defendant to actually do something about the situation at hand rather than just order a fine and/or jail time.

This change would apply to violations of sign ordinances as well as those relating to building codes, woodlands and wetlands, afforestation, noise violations, and show storage violations and failure to build what's on an approved site plan, according to Schultz.

If approved by City Council, fines for zoning and sign ordinance violations will be \$200, plus costs and other sanctions for each offense for the first offense and up to \$500, plus costs and other sanctions for each repeat offense.

A repeat offense is defined as a second or subsequent offense committed by the same person within a three-year period, unless some other period is specifically provided.

This change would also allow the city to be able to take care of a

park and boat launch at the Island Lake of Novi residential development.

Commissioners also approved preliminary site plan for Island Lake of Novi Arbors, which will consist of 12 condominium units in three buildings.

The group approved preliminary plans for two new phases of the Island Lake of Novi residential development at 491 Dv. at the Jan. 14 meeting.

The property is located east of Napier Road between Low Mile and Keweenaw roads. The 200-acre development includes a 100-foot putt, is just north of the area.

The proposed waterfront park and boat launch, which would be situated on the south side of the Island Lake, would total about 55 acres, out of 997 acres in the overall development.

The proposed condominium units would be built on about 6-10 acres of the development.

There is a sewer abatement on the block, as well as a 15-foot-wide utility easement. The city requires an 8-foot setback from side and rear yards. Toll Brothers provided only 55 feet and 10 feet, respectively. The developer has to provide a 10-foot setback from the utility easement.

A 10-foot setback abutting utility easements is required next to parking areas, but none has been provided, a variance from this

requirement from the ZMA will also be necessary.

Although commissioners ultimately approved the preliminary plan, not all expressed immediate acceptance of the proposal.

"I'm very disappointed. I can not support a variance for the setbacks," said Lynn Kocan. "It's almost in their hands. The property around this boat launch is too valuable to be infringed upon."

Jason Rickard from Toll Brothers said the developer had to extend the parking area closer to the property line so that owners would have enough room to turn around when pulling a boat trailer. Toll Brothers did, however, agree to remove low parking spaces.

"I find the site has its own problems, but the developer is trying very hard to comply with the

rather strict ordinances," said senior commissioner Victor Cassis.

"I will support this with some of the modifications suggested by the developer."

Boats are to be used by Island Lake residents, and the proposed boat launch is the only one on site. No gas-powered boats are allowed on the lake.

Commissioner John Ardoulous said the value of the property adjacent to the parking area was more of a concern to the developer than the city.

"If you have trouble selling that parcel, that's your problem, not mine," Ardoulous said.

"This strikes me as the proverbial case of trying to fit 10 pounds into a 5-pound bag," said commissioner chair Gwen Markham. "You have this tiny piece of property

**"This strikes me as the proverbial case of trying to fit 10 pounds into a 5-pound bag. You have this tiny piece of property that you're trying to do too much with."**

Gwen Markham  
Novi Planning Commission

adjacent to the waterfront park and parking area has not been sold yet.

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.

Rickard noted that the property

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## Taser subdues distraught Wixom man

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

It could have ended very badly in the wee hours of Jan. 4 when Wixom Police got a call about a distraught man armed with a samurai sword. What they found near Potter Road was a very large, very unhappy man with a neck wound, but still capable of doing some serious damage.

Sgt. Charlie Yon was backing up Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy David Roddy at an accident scene on Benstein Road at 2 a.m. when dispatch reported a 6-foot-7, 270-pound man armed with a large machete in the Trails of Loon Lake neighborhood.

Yon, who stands 6-2, said he found an intoxicated man, bleeding from the neck, who was so big "he made me feel like a little boy." The suspect, a 33-year-old Wixom man, had had a falling out with his girlfriend and was extremely uncooperative, said Yon.

He tried to spray the suspect with pepper spray, but the wind blew it back in his face. "The guy

was laughing at me," said Yon.

Yon said he knew that if he and his fellow officers tried to subdue the suspect, "there'd likely be at least one injury and it would probably be me." About that time, Deputy Roddy arrived on the scene, armed with a Taser.

Yon said the suspect laughed at Deputy Roddy and threatened to do great harm. A moment later, recalled Yon, the man "let out a little squeal" and "dropped like a house."

"According to Yon, the man was first taken to an emergency room, where it took four stitches to close a neck wound that missed his jugular vein by about a half-inch. Yon said the man was then sent to a psychiatric facility, "where, hopefully, he got the help he needed."

The man's girlfriend gave officers two samurai swords and a third was found in the snow a short distance from where officers found the man.

The Wixom Police Department has been training with Tasers lately, but while the department expects to equip each of its patrol

cars with one of the \$800 units eventually, it doesn't have any of the devices on the street yet.

Tasers look like futuristic handguns, but instead of bullets the device fires up to 21 feet ) two probes attached to insulated wires that deliver a low-amperage 50,000-volt jolt on contact.

According to Det. Jim Osborne, who volunteered to take a Taser hit during training recently, "It's the most painful thing I've ever felt. I never want to do that again."

"There's nothing you can do," said Yon, who also took a hit during training. He said that at one point, "I got the irrational thought that if I fell down, it wouldn't hurt as much," but he couldn't move. Yon noted that once the device was turned off, the man went away almost immediately and there were no effects afterwards.

Detective Osborne said his legs were sore a day later.

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.

## POLICE REPORT

### T-boned

A 47-year-old Farmington man escaped injury Jan. 15 when his 1998 Ford was broadsided by a 2002 Honda driven by a 45-year-old West Bloomfield woman, as he headed north on M-5 about 4 p.m. According to a report filed by Officer Jeff Brown, the West Bloomfield woman was entering the highway when the lost control of her Honda on ice and snow and slammed into the passenger side of the Ford, sending it spinning across the median into southbound M-5. The Honda, according to reports, then ricocheted back across four lanes of traffic to the east side of M-5. Both cars had to be towed, and the West Bloomfield woman was cited for violation of basic speed.

### Bad time to visit

Novi High School officials told Officer Jerrod Hart at 9 a.m. Jan. 13 that they'd found a young man wandering the halls who was not a student. The Brownstown Township 21-year-old told Officer Hart that he was visiting his 17-year-old girlfriend. When Officer Hart told the man he'd have to leave school property, the man said he'd ridden the school bus that morning and had no ride home. Officer Hart suggested the man wait at the nearby public library. Later in the day, Officer Tim Harper took the man into custody after it was learned he was being sought by the police in Lapeer County on a probation violation warrant.

### Minor in possession

Officer Ayren Edger stopped a 2001 Lincoln on Novi Road near 10 Mile at 12:42 a.m. Jan. 13 after he clocked it at 54 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver, a 20-year-old Novi woman, denied having been drinking, but when she registered a blood alcohol content of .058, she was charged with operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol. She was also cited for driving without a license. The woman was released after posting a \$100 bond.

### Russian to trouble

Officer Ayren Edger spotted a 1998 Ford Explorer driving suspiciously near 11 Mile Road and Town Center at 12:58 a.m. Jan. 16. The driver, a 40-year-old Russian man from Walled Lake, said he'd had a fight with his girlfriend and was looking for the Firestone store. The man, in broken English, also admitted to having consumed three or four beers. Officer Edger noted the man wavered as he stepped from his truck. The man also failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .19. He was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and driving while license suspended.

### Straddling lanes

Officer Jeremy Siempen stopped a 1996 Pontiac Grand Am on Novi Road near I-96 after he clocked it at 50 mph in a 40 mph zone while straddling two lanes. The driver, a 19-year-old Waterford woman, denied having anything to drink, but she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .11. She was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and later released after posting a \$100 bond.

### Survey says, more than one

Officer Thomas Orlewski stopped a car on northbound Westpark near North Pontiac Trail at 1:24 a.m. Jan. 13 after he

## Police still investigating party that sent four to area hospitals

By Phil Foley  
STAFF WRITER

Novi police are still trying to sort out New Year's Eve party that sent three local men and an outstate visitor to area hospitals and a Novi teen to jail.

According to Novi Police Department Lt. David Molloy, a 24-year-old Novi man was cited for having an open house party at his Meadowbrook Road residence after police were sent to his home at 5:26 a.m. Jan. 1.

Lt. Molloy said police were sent to the home near the corner of Lincroc and Meadowbrook after neighbors reported hearing shouting and glass breaking.

At the home police found 16 people between the ages of 18 and 26. Three of them, said Molloy, had been hit in the head with bottles, while a fourth had been struck with some sort of metal object.

Officer Jonathan Zabick charged an 18-year-old Novi man with minor in possession. The youth was released after posting a \$100 bond.

