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Novi News

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50¢

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Novi, Michigan

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REGIONAL MARKET



Pendleton Park

If you're looking for a new place to call home, the staff at Pendleton Park would like to welcome you to their neighborhood. Pendleton Park is a people-friendly community of upscale, well-designed apartments where you'll feel right at home.

— Page 6B

INSIDE

Murder trial begins

The trial of Nikole Frederick in the death of a Capac toddler, Ann Marie Shawley, last September was slated to resume in Circuit Court Judge Colleen O'Brien's fourth floor court room at Oakland County's government complex in Pontiac this morning at 8:30 a.m. It's expected to continue through the end of next week.

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OBITUARIES

Dennis Skvarca
Leanne J. Passino
Richard Carl Ushieski
Suzanne (Kuhn) Maco

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SPORTS

Poised for title

For the Novi Wildcats boys basketball team, crunch time is upon them. The District Tournament is looming on the horizon and the squad is in a position where they weren't last season — they are still pondering the conference.

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Funds would improve park system

Foundation filing for non-profit tax status

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Novi's park system is on the verge of its biggest change since the city incorporated in 1969.

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission Chairman David Paul and Commissioner David Staudt told city council members

Feb. 23 that the commission is within days of filing the paperwork to get federal non-profit tax status for the Novi Park Foundation.

As a 501(c)(3) corporation the Foundation will be able to accept contributions from individuals and corporations to fund capital improvements in the city's 13 parks.

While stressing that the Foundation is still in its "very early stages," Paul told council members that he is "excited" about the opportunities the Foundation will create.

Commission members would like to see the city make \$7.8 million in capital improvements to city parks by 2008. That works out to \$1.57 million a year, but last year the city approved only \$280,000 in capital improvements for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department in its 2002-03 budget.

In October, city council members approved the commission's Community Recreation Plan and named Staudt, Charlie Staab and Sue Engebretson to a Resource Development Committee to work with the city attorney's office to

create a foundation.

With the creation of the Novi Park Foundation, commission members believe they can, in time, bridge the gap between the city's recreation needs and its revenue stream.

City Council Member Laura Lorenzo was concerned about the foundation's potential cost to the city. "Who, exactly, do you plan on doing the administration?" she asked.

Paul said, at least initially, Staudt, Staab and Engebretson, who is a CPA, would run the foundation.

The commission is expected to formally name two of its members to the Novi Park Foundation board of directors at the commission's March 11 meeting. Before the foundation's first board meeting, the commission will name three more board members.

Paul told city council members he expects to make his next formal report on the foundation's progress in five to six months.

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Do the limbo

Lauren Harrington, 9, clears, or scoots under, a bar 29 inches off the ground during the Family Limbo Contest at last Saturday's "Sand, Sun and Fun" festivity at the Novi Civic Center.

An even dozen for Chamber auctions

Sponsorships sought for April fund-raiser

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Plans are in full swing for the 12th Annual Novi Chamber of Commerce Charity Auction. The event is slated for 6 p.m. April 24 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.

Nikki Pearse of Forum Entertainment in Novi, chair of the event, said this year's chosen charity is Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit, a nonprofit organization that provides bedtime essentials and sleep education for children at risk.

Sponsors to date include Varsity Lincoln Mercury, Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC, Novi Expo Center, Twelve Oaks Mall and Community Financial of Novi.

Nora Champion, president of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, said that the fund-raiser is important for the chamber as well.

"This is our largest fund-raiser for the year. It helps us with our operating expenses for the Novi Chamber of Commerce, and a portion of the proceeds will also help Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit," she said.

Pearse said Sweet Dreamzzz of Detroit is a unique local charity.

"They have partnered with several institutions and universities to teach children about getting the proper rest and how important sleep is to our overall functioning,

For them to go to school and be able to learn properly, they need the right amount of sleep," Pearse said.

"The atmosphere in which they sleep also has an effect on how children sleep," she added.

Champion noted that this is an especially important year for the benefit as far as the chamber is concerned because the organization will be relocating when the current Novi



N. Pearse

Expo Center moves to its new location on Grand River Avenue.

"We are trying to start a relocation fund, so this fund-raiser will also help us fund our new home," Champion said.

"This event also gives our members another opportunity to network," Champion said.

Pearse noted that Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit is also a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

"We thought it would be important to pick an organization that's a chamber member, and we wanted to pick a children's charity this year," Pearse said.

Last year, proceeds from the auction went to the Assarian Cancer Center at Providence Hospital in Novi.

Tickets to the event are \$75 and can be purchased by calling the

continued on page 4

Frog Force gearing up for regional Robotics competition

Novi High team hard at work for event next weekend

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi High School Robotics team has been extremely busy since the 2004 Competition Kickoff on Jan. 10, building a robot to compete in this year's FIRST Robotics Competition.

The competition is a program that pairs teams, sponsors, colleges and technical professionals with high school students to develop their solution to a prescribed engineering challenge in a competitive game environment. The challenge changes every year.

All teams participating in the challenge were shown this year's game field for the first time and received a kit of parts and the game rules and regulations on Jan. 10. The kit of parts included motors, sensors, shafts, bearings and other materials that teams can use in the design and construction of their robots. They also received a new, enhanced multi-channel radio control system and a 12-volt battery power supply. The kit is meant to provide a level starting point for all teams.

Novi is building a robot to com-

pete in the regional competition from March 12-13 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

"Our robot will battle other robots and we want ours to be the best," said Apoorva Rastogi, a Novi sophomore. "Schools from all over Michigan and beyond compete."

Rastogi explained that this year's robot has to feed balls to humans on the playing ground, who will shoot them into a goal in order to earn points.

According to Novi High School Math Teacher Dick Anderson, Frog Force, which is the team's nickname, is entered in two regional competitions. If the team wins either one of them, it will then go on to compete in the national competition in Atlanta.

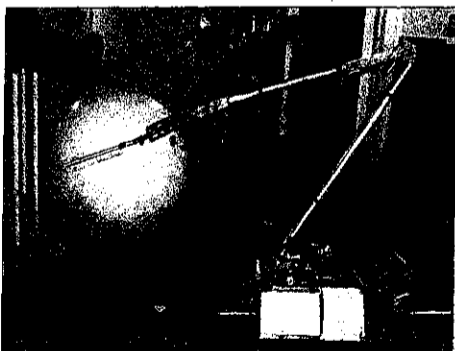
"We have over 40 students in the club this year," Anderson said. "From the night of Jan. 10, the kids have been working every week day night from about 6 p.m. to about 9 or 9:30 p.m. and every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m.

They love it."

That might seem like too much time away from doing their homework, but as Anderson explained, generally, the students who participate on the robotics team are good students and they know the importance of doing their homework.

During a six-week period the team has to figure out what strategy is needed to win this game. That dictates what the robot has to do to function. And in order to make sure that happens, the whole team must be involved. Team members are divided into small groups and sub-groups and each is designated a special job. The individual groups work on decisions regarding the robot's functions and how to go about designing it to do its responsibility.

"First we have to decide what our strategy is to accomplish the game and then we build a robot," Rastogi said. "We design it and all the groups do a different part. I'm in the marketing group. Our job is to market our team and our robot so people



COURTESY PHOTO

Teacher Dick Anderson (behind the ball) heads the Novi High School Robotics Club, of which student Jeremy Hilliard (standing) is a member.

know about it and to get our sponsors."

This year's robot must accomplish four different functions during the competition. It must move on its own; it must either grab a ball or knock a ball down; it must work with humans by feeding balls to them and at the end of it all; and it must hang itself from a suspended bar in the center of the playing field.

Other than the millions of dollars in scholarship money available for students who participate, Anderson believes they also get involved for other reasons.

"In watching the students, I

believe they get involved because they find out how much fun it is," he said. "Other than practical reasons, this is the best experience an engineering-bound student can have. It's also a great marketing experience for those who are interested in going into marketing. There's really nothing like it that I'm aware of in a high school arena. They put a lot into it, but they also get a lot out as well."

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

"There's really nothing like it that I'm aware of in a high school arena. They put a lot into it, but they also get a lot out as well."

Dick Anderson
Novi High math teacher

Blindside Bargains Green Sheet Classifieds

POLICE REPORT

Tailgate stolen II

A 51-year-old Fort Austin man told Officer Scott Teves Feb. 26 that someone stole the tailgate off his 2003 Chevrolet Silverado sometime before 8:16 a.m. while it was parked at the Novi Expo Center.

Pizza fracas

A Novi man told Officer Thomas Lindberg Feb. 26 that after being tailgated by a Cottage Inn Pizza delivery vehicle while driving on eastbound 10 Mile Road, he followed the driver into a parking lot at a 7-11 store near 10 Mile and Meadowbrook roads and had a brief verbal altercation with the man.

And the flag goes to...

A 32-year-old Novi man suffered non-incapacitating injuries after he rolled his 2003 Honda into a ditch just south of the railroad tracks at 2:12 a.m. Feb. 26. The man told Officer Steve Patterson that he and the driver of a Subaru were headed south on Novi Road, just north of where the road narrows from two lanes to one, and they both began accelerating. The man said the driver of the Subaru cut him off, forcing him into the ditch.

Lost in space

Officer Scott Baetens first spotted the 1998 Pontiac Grand Am headed north on Novi Road with the driver's door open and straddling a lane at 11:17 p.m. Feb. 24. He decided to stop it after watching the door open and close several times. The driver, a 48-year-old Novi man, explained he had been at "the alibi, the alibi, songs place," which Officer Baetens took to mean BW3's. The man, according to Officer Baetens, admitted to having a couple of beers. After failing field sobriety tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .17, Officer Baetens charged him with operating under the influence of liquor.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 3/18/04 at 3:30 p.m., the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Self Storage 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI, (Space No. 265) Justs Grinvalds 69 misc. boxes/bags (Space No. 152) Dera Lockett 6 household furnishings, 2 misc. household goods, 9 misc. boxes/bags, 4 other misc. items (Space No. 418) Bob Sprunk 40 misc. boxes/bags, 30 recreation equipment, 10 other misc. items (Space No. 452) Julie Norton 1 stove, 1 washer, 1 dryer, 15 household furnishings, 20 misc. household goods, 10 misc. boxes/bags, 29 other misc. items (Space No. 62) Nicole Jackson 1 refrigerator, 1 washer, 1 dryer, 1 TV, 3 household furnishings, 5 misc. household goods, 10 misc. boxes/bags, 4 lawn care equipment

U-turn, you busted

Officer Michael Prugh stopped a Pontiac Grand Am on Novi Road, just north of Grand River Avenue, at 12:47 a.m. Feb. 20 after watching it make a U-turn. The driver, a 32-year-old South Lyon woman, said she'd only had two drinks at the Novi Bank, but she failed field sobriety tests and registered a blood alcohol content of .145. She was charged with operating under the influence of liquor and later released after posting a \$100 bond.

Two too many

Officer Kevin Rhea stopped a Chevrolet Tahoe at 3:27 a.m. Feb. 20 on westbound 10 Mile Road near Christina Street after watching it turn onto 10 Mile from Novi Road without signaling. The woman admitted to having two glasses of wine at work in Warren. After failing field sobriety tests and registering a blood alcohol content of .12, she was charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

Gate vandalized

A 25-year-old Novi man told Officer Brian Wokoski Feb. 20 that someone vandalized the key card reader at the entrance to Pavilion Court Apartments on the city's southeast side sometime before 11:51 p.m.

A couple here, a couple there

Officer Michael Marchetti stopped a white car in the parking lot of the Denny's restaurant on Novi Road at the entrance to Pavilion Court Apartments on the city's southeast side sometime before 11:51 p.m.

Too fast to control

A 35-year-old Southfield man was taken to Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus Feb. 21 with non-incapacitating injuries after he lost control of his 1997 on the westbound M-5 entrance ramp to I-96 at 8 a.m. and drove into a ditch on the south side of the road. According to Officer

Uh, yeah, maybe

Officer Mark Stone charged a 47-year-old Clinton Township woman with retail fraud Feb. 20 after his prevention specialists at Lord and Taylor told him they videotaped the woman taking \$82.99 worth of clothing and jewelry from the store. Stone employees recovered a sweater, necklace and bracelet. The woman told Stone she'd made a mistake and asked if it would affect her job at the IRS. She was released after posting a \$90 bond.

Eat and run

A 34-year-old man told Officer Michael Corbett that three white men in their 20s ran from the Denny's Restaurant on Novi Road without paying their \$26 tab at 1:57 a.m. Feb. 20 and drove off in a dark blue Impala.

Rental egged

A 38-year-old Ishpeming woman told Officer Larry Lemerand that someone egged her rented 2002 Dodge Intrepid sometime before 12:50 p.m. while it was parked in the east parking lot at the Novi Sheraton off Haggerty Road. Lemerand suggested the woman get the car washed as soon as possible.

Blinded by tacos?

A 47-year-old St. Joseph woman was cited for hazardous driving Feb. 22 after she turned her 1993 Saturn left in front of a northbound 2001 Ford Escape, driven by a 26-year-old Novi man, on

Haggerty Road in front of the Taco Bell just north of Eight Mile. According to Officer Mark Kohl, the Novi man escaped injury, but the St. Joseph woman suffered non-incapacitating injuries. The St. Joseph woman told Officer Kohl that she didn't see the Novi man's truck as she was making her turn.

Mark Stone, the man was driving too fast for conditions.

Compiled by Phil Foley

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Frederick homicide trial begins

Jury could get the case as soon as next Friday

By Phil Foley

As summer died, so did 2-year-old Ann Marie Shawley. As spring began, so did her stepmother's fight for the rest of her life.

The trial of Nikole Frederick in the death of the Capax toddler last September was slated to resume in Circuit Court Judge Colleen O'Brien's fourth floor courtroom at Oakland County's government complex in Pontiac this morning at 8:30 a.m. It's expected to continue through the end of next week.

If convicted of felony murder or first degree murder, Frederick, who was 23-years-old when Shawley died last Labor Day weekend, can expect to spend the rest of her life behind bars.

After a day of hallway confrontations during jury selection Monday, Judge O'Brien wanted the courtroom a repeat would result in banishment from the courthouse and possible arrest.

In opening arguments Tuesday, Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Gregory Townsend described Shawley's last, terrifying hours; how she was brought, unresponsive, to Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus on Labor Day; how Frederick seemed to be most concerned with evading responsibility.

Michael McCarthy, Frederick's attorney, stressed responsibility in his opening arguments. Likening jury duty to military service, McCarthy told the nine women and five men on the jury that it is important for them to pay close attention to the testimony.

McCarthy said that while there is no question that the toddler died a horrible, gruesome death, "the question is, who caused it and what crime was actually committed."

He promised the jurors "once you take emotion out of the equation, they would not find the necessary elements to convict his client."

Although he didn't offer a motive during his opening, Townsend said little Ann Marie was "sent to a home where she should have been safe. She was sent to a home where she should

have been secure. She was sent to a home where she should have been showered with love. Instead, she was sent to a house of unimaginable horror and terror."

Townsend showed the jury an emergency room memo detailing the 2-year-old's injuries in black and white. It snapped out more than 30 injuries, including burns, bruises and tears.

Before the court adjourned at noon, Townsend called four witnesses, including a patient registrar from Providence, two pediatric ICU nurses from William Beaumont Hospital; and the child's step-grandfather, Daniel Schmidt.

Schmidt, a small, bespectacled man dressed in a gray herringbone jacket and rumpled black slacks, spoke in a halting voice as he described his last morning with Ann Marie.

He told the court that he'd bought Ann Marie and her sister, Linda, M&M's and pizza-flavored Pringles. Stopping to wipe his eyes frequently, he recalled how she had run naked from the bathroom and dropped on the hallway floor of his son Scott's house to have her diaper put on.

Schmidt said he'd seen no injuries then.

"She went by you in a flash. You were not looking for bruises, were you?" asked McCarthy.

"She was laying on the floor in front of me as my son put on her diaper," Schmidt responded.

Townsend showed Jenny Jones, a pediatric nurse at Beaumont, a series of graphic color photographs showing Ann Marie's broken body. The photos showed puncture and burn marks on the child's chin; a grill-like pattern of blistered burn marks on the back of her thighs; and swollen and torn lips.

Jones and Vicky Ball, another Beaumont pediatric ICU nurse, said Ann Marie's eyes were fixed and dilated when she arrived in Royal Oak, indicating a brain or spinal injury.