Molloy said investigators have been getting conflicting stories, but it appears trouble broke out when several uninvited guests arrived at the party. He said it's still unclear exactly what happened, but it appears a disturbance began in the house and then spilled outside.

A 23-year-old Arizona man, originally from Novi, told investigators he was struck in the face with either a fire iron or a baseball bat as he stepped from his 2003 Dodge Stratus. Someone also smashed out the car's rear window. The 23-year-old, along with a 21-year-old Novi man and a 21-year-old Northville man who said they were hit in the head with beer bottles, were taken to Providence Park in Novi, where they were treated and released.

An 18-year-old Novi man was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia where he was treated and released after telling police he too had been hit in the head with a beer bottle at the party.

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.

Compiled by Phil Foley

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# CLASS NOTES

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



Photo by John Heider

Village Oaks student Robert Vujaj gets a kimono expertly wrapped on him by Chisato Cho, left, and Atsuko Mase during last week's Japanese Day celebrations at the Novi school.

## Village Oaks studies Japanese culture

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Village Oaks Elementary School turned into a mini-Japan last week as students learned all about the Oriental culture. They participated in making origami shapes, they drew Japanese calligraphy and even tried on traditional kimonos in three separate stations.

Emiko Nakashima, a Village Oaks parent and organizer of Japanese Day, was leading the origami section to children. She explained that origami is good for students to learn because they need a lot of patience, concentration, understanding and hand and eye coordination to do it. And if they can acquire those skills, it will help them with other school subjects, such as math and English language arts.

"This is good because the kids won't remember harder subjects, like Japanese History or anything, but they remember these three because they participate and it's fun," Nakashima said. "They remember calligraphy, kimonos and origami. These are very traditional Japanese things. We have other things, but they're more difficult for elementary school children to understand, but these three are fun and it's good for them."

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@hl.homecomm.net.

## Groscurth wins Guest school bee

Do you know the name of the Muslim country that was once part of British India, where Urdu is the official language?

Connor Groscurth knew. It's Pakistan.

Groscurth, a fifth grade student at Guest Elementary School, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 8. The school-level bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The kickoff for this bee was the week of Nov. 17 with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating.

The school winners, including Connor Groscurth, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state bee April 2.

The winners of the state bee will participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship on May 25-26, in Washington D.C.

### ON CAMPUS

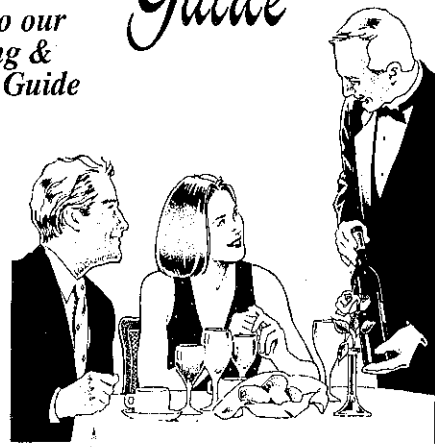
Novi resident Karen Janik has been selected to play in Valparaiso University's Luce Band. The ensemble is an auditioned symphonic band focusing on the development of musicianship skills. She is a freshman music education major and is the daughter of Christopher and Nancy Janik.

Novi resident Chelsea Bennett has been named to the president's list at Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn. for the fall 2003 semester. She is a psychology major and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bennett.

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## Novi High's Rzepecki hoping to make it big in photography

Rich artistic background helped student decide career

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Megan Rzepecki always knew that she wanted to do something in the art field, but she wasn't quite sure what. Her dream of becoming a photographer started with a Christmas gift she received from her aunt, and after that it all just clicked — literally.

Rzepecki is a senior at Novi High School this year. Prior to that, she had to attend many other schools as she moved around because of her father's job. She has lived in Dearborn, Livonia and as far away as Colorado.

Next fall Rzepecki plans on attending either Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids or the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, though the latter would be her first choice.

As an aspiring artist, she has been in the photography field for over two years. She grew up in a family of photographers and artists and is trying to lay the foundations of a photography business so that one day she can turn it into her career.

"The camera I got from my aunt is a really nice one," Rzepecki said. "I have done some photography jobs for members of the community and look to do many more in the future. I'm trying to build a great rapport with the community and earn the money I need to get myself through college."

Rzepecki has already photographed fashion shows, retail merchandise, family portraits, modeling shots, different buildings in downtown Detroit, Tiger Stadium and Comerica Park and train stations. She has also done some nature shots, flowers, trees, leaves and pumpkins during the fall.

"I do a lot of black-and-white photos," Rzepecki said. "I really like black-and-white; that's my favorite thing to do. I also take creative shots that I would love to get out to the community."

Rzepecki has been working at Focal Point Photography in Farmington with her aunt and cousins for the past couple years. At first it was just a summer job, but it got kind of serious when she was trained to be a professional photographer. Starting in June she will be doing senior portraits there.

"I've always watched how they do senior portraits and it doesn't look very fun, but I think since I'll be the one behind the camera I'll be more creative with it," Rzepecki said.

Growing up, Rzepecki had many interests that involved art. At first she did a lot of drawing and painting. She then switched and wanted to go into fashion design. It wasn't until she received her camera two Christmases ago that she absolutely knew what she wanted to do.

Her interests in painting, drawing and fashion all faded when she got the camera, but it's all starting to come back together again because of her aspirations to go into fashion photography. One thing is for certain, though — she does want to stay in the art field.

Jennette Tisa, also a senior at Novi High, has started a fashion business for herself and puts on fashion shows to display her work. The two girls are friends, and they work together as Rzepecki takes photos of the shows.

"I have taken a lot of pictures of Jennette and other students doing modeling," Rzepecki said. "I did a lot of her fashion shows, which is great for both of us."

Rzepecki has recently gotten into taking portraits of families. She explained that her work is really inexpensive compared to normal studio prices.

Rzepecki currently has a lot of her work up for sale on eBay. In fact, the highest price she ever sold a photo for was \$25.

After college, Rzepecki would love to make it big with her talent, but she knows it's going to take a lot of hard work and commitment to do it.

"It's a really great career," Rzepecki said. "When I got it I started going out and taking pictures of everything, and it kind of came to me. I thought that maybe this is what I'm supposed to be doing."

Her interests in painting, drawing and fashion all faded when she got the camera, but it's all starting to come back together again because of her aspirations to go into fashion photography. One thing is for certain, though — she does want to stay in the art field.

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@hl.homecomm.net.

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Courtesy photo

## Senator Nancy Cassis visits Novi Meadows

State Senator Nancy Cassis spoke to the fifth graders at Novi Meadows Elementary last week about how she became involved in politics, her role in serving the community and the law-making process in Lansing. Cassis, a former Novi School District employee, answered students' questions and encouraged the children to be aware of their own ability to influence legislators. Her visit was a real-time lesson in Core Democratic Values and a very personal example of how a local person can influence and make a career in state-level politics.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from page 13

Consequently, the state is offering jobless workers some tips for filing their unemployment claims.

Due to the heavy claims volume, the state's Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) recommends that newly laid-off workers avoid filing their jobless claims during the first hour of their designated call-in periods.

"We have found that about half of those who file their claims by telephone will call our phone application line during the first hour of their call-in windows," said David Plawewski, deputy director for the state's Department of Labor & Economic Growth. "As a result, early callers may encounter busy signals when trying to apply for benefits."

UIA has a telephone call-in schedule for unemployed workers to follow when filing their claims. The schedule is based on the last two digits of workers' Social Security numbers. UIA's toll-free phone application number is (866) 503-0017.

Plawewski reminded unemployed workers that they can call the agency's phone application line anytime from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday or Friday. Fridays have the lightest call volumes. Calling later in the week does not delay the processing of an unemployment application.

Unemployed workers can also file their unemployment claims online at the agency's Web site ([www.michigan.gov/uiia](http://www.michigan.gov/uiia)) weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Restaurant launches TV campaign

Ferdale-based bd's mongolian barbecue recently launched its first television advertising campaign. The commercials, which began Jan. 12, will run for six weeks on network affiliates in the Detroit market.

Currently, there are 23 bd's mongolian barbecue locations across nine states, including one at 43155 Main Street in Novi.

"We're excited to reach out to those who may never have been to a bd's mongolian barbecue," said Billy "Bud" Downs, founder and president of the restaurant chain.

The 30-second commercials, produced by Function I.L.C. in Royal Oak, feature footage of grillers with specials sizzling food on a 7-foot grill and diners

creating their own combinations.

## Village Green manages Beachwalk

Village Green Companies of Farmington Hills, a Midwest's developer and manager of luxury apartment communities, recently assumed management responsibilities for Beachwalk Apartments along the waterfront of Walled Lake in Novi.

Beachwalk becomes Village Green's 36th southeast Michigan apartment community, expanding the company's metro Detroit portfolio to more than 9,200 apartment units. Village Green's total ownership and management portfolio includes more than 160 apartment communities in eight Midwest states, with over 26,000 total units.

The Beachwalk agreements marks Village Green's first management venture with Bernie Giebertman, president of Novi-based Crosswinds Communities, Inc.

Village Green has an established partnership with Crosswinds through the Village Green LeaseEquity program, which enables Village Green residents to earn a portion of their rent as a rebate toward the purchase of a new or existing home.

Residents who choose to purchase a Crosswinds Communities home are eligible for a rent rebate of 10 percent of their monthly rent, up to \$2,000. Beachwalk Apartments are located off of Fourteen Mile Road, just west of Novi Road, and feature one- and two-bedroom floor plans starting at \$645.

Amenities include a private beach on Walled Lake with access to year-round water sports, an outdoor heated pool, sauna, tennis courts and clubhouse with brand new fitness center and entertainment area for resident use.

Village Green will make improvements to the community, including new sliding windows, redesign of site landscaping and the private beach area, and the creation of select units with new kitchens, new appliances and wood laminate flooring.

For more information, call Beachwalk Apartments at (248) 624-4434.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

## Yogi advises followers to look inward, not outward

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Happiness in life cannot be achieved with the accumulation of wealth or possessions.

It's obtained by finding inner joy, peace and living life, according to Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev from south India, who presented a lecture on "Inner Fitness — The Science of Effortless Living," Jan. 6 at the Sports Club of Novi.

The lecture was well-attended, with about 230 people listening to the approximately two-hour presentation, according to Karen Brown from the club.

Vasudev is an international speaker, spiritual leader and author with spiritual and cultural insights on health and human values. He also spoke to employees at Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Henry Ford Hospital in the area last week.

He is the founder of the Isha Foundation, a nonprofit human services organization with key programs, nature awareness programs, world peace partnerships with the United Nations, inner freedom for the imprisoned, action for world rejuvenation, medical and disaster relief for the poor, youth development and scholarships for needy children.

Vasudev is also a delegate to the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit and a member of the World Council of Religious Leaders.

Brown has attended his four-day residential program in Indiana and his seven-day program in Farmington Hills.

"It's such a deep and profound experience," she said. "It's hard to find a program that can touch you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually," she said.

"I had tried other programs, such as yoga, self-help and spiritual books, attending lectures and seminars. But nothing has touched me as deeply as this yogic science," Brown said.

Vasudev has synthesized the science of yoga into a dynamic program that allows people to restore and maintain optimum health and inner balance. Isha Yoga has helped thousands find relief from chronic physical ailments as well as improving mental clarity, concentration and emotional well-being.

"The basic philosophy is if you work on your inner state, your outer well-being takes care of itself," Brown said.

Vasudev told the audience that most people are searching for a little more for themselves — whether it be more money, or better clothes, car, home or relationship. But, they

## WORKSHOP

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev will lead a seven-day intensive workshop April 28 through May 4 in Farmington Hills. The event will take place from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. weeknights and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

St. Toma Church, 25600 Drake Road, is the tentative location for the event. Cost is \$275, with a \$50 deposit due to confirm enrollment. Checks can be made payable to the Isha Foundation and mailed to 2047 Hickory Trail, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

For more information, visit the Web site [www.ishafoundation.org](http://www.ishafoundation.org) or call local Isha Yoga contacts at (248) 478-4786, (313) 882-5863 or (734) 483-8162. The Isha Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to health through yoga science.

"People try to create an outwardly perfect life, but quality of life is based on the inward. Once the mind takes instructions from you, it's a mindless being. But if you instruct from the mind, it's a disaster. Your mind is saying it's all nonsense. It's not listening to what you say," he said.

Vasudev said that most people think of yoga as an exercise in



Courtesy Isha

Author, international speaker and realized yogi Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev from south India, talked to more than 200 people and signed copies of his latest book Jan. 6 at the Sports Club of Novi. He will present a seven-day intensive workshop in the area in April.

"People try to create an outwardly perfect life, but quality of life is based on the inward. Once the mind takes instructions from you, it's a mindless being. But if you instruct from the mind, it's a disaster. Your mind is saying it's all nonsense. It's not listening to what you say," he said.

Vasudev said that most people think of yoga as an exercise in achieving near-impossible body positions. "But yoga is not any particular activity. It's a certain way to be," he said.

"Isha Yoga is a way of using every aspect of your life as possible growth. We should spend more time living life than thinking about it," he added. "If you're joyful, you don't care where it comes from."



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2004  
Northville Record  
Novi News  
**Pie Contest**

We're looking for the best bakers in Northville and Novi. Think you've got the best recipe for a pie? Prove It!

**Rules**

- Pies and typewritten recipes must be dropped off at the Northville Record / Novi News office on Jan. 23 or Jan. 26, until 10am. Judging will be done Nov. 26.
- Entrants are limited to one entry per person, either fruit-based or non-fruit based. Each pie must be baked by the entrant.
- HomeTown employees and their families are not eligible.

**Entry Form**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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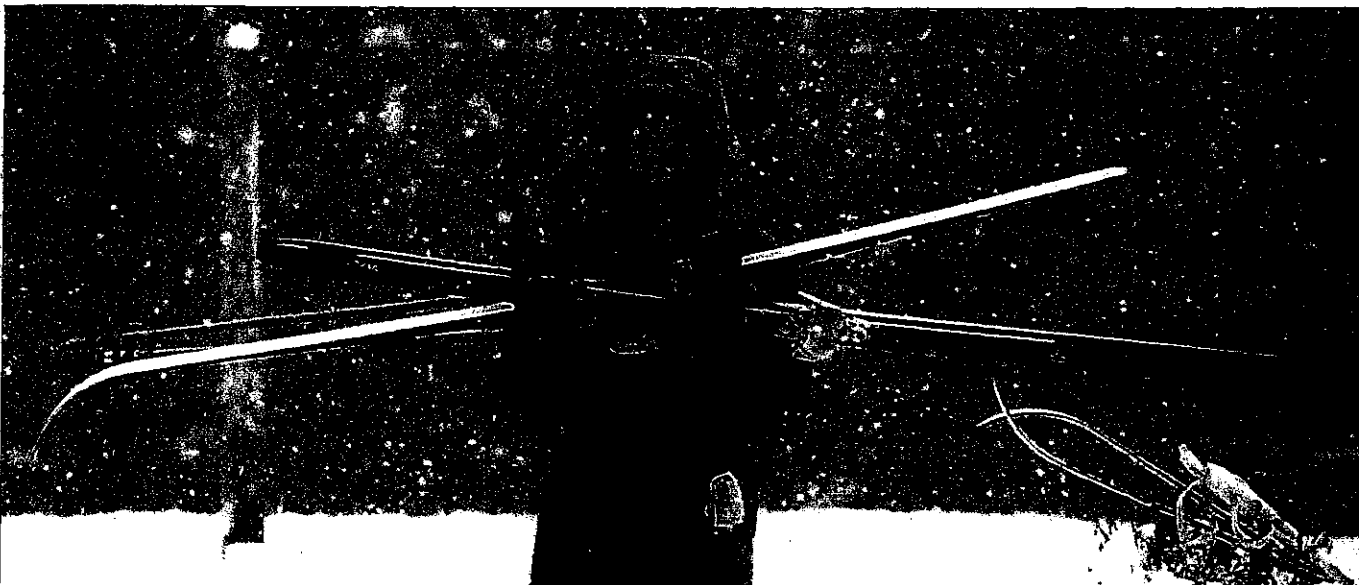
## PICTURE PAGE

## SURVIVAL IN THE GREAT OURDOORS

Fifth graders learn life lessons at Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center



Novi Meadows' students get some simple instruction on cross country skiing before heading out to the trails of the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center two weeks ago.



As a gentle snow falls, Novi Meadows' fifth grade student Joey Leppek gathers up his cross country skills after an outing with his fellow students.

It's all about survival in the great outdoors. Novi Meadows' annual trip to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center went off without a hitch with students learning about wildlife, respecting themselves and others, and survival skills during the two-and-a-half day trip.

Novi Meadows has been taking its fifth grade students to the outdoor camp for 25 years now. In the past it was a five-day program, but more recently it was cut to two-and-a-half days because of the availability of the facility. That fact hasn't diminished the enthusiasm that the students have for the trip, however.

"I thought the camp was a lot of fun," fifth grader Alan Mencer said. "I learned a lot of things about trees and owl pellets. It was a very useful camp."