"She was in pretty rough shape, wasn't she?" asked Townsend.

"Yeah," Ball said softly.

McCarthy asked Ball if she knew how old the bruises on Ann Marie's body were.

After she said somewhere between two to four days old, Townsend reminded the jury that Ann Marie had been brought to her father's Novi home for court-ordered visitation on a Friday and she was brought to Providence's emergency room on a Monday.

Kathleen Kolchek, a Providence employee, told the jury she heard Frederick tell the girl's father,



Pediatric ICU Nurse Vicky Ball answers a question from Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Greg Townsend in the murder trial of Nikole Fredericks. The trial is expected to run through the end of next week.

Photo by Phil Foley

John Shawley, "I did not hit her," during an exchange at the hospital.

On questioning from McCarthy, she said that while the elder Shawley was "upset," he did not appear overcome with emotion.

McCarthy suggested that he was a "volatile person."

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.

Cops nab robber in short order

By James Mitchell

Ten hours after a robber held up a bank Monday in New Hudson, Oakland County deputies had him in custody. He was arraigned Tuesday and was in Oakland County Jail.

At about 12:30 p.m. Monday, a man handed a note to a teller at Comerica Bank in Lyon Township, instructing her to hand over all the money in her drawer.

About two hours later, thanks to observant witnesses in the bank, sheriff's deputies placed 51-year-old David Salvador Olson in custody Tuesday in 52-1 District Court on charges of bank robbery. Olson was held in custody in lieu of a \$50,000 cash bond.

Olson was also arraigned on a previous violation, a third-offense drunk driving charge from a January offense committed in Novi. Olson was held on a \$10,000 cash.

Olson will face pre-trial exams on both counts on March 10.

Oakland County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Jeff Crockett said that Olson allegedly entered the bank and handed the teller a note, instructing her to "give him all the money in the till, and not to notify anyone, or else." The bank reported that \$511 cash was taken.

Armed robbery charges were not filed, Crockett said, as no

weapon was shown or referenced during the incident.

Investigators acted quickly upon a description of Olson, who was also identified by name. Crockett said that a possible residence was first investigated in Detroit, which led investigators to a Novi home where Olson was apprehended.

Crockett said Olson had no fixed address. An expired driver's license listed a Detroit address, although a resident there told investigators that Olson no longer lived there.

Crockett said that \$40 of the stolen money was recovered and tied to Olson, enough to secure Monday's warrants for an arrest.

"This case was solved based on good information from a witness," Crockett said. Other than a few minor infractions, Crockett said that Olson had no history of criminal behavior, although he had been drifting between residences in recent years.

James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or at jmitchell@ht.homecomm.net.

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New program helps crime victims recover losses

Program could also aid convicts in turning their lives around

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

"This isn't a punishment, so much as a restoration." That's the way Brian MacKenzie, 52, District Court judge, explains his newest program aimed at getting convicts to pay their court-ordered restitution to victims.

MacKenzie is calling it RECOVER, or Restitution Equated Compensation of Victims' Economic Rights. Starting at 1 p.m. today, 11 people will "volunteer" their time at one of two companies. Those companies will "donate" \$100 an hour to a special RECOVER account that will pay

restitution funds to victims. In 1985, the state legislature passed the first in a series of victims' rights laws that required, among other things, that convicts pay restitution to their victims for personal injury and property loss. The problem, said MacKenzie, is that the law left it up to victims to collect. In many cases the convict was either unemployed or underemployed and had few assets, making it nearly impossible for the victim to be compensated for their loss.

MacKenzie said he and other judges "could not punish a defendant for being poor. Yet, there were also defendants who did not want to pay restitution and claimed poverty to avoid doing so. Courts already overwhelmed with too many cases were not always able to sort the poor from the unwilling."

According to MacKenzie, about half the people ordered to pay restitution at the 52-1, 51st, 50th and 46th District Courts have decided to participate in the program as have the

and unhappy. He said crime victims were left even more frustrated and unhappy by the fact the system left them on their own to collect the court-ordered restitution.

MacKenzie noted that of the 11 people ordered to participate in the initial round of RECOVER, one owes \$11,030 of a \$12,825 debt and another has paid only \$500 in the past two years on a court-ordered restitution of \$7,441.78.

Beginning this week, convicts will be given 60 days to reimburse their victims, unless a judge decides the convict, based on income, qualifies for a payment plan. However, if the convict misses the 60-day deadline or fails to meet the terms of their payment plan, they'll be ordered on to a RECOVER work crew.

MacKenzie said that in addition to his court, judges from the 52-2, 51st, 50th and 46th District Courts have decided to participate in the program as have the

MacKenzie noted that of the 11 people ordered to participate in the initial round of RECOVER, one owes \$11,030 of a \$12,825 debt and another has paid only \$500 in the past two years on a court-ordered restitution of \$7,441.78.

Oakland County Prosecutors Office and Oakland County Community Corrections. MacKenzie said he got the idea for the program from a Florida judge while at an awards ceremony in Atlanta, put on by the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice in 2001. MacKenzie said he modeled RECOVER on PAY UP, a program created by Orlando's Judge Robert Evans.

According to MacKenzie, the hardest part of putting the program together was finding companies willing to participate. He said one of the sticking points was liability, so he decided to restrict RECOVER participants to manual labor.

The first group will begin by hauling scrap wood to dumpsters on a construction site. MacKenzie said Joel Boyd Construction Company and Torco and Bruglio Landscape and Horticultural Services were the first two firms to offer to participate, but he's hoping more will

step forward. "This has a tremendous potential to do a lot of good," offered MacKenzie, noting that many of the people being assigned to the new program have little or poor work experience.

He said with the county's community corrections office keeping track of things, "These people will be good workers." MacKenzie said he's hoping the work skills people acquire participating in RECOVER will translate into better lives.

Noting that representatives of both companies have said they are "open to hiring" RECOVER participants permanently, MacKenzie said "works their way into a job" and solve a "multiple series of problems."

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

Singh's rezoning bid squashed

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Site Shot Down



SOURCE: City of Novi

A West Bloomfield developer's plans to build multi-family residences on an 86,623-acre site in front of Novi City Council Feb. 23.

Singh Development Co. Ltd. has been trying since at least 2002 to get the property rezoned from OST (office service technology) to RM-2 (high density, mid-rise, multiple family), which could have allowed as many as 700 residences on the property.

Commission members rejected the rezoning bid unanimously.

Even Council Member Kim Casella, who supported the request in 2002, said at this time, Capella, like the rest of the council, was concerned about the effect of increasing residential density.

Singh's vice president, G. Michael Kahn, said there were a lot of reasons for pushing for the rezoning, but the one he and company attorney Robert Carson kept coming back to was market conditions.

Chasing a glut of office space in the Metro Detroit area, Carson predicted, "for the next 10, 15 years there is going to be no OST built here. It's going to be 10, 15, 20 years if at all." He noted that the site's extensive wetlands and regulated woodlands make the property extremely difficult to develop commercially.

Council members were unmoved. "I didn't support this in the first

place," said David Landry, adding that Singh's proposal to increase density over what the company sought last year didn't make him anymore likely to say yes.

"We keep increasing density in the city, but we're not finding any place to reduce it. We can't keep increasing density," complained Council Member Tom Nagy.

Council Member Lynn Paul said she didn't like the idea of rezoning a piece of property from one of the highest tax levels and lowest demands for service to a classification that was nearly the opposite. She and others on the council stressed the need for a balance of zoning categories around the city.

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

Carson countered that putting residential next to Twelve Oaks Mall would help ensure the mall's long-term economic viability. He added that in conjunction with existing residential uses in the area, it would help create a "mini-neighborhood."

Council Member Laura Loretto said her biggest problem with the rezoning request was Singh's plans to sell the property. "I'm comfortable with Singh, we can rely on them," she said. "The next developer may not be a Singh, and that troubles me."

Kahn tried to reassure council members. While RM-2 zoning would allow up to 700 residential units on the site, given the site's physical characteristics the only way that could be done is with 10-story buildings, which city code does not allow, said Kahn.

While Singh didn't have a development proposal in hand, Kahn said the current thinking was something along the order of four 100-unit four-story buildings.

That by itself was enough for Loretto to argue against the request.

Despite Kahn's contention that there is "an enormous amount of information why OST does not make sense for this site," council members opted to leave the property as it is.



Photo by John Heider

Fish lips

During his visit to last week's MUCC Outdoorama at the Novi Expo Center, Tom Bruce, Jr. does his best impression of angling legend Jimmy Houston by planting a kiss on a bass he's just caught in the demonstration tank of fishing pro Shawn McCarten.

Highland man charged with domestic violence

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A Highland Township man who Novi Police say assaulted his wife at a Novi friend's home Friday is sitting in the Oakland County Jail in Pontiac after holding police at bay for an hour-and-45-minutes by threatening to detonate a bomb.

Mariavate Andra Richardson slapped Jimmy Jay Collins, 31, with a \$100,000 cash bond Saturday during his arraignment on domestic violence charges.

Novi Police Lt. David Molloy said Collins, who has been arrested on assault charges before, could be facing more serious charges by the time he goes to court again. Molloy said if the charges are upgraded from domestic violence to domestic violence, second incident, Collins will be facing a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine, if convicted, instead of a 93-day possible jail sentence.



T.J. Collins

phone went dead. The first police on the scene found the woman in the yard. Collins' estranged wife told police they had driven down from Highland Township together to see a mutual friend, but after they found the friend wasn't home, they got into an altercation.

The woman said Collins grabbed at her and tried to choke her. Investigators reported her shirt was torn and that she had marks on her throat and leg.

Entering the mobile home, investigators found Collins apparently drinking from a detergent bottle and a beer can. As police approached him, Collins reportedly grabbed a hair dryer and threatened to step into a bath tub. Molloy said after police had management at HomeTown Novi cut power to the mobile home, Collins took a small piece of metal and a razor blade or piece of a beer can, and threatened to harm himself.

Molloy credited Officer Kistie Greenwood for "doing a very good job of talking the suspect into surrendering." He said Greenwood was one of the first officers on the scene and rapidly established a rapport with Collins. Molloy noted that even if the department had the TASHIR units it ordered, he doubts his officers could have gotten within the 28-foot range needed to use them.

During surrender negotiations, Collins reportedly vomited at least once. He was taken to Commerce Township's Huron Valley Sinai Hospital for overnight observation following his surrender.

An even dozen for Chamber auctions

continued from front page

Novi Chamber of Commerce office at (248) 349-3743. Tickets will not be sold at the show, and seating is limited to 300.

Pearse said additional sponsors are needed for the event. "If anyone wants to give us either a monetary donation or a gift that can be auctioned off at the event, they can contact the chamber," Pearse said. All contributors will be recognized in the auction program.

"This is the biggest chamber event of the year. We did really well last year, and I'm hoping to make this one a bigger and better success," Pearse said.

Representatives from Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit will also be present at the benefit to give a brief explanation of the work that the charity performs.

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

Charity helps area's at-risk children



Every night, many children in the Metro Detroit area go to bed without basic essentials such as pillows, blankets and a toothbrush.

But the charity Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit is helping many children obtain these items.

In 1999, an article appeared in a local newspaper that described a Detroit high school student who excelled at school and in sports. But he spent his nights in a burned-out home, sleeping on a bare mattress under his coat.

After reading his story, area resident Kathleen Donnelly and other women in the Metro Detroit area combined their resources and furnished an

apartment for this young man and his mother. This was the beginning of Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit.

In 1999, 560 children at Beard Elementary School in southwest Detroit received a Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit package. These packages include a sleeping bag, night-shirt, toothbrush, toothpaste and stuffed animal. More than 10,500 at-risk children have received these packages to date.

Sweet Dreamzzz also supports the efforts of the Detroit Police Department by providing officers with items for children taken from their homes or living in less-than-adequate conditions.

More than 114,000 school-age children in Detroit live at or below the poverty level. Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit wants to ensure that as many of these children as possible have a comfortable night's sleep and that they be educated on the importance of sleep.

For more information, contact Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit, P.O. Box 608, Farmington, MI 48332-0608, (248) 478-3242, or visit www.sweet-dreamzzzdetroit.org.

City drops one-day sign idea

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

After calling for one-day event signs for Novi businesses, Mayor Lou Cerdas found himself backpedaling a little at Monday night's city council meeting.

In a report to council, Cindy Uglow, Novi's Neighborhood Services Coordinator, noted there are 1,861 business registered with the City Clerk's office and that last year alone the city issued 218 sign permits.

The mayor had suggested during council's Feb. 2 meeting that businesses be allowed to have one-day special event signs for sales.

Uglow noted that at the Pine Ridge Center, a small shopping center on Novi Road near 10 Mile Road, that could mean as many as 15 signs at the entrance on any given day. "I'm an advocate of no clutter," she said.

In her report to council, she noted that although Rochester Hills allows businesses to have one-day signs now, the city is considering going back to only allowing them for community/charitable events due to the paperwork and staffing demands it creates.

Council Member Bob Gatt suggested the city opt for something that would accommodate businesses without creating an undue hardship on the city, such as allowing extra signs on the first Saturday of the month. "All I want is fairness," he said.

While not favoring a proliferation of signs in the city, Uglow conceded, "we need to look at the sign ordinance and get a handle on it."

Council Member Lynn Paul said she had some "serious difficulties with ordinance enforcement." She said she'd like to see political signs banned from roadways and restricted to private property.

Assistant City Manager Clay Person said that when the city has looked at signage issues in areas like Towne Centre, they have "snowballed quickly."

Cerdas conceded that signage is a "major sided issue" and withdrew his request for one-day signs.

Uglow said she's been working with the Novi Chamber of Commerce's president, Nora Champion, to address sign issues and expects to meet with the chamber's economic development committee soon.

Local Realtor Ginger Barons

suggested the city get input from the Western Wayne, Western Oakland Realtors Association as well. She said signage is a major concern for the group's 3,800 members.

Barons told council members the real estate signs that clutter the city's major intersections are placed there by developers, not Realtors.

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Local Realtor Ginger Barons

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- 11% of the Class of 2003 were National Merit or National Achievement finalists
- 65% of the Class of 2003 received special recognition as Advanced Placement Scholars
- Greenhills' Class C Athletic program is ranked #1 in the state
- 84% of Middle School students and 75% of High School students play on at least one athletic team
- 90% of students are involved in music, drama or art
- 21% of the student body are people of color
- 15 is the average number of students per class
- 15% of Greenhills students receive financial aid

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Taking the plunge

This past Sunday's warmer-than-average temperatures weren't quite warm enough for Fox Run Sales & Marketing Director Fred Moschetti, who took a chilly swim in the Novi retirement community's icy pond in a challenge to raise at least \$1,000 for Fox Run's Benevolent Care Fund. Originally planned to be an ice skating party, last week's mild temperature inspired the idea of a Polar Plunge Party. The fund is used for Fox Run residents who have exhausted their financial resources due to health care needs, allowing them to stay at Fox Run.



Courtesy photo

OBITUARIES

Dennis Skvarce

Dennis Skvarce of Lyon Township died Feb. 6, 2004, at the age of 61. Born on Aug. 7, 1942 in Detroit, he was the son of Raymond and Mary (MacDonald) Skvarce and at age 17 he received his diploma from Detroit Time Study. On May 5, 1962, he married his high school sweetheart, Linda Cairns in St. Scholastica Parish in Detroit. After he founded his own tool and die company, Skvarce Tool Corp., later known as VarTech, Inc. A man of many interests and talents, he enjoyed house projects, good debates, singing and playing the guitar and dancing at weddings. Also he loved woodworking and drawing and pin stripping cars, golfing and good friends. Beloved husband of over 40 years to Linda, loving father of Nancy (David) Ward of Commerce, Dennis (Jason) Skvarce of Lyon, and Jeffrey (Melissa) Skvarce of Clarkston, dear grandfather of Katie, Sarah, Laura, Jeremy, Matthew, Nicholas, Abigail, Ryan and Anna. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews and dear friends who join with his family in mourning his death. Funeral services were held Feb. 8 from Lynch and Sons Funeral Home in Milford with the Rev. John Harris officiating.