According to Novi Meadows Fifth Grade Teacher Gary Hurst, the facility is owned by the Walled Lake School District and Novi Meadows rents it. "We have gone at all different times of the year," he said. "We have gone during winter time in the past and we do a lot of different activities. The kids stay in a dormitory, which is nice because we're all together."

"The Walled Lake School District owns 11 acres of land, so the students have access to all different types of forest area. "Every Novi fifth grader goes out to the program, so it's touching everyone who goes through the system," Hurst said.

"The students' regular classroom teachers also teach classes at the camp. However, a Walled Lake employee takes them on a hike.

"The kids are divided up into color groups, there is a schedule for the groups each day and the children attend six classes. There are about four or five topics and they learn about the ecosystem, which is their topic of

study in class. "I learned about the food chain, what different animals eat and how they get their food," fifth grader Shital Chauhan said. "This is a fun way of learning. We went hiking about five miles, but we did it in separate classes."

One class, which is not in the curriculum is cross country skiing, but that's only taught if it snows. Fifth grade teacher Marianne Malarkey said that if it's taught, it's usually the first experience the kids have with it. Another class is Survival, which teaches kids how to survive if they are stranded in the woods. Parents also volunteer their time.

"Parents sign up to help us 24 hours a day while we are there," Malarkey said. "We have parents who stay overnight and we have parents who help us out in the kitchen. The parents have been very supportive of the camp."

Nine different teams in the fifth grade take turns going to the camp. The first group went in December and Malarkey and Hurst's group was the last to go. They left on a Monday morning and returned on Wednesday afternoon.

"I learned about owl pellets and all the different kinds of bones you can find in them and what kind of animals they ate," fifth grader Madeline Cole said. "I think I found the bones of a shrew. This makes you understand it more because we actually are doing what they are showing you and explaining it right in front of you instead of just reading it from a book."

According to Malarkey, one of the unique things about Novi is that there are five elementary schools, so this is an experience where the kids are coming together and they don't know only their neighborhood kids anymore, but they get to meet other kids. They learn a new routine and they have all these new faces.

"This is not only educational, but also the kids are able to make new friends," Malarkey said. "They learn about other people in terms of getting ready for bed together and having dinner and breakfast together. It's something that they don't normally do. Just having to live with people for two-and-a-half days teaches them a lot."

Malarkey explained that this is a unique age for 10- and 11-year-old kids because they are trying to be independent, but yet there is guidance along the way.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the kids because they are away from home, so they have a little bit of independence, but yet we are all right there in one big group. They are learning how to become independent and responsible for themselves," Malarkey said. "When it's over the feeling in the classroom is a little different. The kids have a different respect for us as well as for them."

Students Zach Reilly, Andrew Braugh and Courtney Kramer all found the camp worthwhile. "There are a lot of chances that you could be stuck when you go on hikes," Reilly said. "You could get separated and these skills will help you. It's also important to know how to identify different plants so that you can know which ones you can use."

Braugh had different expectations of the camp before he got there, but he did enjoy it very much. "I learned a lot of useful things," he said. "I had a great time."

Kramer agreed. "I think that instead of just reading a book about certain things, it's a lot more fun to experience it," she said. "We learned how to survive and which supplies you should bring with you when you go outside."

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@bt.homecomm.net](mailto:rkhuri@bt.homecomm.net).



Novi Meadows' student A.J. Heinrichs looks for aquatic lifeforms under a microscope, and other students scooped up water samples from a nearby pond then looked for tiny bugs and plants with their scopes.



Novi Meadows fifth grade teacher Glen Walthall leads a discussion about cold and warm blooded animals with his students after a field trip at the center.

## THE CLASSES TAUGHT AT CAMP

• **Forest Community:** The students are in a classroom setting where they have a 20-minute lesson involving terminology, discussions, diagramming and note-taking. Then the instructor takes them on a one-and-a-half-hour hike through the nature trails. Students walk through the forest locating, predicting and discussing the stages that ecosystems undergo, plant and animal identification, as well as human impact on the environment.

• **Pond Life:** In the science lab, the students take part in discussing, diagramming and brainstorming knowledge of a pond ecosystem, food chains and food webs. They take a short hike to the pond and acquire water samples. Samples are collected from different depths and different areas. Sometimes stream and snow samples are taken as well. Samples are brought back to the lab to examine under microscopes. Findings and results of the pH testing are shared and discussed in the group.

• **Owls:** In the science lab, students watch a short video on owls and their habitat. Discussion after the video helps the students understand the owl's eating patterns and digestive process. The students hike to an owl habitat. Students predict where owl pellets will be located by searching for clues. Once pellets are found, they return to the lab and dissect the pellets. The bones found in the pellets are deciphered and then identified. Students then draw conclusions as to what the diet was for that owl.

• **Wildlife:** The students brainstorm how predators track their prey. After discovering many ways animals track their prey, scent tracking is the focus. Students then form groups of three or four students. One student is chosen to be the deer, or prey, the others are the wolves, or predators. The deer takes a spray bottle and leaves scents on the ground for the wolves to find. The wolves need to decipher the scent to see if it is their prey. The object of the game is to locate their prey.



Novi Meadows student Kate Vallerand prepares for a cross country skiing expedition with her fellow classmates two weeks ago at the center.

STORY BY RAMEZ KHURI / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN HEIDER  
NOVI NEWS



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Barr Again**  
DATE: Jan. 23-March 7  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road  
DETAILS: Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit depicting the role of farms in American culture. Free and open to the public. Grand opening celebrations will be held from 3-5 p.m. on Jan. 24 (cost is \$20); and 1-4 p.m. Jan. 25 (free).  
PHONE: (517) 372-7770 for grand opening info.

**Homeowner Association Leader's Breakfast**  
DATE: Jan. 24  
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road  
DETAILS: Annual gathering for those on homeowner associations or condominium boards. Guest speaker is Chief 52-1

**District Court Judge Brian MacKenzie**  
Following breakfast will be a citizen input meeting for the Master Plan for Land Use Update.  
PHONE: Cindy Uglov, (248) 347-0437, for reservations

**"Antigone"**  
DATE: Wed.-Thurs., Jan. 28-29 (7 p.m.); Sat., Jan. 31 (4-20 p.m.)  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School  
DETAILS: Novi High's Winter One Act Play, "Antigone," will be performed to the public free of charge. "Antigone" is part of the winter competition which will be going on all day on Saturday, Jan. 31. Many other area schools will be performing that day as well, with Novi High's performance happening at 4:30 p.m., also free of charge.

**Novi Co-op Preschool Open House**  
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 31  
TIME: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi United Methodist Church, at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook.  
DETAILS: Come visit the preschool, meet the teachers, and be able to register for the 2004/2005 school year.  
PHONE: for more info, call (248) 344-0296.

**The Art of Recruiting and Selecting Employees with Talent**  
DATE: Thursday, February 5  
TIME: 8:00 a.m. to noon  
LOCATION: Walsh College in Novi  
DETAILS: The seminar, hosted by Performance Progression, LLC of Novi and The Law Office of David A. Bayles of Northville, will cover aspects of an effective recruiting and selection process and legal issues to

consider throughout the process.  
PHONE: (248) 394-5466, www.spotlightplayers.net.

**Boat Camp Day**  
DATE: Friday, Feb. 6  
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: Providence Medical building, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi  
DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness. Open to the public; \$45 per person; registration required.  
PHONE: (248) 465-5455

**Spotlight Players Dinner Theatre "Steel Magnolias"**  
DATES: Feb. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.  
LOCATION: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton  
DETAILS: Jennifer Cullinelli of Novi, producer. \$30 includes family style Southern cuisine and performance. Tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance. PHONE: (734) 394-5466, www.spotlightplayers.net.

**Northern Michigan University Program for prospective students**  
DATE: Sunday, Feb. 8  
TIME: 2 p.m.-4 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Sheraton Hotel, Haggerty Rd.  
DETAILS: For prospective students and parents, information on financial aid, orientation, and housing. Meet NMU students, faculty members and admissions staff.  
PHONE: Advance reg. by Jan. 30 requested. Call (800) 682-9797, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.  
PHONE: To register, 248-380-6201.

**Heavy Ford Complementary Medicine Center Class "Don't Worry-Be Happy"**  
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 11  
TIME: 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Heavy Ford Medical Center, Novi, 40000 Eight Mile, one block west of Haggerty.  
DETAILS: Course fee is \$5 per class. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Learn how to stop the endless loop of worrisome thoughts that keep you from living joyfully, achieving relaxation, and sleeping with ease.  
PHONE: To register, 248-380-6201.