Leanne J. Passino

Leanne Passino of Pleasanton, Calif. died February 11, 2004. She was born May 19, 1963 in Lyon, Mass. and moved to Pleasanton in 1994. She worked as an executive assistant for the Dreyer Ice Cream Co. She was the proud wife of a serving soldier, a loving and devoted

Lishinski of Concord, and Diane Stacey of Novi; three sisters; three brothers; and five grandsons, Jeffrey, Timothy, Alex, Sam and Erik.

He was preceded in death by four brothers. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at 1 p.m. with final visitation at 12:30 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. Internment will be at Glen Eden Cemetery. Arrangements were made by Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

Suzanne (Kuhn) Mace

Suzanne Mace of Novi died March 2, 2004. She was 51. She was a legal assistant for Gerald R. Portney for 20 years and was active in Hepatitis C Web Forum and Organ Donors. Survivors include her mother, Laura Seesold; two sisters, Judy Tracy Brees and Row (Robin) Kuhn; five nieces and nephews, Tom Brees, Mike Brees, Jennifer Lalica, Jessie Kuhn and Jaime Kuhn; and several great-nephews and a great-niece. Visitation will be on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Visitation will also be Friday, March 5, 2004 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills at 1:30 p.m. until the funeral service at 2 p.m. Memorials may be made to Gift of Life (GLTA), 2203 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104-9836. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy messages: www.obrien-sullivanfuneral-home.com.

Richard Carl Lishinski

Richard Lishinski of South Lyon died March 1, 2004. He was 85. Mr. Lishinski was born May 19, 1918 in Dodgeville, Mich. to the late Felix and Helen (Wagon) Lishinski. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was a member of the Elks and the Fidelity Center. He was formerly of Livonia, moving to South Lyon 25 years ago. Survivors include his wife, Wilma Lishinski of South Lyon; three children, Christine (David) Nitz of South Lyon, Gary (Karen)

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 3/4	9 a.m.-noon	Massage Therapy	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	Healing Touch
	9:30 a.m.	Line Dance*	6:30 p.m.	Clogging*
	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Income Tax by Appt.		
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Study Shop Open		
	noon	Lunch		
	12:15 p.m.	Bridge*		
	1 p.m.	Beginners / 2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance		
Friday 3/5	9 a.m.	Stretch & Strength		
	10 a.m.	Body Recall		
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Sundry Shop Open		
	noon	Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo		
	noon	Clogging*		
	12:30 p.m.	Dupl. Bridge*		
Monday 3/8	9 a.m.	Stretch & Strength		
	10 a.m.	Body Recall		
	11 a.m.	Quilting		
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Sundry Shop Open		
	11 a.m.	TOPS Class		
	noon	Lunch		
	11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	Sundry Shop Open		
	noon	Lunch		
	12:30 p.m.	Pinocchio*		
	12:30 p.m.	Music Rehearsal		
	1 p.m.-2 p.m.	Computer Beginner		
Tuesday 3/9	9 a.m.-12 p.m.	Massage Therapy		
	9 a.m.	Panero bread		
	9:30 a.m.	Line Dance*		
	10 a.m.	Asian Pacific		
	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Income Tax by Appt.		
	10:30 a.m.	Bookmobile		
	noon	Lunch		
	12:30 p.m.	Bingo		
Wednesday 3/10	9 a.m.	Stretch & Strength		
	10 a.m.	Body Recall		
	10:30 a.m.	Quilting		
	11 a.m.	Blood Pressure		
	11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Sundry Shop Open		
	11 a.m.	TOPS Class		
	noon	Lunch		
	12:30 p.m.	Clogging*		
	12:30 p.m.	Reflections of Italy Trip		

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

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, business reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

New Gateway Association forming strategic plan and committees next

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Gateway District Downtown Novi Association will soon become a reality, with local merchants ready to join forces to promote Novi.

The new association encompasses the area of the city on Grand River Avenue from Meadowbrook to Novi Road, north on Novi Road to I-96 and south on Novi Road to where Red Hot & Blue Restaurant and Fifth Avenue Ballroom are located.



Dean Piekarski, of Gateway Village of Novi, stands outside the village sales office, the site of the next meeting at 7:30 a.m. March 8 for those interested in forming the new Gateway District Downtown Novi Association. Piekarski, who plans to be an active member of the new association, would like to see the city host an international fair and promote "Stay in Novi" weekends.

Members of association, spearheaded by Tanu Musu of Novi Community Credit Union, hope to increase awareness and activity in the downtown area of Novi.

A meeting took place at 4 p.m. Monday. The next one is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. March 8 at Gateway Village of Novi sales office on the north side of Grand River just west of Meadowbrook Road.

Those present at the third meeting of the new organization agreed that each member would contribute \$100 to create the new association, which will be deposited into a new account at Novi Community Credit Union, and join the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The new organization is not affiliated with the Novi Chamber of Commerce, although Keith Wilson, chairman of the Novi Chamber, will be a member of the new Gateway Association.

"It's a start," said John O'Brien of O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

"Hopefully, there will be more participation," said Steve Holden of TownPlace Suites & Courtyard by Marriott Novi.

Musu noted that although only a few people were able to attend the March 1 meeting, that the owners of Gus O'Connor's Irish pub in Novi are interested in joining the association, as well as other local merchants.

The group plans to establish a Web site and form committees soon.

Wilson said the Novi Chamber of Commerce Web site could provide a link to the Gateway association's site.

Musu noted that Twelve Oaks Mall and the Novi Town Center merchants have an organization, and that one was needed for this group.

"This group doesn't have an entity, and we need one. I think if we pool our resources, we can revitalize the area," Musu said. "With the comedy club Second City coming, Novi is going to be an exciting, driving place."

Dean Piekarski of Gateway Village of Novi suggested an international fair as a great activity for the association to plan in the future.

"We have people from Japan, India and all over who live in Novi. I think such an event would be a success," Piekarski said.

"I think it's great to start something like this. It's a growing community. An effort like this cannot hurt. Other areas of the city have organizations. This would bring us up to the same level," Cassis said.

Cassis, who owns a building on the south side of Grand River just east of Novi Road, said he has two parties interested and that a decision should be forthcoming on the property in a matter of days.

"I think the question is, 'How can we market ourselves?'" Cassis said.

Musu said the association needs to come up with a strategic plan over the next few weeks and get more people involved.

"Everything we do is interrelated. We can advertise and market together. There's a big enough pie for every business to have a piece — for everyone to be successful," Musu said.

Those interested in learning more about the new Gateway District Downtown Novi Association can call Musu at (248) 348-8500, ext. 404, or Piekarski at (248) 374-1366.

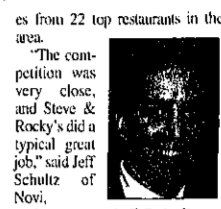
Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

Steve & Rocky's finishes fourth

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

They hoped to recapture the title "Best Restaurant" and the traveling trophy that they won in 2002.

But, Steve Allen and Charles "Rocky" Rachwitz of Steve & Rocky's restaurant in Novi still won a respectable fourth place in the 2004 Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza Feb. 24.



Jeff Schultz

Mac & Ray's Restaurant in Harrison Township, which hosted this year's event, won the top prize.

The annual event, which featured a Mardi Gras theme this year, is a major benefit for the Michigan Culinary Team & Scholarship Fund. More than 600 people raised about \$40,000 for the fund, which supports local high school, trade school and college students who are studying the culinary arts.

Guests were able to sample dishes

from 22 top restaurants in the area.

The competition was very close, and Steve & Rocky's did a typical great job," said Jeff Schultz of Novi, spokesperson for the event.

Out of 22 participating restaurants, six finalists were re-tested by all seven judges.

"Unfortunately, we took fourth place. But it's still a nice compliment," said Duane Brady of Steve & Rocky's.

The winners were:

- 1st place — \$750 and the traveling trophy — Mac & Ray's. Fais Gra's with bre cheese and sausage dried cherry chutney in pastry phyllo with mango salsa.
- 2nd place — \$500 — The Hill. Shrimp vegetable pasta with white chocolate sauce.
- 3rd place — Andiamo's. Pan-fried gnocci topped with a wild mushroom sherry cream sauce.
- 4th place — \$300 — Steve & Rocky's. Chicken sea bass in dill sauce with noodle kugel.
- 5th place — \$200 — Howe's Bayou. Chicken and andouille sausage gumbo.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser also benefited the Blue Water Chefs Association, which promotes the advancement of education and professional development of chefs in Macomb and St. Clair County, and Team Macomb, the Culinary Olympic Team from Macomb Community College.

Steve & Rocky's Restaurant is located at 43150 Grand River Ave. in Novi Town Center.

Women Leadership conference March 31

The Michigan Business and Professional Association will sponsor its Eighth Annual Women's Leadership Conference March 31 at Burton Mower in Livonia.

This year's theme is "Embracing the Next Generation."

Two morning workshops aimed at helping women get ahead will be offered. "Beyond Your Career Plateau" and "Managing the Perception of Leadership" will be conducted by panels of experts.

Detroit Police Department Chief Ella Bully-Cummings will be the keynote speaker.

An awards luncheon will be highlighted by award presentations to six Michigan women leaders for outstanding achievements, and the Small Business Woman of the Year.

MBPA is a business association representing more than 21,000 businesses in Michigan. Members include men and women who are attorneys, account-

ants, real estate and insurance agents, retailers, wholesalers, architects and engineers among others. It is the fastest growing small business association in the Midwest.

The workshops will be extremely educational, said MBPA executive vice president Jennifer Kluge.

After you've reached your goals and your efforts have been successful, what do you do now? Participants will learn what to do when they have reached a plateau in their career. They will find out how to move on or move up.

"The second workshop looks at how individual management styles are perceived. Women have more power than they realize," Kluge said. "Women need to learn to transform negative perceptions while cultivating positive perceptions as a leader and role model."

For more information or to register for the conference, contact the MBPA at (586) 393-8800.

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NOMINATOR: _____ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NOMINATING CATEGORY: _____ DIRECT SERVICE _____ YOUNG ADULT _____ SENIOR _____ YOUTH _____ GOVERNANCE _____ FAITH-BASED _____ BUSINESS

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ AGE: _____
(Must volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): _____

PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: _____

YEARS OF SERVICE: _____ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: _____

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: _____

On a separate sheet, in 300 words or less, tell why you have nominated this individual, group or business. Describe the nominee's major accomplishments, commitment, self-motivation, problem-solving skills, and measurable impact upon the community. Entries must be typewritten. Do not staple pages. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

Entries must be received by Friday, April 16, 2004.

Mail or fax forms to: HomeTown Heroes™ Awards • c/o United Way Volunteer Center 50 Wayne Street • Pontiac, MI 48342 • Fax: 248-456-8809

For questions, further information, or more applications go to www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero or call 248-874-1601.

HomeTown Heroes Planning Committee:
Active Faith • Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan • Birmingham Rotary Club • Junior League of Birmingham • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency • Oakland University • St. Joseph Mercy Oakland



Photo by Phil Foley

New beginning

Novi Mayor Lou Csordas (center) helps Drs. Tim Kirk and Amy Crissman cut the ribbon opening their new home for Town & Country Eyecare at the corner of Novi Road and Nine Mile Road. The new digs in what was once a bank branch represents a major expansion for the decade-old eyecare practice.

Diamonds are a girl's best friend

Northville Women's Club member wins Novi jeweler's gift

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

We've heard of finding a "diamond in the rough."

Kathryn "Kass" McCongue of Livonia found a diamond in a drawer.

Gary Weinstein, of Weinstein Jewelers in Novi, gave the diamond away at a Northville Women's Club meeting Nov. 21, 2003, at the First Presbyterian Church of Northville.

Weinstein, the guest speaker for the meeting, educated 84 women on gem birthstones, jewelry repair and jewelry insurance. After his talk, he gave out information packets. One of them had a genuine, round, brilliant-cut 1/4 carat diamond.

"The \$450 diamond was placed in a plastic bag and stapled to one piece of literature from the local jeweler. All of the other stones given away were samples of the diamond-look-alike stone cubic zirconia.

Weinstein, the guest speaker for the meeting, educated 84 women on gem birthstones, jewelry repair and jewelry insurance. After his talk, he gave out information packets. One of them had a genuine, round, brilliant-cut 1/4 carat diamond.

"I put it in my desk drawer and forgot about it," McCongue said.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

"Then, I was looking for something else in the drawer and came across it about two months later. The little plastic bag with the stone in it was still stapled to one of his fliers. And the deadline for bringing the stone into the jeweler wasn't until Valentine's Day," she said.

"I put it in my desk drawer and forgot about it."

Kathryn McCongue
Livonia

"I had another errand to do in Novi, so my friend, Evelyn Harper of Northville, who had invited me to rejoin the club, and I went to the jeweler. Sure enough, it was the diamond. I was very surprised, and so was Evelyn. I picked up the necklace they made me with the diamond on Valentine's Day."

Weinstein included labor involved with a setting with each stone. McCongue had her diamond mounted in a 14-carat gold pendant with an 18-inch wheat chain.

"I chose a basket setting, and it's quite pretty. I'm thrilled with it. I'm waiting for the appraisal. They said it's coming in the mail," she said.

"Naturally, Weinstein and his staff wondered about the 'missing' diamond.

"We had been waiting the rest of November, all of December, all of January. She didn't come in until early February," he said.

"They were probably glad to have the stone come in after all this time," McCongue said. "They were all very delighted to see it."

Weinstein said he tried this promotion once before at an event at

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@h1.homecomm.net.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tax firm offers free service

Liberty Tax Service in Novi offers free tax preparation to qualifying senior citizens and community service workers.

Seniors must be at least age 60 and have an annual gross income under \$50,000 to qualify. A limited number of free tax preparation appointments will be scheduled at the Novi Senior Center March 9, 16 and 23.

Additional appointments are available at the Novi office. For more information or to make an appointment, call (248) 465-1829 or visit Liberty Tax Service's office at 41744 W. Ten Mile Road on the northwest corner of Ten Mile and Meadowsbrook roads.

Rockwell Medical earnings up

Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc., of Wisconsin, reports that the firm's fourth quarter earnings for 2003 reached a record \$4.1 million.

The company also turned a profit for the year and showed a 30.2-percent increase in revenue. Rockwell Medical Technologies is a leading manufacturer of dialysis products serving the health care industry.

Fourth quarter net income was \$100,026 compared with a loss of \$172,847 for the fourth quarter of 2002. Net earnings per share for the fourth quarter improved to \$.01 compared with a loss of \$(.01) in the same quarter last year.

Revenue increased to a record \$1,142,975 in the fourth quarter, a 15 percent improvement over the same period in 2002.

Gross profit margin improved to 19.2 percent in the fourth quarter compared with 15.6 percent in the fourth quarter last year.

Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc., of Wisconsin, reports that the firm's fourth quarter earnings for 2003 reached a record \$4.1 million.

The company also turned a profit for the year and showed a 30.2-percent increase in revenue.

Rockwell Medical Technologies is a leading manufacturer of dialysis products serving the health care industry.

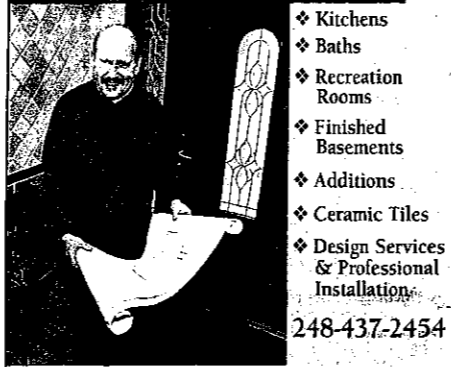
Fourth quarter net income was \$100,026 compared with a loss of \$172,847 for the fourth quarter of 2002.

Net earnings per share for the fourth quarter improved to \$.01 compared with a loss of \$(.01) in the same quarter last year.

\$4.95/mo Internet!

There is a company in our area that offers fast, reliable, and extremely inexpensive Internet access to our area. What's so refreshingly unusual is that Netpenny has taken the 'Wal-Mart' approach to business - Because of volume Netpenny only charges \$4.95 a month Internet access! Better yet - they have exceptional free customer service, no contracts, 5 free emails, free spam/virus filtering, support instant messaging, no credit card is required and they are engineered for no 'busy signals!' People are getting better service than they've ever had before and saving as much as \$227 or more per year! Imagine saving enough to make a car payment or take a weekend getaway year after year just for switching Internet companies! To sign up today, visit their website at www.netpenny.net or call toll-free at 1-888-248-7239.

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ENTRY BLANK

Hey...Novi
It's Time to Pick Your
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop...
Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service.
This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll.
Join in on the Balloting!

Fill Out This Award Ballot And You'll Be Registering To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To One Of The Award-Winning Restaurants

Name _____
Day Time Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Date Sent _____

Drop Off Or Mail In Ballot To:
People's Choice Awards - Hometown-News
104 W. Main St.
Northville, MI 48167

Only one entry per person per week. 18 years or older.
Ballot box stuffing will not be allowed. Partial ballots may be disqualified.

BEST FOOD OUTLETS

- Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels
- Best specialty coffee house
- Best place for breakfast
- Best Sunday brunch
- Best deli
- Best fast food restaurant
- Best family restaurant
- Best place for soup
- Best salad bar
- Best place for burgers
- Best place for hot dogs/coney
- Best place for subs
- Best place for ice cream
- Best place for desserts
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Oriental restaurant
- Best Mexican restaurant
- Best place for pizza
- Best wine selection (store)
- Best wine selection (restaurant)
- Best beer selection (store)
- Best beer selection (restaurant)
- Best place for romantic dinner
- Best after work meeting place
- Best sports bar
- Best place for dancing

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES

- Best beauty salon
- Best bank
- Best nail salon
- Best tanning salon
- Best jewelry store
- Best real estate company
- Best real estate agent
- Best mortgage company
- Best accountant
- Best auto dealer
- Best auto service
- Best oil change shop
- Best collision shop
- Best tire store
- Best veterinary service
- Best travel agency
- Best video store
- Best rental business
- Best landscaping business
- Best health/fitness business
- Best car wash

All Entries Must Be Received By March 9th
For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To Award-Winning Restaurant

CLASS NOTES

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@h1.homecomm.net

NOVI COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

Head & Shoulder Massage Therapy

DATE: Tuesday, March 23
TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Meadows 5 Media Center

DETAILS: Certified Massage Therapist, June McCarthy, of Massage for Health, will instruct techniques that focus on relieving stress and easing muscle tension that can cause stiffness and headaches by massaging the head, face, neck, ears and shoulders. You will massage a partner who will be sitting in a chair. Come alone or sign up with a friend. Bring a pillow.

Fee: \$18 per person; \$29 per couple/child

TIME: 6:30 - 9:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 524

DETAILS: Prerequisite: Introduction to Computer or equivalent experience. Use eBay or other auction internet sites to sell or buy collectibles, antiques, tickets, vacations, hobby items and more.

Explore payment options. Learn how to protect yourself as a buyer or seller and save time reaching the right buyers and sellers. Discover the difference between sites. Some people have found these auction sites very lucrative.

Fee: \$69 (plus \$15 material fee)

Monopolize Your Marketplace

DATE: Wednesday, March 24
TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 518

DETAILS: Learn a revolutionary

new approach to marketing. Find out what marketing is supposed to do and how to create marketing materials that clearly communicate the advantages of doing business with your company. Bring your ads and marketing pieces to class.

Fee: \$35 (plus \$15 material fee)

Anten's Wholesale Shop Till You Drop

DATE: Thursday, March 25
TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 102

DETAILS: Learn how to fill out the legal forms necessary to become a wholesale buyer and enter wholesale trade shows for deals galore. This is a business law class, intended only for power shoppers.

Fee: \$12 (plus \$10 material fee)

PHONE: (248) 449-1206.

Ronald McDonald gets Novi Woods kids movin', groovin' and active

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Ronald McDonald, an extremely recognizable icon from McDonald's restaurants throughout the world, visited Novi Woods Elementary a few weeks ago, promoting exercise and keeping in shape.

In a show that lasted about 45 minutes, McDonald performed magic tricks, spoke about good posture and got kids involved in a silly dance that had them moving almost every muscle in their bodies, all in the spirit of keeping in shape.

The reason for the show, according to McDonald, is because statistics have shown that the caloric intake of children these days has only risen in the last 20 years or so, by one percent, but the obesity of children has risen 13 percent.

"McDonald's sees a need here

to get the kids more involved in activity," McDonald said. "They don't have to be famous basketball players or gymnasts or rock climbers in order to be in better shape. All they need to do is a few simple things, like getting up off the couch more often, ride their bikes, go roller blading, play games with their friends, go hiking, walking, whatever it takes. The magic word of the show is 'Get movin', get groovin' and get active.' That's all they need to do."

McDonald explained that little changes in kids' every day lives will go a long way. He said that instead of watching television or playing so many video games, they should get off the sofa for an hour or two and get up and move around.

"The show is interactive," McDonald said. "We use things like magic because kids respond to magic tricks. We also have times of the show where kids can

get off their seats and participate, which is new to us. We have never had a school show that had the kids get up and participate."

McDonald said the participation by the kids is a way for them to be really a part of the show by getting up and actually running in place or doing a dance.

"The dance is so easy they can teach their friends how to do it," McDonald said. "I can see that the show is working for kids because they come up to me when I do appearances and say the dance was their favorite part. Hopefully we can take this show and make kids interested in getting up and moving and improving their health."

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@h1.homecomm.net.



In this year's Women in the Know coming in May!

Reserve your space by March 30th contact your sales representative for more information

- South Lyon 248-437-2011
- Northville Record 248-349-1700
- Novi News 248-349-1700
- Milford Times 248-685-1507
- Livingston County Daily Press & Argus 517-548-7060

Annual Winter Delights

Rocky's OF NORTHVILLE FOOD FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 25 THROUGH APRIL 12

Chef Dan and Rocky have been working overtime to bring you an all new selection of savory winter delights this year including but not limited to:

- Bourbon Barbecued Gulf Shrimp** with Andouille bread pudding.
- Blackened Mahi Mahi, New Orleans Crawfish and Andouille Ravioli** in a roasted red pepper cream sauce with corn and tomatoes.
- Pan Seared Sea Scallops** on creamy shrimp succolash.
- Peanut Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast** with Asian salad, rice noodles, spicy peanut vinaigrette.
- Angel Hair Pasta** with smoked chicken, Portabella mushrooms, sundried tomatoes, artichokes, pine nuts, garlic and olive oil sauce.

What are you waiting for?
Join us at Rocky's of Northville today and enjoy lunch or dinner at Northville's most-award winning restaurant.

41122 W. Seven Mile Rd. Northville, MI 248.349.4434

8 MILE ROAD NORTHVILLE

Rocky's

"Regional American cuisine with a strong emphasis on well-prepared seafood. The bar on quality is sky-high but the prices are not."
—Detroit Free Press



Courtesy photo

Tacky / Elegant Day at Orchard Hills

Orchard Hills Elementary first graders participated in the annual Tacky/Elegant Days, dressing appropriately for each day. They all read the book, "The Tacky Penguin" by Helen Lester, which demonstrates the difference between proper and improper behavior. The students do different activities over the two days to emphasize proper behaviors and have lots of fun in the process.



Courtesy photo

Special Persons Day at Orchard Hills

Students in Jennifer Smith's p.m. kindergarten class at Orchard Hills Elementary School invited a "Special Person" in to work on crafts, enjoy snacks and see a singing program by the kids last month.

Novi Woods students help children in Africa

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Third grade students at Novi Woods Elementary remembered the idea of giving and sharing from Valentine's Day and took it a step further when they decided to help kids in Zambia, Africa get started in their new school.

After many conversations between Kara Sawaya and Nancy Bain, the project came to life. Sawaya is a Novi Woods parent who asked, via e-mail, if any teachers would like to donate supplies to Africa. Bain, a third grade teacher, answered her call.

Bain explained that a group called Orphan Medical Network International was looking for materials and posters, or any extra items that teachers had in their classrooms, that they would like to donate to a new school that is going to be built in Zambia, Africa. That's when the president of the organization, Karen ReMine, was asked to come in to speak to the students.

"She came in on Feb. 12 and she gave a slide show presentation about what life in Zambia is like for the boys and girls," Bain said. "It was interesting because we are studying about habitats in school and this was one of the areas that the kids are learning about. So we found that to be a connection with some of the curriculum that we are doing. The children not only got to see her slides, but got to see what the habitat looked like and we also decided that maybe there was a way we could connect this with some reading and writing that the students are doing also to make it an integrated unit."

The slides showed children who have very little or no clothing at all. ReMine talked about how many of the children are orphans and how some of their brothers and sisters are raising them. When she finished the kids felt that they wanted to help.

"The kids were just mesmerized with her presentation," Bain said. "The idea of kids helping kids came out of it. We're having a drive, where we have asked the students to bring, if they would like, something in a zip lock bag, like a

DETAILS

Orphan Medical Network International is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that provides professional medical care and life saving supplies to orphans in the world who are at risk. The organization is currently helping the orphans of Zambia, Africa, having completed four medical trips there and has treated over 3,000 children each time. The organization has built two orphan units and bought a school in Ndola. In July, the organization plans to build another orphanage and a school in the deep bush, where many of the orphans live. Most of the children are orphaned due to severe illness such as AIDS/HIV, Malaria, Malnutrition and Leprosy.

For more information on Orphan Medical Network International, or to make a donation, visit www.orphan-medical.net.

trucks that he wanted to send over to Zambia," she said. "It was such a wonderful feeling to see the kids being so giving and sharing and it made all of the teachers feel so good that we were doing something in the classroom that is helping others. It also connected with their lessons as well. We are all delighted with the response from the children."

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

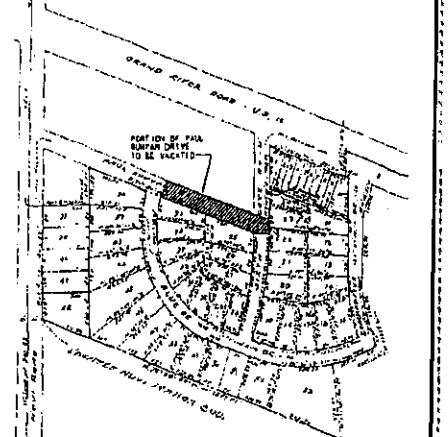
CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 2nd, 2004 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE
Monday, March 8, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9, 2004 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10, 2004 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED VACATION OF A PART OF PAUL BUNYAN DRIVE, ALSO KNOWN AS SIXTH GATE AND/OR ORCHARD AVENUE, LOCATED WITHIN THE NOVI GARDENS SUBDIVISION IN SECTION 23

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City of Novi Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 15, 2004, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the same may be reached, on the proposed vacation of a part of Paul Bunyan Drive, also known as Sixth Gate and/or Orchard Avenue, located within the Novi Gardens Subdivision in Section 23, east of Novi Road and south of Grand River.



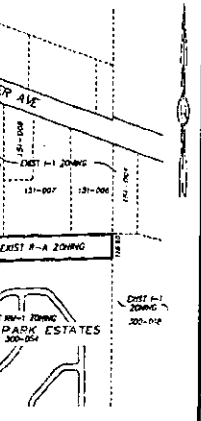
To rezone a part of the SW 1/4 of Section 16, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being parcel 22-16-300-001 more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at the West 1/4 corner, thence N88°56'01"E 1306.59 feet; thence S00°31'20"E 116.60 feet; thence S89°56'01"W 1307.65 feet; thence North 118.62 feet along the West line of Section 16 (nominal C/L of Beck Road) to the point of beginning. Containing 3.48 acres.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing at their Regular meeting on THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004 at 2:30PM, in the Novi City Center Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, for the purpose of obtaining public input for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application. This grant is requesting funding for the bike trail head project to be located at the Community Sports Park.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.634

THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:
Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.634.



To rezone a part of the SW 1/4 of Section 16, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being parcel 22-16-300-001 more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at the West 1/4 corner, thence N88°56'01"E 1306.59 feet; thence S00°31'20"E 116.60 feet; thence S89°56'01"W 1307.65 feet; thence North 118.62 feet along the West line of Section 16 (nominal C/L of Beck Road) to the point of beginning. Containing 3.48 acres.

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider THE NOVI SITE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 02-55, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF NOVI ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE, FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. The Applicant is proposing a 3,304 square foot commercial building.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider THE NOVI SITE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 02-55, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF NOVI ROAD, NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE, FOR A WOODLAND PERMIT AND PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL. The Applicant is proposing a 3,304 square foot commercial building.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
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MATTRESS TESTARS: Band comprised of Novi High students reflects on over four years of making music

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It started with an eighth grade talent show and grew to what it is today: a musical band comprised of six Novi High School students that just keeps getting better and better. For the most part, The Mattress Testars have stuck together through eighth and ninth grade and high school. Band members include Andrew Krupansky on vocals and guitar, John Paul Sherbeck on the trumpet, Jon Postema on baritone saxophone, Jason Bates on alto saxophone, John Gazette on drums and Will Elkins on vocals and bass.



Photos by Sue Postema

The Mattress Testars rock the house during their concert at the Plymouth Masonic Temple on Feb. 7. Band members are Andrew Krupansky on vocals and guitar, John Paul Sherbeck on the trumpet, Jon Postema on baritone saxophone, Jason Bates on alto saxophone, John Gazette on drums and Will Elkins on vocals and bass.

The original band consisted of Krupansky and Bates, then Postema was added. But one element was still missing. Enter Gazette on drums, and the kids knew they had something special. Other band members joined later. "Andrew and Jason wanted to start a project, and later I was added as a baritone sax player, and we got together for an eighth grade talent show," Postema said. "We weren't too good back then, so we got a trumpet player and a drummer. We played a show that summer at the Novi Town Center. It took off from there. We all love music."

"The band's name has always been something that has peaked people's curiosity. It came to be when Bates' father was asked what the perfect job was. He responded, 'mattress tester.' The name stuck.

"People think our name is a derogatory phrase, but really it's not," Postema said. "When Gazette came on board, it was almost as if fate had intervened because the band needed a drummer, and he happened to be in the same ninth grade Spanish class with

something else." Krupansky said. "They were preparing for a couple of shows, and they wanted to do a battle of the bands at Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac. That excited me, and I'm surprised they picked me because I didn't know them very well. Andrew and I were jammin' in his basement, and things clicked, so I became the drummer."

The sky's the limit
Though the band's sound is a little different than most, the kids don't want to be labeled. They consider themselves a ska, punk and rock and roll band.

"We have one song that's sort of like '60's psychedelic. We have a reggae song and one that is more pop punk," Gazette said. "We never really limit ourselves to a certain style."

The band has a big following in Livingston County. Members have played gigs at Redbeck's in Northville, The Masonic Temple in Plymouth, The Neutral Zone and Liberty Park in Ann Arbor, Capital Park in Redford, Clutch Cargo's in Pontiac and St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit.

"We've been around," Krupansky said. "One thing I would really like to do in the next few months is to solidify a campaign for our music and get it out to some record labels. We would really have to see this step after graduation. How well we make use of our time this summer will probably determine our future."

"We'd all love to still play together years from now, but we haven't really discussed it yet. I think all of us will pursue a career in music if not The Mattress Testars, then

something else." Krupansky said. "People have told me from our shows that they can see that, and I think that's what makes our music good."

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

ON CAMPUS

Novi residents Kiley Elfing, Matthew Haggerty and Alan Lyskava have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Notre Dame for fall 2003 semester.

Novi resident Jennifer Knockaert is a recipient of the Free Enterprise Scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year at Northwood University. This is awarded to a student who has exhibited academic excellence during their high school years.

She will graduate from Novi High School this spring and is the daughter of Randy and Linda Knockaert.

Albion College student Jennifer Lindsay K. Ochab is a first-year student at Albion College. She is the daughter of Anthony Ochab and Beverly Ochab of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements of 370 graduates at Midyear Commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13. Christine G. Miller, of Walled Lake, earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering degree and graduated with cum laude honors.

Novi resident Benjamin Mandreuz was among the graduates at Ferris State University during fall 2003 commencement exercises.

Vanessa Stone, of Novi, has been named to the Academic Honor's List for Ferris State University for fall 2003 semester.

Sarah Holt of Novi has been named to the Dean's List for Vanderbilt University, (Nashville, Tenn.) for fall 2003 semester.

Novi resident John Fleming has been named to the Dean's List for Wittenberg University, (Springfield, Ohio).

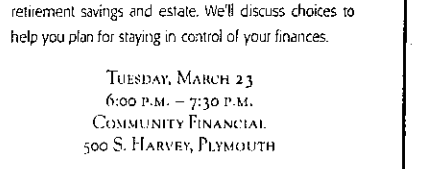
Fischer, Steven Hanlon, Nathan Mitchell, Adam Noble, Matthew Polycyn, Christopher Schleuder, and Matthew Smith.