**Cyus Chestnut concert**  
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 14  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Franklin Road Christian School, 13 Mile Rd., Novi  
DETAILS: Jazz pianist will perform with Rodney Whittaker, bass, and Randy Gillespie, drums, of the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University. Tickets are \$20; \$10 for students. Call (248) 477-7711 to order.  
PHONE: www.concertsforacause.com

**SENIOR CALENDAR**

**Thursday 1/22**  
9 a.m.-noon ..... Massage Therapy  
9:30 a.m. .... Line Dance\*  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. .... Sundry Shop Open noon ..... Lunch  
12:15 p.m. .... Bridge\*  
1 p.m. .... Beginners / 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance

**Friday 1/23**  
9 a.m. .... Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m. .... Body Recall  
10 a.m. .... Crafts with Lorecia  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. .... Sundry Shop Open noon ..... Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo  
12:30 p.m. .... Clogging\*  
12:30 p.m. .... Dupe. Bridge\*  
Fl. Myers Beach Florida Trip

**Monday 1/26**  
9 a.m. .... Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m. .... Body Recall  
11 a.m. .... Goodie Lady  
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. .... Sundry Shop Open noon ..... Lunch

**Tuesday 1/27**  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. .... Massage Therapy  
9 a.m.-12 p.m. .... Panera bread  
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10:30 a.m. .... Bookmobile noon ..... Lunch  
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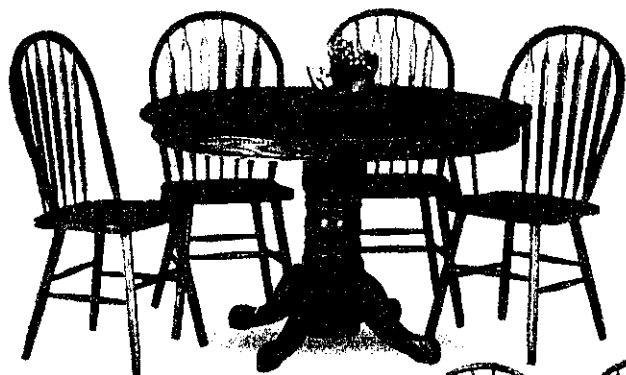
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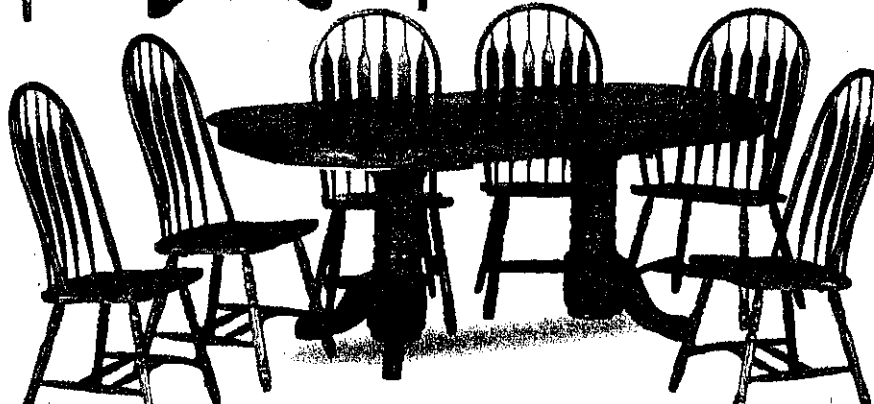
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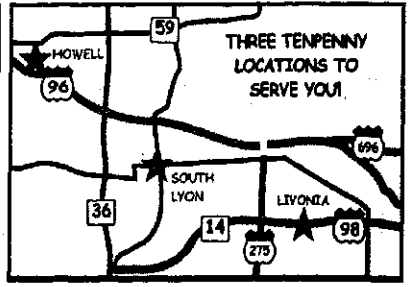
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# NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY SPORTS B1

**Quick Hits**

**The Wanderer has come to the KVC**

The Novi Wildcats, with a big win over the Belleville Tigers, secured the Wanderer Trophy, which will stay with the 'Cats as long as they don't lose. Sound intriguing? HomeTown Newspaper sports writer Stan Frank did some digging and found out the origin of the traveling trophy and what it takes to get it and try to keep it.

— See Page B2 for details

**And don't miss this...**

If you don't mind going on the road, the Novi Wildcats basketball team will visit the Brighton Bulldogs tomorrow at 7 p.m. The 'Dogs represent the most recent threat to attempt to snag the Court Wanderer Trophy from its new-found owners.

**Wedding Bells**

Coaches getting married seems to be the theme at Novi High School this year. Novi's junior varsity wrestling coach, J.J. Balagna, will be tying the knot May 15 of this year to Emily McGuckin. Balagna was a varsity wrestler for four years at Novi before graduating in 1997, while McGuckin graduated in 1998 and was a four-year varsity swimmer and a team captain during her senior year for the Wildcats. Congratulations to both of these Novi alumni. Will green and white be the color scheme for the bride's maids and groom's men?

**Jordan Collins leaves Novi to play Junior A hockey in Iowa**

Novi hockey player and senior Jordan Collins recently left the Wildcat hockey team and the high school for a stint with a Junior A hockey team in Sioux City, Iowa.

— See Page B4 for details

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**Novi Wildcats Volleyball vs. Milford**

Thursday, January 29  
5:30 p.m. at Novi

**Proving the experts wrong**

Doesn't it just ruffle your feathers when you hear of so-called-experts making a determination on which teams are going to rock and which aren't during the regular season? That's the case with the Novi Wildcats volleyball team. So many people think they don't have what it takes to be competitive this year, but Novi News sports writer Sam Eggleston disagrees. He thinks the Wildcats are geared up and ready to surprise a lot of people and will have a blast doing it.

— See Page B5

## Back to those winning ways

### Wildcat basketball gets back on track with two victories



Novi's Anthony Harbin goes up for a shot against a Lakeland defender, Mark Moore, left, watches and waits for any possible rebound.

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Besides a quick run in the third quarter, this game was nothing but Novi.

The Wildcats boys basketball team jumped to a quick lead and kept it as they crushed the Lakeland Eagles, 42-25, in a Kensington Valley Conference contest.

If the Novi basketball team was worried that **NOVI 42** they might lose their newly earned **LAKELAND 25** Court Wanderer trophy to the Eagles at the beginning of their game January 16, then they must have been breathing a sigh of relief by midway through the second quarter.

Novi leapt out to an amazing 14-0 lead before the Eagles were finally able to notch their first points on a lay-up with 4:39 left in the second quarter.

"Our defense in the first quarter was unbelievable," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "It was a great first half of basketball."

The Wildcats, who were determined to reclaim their defensive superiority over their Kensington Valley Conference opponents after losing to Howell in the league opener, used their impressive man-to-man defense to shut the Eagles down and utilizing any mistakes the young Lakeland squad made. By the end of the first half, the Wildcats were leading 22-7.

"Lakeland likes to run that slow offense, so you can always expect scores to be a lot lower against them," Schluter said. "They didn't change that game plan, and at times we held the ball as well."

The Wildcats had a slight hiccup in the third quarter and the Lakeland Eagles took a quick advantage of it as they outscored Novi 13-5 to cut the deficit to just seven points, 27-20.

But, the fourth quarter was once again all Novi. The Wildcats simply ran over their foes as they outscored them 15-5 to secure the win.

"Lakeland is well coached and they are capable of shooting the ball on you," Schluter said. "I thought we did a great job of taking away their two best scorers and because of that they had a hard time getting points on the board."

The Wildcats were fully expecting an all-out onslaught from the Eagles — who won their KVC opener and now hold a 1-1 record in the league.

"Everyone who plays us is going to come after us," Schluter said. "No one is going to be sitting back. Novi is the game they want to win. We won the league last year and were real successful. They are all going to be bringing their A-game when they play us."

The Wildcats, who are now 1-1 in the league following the win and 7-1 overall, were led in scoring by point guard Brad Chandler, who put up 12 points in the game. Trevor Hoover added eight, Anthony Harbin had seven and Brad Simpson scored six. Senior Mark Angelocci also had five points on the night.

Novi is slated to visit Brighton tomorrow after a week off. The game's tip off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Unfortunately for Novi, Brighton also had a week off.

"We're playing there too, which is always tough," Schluter said. "His squad is about to put the Wanderer trophy on the line again. We have to take it one game at a time. As always, I'm going to be preaching team and defense."

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 by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

## Novi tops Lakeland in three straight games

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats volleyball team knew that after losing to Howell, they would have to have an impact on their next team in order to make it known that they are serious about contending for the Kensington Valley Conference title.

The squad did exactly that as they pounded KVC rival Lakeland in three straight games, 30-28, 25-17, 25-22.

Novi was without one of their central figures for the contest — coach Julie Fiset, who was out of town on business. Filling in for her was none other than Rusty Herbst, and he saw everything falling into place for the 'Cats.