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Here's your Invitation!



LONG TERM CARE SEMINAR

You are cordially invited to attend this informative seminar. Learn how long term care insurance can help protect your retirement savings and estate. We'll discuss choices to help you plan for staying in control of your finances.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
COMMUNITY FINANCIAL
500 S. HARVEY, PLYMOUTH
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Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

Cal Stone Editor, Jack Lessenbery VP, EDITORIAL, Grace Perry Publisher, Dick Aginlian President, Richard Brady VP/COO, Phillip Power CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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

March is a time to reinforce reading

Well, it's March already and with the new month comes many fun and exciting times. The 22nd Annual Novi Youth Assistance Band—A-Team will be taking place on Saturday, St. Patrick's Day is coming up on the 17th and college basketball fans across the country are all gearing up to go insane.

March means something different to the Novi Community School District, however. This whole month, teachers, administrators and students will be focusing their energy on reading because March is Reading Month.

March is Reading Month. If it's anything like last year, each school in the district will be welcoming many guests on a daily basis, who will come in to read to the students, and to talk about how important it is for them to learn how to read. There will also be many exciting activities that kids will be participating in, which all relate to reading. For instance, I'm already aware of at least two schools in Novi that are doing a video teleconference with schools in other states, where students will be reading to each other.

What a fun time is in celebrating one of the most important lessons we learn in school. I would like to do my part in the celebration as well, by highlighting the activities that take place and the guests who come to read to the kids. That's why I'm going to take a different approach to March is Reading Month this year than I did last year. Instead of running

very similar stories and photos each week of guest readers and activities, this year I would like to run a full photo page along with a story at the end of the month. That way we can highlight every school in the district with at least one photo and I can avoid the risk of missing events as the month goes on due to an overwhelming amount of activities. Most importantly, everyone will be happy — hopefully.

I can't do this alone, however. In order for schools to help me out with this, I need all the schools participating to either e-mail or send in one photo of their favorite March is Reading Month activity or special guest reader any time this month. Please add names of people who appear in the photo and a brief explanation of what is going on in the photo as well. Also, please let me know when your favorite events will be taking place so that I may be able to send my photographer, John Heider, to shoot them if his schedule permits. That way we can have a mix of his photos along with submitted ones on the photo page.

I believe that this is the best way to cover March is Reading Month because it is the most effective way and we'll end the month with a beautiful review of the this year's celebration of reading.

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



Ramez Khuri

OPINION

novinews.com



Novi News staffers Sam Eggleston and John Heider accept a special tribute from State Senator Nancy Cassis (15th District) and (not pictured) State Representative Craig DeRoche (38th District) in recognition of their awards in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

Two reasons to get this paper

I know it because I work with these two guys every day, but sometimes I take it for granted just how valuable Sam Eggleston and John Heider are to this newspaper.

I read Sam's sports stories (and admit his page layout skills, too) on a weekly basis because, as the editor, I have to.

But I'd read them even if I wasn't. The challenge is to try and grab the attention of readers who have no direct connect to the athletes (i.e., they're not the parents of the players) while fulfilling the role of the community newspaper sports section (i.e., getting the players' names in).

It's not an easy task, but it's one Sam does with, I think, great joy. That's because he's a former athlete and he knows what this paper means to the young men and women who play for Novi High School and for Northville High School — Sam is also the sports writer for our sister publication, the Northville Record.

Like-wise, our photographer, John Heider, received an honorable mention nod from the association for Sports Picture (for a shot he took for the Northville Record), a feat he accomplished in 2000 as well.

Again, because I used to take sports shots (years ago, and they were nowhere near the quality of John's), I know just how good he really is. Getting the right angle for a basketball shot, or capturing the perfect moment of a volleyball game is no easy task — yet John does it week in, week out.

John's sports photography is just part of his gig here. Take a look at our A section and you'll see that he is equally adept at hard news and feature shots. Heck, he's even been known to put together a mighty fine story or column when the urge hits him. How many photographers can say that?

Both Sam and John juggle coverage of Novi and Northville, not an easy task considering the growth this area has experienced and the high volume of activities in this area.

But I'm not the only one heaping praise on these two. Even two of our local politicians — Nancy Cassis and Craig DeRoche — recognized their fine work with a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan.

"In earning these awards, the Novi News has demonstrated their impressive talents... Surely these accomplishments are worthy of recognition and are something the staff of the Novi News, along with the entire Novi community, can take great pride in."

So when you see Sam and John out doing their job, I encourage you to take a minute and congratulate them on their work. They've earned it.

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

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. E-mail: cstone@ht.homcom.net Fax to: (248) 349-8832



Cal Stone

GUEST COLUMN

The sale and installation of engraved brick pavers highlights a busy 2004 for the Novi Educational Foundation. Other activities include the annual golf outing, Winner-Take-All Raffle and a concert in the planning stages for this fall.

The proceeds from these activities go toward grants intended to supplement regular classroom activities. The NEF is also getting ready to announce Novi's Teacher of the Year and to select scholarship recipients for a variety of scholarship programs.

The first group of engraved brick pavers will be installed at the High School this summer. If you haven't ordered your bricks yet, see the Novi Educational Foundation link at the school district Web site, www.novi.k12.mi.us. For \$50 or \$100, depending on the size of the brick, you can commemorate your association with Novi.

The bricks are to be installed near the main entrance or near the new entrance to the football field. We encourage you to place your orders early. Wouldn't this be a great gift for your graduates?

Our 8th Annual Golf Outing will take place June 24 at Links of Novi. Planning is well under way. We expect to fill the course for a fun-filled day of golf, food and prizes. Last year, one of our golfers won \$10,000 by shooting a hole-in-one. The golf outing is a fun get-together with your neighbors, business partners and employees of the Novi Community School District.

Activities coming this fall will include the 4th annual Winner Take All Raffle, with over \$40,000 in prizes awarded to one winner, and a concert featuring a well-known artist. More details will come as dates and details are finalized.

The primary purpose for these activities is to raise funds to enhance the educational experience for citizens within the Novi Community School District, especially students. The NEF Grant Committee will meet this spring to award approximately \$50,000 to deserving teachers and students. Every year, we receive outstanding applications, and each year we hope to accommodate more requests. Each school in the district has received funds for programs like book publishing, music therapy and science projects. A number of students have received scholarship money that has helped them to pursue a college education.



Dennis Haggerty

HomeTown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Steamy rhetoric usually obscures fundamentals

These days, they're really "shakin' and bakin'" in the usually staid world of education. Consider: U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige last week called the nation's largest teachers' union a "terrorist organization" because it opposes some parts of the No Child Left Behind Act. The

most in urban areas like Detroit, where poverty, unemployment, dysfunctional family structures, monopolistic and aggressive teachers' unions and bizarre school board politics swirl evilly together. The bad districts get most of the press coverage, but most of the others are quietly getting on with their job of teaching kids.

In her attack on Superintendent Watkins, DeVos called Michigan school graduation rates "frightening" and applied the same adjective to dropout rates. However, the graduation rate as reported by Michigan Center for Education Performance and Information has steadily increased from 83.8 percent in 1997 to 88.5 percent in 2002.

According to Standard and Poor's School Evaluation Services, the average state dropout rate has declined every year, from 4.5 percent in 1997 to 3.2 percent in 2002. This is hardly sufficient evidence to call for Watkins' resignation.

Republicans in both houses of the Michigan Legislature introduced a joint resolution calling for a Constitutional amendment to eliminate the State Board of Education's authority to appoint the state superintendent. Not to be outdone, the Detroit News called for the abolition of the entire state board. So far, however, no one is calling for the abolition of the Detroit News.

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Steamy rhetoric usually obscures fundamentals. First fundamental: Most public schools in Michigan are pretty good and gradually getting better. The districts that are in trouble are

very successfully done. Or they partner with a county in some form of metropolitan government, as is the case in Nashville, Indianapolis or Miami.

But Detroit is up against county lines and incorporated cities, and hasn't been able to add a single parcel of land since 1926. The money and the jobs began fleeing in the 1950s, before anyone thought of "white flight." Later, racial tensions accelerated things.

Today, a shrinking and poor central city, which is surrounded by affluent suburbs that are home to 3.5 million people, many of whom think the central city's problems have nothing to do with them. Most of the jobs these days are in the suburbs.

Increasingly, Detroiters can't get to them. There is no convenient and reliable public transportation system, and something like 45 percent of the residents of what was once Motor City cannot afford a car. For years, all efforts to get a light rail system have failed, even attempts to get a better bus system tend to dissolve into petty squabbles.

Undoubtedly, the area would be much better off with a little teamwork. Political vision is desperately needed. Metropolitan government, however, would cost the suburbs more, at least for awhile.

Black Detroiters, on the other hand, might lose political power. So no one is pushing very hard for solutions, and racism still hangs in the air like a cloud. The money, before the mayor's speech, two suburban men were arrested for spraying white paint on a statue of boxer Joe Louis's arm and fist.

They apparently did it to protest the killing of the two young police officers, who were white. The man accused in the case is black. Police said he claims the shooting was "a mistake." These days, mistakes are something Detroit can ill afford.

Jack Lessenbery is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenbery@homecom.net.

City of Detroit is dreadful and headed for desperate

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was positively beaming during most of an enthusiastic, upbeat "State of the City" address last week.

He won't stomp around when he announced that Michigan Central Depot, the hulking old ruin of a train station that dominates Detroit's southwest skyline would be bought by the city, renovated and turned into a new police headquarters.

The mayor announced plans to rebuild a decaying neighborhood on the far east side, saying he expected "between 3,000 and 4,000 new or renovated homes."

For half an hour the 33-year-old mayor trotted out achievements and promises, a new industrial park here; so many roads resurfaced there; free admission to city recreation centers, a downtown wired for wireless communication.

Yet he never came close to mentioning the real state of the city, which is dreadful, heading for desperate, and after improving markedly in the late 1990s, is getting worse again. Suffice it to say that if America's vital statistics looked like those in Detroit, George W. Bush might not even dare to run for reelection.

What the mayor didn't mention was that four years ago, unemployment in Detroit was 6.6 percent; last year, it averaged 14.1 percent. While there are 55,875 jobless, other thousands have dropped out of the labor force entirely. Infant mortality is more than twice the national average and rising. "White flight" essentially ended in the 1990s, because there are fewer than 100,000 white people left, and many of those are from Latin America or the Middle East. The new trend is "black flight," to suburbs like Southfield and West Bloomfield, noted Kurt Metzger.

He hopes for an upturn in fiscal 2005, but is not optimistic for the short term.

Yet anyone who blames Kwame Kilpatrick for much of this is wrong. David Rusak, a former mayor of Albuquerque, now spends his life studying cities, says Detroit's problem can be summed up in a word: Elastic.

"Elastic cities succumbed, inelastic cities thrived," says the author of two fascinating books on urban affairs, "Cities Without Suburbs" and "Inside Game, Outside Game."

"Elastic cities" are those that can expand their boundaries by annexing territory, as Los Angeles has

done. Inelastic cities are those that are stuck in their size and cannot expand. Detroit is an elastic city that has failed to expand its boundaries and is now facing a desperate situation.

Jack Lessenbery is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenbery@homecom.net.

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - Publisher



Cal Stone - Editor



Jennifer Dinning - Asst. Exec.



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer



Phil Foley - Staff Writer



Ramez Khuri - Staff Writer



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer



John Heider - Staff Photographer



Karen Whitehart - Receptionist



Marcia Cromas - Receptionist

New Hope For Carpal Tunnel Symptoms! NOVI, MI. If you suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome and are tired of taking pills and wearing splints then call the carpal tunnel syndrome hotline and discover the shocking truth about carpal tunnel syndrome your doctor may not be aware of!

Fibromyalgia? A new, free report has been released that reveals the "untold story" behind fibromyalgia pain. Fibromyalgia misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and leads to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural procedure that is giving fibromyalgia sufferers their "lives back."

Arrested People Do Not Have To Go To Jail! FREE REPORT Explains HOW! If you have been arrested for any reason, you should be aware the current laws that may help you stay out of jail. Any criminal charge is a serious matter and arming yourself with the right information is vital.

GETTING DIVORCED? FREE REPORT Reveals Legal Secrets You Don't Want Your Spouse To Know! A divorce can get nasty. REAL nasty. That's why we put together this new FREE REPORT that explains the 7 dirty divorce tricks your spouse might play on you. Wouldn't you like to know them first?

Yu-Gi-Oh! Skate and Trade! Saturday March 13th 1:00-5:00 pm BONAVENTURE Family Skating Center. Includes hot dog and beverage. Regular Skate Rental \$2.00. Speed Skate Rental \$4.00. Roller Skating Rental \$4.00.

FREE Special Report From Jeff Duneske Reveals 29 Essential Tips That Get Home Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar) Jeff Duneske is now offering his special report, "29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast and For Top Dollar." Visit reading for anyone selling a home now or in the near future.

We offer the best prices and protection for you. As an independent agency, we can tailor the best insurance protection at competitive prices. We represent only the finest insurance companies, including Auto-Owners Insurance Company, which has truly earned the reputation as "The No Problem" People.

Take a lesson from the pros when it comes to fitness

By Ernie Harwell



There's no question that the overall physical fitness and strength of today's athletes far exceed that of athletes of past generations.

There's no question that poor fitness is hurting the quality of life of a growing number of everyday Americans.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone.

SCREEN BEAT

By Brian Renner

Opening in theaters

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson star in this comedic parable to the 1970s buddy cop TV show, *Starsky & Hutch*.

On video and DVD shelves

Suspense-filled *Cold Creek Manor* is the story of a family who relocates from the city to the country where they move into a pristine farmhouse.

For more information, please log on to www.theMovieInsider.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

40-Day Lenten Journey
DATES: Begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 following the 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Connection
DATE: Thursday, March 4
TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

NOMS Club of Novi - General Meeting
DATE: Thursday, March 4
TIME: 10-11 a.m.

Cornerstone Christian School annual dinner auction "Embracing Excellence"
DATE: Friday, March 5
TIME: 5:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres, silent auction begins.

Novi Theatres "South Pacific"
DATES: March 5, 7, 12-14
TIME: March 5, 6, 12 and 13

URGENT NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED WELDING RODS
Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinson's disease.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-100.33
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council has adopted Ordinance No. 2004-100.33 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 "SIGNS" OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE TO IMPLEMENT A MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTION PENALTY.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-18.186
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.186-AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2507.3 OF ORDINANCE NO. 97-18 THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing at their Regular Council meeting on MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2004, AT 7:30 P.M.

Walled Lake ready to spring into action

Historic Walled Lake plans to be a happening place this spring. Here's a rundown of some upcoming events.

Novi Co-op Preschool Open House
DATE: Saturday, March 13
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon

12th Annual Spring Boating Expo
DATE: March 18-21
TIME: Thurs., Fri.-2 p.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun.-10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Kathy Dowd Retirement Celebration
DATE: Friday, March 19
TIME: 5-10 p.m.

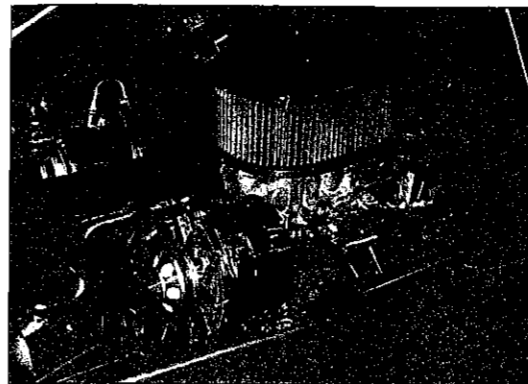
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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 2004-18.187
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.187-AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 97-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE.

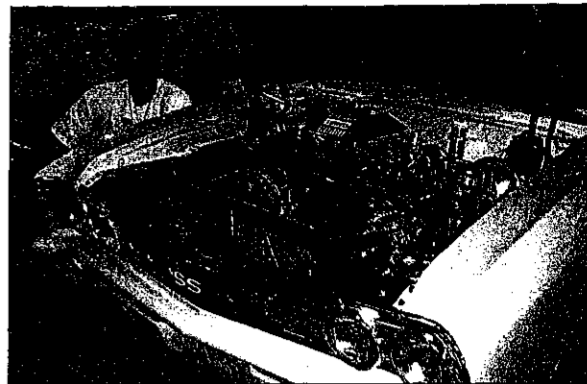
CITY OF NOVI NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center.