"Overall, it was just a balanced team effort," he said. "Everyone got in to play and everyone contributed."

The Wildcats were still trying to recover from their KVC opening loss to Howell the week prior, and found themselves on the ropes for part of the first game as they fell behind the Eagles. It took just a spark to get their momentum going though, and that spark came from Sam Stricker. Stricker came off the extremely deep Novi bench and

provided some big time play in the back row for the Wildcats.

"She showed her senior leadership and got us back on the board and in the game," Herbst said. "From there, we took control of the rest of the night and won."

Though the Wildcats managed to squeeze out a win in the first game of the night, they knew better than to sit back and relax. Against Howell, the 'Cats won the first game as well, but ended up losing the next three to lose the match.

"The team really stepped up coming off that loss to Howell," Herbst said. "We won the first game against Lakeland but knew that didn't matter much if we didn't win two more. We had to close the door in the second game and we did it."

The Wildcats are a team that is in a position that finds the so-called high school volleyball experts doubting their ability thanks to a high number of graduates from last year. Novi, however, doesn't find that to be a problem.

"We had a really good camp over the summer and we have two really good sophomores in Jenna Kuhn and Megan Miller helping us out. The juniors and seniors as a whole are playing

well, and they've filled the holes nicely. Overall, the chemistry on this team is just amazing."

Novi played extremely well as a whole, but Herbst noted Kim Zarezynski and Bella Feldbaum's play as a positive.

"They did a great job establishing blocks all night," he said. "That was an area we struggled a little bit in the latter half of the Howell match."

At setter, Laura Rybicki and Becky Reichel were also noted for their play.

"They did a nice job of spreading the ball around," Herbst said.

The Wildcats are back in action today when they visit the Brighton Bulldogs at 5:30 p.m. before playing at home Saturday at 9 a.m. Novi will then visit Hartland January 26 at 5:30 p.m.

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



Novi's John Janssens tries to bat the puck out of midair in a game against Northville.

## 'Cats fall to Milford

It definitely wasn't the ending the Novi Wildcats wanted in their game against the Mavericks.

After keeping the contest close throughout the majority of play, the Wildcats gave up two quick goals and then an open-netter to fall 5-1 to their Kensington Valley Conference rivals.

"Milford is very strong this year," Novi coach Dan Phelps said. "They are an up-and-coming team. We're not the only team that is going to have trouble with them this year."

Novi was the first to get on the board, scoring on a powerplay as Chaz Bulbuk took the puck in and scored for a 1-0 lead.

From that point on, the 'Cats fell behind 2-1 before giving up two goals within 40 seconds of each

other to watch their chances dwindle to a 4-1 cushion in favor of the Mavericks.

Novi pulled goalie Dan Morrison in hopes of getting an advantage on the attack, but the Mavericks pounded the coffin shut with a goal for the 5-1 finish.

"Their goalie definitely played a big factor in the final score," Phelps said. "He had some huge saves. We had some chances right on his door step. But, I have to give the kid credit. He stood on his head and stopped us."

Novi is back in action tomorrow when they visit Lakeland at 3:30 p.m. before returning home January 28 against Brighton with a 6:30 p.m. face off.

— By Sam Eggleston

**Eric Hansen**  
Senior  
Wrestling

Hansen, who wrestles at the 125-pound weight class for the Wildcats, took home a medal and wins in all five of his matches at the South Lyon Invitational Wrestling Tournament last week. Hansen has been a steady wrestler for the Wildcats, and will no doubt be a contender for some individual honors this year if he continues to wrestle the way he has been.



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**Sam Stricker**  
Senior  
Volleyball

Sometimes, a team just needs a boost from one of their senior leaders — and Stricker gave that to the Wildcats last week against the Lakeland Eagles. Stricker came in during an intense first game that ended 30-28 and helped spark the Novi squad into some impressive play that led to a victory in three straight games. The whole team played well in the contest, but Stricker was the spark that lit the fuse.



# NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Trophy finds way to Novi

By Stan Frank  
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

Take a sagabond, the Court Wanderer drifts from place to place.

It has now journeyed to a basketball court near you.

With a 50-49 double-overtime victory at Belleville, the Novi varsity basketball team captured and huzzed home a golden sphere that, since its inception 24 months ago, has been gaining recognition among enthusiasts of Michigan high school basketball. In doing so, the Wildcats provided teams in the Kensington Valley Conference an added incentive to upstaging last year's league champions.

Conceived in Marquette, a small town outside Cadillac, by its high school athletic director Rene LaFreniere, III, the Court Wanderer is a magnificent trophy in the shape of a basketball that can be used by a Michigan school only upon beating a team which possesses it.

LaFreniere created the concept of the Court Wanderer after learning of a similar traveling trophy in Indiana. He then was granted permission by his school superintendent to produce the golden globe, which, along with its protective case, cost about \$750.

"It wasn't cheap," LaFreniere said last Friday, "but we didn't want it to look cheap. We wanted it to be pretty impressive, so that when people get to it they are wowed by it."

The Novi players were quick in assuming affection for the trophy. Last Friday night, in their first defense of it, the Wildcats routed Lakeland to retain its possession. Afterward, members of the team lifted it high in the air while posing for pictures.

"We want to keep winning and go into the playoffs with it," Novi's Brad Chandler said. "We don't want any other KVC teams to touch it."

LaFreniere said reaction to the trophy has been overwhelmingly positive. In fact, in light of its success, LaFreniere established last fall the Lady Court Wanderer.

"I once listened to a game on the radio when a team knocked off another that had it and the place sounded just like mass chaos," LaFreniere said. "That kind of sent a chill down my spine."

To LaFreniere's knowledge, the Court Wanderer's innocence has

been maintained and tales of delinquency, such as those tagged to the NHL's Stanley Cup, are unlikely to surface.

"It's pretty well protected," he said. "The untested theory is that you can set it on the rim in its case and push it off and it would still be in one piece."

"But I don't recommend anybody doing that," LaFreniere added with a laugh.

"The neat thing is that all the teams that have won it have taken their school logo sticker and stuck it on the outside of the case."

Novi included.

Wildcats head coach Pat Schluter consciously made the decision to not underwrite his team's ownership of the Court Wanderer.

"I'm trying to build it up to my guys," Schluter said. "Because I know every team we play is going to build it up. It's going to bring a lot of excitement."

Indeed, in defeating the defending KVC champion, Novi got not enough incentive, opposing teams likely will be looking to capture the rights to Novi's new prize.

Since January 2002, the Court Wanderer has exhibited the perseverance of a normal, mulling trophy by being in 12 Michigan communities. Now, seven schools, including the KVC will be aiming to knock off Novi and become the 13th.

Whoever said No. 13 is unlucky?

For more information on the Court Wanderer, visit [www.court-wanderer.org](http://www.court-wanderer.org).

Novi's boys basketball team, coached by Pat Schluter, won the Court Wanderer Trophy from Belleville. Novi will retain possession of the traveling trophy until they lose. This is the first time the trophy has been in the Kensington Valley Conference.



Novi's boys basketball team, coached by Pat Schluter, won the Court Wanderer Trophy from Belleville. Novi will retain possession of the traveling trophy until they lose. This is the first time the trophy has been in the Kensington Valley Conference.

## Hoover's last-second heroics win game, Wanderer for Novi

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Coming off a loss to Howell and their first of the season, the Novi Wildcats boys' basketball team was determined not to suffer another one.

The Cats, who are coached by Pat Schluter, collected a 67-50 victory over the Belleville Tigers in a game and a half on Saturday.

The victory not only boosted the Wildcats morale, but also gave them something to show for it as they took home the Court Wanderer trophy (see related story, this page).

Novi started the game off on the right foot, taking a 14-5 lead over the highly competitive Tigers in the first four minutes of the first quarter, but found themselves on the wrong end of

a 29-26 deficit by the end of the first half.

"Belleville is a serious team," Schluter said. "Whenever you play a team with the talent they have, you have to consider yourself lucky to escape with the win."

The fact that the Wildcat defense was able to hold the high-scoring Tigers to under 50 points through a game and a half is remarkable enough, but the way they came back to win it is the highlight.

Down 49-47, Schluter motioned for senior Trevor Hoover to get off the bench and into the game. "The idea? To force the Tigers to flow with the offense and give Hoover the last second shot. The plan worked, and as the defense flowed with the movement of the Novi guards, Hoover pulled up on a

long three-point attempt and drained it without breaking a sweat.

"He's definitely a player," Schluter said. "He's the kind of athlete you can put into a high-intensity situation and he's going to stay calm and play his game. That's why he's so dangerous off the bench and why I sent him in for the last shot."

Brad Simpson led the way for the Novi Wildcats, scoring 12 points and pulling down 10 rebounds for his first double-double of the year.

Both Hoover and Anthony Harbin scored 10 points in the winning effort, and Mark Moore pulled down 12 boards on the night.

Leading the way for Belleville was Matt Miller, who had 13 points, while Tyler Jones and Andre Olden chipped in 11 each.

"He's the kind of athlete you can put into a high-intensity situation and he's going to stay calm and play his game. That's why he's so dangerous off the bench and why I sent him in for the last shot."

Pat Schluter  
Novi basketball coach



The Court Wanderer

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# Wildcats rank with some of the best

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Though the Novi Wildcats didn't take first place at the Novi Invitational cheering competition, they now know they are in good company.

The Novi Invitational, which was held at Novi Middle School January 17, found Carleton Airport winning with a total of 673.5 points and Cheating Union came in second with 662.5 points. Novi was third in their competition, scoring a total of 651 points.

"We were very pleased," Novi coach Amy Denys said of herself and coach Emily Parker. "We had some good scores and the girls were really excited with how well they did."

Especially considering Cheating Union is the former state champion for cheerleading, and Carleton Airport is always in the running.

"We were absolutely thrilled to have scores that were as close to theirs as they were," Denys said. "If I feel good when our kids are ranked with schools that have been state champs or that regularly make appearances at the state meet."

And the Wildcats weren't without obstacles to overcome either. Seniors Melissa Laird and Katie

McDowell were both cut due to injuries.

McDowell is suffering from hairline fractures, while Laird's injury is that of a cracked sternum.

Thankfully, Novi had cheerleaders that were willing and able to fill in and learn the routines that they needed to learn. Juniors Kristin Collins and Marie Ruhl stepped in and helped the "Cats" to victory.

"They really stepped up and took on some new roles," Denys said. "They pulled through for

their teammates."

Novi scored 183.5 points in round one before notching 193.0 points in round two. Round three, which is easily Novi's most spectacular showing, scored the team 274.5 points.

"We are really proud of the girls," Denys said.

Novi will be back in action today when they visit the Hartland Eagles. Currently, the Wildcats are tied for second in the conference with the Hartland cheerleaders, and a win today will put them in second by themselves.

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

## Novi dominates South Lyon

The Novi Wildcat cheerleaders may have already taken a conference loss, but that didn't stop them from pounding out a huge win over South Lyon January 15, 672-548.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Amy Denys and Emily Parker, dominated the game from the start as they rebounded from a loss to Brighton from the week before.

"We were scored generously," Denys said. "The scores were relatively high, but I think they were reflective of the hard work we have been doing. The girls seem to have felt pretty good about that, and they like to see those high scores."

The Wildcats blasted the Lions out of the water in the first round, watching 182.5 points to their 152. Round two wasn't much different, as Novi collected 198 points and the Lions were awarded just 165.5 points.

In round three, where the "Cats" excel, Novi put up a staggering 291.5 points to South Lyon's 231 to seal their victory and keep them on the road towards a possible Kensington Valley Conference title.

Currently, Novi is tied for second place with Hartland, and has just one conference loss. Brighton is in first and is undefeated.

— By Sam Eggleston



State champs — again! Novi has its fair share of talented athletes — and the future is looking bright as well. Here, seven Novi soccer players pose after winning the State Cup game October 4 with their team, the U15 Michigan Hawks Soccer Club. The state title is their second in a row. The victory at the state level, which was a 3-2 final over the Bloomfield Force, gives them a berth into the regionals in Illinois in June. Wins at the regionals will give the girls the chance to play for the national title later in the year. Pictured are (from left to right, top row) Emily Essbrook, Stephanie Crawford; (middle) Jessica Barndt, Kelli Corless, Kristine Chalkos; and (front) Katie Walker and Kelly Walker.

## Club Hockey Results

What a week for the Wild! After dropping a scrimmage to Birmingham Brother Rice 6-3 during the holiday break, the Wild rebounded by winning four in a row. The Wild beat Walled Lake in a league game 13-2. The scoreless tie was highlighted by hat tricks by junior Michael Berger and senior Brandon Harrell, who scored his three goals in a mere 19 seconds! Harrell also had five assists.

Two days later, the Wild beat Northville's club squad 7-3. Berger and Harrell both had another great game with two goals each.

Other goals were scored by junior Jacob Haf, sophomore Jack Mason and junior Keven Gee. Kyle Wells led in assists with three. Other assists went to Haf, Berger, James Kim, Sean Hogan, Jason Dudek and Brett Walczak. Freshman Jon Sayre was solid in the net.

Then, a league game was played versus Canton at Arctic Edge. Wild finished on top 7-3. This time junior Kyle Wells scored the hat trick for the Wild. Other goals were scored by sophomores, Kyle Mouch and Brett Walczak, freshman Jason Dudek and junior Keven Gee. Gee, Harrell, LaFuer and Pizzorni assisted.

To cap off the weekend winning streak, the Wild defeated the Troy Jr. Black Hawks at the Troy Sports Arena Sunday evening, 5-3. Wells led the scoring with two goals and an assist. Juniors Sean Hogan, Michael Berger and Keven Gee also scored. Assists were given to Harrell, Haf, Berger and Pizzorni. Goalie Matt Waggy played a great game, stopping Troy's breakaways and keeping the Wild on top.

## Underclassman Scores

**Junior Varsity Basketball**  
Novi remained undefeated in league play as the team defeated Huron Valley Lakeland 44-28. The Wildcats only led by two at the half but played inspired defensive basketball to hold Lakeland to only 11 points in the second half. The Wildcats were led by Steve Hart's 13 points, Sean White's 12 and A.W. Stanek's five steals.

Two days prior, the Wildcats jumped out to an early 10-2 lead but could not contain the Belleville Tigers on the boards as the Wildcats eventually dropped their first game of the season 53-42. Novi was led by Wiley Moss' 13 points and White's 10.

**Junior Varsity Volleyball**  
The Novi volleyball team won the Northville Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 10 with three exciting victories over Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western and Wayne Memorial. The Wildcats defeated a tough-hitting Walled Lake Northern in the championship round, 7-15, 15-13, and 15-13. The Wildcats beat Walled Lake Western in the semifinals, 15-8, 12-15, and 15-12. Novi whipped Wayne Memorial in the quarterfinals, 15-12, 15-5. Courtney Ratkowski led the Wildcats with 13 blocks, 14 kills, and six aces. Ashley Gardsch led with nine blocks and 14 kills. Katelynn Tuck had five blocks, while Kristen Marzone and Kacyln McAbey clipped in with six aces each.

**Junior Varsity Wrestling**  
The Novi Wildcats wrestling team made some noise at the 38th Annual Garden City Freshman/Sophomore tournament last week.

Pacing for the freshmen were Adam Ballester, taking first in the 125 pound division, while Adam Here took third at 103 and Brad Frey took fifth in the same class. Also taking fifth for the freshmen were Mike Cash at the 130-pound weight class, and Jeremy Young at 135.

For the sophomores, Bill Buccilli took second at the 152-pound class, while Denick McClelland took second as well at 171. Jeff Ratan earned a third-place finish in the 125-pound

division, while Aaron Dixon took sixth at 145 and David Cox finished sixth at 189.

**Freshman Volleyball**  
The Novi volleyball team defeated Howell last week in four sets. The Wildcats won, 21-13, 17-21, 21-14, 21-12. Top performers were Natalie Frank with nine assists, Emily Esbrook with 10 digs and Lauren Purdy with four aces and four kills.

**Freshman Basketball**  
The Novi basketball team extended its win streak to four games with a 51-49 overtime road victory over Howell on Friday, Jan. 9. Novi trailed by two points with 14 seconds left in regulation when Brandon Carnegie hit a short runner to tie the game at 44-44. In overtime, Carnegie, who led Novi with 13 points, sunk three of four from the line to seal the victory. Trevor Borsak's scored nine of his 12 points in the first half.

# Simich is a natural

Writing is something this intern knows how to do

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

For Northville senior Matt Simich, writing is just something that comes naturally to him.

So, it's no wonder that he was interested in writing sports for the Northville Record and the Novi News when he saw the ad in the paper.

"I started writing stuff in English class when we had to write poems about certain emotions and events and I thought I was pretty good at it," Simich said. "It came really easy to me."

Simich also tries his hand at science-fiction and fantasy writing — though he admits that they don't always come out the way he would like.

One of the things that makes Simich such a well-versed writer in the field of sports is the fact that he is a multi-sport athlete himself — something that gives him insight to the emotions that follow both a win and a loss.

"I have been in those situations," he said. "I've been through an really awesome win where you feel unbeatable, and also in some tough losses where you keep replaying the game in your mind."

Though Simich has covered a variety of sports for the newspaper, he is quick to admit he has a favorite among them.