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Photos and story by Phil Foley



Novi resident John Perran's hotrod (left) may be Ford on the outside, but it's pure Chevy on the inside.



AUTORAMA

When Novi's John Perran wants to relax from a stressful day of running his McDonald's restaurants in Commerce Township and Sylvan Lakes, he climbs into his 1933 Ford Highboy Coupe and goes for a cruise.

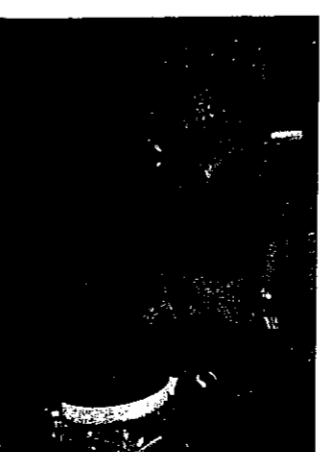
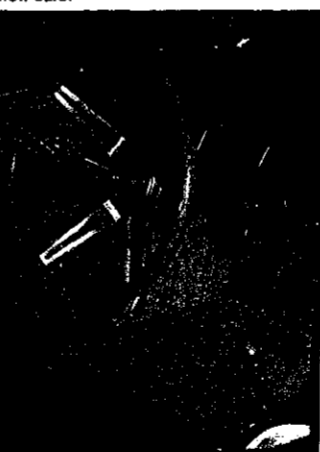
When Novi's John Perran wants to relax from a stressful day of running his McDonald's restaurants in Commerce Township and Sylvan Lakes, he climbs into his 1933 Ford Highboy Coupe and goes for a cruise.

Novi resident Joe Trotta's 1969 1/2 Plymouth Road Runner is better traveled than a lot of the people attending Autorama.

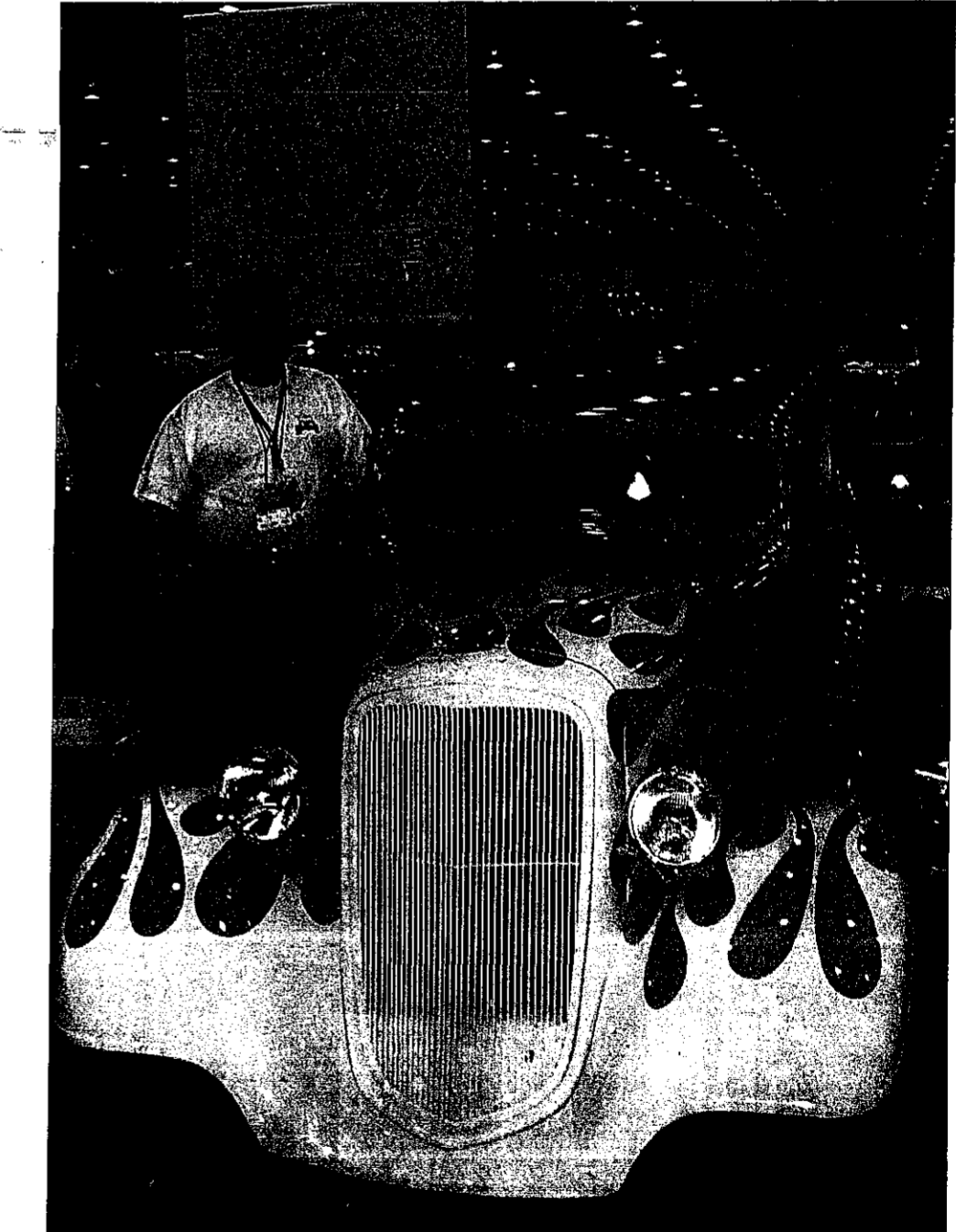
Novi resident Joe Trotta's 1969 1/2 Plymouth Road Runner is better traveled than a lot of the people attending Autorama.



Novi's John Perran (above) steps from his '34 Ford hot rod.

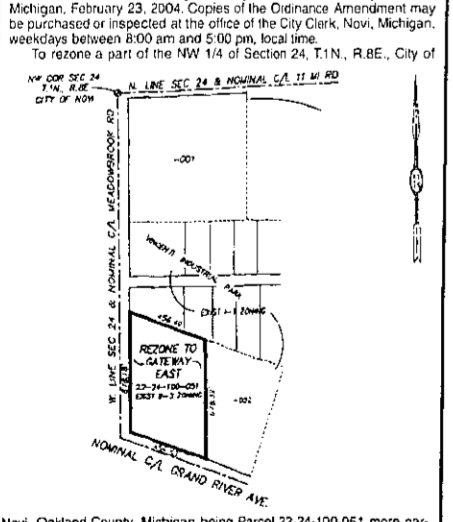


The interior of Doug Campbell's '65 Corvette (below) looks better than some new cars.



Pete Bluga (above) of Novi sees Autorama as his mid-winter getaway to hang with his buddies, show off his '34 Chevy reproduction and talk about cars.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ENACTMENT - ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.636
THE CITY OF NOVI ORDAINS:
Part I. That Ordinance No. 97-18, known as the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Novi is hereby amended as indicated on ZONING MAP NO. 18.636.



Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being Parcel 22-24-100-051 more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of Meadowbrook Road, said point being S02°34'41"E, 721.49 feet along the West line of Section 24 (nominal CL of Meadowbrook Road) and N87°43'33"E, 60.00 feet and S02°34'41"E, 517.70 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of Meadowbrook Road from the NW corner of Section 24; thence S73°34'41"E, 456.49 feet; thence S02°34'41"E, 678.32 feet; thence N73°33'43"W, 456.53 feet along the Northern right-of-way line of Grand River Avenue; thence N02°34'41"W, 678.18 feet, along the Easterly right-of-way line of Meadowbrook Road to the point of beginning. Containing 6.721 acres.

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Area congregations get passionate about movie

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Emagine Theatre at Fountain Walk in Novi is inviting church congregations in the area to reserve theater time to see "The Passion of the Christ." The controversial film depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life.

Chris Brandt, vice president of operations for Emagine Entertainment, said the theater has already scheduled three or four congregations for the special showings.

"We do corporate events, movie field trips for students and other special events, so it's not unusual for us to do this," he said.

The movie grossed \$117 million during its first five days.

"I think that puts it in the top five for a five-day opening box office gross," Brandt said. "It set all kinds of box office records."

"It's a special film, because it's rated R because of the violence, it's a foreign film, it has subtitles, and it's a religious film. None of these categories typically do that well at the box office. So, it's interesting that this film has done so well," Brandt noted.

Brandt said that Cinema Hollywood at Birch Run is also booking church groups who want to see the film in private.

"Some of the groups are buying tickets for the last show of the night so that they have more time for discussion," he said.

Rev. Jennifer Bixby, of First United Methodist Church of Northville, located at 777 W. Eighth Mile Road, said some members of the church plan to view the film Saturday morning.

"The offer was made by Emagine Theatre. Since it is a movie of such a disturbing nature, they were looking for a time that congregations can view the theater together," she said.

"Our church will also have a discussion of the film at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, which is open to the public," she added.

Rev. Bixby has not seen the movie yet, but said she feels compelled to do so.

"It's not so much that I want to see the movie, but I feel as a leader of a faith community that I need to be able to address what comes out of this movie," she said.

She noted that the only movie she could think of that has received even close to this much



attention in recent memory is "The Titanic."

"People went to see 'The Titanic' three or four times, but I don't think people are doing that with this movie," Bixby said.

Bixby said the church's leaders are not necessarily encouraging parishioners to go see the movie.

"As pastors, we're not expecting them to go or recommending that they see it. But for those that choose to, we find this [special showing] to be a wonderful opportunity because we can provide pastoral care and support right there," Bixby said.

"We have a highly developed lay care giving program called Stephen Ministry. The two pastors, Rev. John Hice and I, and our Christian education director, Heather Wallas, will be there as well as several members of the Stephen Ministry program," said.

The film is noted for its high degree of violence.

"I find it particularly interesting that there's such an outcry against the violence in the film, when gratuitous violence is such a part of the media," Bixby said.

"In my opinion, violence should make you sick. It shouldn't be entertaining," she said.

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

Coalition calls on jazz pianist

By Cal Stone
EDITOR

Novi will once again play host to one of the world's top jazz artists when piano master Eric Reed performs at Novi Middle School March 20. The 7:30 p.m. event is presented by Providence Hospital and is a fund-raiser for Novi Coalition That Cares.

Reed, most noted for his stint as a member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet in the '90s, has appeared on dozens of recordings. He will be appearing with Rodney Whitaker, bass, and Randy Gillespie, drums, both members of the Professors of Jazz at Michigan State University.

"This is another incredible opportunity for Novi residents to experience world-class jazz without having to head to Detroit or Ann Arbor," said Tony Musu, of Concerts for a Cause, the organization putting the show together. "Last month at Franklin Road Christian School we had Cyrus Chestnut, another great musician."

A portion of the proceeds will benefit Novi Coalition That Cares. It was formed seven years ago after several Novi residents became alarmed by an Oakland County report that indicated alcohol, drug and tobacco use among local teens was slightly above the average for the county and six states. The group draws on the resources of local police, schools, business people and service clubs like Lions and Rotary to steer local youth away from substance abuse.

"Like Mr. Reed, the coalition is top-notch," noted Musu. "We're very excited to have Providence Hospital on board as our presenting sponsor, too. They recognize the importance of both the coalition's work and in presenting music of this caliber in Novi."

For more information on Novi Coalition That Cares, call Beth Belter at (248) 347-0572. Businesses can sponsor a student to attend the concert by calling (248) 449-1206.

About the artist

When you think of hard-driving swing, daring expression, sophistication and elegance in artistry, formidable technique and a thunderous

sound, there are only a small handful of young pianists one thinks of. Eric Reed is most assuredly one of them. But don't think of him as a just a pianist; Eric is one of the new generation's most advanced thinkers in jazz music.

Born in Philadelphia on June 21, 1970, Reed grew up playing gospel music in his father's storefront Baptist church, starting at the age of 5.

"My father was a minister but he also used to sing with a gospel group in Philly called the Bay State Singers," said Reed. "He was my earliest musical influence. I also was hit heavily by Edwin Hawkins' music of the 1970s. Gospel music remains a large part of my playing today."

Afterwards, young Reed was bitten by the jazz bug after hearing recordings of Art Blakey, Ramsey Lewis and Dave Brubeck.

A child prodigy, Reed started playing piano at age 2 and formal instruction began at age 7 at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School. However, he remained primarily self-taught, often confounding his instructors by not learning the written music, but listening to them play it first and memorizing musical pieces note-for-note. "I wasn't interested in Bach at the time; I was checking out Horace Silver."

By age 11, his family moved to Los Angeles and he continued his formal instruction at the R.D. Colburn School of Arts where his theory teacher Jeff Lavner, finally realizing that Reed was simply not going to bear the classics, turned him onto recordings of great jazz pianists. Clearly, Reed was setting out to carve his own path early.

"My neighborhood library had all kinds of hip jazz records and I was in there everyday checking them out. Everything was there: Ahmad Jamal, Erroll Garner, Oscar Peterson, McCoy Tyner - it was unbelievable! By the time I was 13, I didn't realize it but I had digested all of the jazz recordings that musicians were expected to know."

After four years of intense self-teaching combined with mentoring by composer Harold Battiste, Reed could be heard around town leading his own groups and working in the bands of Teddy Edwards, Gerald

ERIC REED'S RECORDINGS AS A LEADER

- Soldier's Hymn [Candid]
- It's All Right to Swing [MoJazz]
- The Swing and I [MoJazz]
- Musicales [Impulse!] (featuring Ron Carter and Nicholas Payton)
- Pure Imagination [Impulse!]
- Manhattan Melodies [Verve] (featuring Dianne Reeves)
- Happiness [Nagel-Heyer]
- From My Heart [Savant]
- Mercy and Grace [Nagel-Heyer]
- e-Bop [Savant]
- We [Nagel-Heyer] (with Wycliffe Gordon)
- Merry Magic [Max Jazz]

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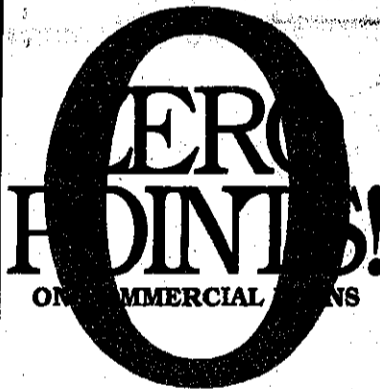
Eric Reed

Wilson, Clora Bryant and John Clayton. He attended Cal State Northridge for one year during which he toured briefly with Wynton Marsalis at age 18. A year later, Reed joined Marsalis' Septet (1990-91, 1992-95). He spent two years with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (1996-98), making countless recordings and TV appearances

with them. Reed also worked in the bands of Freddie Hubbard and Joe Henderson (1991-92).

Since 1995, Reed has been touring the world with his own ensembles, making serious waves in the jazz community. The legendary Ahmad Jamal has called Reed, "one of my very favorite pianists."

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O **TWISTED** (R) 12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20
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O **BRUCE LIPKIN'S CLUB DEAD** (R)
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O **EMOTION** (R)
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Quick Hits

Novi pounds Pirates into submission
The Novi Wildcats hockey team knew they had to get something going in order to be at the top of their game for the Regional Tournament. The best way to do that? Get two shutouts in a row, of course. Novi did just that as they pounded the Pinckney Pirates, 10-0 and 8-0, in back-to-back games.
— See Page B5 for details

Correction

Ernie Harwell was not the first announcer inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, but was the fifth. Mel Allen, Red Barber, Bob Elson and Russ Hodge all came before him.

Novi cheerleading ready for their Regional competition

The Novi Wildcats cheerleading team will be in the hunt for a berth into the state finals when they compete in the Regional competition Saturday at 11 a.m. The event is scheduled to be held at Southgate Anderson High School.

To advance to the states, Novi has to be one of the top two teams — and they have 14 other teams in the Regional to worry about.

State finals are slated for March 13 in Grand Rapids.
— See page B2 for details

Mitch Maier doing well in professional baseball

Former Novi Wildcats Mitch Maier found himself invited to the Kansas City Royals spring training this year. Though he is aware that he won't make the big league ball club, Maier is getting to see first-hand what it takes to play at that level. He is experiencing the adjustments players have to make as well as he was moved from catcher to third base since he was drafted in the first round last year.
— See Page B3 for details

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Wildcats poised for title



Novi's Anthony Harbin takes the ball inside on his Hartland defenders and tries to score a bucket in last Friday night's home game.

Photo by John Heider

Tomorrow's game at Pinckney could decide who is king

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For the Novi Wildcats boys basketball team, crunch time is upon them.

The District Tournament is looming on the horizon and the squad is in a position where they weren't last season — they are still pondering the conference.

The squad, which is coached by Pat Schluter, knew it had three games that were must-win in order to take the conference title — and one of those games was recently won with two more to go. Novi topped KVC rival Hartland, 61-53, at home February 27 and still has Milford and Pinckney to beat if they want the league crown.

"We have to worry about every game right now," Schluter said. "Our goal is to repeat as conference champs. Every other team's goal is to stop us from doing that. Nothing is going to be easy."

And Hartland, even at the Novi Middle School gym where the 'Cats are calling home right now, was no exception to that. They were tough through the final three quarters of play.

In the first quarter, it appeared the Novi Wildcats were going to run away with the game as they jumped out to a 21-11 lead over their foes — but the Eagles weren't about to be out done after losing to Novi earlier this year.

"We just kind of went cold," Schluter said of the second quarter. "We were as hot as anything in the first quarter, but they came out and hit all kinds of shots and got pumped in the second."

And it was a ball game. Hartland held Novi to just four points in the second quarter and scored 14 of their own to tie the game at 25-25 heading into the locker room.

In the third and fourth quarters,

the two teams kept stride with each other until Hartland pulled ahead by four with about 5:30 left in the game.

"We needed some shots to fall," Schluter said.

And three Wildcats stepped up to answer that call. Seniors Brad Simpson, Joey Fratto and Trevor Hoover all nailed three-pointers to pull Novi into the lead where they stayed through the rest of the game.

"It was a battle," Schluter said. "We hit some big shots and had some big plays. We just didn't want to lose."

Simpson paced the team with 19 points, while junior Anthony Harbin poured in 18.

Now, the road to the title just gets harder. The Milford Mavericks will have hosted Novi on Tuesday (after the Novi News went to print) before the 'Cats visit Pinckney at 7 p.m. in a game that will most likely be for the conference title.

"Neither game is going to be easy," Schluter said. "Milford had Pinckney beat Friday (Feb. 26) and Pinckney ended up coming back against them."

And then there will be the Pirates. Novi topped their KVC rivals in two overtimes on a last-second Hoover shot and some impressive play by Fratto. This time around, it will take each and every player contributing to earn the win.

"We're on the road and we have to play in front of their crowd," Schluter said. "We're going to have to play our best basketball to win there. They really pack that place."

But it's a goal the squad has had since day one — to be reigning champions.

"Our first goal is to win the conference," Schluter said. "Then, we'll worry about the District."

Wildcats pound out first-round win

■ Four-time Regional champions endure scrappy Livonia Franklin to stay alive

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Talk about a scrappy victory.

The Novi Wildcats hockey team, which is coached by Dan Phelps, had to practically wear head gear when they took on and defeated the Livonia Franklin Patriots in the first round of Regional play Monday, 6-4.

"It was definitely a rough game," Phelps said after the contest. "Franklin came to play. When they figured out their season was going to end, they played that much harder. Hockey's a rough sport."

Rough enough that Franklin found one of their players ejected before the game was through after skating into Novi goalie Danny Morrison and ripping off his mask. The punches that followed resulted in an immediate ejection from the game with just about 15 seconds left.

"You just have to keep calm," Morrison said of the altercation. "I knew that if I swung back, I'd be sinking to his level."

Captain John Janssens agreed. "We have to play Novi hockey," he said. "We can't sink to their level and play Franklin hockey."

As Morrison tried to separate

himself from the Franklin player, several other players from the Patriots squad began scuffling with various Novi players — all of which stayed away from fighting.

"Even our big guy, Chaz Bulbuk, was out there when it happened," Phelps said. "I was happy to see he restrained himself. We teach our kids not to play that kind of hockey. They go out looking to win, and if the game gets rough they know what to do."

The Wildcats knew what to do all right. They came out of the locker room and onto the ice in the first period to skate to a quick lead. Mark Eberline started off a three-goal barrage in a two minute span as he skated in against the Franklin netminder and blasted home a shot for the quick 1-0 lead at 11:23. Bulbuk quickly added another score to create a cushion for his squad before Brett Jausi added another goal just 30 seconds later.

The Patriots did manage to get a shot of their own in, sneaking the puck past Morrison for the 3-1 end to the first period.

In the second period, it was all Novi. Tom Ciavenna came out and notched a quick goal in the opening minutes in front of a capacity crowd to increase the

Novi lead to 4-1 before Chris Zarem added another for a 5-1 advantage.

Jausi tipped in the final goal for the Wildcats just a few minutes later, scoring his second goal of the night for the 6-1 lead over Franklin.

In the third period, the Patriots came out looking for a quick change in momentum. They scored two quick goals before things began to get rough on the ice and added another during a scum in front of the Novi net.

"We just had to keep them away from the net," Janssens said. "Franklin is a tough team, and they made it a game. We just had to play our game and not let them get to us."

The Wildcats' victory set them up to play Waterford Kettering in round two of the Regional, which was slated to be played Wednesday (after the Novi News went to print). If they win, Novi will be in the finals tomorrow night for the fifth-straight year. They have won in the previous four.

Novi may have the pleasure of playing Northville, which is ranked second in the state in Division II. It will be the third time the two teams have faced off this year with each team escaping

A SLAP IN THE FACE

When Danny Morrison, Novi's number one goalie, was getting punched in the face, what stopped him from swining back at his attacker?

"I couldn't see getting ejected and not being able to play the next game just because one of their players got too emotional," Morrison said after the game. "I knew it just wasn't worth it."

The Novi goalie was literally plowed over by a Livonia Franklin player, throwing the goal off its moorings. The net skittered into the boards behind the goalie as his helmet was ripped off and the first blow landed.

Officials and Novi players alike jumped into the fray to help pull the two apart, but Morrison was able to contain himself and not swing back. At the same moment, other Franklin players grabbed various Wildcats and gave a shove here or there — but there was no offensive response from any of the 'Cats.

"It's not easy to keep yourself from reacting," captain John Janssens said. "Every player on their team knew their season was over. Every player on our team knew that if we got ejected, we couldn't play in the next game. We've been coached better than that, and all of us kept them from getting to us."

with one win.

"We'd love to play them again," Morrison said. "We'd be the underdogs this time around. They're ranked second in the state and they'd no doubt be favored to win."

Ranking or no ranking, Janssens said it would be a good game.

"Statistics don't mean a thing,"

he said. "They've got a great goalie, and we'll have to deal with him if we play. But, we've got a great goalie too and we're pretty even teams."

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.

GAME OF THE WEEK

Novi Wildcats

BASKETBALL DISTRICTS

It's District Tourney time

The Novi Wildcats boys basketball team will have to play the best basketball of the season if they hope to finally come home with the District Tournament title. Both Northville coach Darrel Schumacher and Novi coach Pat Schluter know that this District doesn't offer any easy games for the different teams involved. Sports writer Sam Eggleston tends to agree. All three let you know why the winner of the District title will have to work their tails off just to get to the finals game in the first place.
— See Page B5

Danny Morrison Senior Hockey

It isn't every week a player gets the chance to earn two shutouts back-to-back — but Morrison jumped at the chance when it came. Thanks to some outstanding goal-tending by the senior netminder, the Novi Wildcats were able to enter the Regional tournament on a high note with two straight wins over the Pinckney Pirates, 11-0 and 8-0. Not to mention he didn't get himself ejected by fighting back against Livonia Franklin — which was a very smart move.



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Jenn Mehl Senior Gymnastics

Mehl collected an 8.85 on the vault and an 8.4 on the beam to help her team take a third-place finish in the highly-competitive Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics meet. Mehl, who is also a pole vaulter in the spring and in a track club, has been a solid performer for the Wild 'Stangs and will no doubt be a contributor in the post-season.

Regionals, here they come

Novi cheer appears to be on the verge of finals berth



Photos by John Heider
Story by Sam Eggleston

For the Novi Wildcats cheerleading squad, taking second place at the Lalsber Invitational wasn't as exciting as the thought of the Regional competition at Southgate Anderson High School Saturday.

Why? Because at Lalsber, Novi finished ahead of arch-rival Allen Park by over 20 points. Troy Athens won the invitational, scoring 675 points, while Novi took second with 662.5 and Allen Park took third with 638.5.

"We were really happy with how the girls did," Novi coach Amy Denys said. "We beat Allen Park, who is in our Region. Hopefully, this is a good precursor to what will be happening at Regionals."

The Novi Wildcats, who are coached by Denys and Emily Parker, are on the verge of making it to the state finals for the first time since 1997 — a year before Denys took over as coach.

The Regional competition, which has been moved to Southgate Anderson this year, should prove to be quite challenging — but Novi has a good feeling about it.

"Allen Park has beat us in the past," Denys said. "They beat us last year to go to the state finals. It's kind of exciting because we're so close to the Regional and we have a little one-up on them I guess."

If Novi's performance at Lalsber is any indication, the Wildcats have more than just one up on their rivals. Novi scored 180.5 points in the first round compared to Allen Park's 173.5. Round two was a bit closer with Novi earning 191.5 to 188.5. But, Novi's round three score, cheerleading will always have a following — proved to be the difference maker — just as it

has been doing all year. Novi scored a whopping 200.5 points in the final round to blow Allen Park right out of the water as they scored just 276.5.

The impressive showing at Lalsber has shown the Novi cheer squad that this could indeed be their year.

"I think it has pushed them to work a little harder and that our goals are definitely obtainable," Denys said. "If I had to predict who was going to win the Regional, I would say Southgate Anderson based on their scores all year long. But who knows about second place. This could be our year to take second and to go to the state competition. That has really re-energized the girls."

The top two teams from each Regional go to the state finals, making it a 10 team field at Grand Rapids in mid-March. Novi has worked hard all year long to push themselves to the limits, and their results this year have really shown the work and dedication have paid off.

"I think they have a great opportunity in front of them," Denys said of the Regional. "They have to push themselves pretty hard this week at practice and work to the fullest. If they keep their heads high and their attitudes positive, it's anyone's game come Saturday as far as second place."

And Novi isn't worried about their fans being in attendance. "This year, no matter where the squad has traveled, the cheerleading faithful have been there."

"Cheerleading is unbelievable when it comes to fans," Denys said. "They are diehard. It doesn't matter where you go, cheerleading will always have a following — proved to be the difference maker — just as it



Novi Competitive Cheerleader Natalie Laiten gets ready for a soft landing as she heads back towards the ground during a Tuesday night practice in the high school's auxiliary gymnasium.



Novi High School competitive cheerleaders jump up and perform a toe-touch during a rehearsal practice for an upcoming match.



Cheer teammates perform a backwards flip during practice.



As a photographer gets too close not to notice, Novi cheerleaders begin to crack up while holding a teammate up in the air. From left are: Molly Fuhr, Melissa Laird, and Jackie Perusky.



(Left and down) Novi High competitive cheerleader Katie McDowell, left, reacts as she goofs around with Ashley Hartshorne during a brief break between routines.



Cheerleader Natalie Laiten, right, and other members of the Novi High School varsity competitive squad rehearse.

Baseball fits like a glove for Maier

Novi graduate getting to see what it takes to reach big leagues

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER



Courtesy Photo

Mitch Maier is currently in Surprise, Arizona with the Kansas City Royals in spring training. He knows he won't be on the squad this year, but a year in the minors should give the Novi graduate the experience he needs.

For Mitch Maier, being invited to the Kansas City Royals' spring training has given him an insight to just what it will take to become a member of the full club.

The first-round draft pick and former Novi player has been able to see first-hand what it takes to be at that level of play.

"Watching the veterans and the older guys play really showed me what I need to do," Maier said. "Their work ethics are just amazing and it's apparent what they've had to do to earn that spot that they have. It shows me what I need to do for the future."

Though he was drafted as a catcher, Maier has found himself moving to first base.

"I caught a summer and then was switched to third base in the instructional league," Maier said. "It's been great. I have to say that it's a fairly easy adjustment. I like third and I think I have pretty good reaction time and with a quick reaction you can make plays."

But making plays isn't necessarily Maier's strength. His batting hasn't wavered a bit since his college days where he was hitting over .400.

"I'm still a strength of mine," Maier said. "In the last year that I've seen playing pro ball, it's definitely been a strength. I've been asking him about first base and trying to get out, stay there to catch a fly ball."

The biggest adjustment Maier has made from college to the professional ranks has been the amount of time he spends just working on his game. At the University of Toledo, Maier had to attend school and baseball. For the Royals, he just plays baseball.

"It's a lot of work," he said. "We spent a lot of time just working on the basics than we did in college. It's a lot of repetition. There are a lot more ground balls to get and a lot more swings. I'm here to play and learn baseball, and that's what I've been doing."

No matter how much work he is putting into the game of baseball, Maier said that it's no where near what he's taking from it.

"It's awesome," he said. "I couldn't imagine anything else right now. It's been perfect so far. I plan on playing as long as I can."

Though the Novi graduate has been invited to the spring training and finds himself working with some of the best players in the game, he knows that making it to the big leagues will still have to wait.

"It won't be this year," he said. "They pretty much told me that. I just got drafted and at the end of spring training they will send me back down. I'll spend a full season in the minors and then we'll see what happens after that."

And Maier is definitely looking forward to the experiences the Minor Leagues will have to offer. Last year, after being drafted number 30 in the first round, Maier was sent to a short-season

instructional league. This year, he'll experience the full season.

"I'll get to travel around and see the different stadiums in the different cities," he said. "It will be good to get the extra work in. There is a lot of fundamental stuff that will get me ready for the big leagues."

And Maier is already getting the benefits of baseball in the form of his own cards — and he's not immune to the mistakes that can commonly be found on them.

"I've only seen one," Maier said. "They messed up on it. On the back, it said I was a second-round pick by the Royals. Oh well. I guess they're supposed to fix that."

Maier currently has three cards on the market — all of which are made by Topps Upper Deck. The series, which is called Upper

Deck Prospect Premieres, has a regular Maier card, as well as an autographed card and a "jersey" card that has an actual piece of the Royals jersey he wore in the photo shoot as part of the card.

For Maier, the baseball cards remind him of when he was younger.

"When I was a kid, I used to collect them," he said. "It's pretty cool to have one out."

Who knows, maybe there's a kid in Novi right now opening a pack of baseball cards only to find his own Mitch Maier. And maybe that card is one day going to be the most valuable of his collection.

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@nlh.comcast.net.

Wild 'Stangs take third in league

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It wasn't the showing that the Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team had hoped to have at the WLA conference meet, but it gave them a valuable lesson to learn.

The squad, which is coached by Lindsay Schultz, took third behind Livonia and Brighton, respectively, as they gathered 144.75 points in the highly competitive league meet. The lesson the squad learned? That they have to bring a polished routine if they hope to rank up with the best of the best.

"All of the events went well with the exception of the beam, which unfortunately contributed to our third-place finish," Schultz said.

On the beam, the highest score came from senior Sara Wilchowski, who had a 9.05. From there, it went downhill. Trish Brownfield collected an 8.9, while Jean Mohl notched an 8.4 and Julie Foucher had an 8.25. Rachel Deneau recorded an 8.15, while Sarah Ilkhani-Pour was awarded an 8.1 by the judges and Maggie Mills had a 8.95.

Amanda Perrelli earned an 8.95 for her efforts on the day, while Foucher carried an 8.8 and Janna Ramsay collected an 8.65. Ann McQueen rounded out the scoring with an 8.3.

The vault found the Wild 'Stangs collecting some impressive scores across the board.

Foucher had a team-high 9.35 to lead her squad, while Jacqueline Gazette recorded a 9.15 and Emma Platt earned a 9.1. Wilchowski had a 9.0 in the event, as did teammate Lauren Duda. Mohl was given an 8.85 by the judges and Mills collected an 8.6.