Matt Simich

one-dimensional writer. In fact, he writes for the Northville High School paper, *The Mustang*, as well.

"I have a regular column reviewing the latest video games and rating them," he said. "I also write sports stories and cover different school clubs and their activities."

But when all is said and done, Simich would like to find himself sitting in front of his home computer and making a living doing it.

"It would be a great write fiction for a living," he said. "I have a lot of ideas for books. I just have to sit down and give them some form, plot and details. Hopefully, someday I'll do this."

Until then, Simich will be busy pecking away at his keyboard and being the beat writer for the Northville varsity basketball team — a job he definitely enjoys.

As for the future, who knows? Simich is going to be a member of the track and field team and will hopefully still be writing for the Record and the News. The parents who look for his articles each week would sure miss him if he wasn't.

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

## Correction

The quote attributed to Novi's John Janssens in last week's edition was actually said by Hartland's Bryan Miller.

The wrestling photo in last week's edition was not of Jason Ballester, but rather senior Eric Hanson.

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Novi News

Thursday, January 22, 2004

## NFIB UPDATE

### Identity theft stinks

Although they sound like the latest extreme sports, "dumpster diving" and "shoulder surfing" are methods identity thieves employ to swipe personal financial data and telephone calling-card numbers. According to officials, such crimes are on the rise. In one notorious case, an identity thief ran up \$100,000 in credit card debt, bought motorcycles and handguns in the victim's name, and even obtained a federal home loan with the stolen information.

While small businesses that seek federal contracts aren't reporting strange people in their trash bins or lurking over their shoulders, these little firms have become victims of identity theft to the tune of billions of dollars.

Adding insult to injury, those who got away with the money won't be charged with crimes. The government knows who they are, how much they got and how they got it. But all will be forgiven. It was all just a little oversight in the regulations, as they say in Washington, D.C.

Some oversight. Back before they became big businesses, some little enterprises registered with the U.S. government to be considered for federal contracts. As success took hold and they grew, they never bothered to go back and tell the feds they had become large companies. But they don't get all the blame. It seems the feds never bothered to ask—in some cases for more than 20 years—if these contracting firms had grown larger than "a small business concern that was independently owned and operated and not dominant in its field."

According to an Associated Press report, some of the nation's largest and most successful telephone utilities, food corporations and book sellers still identify themselves as small businesses so they can qualify for government contracts. Once listed, they can disguise themselves as small businesses for the life of a contract, which can be as long as two decades.

Congress passed the Small Business Act to ensure that a fair portion of all federal contracts be placed with small concerns. President Bush set the figure at 23 percent of the federal pie. But the General Accounting Office (GAO), after reviewing contracts given to five large companies totaling more than a billion dollars, found that \$460 million of that was reported as small-business awards.

Digging deeper, the GAO determined that federal regulations don't require updates as companies grow, merge with other enterprises or are acquired by a large business. That, plus bureaucratic and error-prone data collection techniques, has let big firms mask themselves as small businesses and snatch away the goods.

But on Capitol Hill, at least one lawmaker is taking names and checking assets. U.S. Senate Small Business Committee Chair Olympia Snowe (Maine) has called on the responsible agency, the Federal Procurement Data System, to solve this identity crisis so small businesses will get their promised share of federal contracts.

Identity theft stinks, whether done in a dumpster or in the fouled files of the feds. Small business deserves a clean sweep.

*Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at [www.nfib.com](http://www.nfib.com).*

### Got an idea for a story?

Do you have a news brief or story idea about your company? Send it to:

Novi News  
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Northville, MI 48167

Fax:  
(248) 349-9832

E-mail:  
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Advertorial



Optometrists Timothy Kirk and Amy Crissman (seated) offer a broad range of eyecare services and products, from treating eye infections to providing designer frames. Seated in the customer service area of the new facilities at Town and Country Eyecare, Kirk and Crissman are joined by members of their staff (from left), Rhonda, Nicole, Sunshine, Lisa and Debbie.

## Discover a better view of your world

Town & Country Eyecare provides primary eyecare, glasses, contacts

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

Town & Country Eyecare moved into its new facilities at the corner of Novi and Nine Mile roads just in time to celebrate the firm's 10th anniversary. The new home is only the second location for the optometry practice founded by Dr. Timothy Kirk in February of 1994.

Town & Country Eyecare moved into the new facility from its previous location down the street in the Oakpointe Plaza on Novi Road. The practice almost doubled its space with 2,600 square feet in the new clinic, according to Dr. Kirk.

"The new location is convenient for our patients, offers plenty of parking and good visibility for our practice," Dr. Kirk said. "We purchased the building and property for the clinic expansion because we wanted to remain in the Novi-Northville area."

The reasons for moving to the larger location include:

- increase in examination rooms for improved appointment availability and flow;
- increase in optical display and laboratory space for improved service;
- addition of new designer frames and eye care products;
- to allow for future high-tech growth and offering additional services.

The interior of the new facility features natural woodwork, slate floors, and soft colors to create a warm comfortable environment for the patients, "representing homes in town and country of our area," said Dr. Amy Crissman.

She joined Town & Country Eyecare in 2002 after practicing optometry for seven years in different settings. Crissman said she realized that private practice allows her to treat people on a more personal



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Dr. Kirk and Dr. Crissman check the images taken with the new digital retinal camera. Town & Country Eyecare will host an open house for contact lens from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 4.

basis, taking care of entire families and meeting the needs of the community.

"In our private practice setting, we connect with the patients and get to know them on a one-to-one basis," Dr. Kirk said. "We have grown by providing personalized quality eye care for the entire family."

"We often hear, 'This is the most thorough eye exam I've ever had from any type of eye doctor,' from our patients," he said. The staff at Town & Country spends at least an hour with each patient for a complete examination, he added.

Town & Country Eyecare keeps up with the latest in technology, such as the digital retinal camera that captures an instant image of the back of the eye. The doctors can compare the digital images of the retina for each patient from year to year.

"The patients understand their eye health explanations better because they can see it in the photographic images on the computer screen," Dr. Crissman said.

The practice will hold its second annual open house for contact lens Feb. 4 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Guests at the open house will have the opportunity to try on tinted contacts at no charge with a chance to win a free contact lens fitting and a six-month supply of contacts.

Dr. Crissman will discuss the newest options and technology in contact lenses, including bifocal and colored contacts. New technology has made contacts available in bifocals and in toric lenses to treat astigmatism.

"We can fit almost anyone with contacts today," said Dr. Crissman. The latest advancement in contacts is a new material developed for soft lens contacts that allow more oxygen to reach the eyes through the lens. People can wear these contacts longer even overnight, according to Dr. Crissman.

One-third of the practice involves primary eye care, including minor eye injuries, infections and visual rehabilitation, one-third for eyeglasses and the hal-

THE DETAILS
Town & Country Eyecare at Novi and 9 Mile roads
Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Contact Lens Open House Presentation by Dr. Crissman
Feb. 25, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the mayor of Novi
Feb. 28, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Grand Opening Celebration
For more information, call (248) 347-7800

ance in contacts, according to Dr. Kirk. Unlike 10 years ago, today optometrists routinely prescribe medication for eye injuries or infections and diagnose eye diseases such as glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

Town & Country offers a wide range of popular brands and the latest styles of eyewear. The staff hand selects all brands and models of frames carried by the practice, Dr. Kirk said.

"We feel fortunate to have a highly trained and skilled staff of professionals here," said Dr. Crissman. "We stress continuing education for our staff and many are nationally certified in their professions."

Town & Country Eyecare has participated in the Partnership in Education program with the Novi and Northville School districts through the local chamber of commerce. They have made presentations to about 6,000 second graders in the two school districts over the past 10 years.

"We teach the science of vision and try to remove any fear students may have of going to the eye doctor," Kirk said.

With a decade of contributing to the community and its investments in the new high-tech clinic, Town & Country Eyecare is committed to the visual welfare of the area for decades to come.

## Town & Country Eyecare wishes you a Happy New Year of Clear Vision

**TOWN & COUNTRY EYECARE**  
Corner of Novi and 9 Mile Road  
248-347-7800  
Grand Opening Celebration  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m.  
Contact Lens Open House  
Thursday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
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**"New Year, New Eyes, New You"**  
**2nd Annual Contact Lens Open House**  
**Wednesday, February 4th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**At Town & Country Eyecare's New High Tech Facility**

Come join us for refreshments, door prizes, a chance to win **FREE** contacts and fun!

Call 248-347-7800 to reserve a space for you and a family member or friend or just stop by!

Visit our website @ [www.tceyecare.com](http://www.tceyecare.com) for more information and a gift certificate from Dr. Crissman for your first visit!!