The floor routine was the best overall for the squad. Leading the way was Mills, who nailed a triple and a half somersault with a half twist. Deneau had a 9.4 to stay right on her teammate's heels, while Brownfield carried a 9.15. Foucher collected an 8.95 in the event, followed by Wilchowski's 8.8. Addie McHenry's 8.75 and the 8.7 collected by Ramsey.

"The girls are looking great," Schultz said when asked about the upcoming post-season. "It's just a matter of putting everything together and becoming mentally tough. I am very proud of the team with what they have accomplished, but we do need to fine-tune our routines."



SPORTS SHORTS

Adult Hockey League

The Novi Ice Arena will hold spring adult hockey leagues for adult teams, including 18 & Over "D" on Sunday nights, 18 & Over on Friday nights, 30 & Over "B" on Wednesday nights, 30 & Over "C" on Thursday nights, and 35 & Over on Tuesday nights.

Hillside Drop-In Activities

Current activities include senior and open volleyball, open gym, open badminton, table tennis and open swim. For more information, visit the Northville Parks and Rec website at www.northvilleparksandrec.org.

Rally a team in the fight against cancer!

Join the Walled Lake community in the fight against cancer at the American Cancer Society Relay For Life this May.

Relay For Life of Walled Lake

Walled Lake Events Field

May 22 - 23, 2004

10 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Contact your American Cancer Society at 248.557.5353 or visit www.cancer.org for more information.

"It's about being a community that takes up the fight."



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A special program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Photo by John Heider
Novi's Joey Fratto has been a solid player off the bench for the Wildcats this year. With the other team in the District Tourney well aware of what the starters on the 'Cats squad are capable of, it may come down to players like Fratto coming into the contests to make a difference in the run for the title.



Fratto shines off the bench

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi guard Joey Fratto, draining a three-point jump shot will always be a much better play than taking the ball in and slapping down a dunk.
"Id rather be able to shoot from behind the three-point line," Fratto said. "A dunk is only worth two points."

No District game will be an easy win

There's no doubt about it — this is going to be one of the toughest District



Sam Eggleston's

GAME OF THE WEEK

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats basketball teams will be joined by the South Lyon Lions, the Livonia Churchill Chargers, the Plymouth Salem Rocks and the Plymouth Canton Chiefs in what is sure to be an exciting group of games.
"Id think we have a tough District from the standpoint that all the teams are pretty much equal," Northville coach Darrel Schumacher said.

'Cats make short work of Pinckney

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For senior goalie Danny Morrison and his fellow Novi Wildcat hockey players, ending the regular season on a high note was essential.
The squad, which has seen the roughest year of its five-year existence, knew that wins were needed to keep the team going strong as they entered the MHSAA Regional Tournament.

In the first game, which was played February 25, the Wildcats made short work of the Pirates in just two periods of play as they scored 11 points and to bring an end to the game via the mercy rule.
The pace of the game was set just 10 seconds into the contest as Chaz Bullock fired a hard shot into the back of the net for the first goal.

Minutes later, captain John Janssens scored the first goal of his hat-trick night before scoring again just 20 seconds later for the 3-0 lead. Brett Jausis was credited with both assists.
Before the period would end, Janssens would get his hat trick and Tom Claverilla would notch a goal as well to give Novi a 5-0 lead.

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Junior varsity basketball

Overall: 14-4; KVC: 9-3

The Novi basketball team took care of the Hamland Eagles 59-47 in an all-around team effort. Sean White led all scorers with 12 points, while Todd Jamer picked up with 7. Steve Fannon and Tom Spisich each had 5 rebounds, while AW Stanek had 4 assists.

Junior varsity volleyball

Overall: 18-12-7; KVC: 6-7

The junior varsity lost to Milford in Kentsington Valley Conference action. The Wildcats won the first game, but fell short in the second and third games by four points and three points, respectively, in the best 3-out-of-5 match. Audrey Smith and Brittany Stefanson each had three kills for the Wildcats. Ashley Gzdecki added two blocks. Jessica Barnid

Freshman basketball

Overall: 10-7; KVC: 6-5

The freshman fell to Brighton, 38-31. Mike Longo led the Wildcats with six points and a game-high nine rebounds. Trevor Borski added six points. Three days earlier, Novi Freshman traveled to Lakeland and won, 44-22. Brandon Carnegie led the Wildcats with nine points and four rebounds. Mike Longo added seven points and five rebounds.

Freshman volleyball

Overall: 24-4; KVC: 11-2

The Novi freshman volleyball team lost to heartbreaker to Milford in three very close games, 23-25, 18-25, 18-25. Kelli Corless led Novi with three digs, and Emily Lebeck added two kills and two aces. Two days earlier, the Wildcats beat Hartland, 25-7, 26-24, 25-17. Rachel Burris had five digs. Rachel Kovacsinski added two

kills and Kelli Corless served 13 points in a row with two aces.

Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 29, 2004

Copy Deadline: Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Publication Date: Thursday, April 22, 2004

Home & Garden

Home & Garden is a special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas.



Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 29, 2004
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, March 30, 2004
Publication Date: Thursday, April 22, 2004

HomeTown Newspapers advertisement with phone icon and contact info.

Health, Fitness & Beauty

It's time to get Healthy & Beautiful
HomeTown Newspapers is here to help. Health, Fitness & Beauty is our special section for the latest information on exercise, vitamins and more.

HomeTown Newspapers advertisement with phone icon and contact info.

SPORTS SHORTS

Spring Basketball League

The Northville Parks and Rec Department is currently accepting player registrations for a new Spring 2004 Girls Youth Basketball Program for students in 9th through 12th grade.

Learn to Skate

The Winter/Spring session of Novi Ice Arena's Learn to Skate Program will run through April 8, 2004. Skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students, with their registration receipt, get free admission to open skating at Novi Ice Arena throughout the seven-week session.

Kids' Night Out

Parents: Spend an evening out while your kids enjoy swimming, movies and organized games along with pizza and drinks, which are provided by Northville Parks and Rec.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

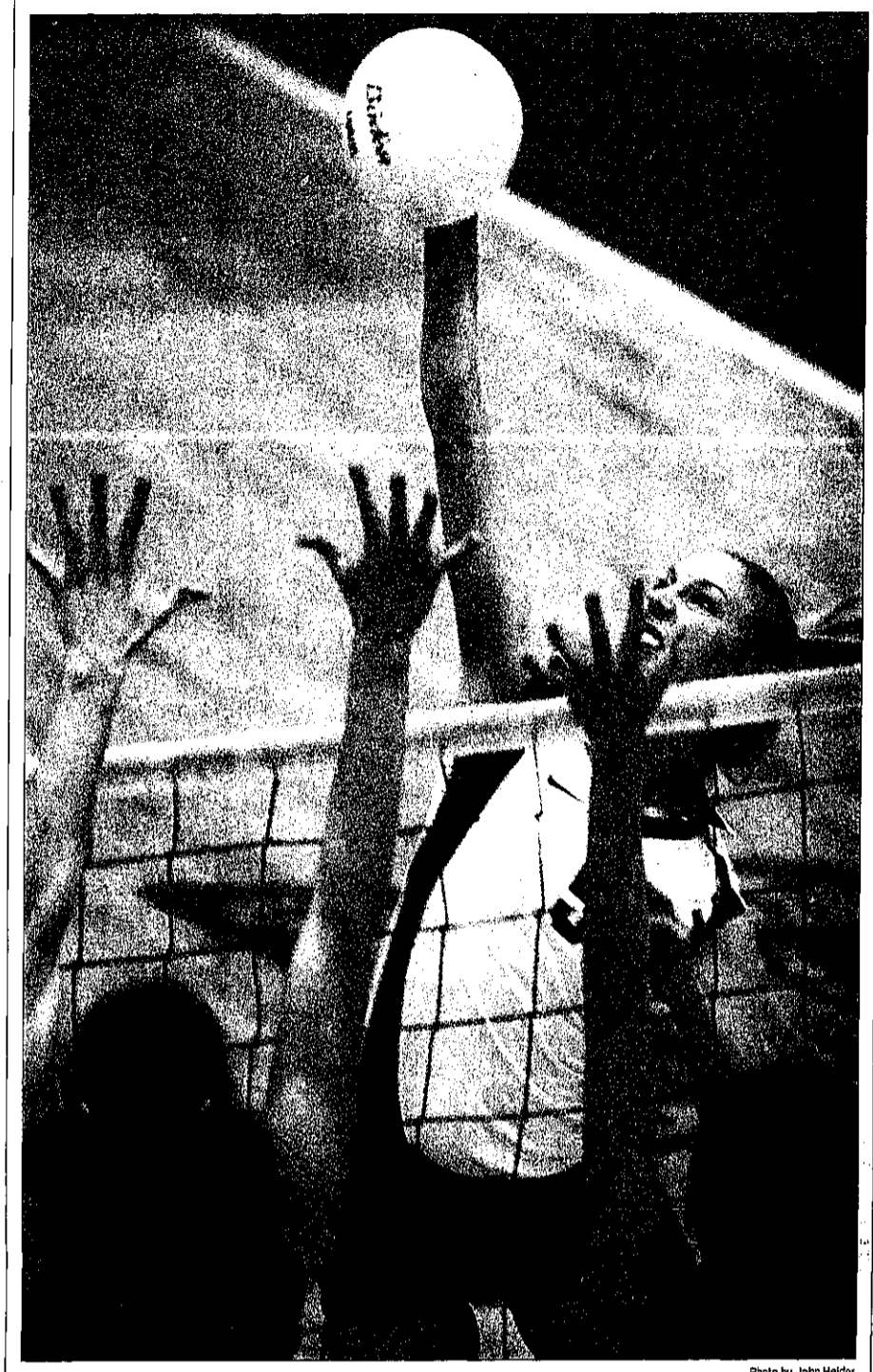
Let us go now to Bethlehem and see the thing that has happened here. Luke 2:15

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Table listing various churches with their addresses, phone numbers, and websites.

Table listing church directories and contact information for HomeTown Newspapers.



Spiking through the defense Wildcat Nicole Barnid leaps up to smack a ball during a home game against Hartland in late February. Check back next week for full coverage of Novi Wildcat volleyball.

Advertisement for 'Two Thumbs Way Up!' featuring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson.

Advertisement for 'Absolutely Hysterical Laugh-Out-Loud Funny' featuring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson.

Advertisement for 'Starky & Hutch' featuring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson.

Advertisement for 'The Passion of the Christ' featuring Jim Caviezel.

Table listing movie showtimes and theater locations for 'The Passion of the Christ'.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, March 4, 2004

Accountants tell tax tales

When it comes to responding to inquiries from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) your best offense is a clear understanding of the tax rules.

To help you stay on the offensive and avoid becoming an April Fool this tax season, here are some tax tales from the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants.

The right research can lead to a tax credit

You needn't make a major scientific breakthrough to claim the research and experimentation tax credit. That's what one company learned after the IRS initially denied it the credit. The company had developed and sold commercial accounting and tax return preparation software and claimed the research credit for its development cost. After taking the IRS to court, the tax court ruled in the company's favor, stating that the requirement is not that discovered knowledge be new to science, but that it be technological, new to the taxpayer and not freely available to the general public.

Tax and Accounting Software Corporation, DC N.D. OK., 2000-2 USTC ¶ 60,772

Fishing for deductions can pay off

The IRS is strict about tax rules pertaining to hobbies. Income from a hobby is taxable, but expenses are deductible only to the extent you have income. Any other money you lose from your hobby is considered nondeductible personal losses. However, if you can demonstrate that your hobby had a profit motive, it may qualify as a business and enable you to deduct more of your expense. Take the case of a recreational bass fisherman who began promoting fishing tournaments. He incurred five years of losses that he deducted on his tax return. Claiming the fisherman was deducting hobby expenses, the IRS denied the deduction. However, the tax court ruled in the fisherman's favor viewing his work on tournaments as a business because he had clearly demonstrated a desire to produce a profit - and had the documentation to back it up. He kept detailed accounts and mailing lists and even consulted with outside professionals. What's more, his business turned a profit in the sixth year, further indicating that he had a profit motive.

Tommy W. Busbee, TC Memo 2000-82

All taxes are not created equal

Married couples are generally liable for all the tax due on a joint return, regardless of how much each individual spouse earns. Similarly, should one spouse fail to report income subject to federal taxes, both spouses will be held liable for any taxes that are due. However, the same is not true when it comes to FICA (Social Security and Medicare taxes).

When tip income wasn't reported by one spouse who filed a joint return, an IRS agent considered holding the other spouse liable for unpaid FICA tax owed on it. However, the IRS issued a legal opinion to the contrary, stating that "joint and several liability," which makes each spouse liable for all the tax due on a joint return, applies only to income taxes. Because FICA tax is a separate liability of each wage earner, one spouse can't be held liable for the other's FICA tax.

IRS Legal Memorandum 20016018

Don't be afraid to ask for a refund

If you've been overzealous and overpaid your taxes, you can amend your original return and obtain a refund. Generally, you must file your claim for a credit or refund within three years after the date you filed your original return or within two years after the date you paid the tax, whichever is later. Keep in mind that a return filed before the due date is treated as filed on the due date (generally April 15).

In one case, the IRS allowed a refund even though the taxpayer had originally defaulted on his taxes. The taxpayer didn't file a tax return and was sent a deficiency notice. At first the individual failed to respond, but then later paid the tax due. Soon after that, he died. His widow then learned that the notice had overstated the tax owed, so she asked for a refund. An IRS agent questioned the request because of the default on the notice. The IRS ruled that defaulting on a deficiency notice does not bar a taxpayer from later requesting a refund, but only from suing for a refund in tax court.

IRS Field Service Advisory - 1997-34

Advertorial



Pendleton Park in New Hudson will make you feel right at home in its cozy neighborhood. A popular feature with the residents is the 5,000-square-foot clubhouse, complete with a state of the art fitness center. Using the fitness center is a cost-free bonus to living at Pendleton Park, located at 57715 Grand River Ave. in New Hudson. Call (248) 446-4400 for more information.

Welcome home

Pendleton Park provides residents an upscale, yet comfortable life

The friendly staff at Pendleton Park wants to welcome you to their beautiful neighborhood! If you are looking for an enjoyable community of well-designed, luxury apartments, Pendleton Park in New Hudson will make you feel right at home. The pleasant surroundings and community activities provide all of the residents with an upscale, yet comfortable life.

"We make sure every resident feels like they are part of our neighborhood. It's how we operate here," says Michelle Herrst, property manager at Pendleton Park. "When I'm out and about doing my property walks, I wave to every resident and know them all by name."

Not only does Pendleton Park make their residents welcome, but also greets their pets as part of the family. One of the few apartment complexes that allow pets, including large dogs, Pendleton Park offers pet walk areas and dog treats at the clubhouse!

"Seven out of 12 buildings are designated for pets, more than half the community. Part of who we are as a staff includes taking care of residents' needs and building a rapport with them on a first name basis. We also get to know their pets by name, too," Herrst states.

Along with the relationship between staff and residents, Pendleton Park also boasts some amazing features and amenities in the apartments themselves. From a spacious one bedroom, to both two and three bedrooms with two baths, all the way up to the two story lofts with three bedrooms and three baths, Pendleton has several wonderful options. Top floor apartments

feature impressive cathedral ceilings and a cozy natural gas fireplace. The open bar kitchens let in an abundance of sunlight and all include pickled oak cabinetry with textured countertops and Whirlpool appliances, including dishwasher, microwave oven, and ice maker in the freezer. Throughout the apartments you will find walk-in closets, cable-ready access, Venetian blinds, and a full-size washer and dryer in every unit. Laundry becomes a breeze! Everyone at Pendleton enjoys oversized door walls leading to private balconies or patios, and have the option of extra storage areas and carports.

In addition to the attractive living areas, Pendleton Park also offers many other great services. A popular feature with the residents is the 5,000-square-foot clubhouse, complete with a state of the art fitness center.

"Sometimes a group of us will get together at lunch and all work out together," says Diane Wright, assistant manager at Pendleton. She adds the fact that she no longer has to pay for membership at a fitness club. Adjacent to the workout area is a convenient windowed playroom where children can entertain themselves while mom and dad work out. Children can also enjoy beautiful days outdoors on the community playground, while the athlete of the family will benefit from the tennis court/basketball court, followed by a rest in the indoor sauna. Another attractive addition is the outdoor pool and spa that will be waiting for you when the warm weather hits!

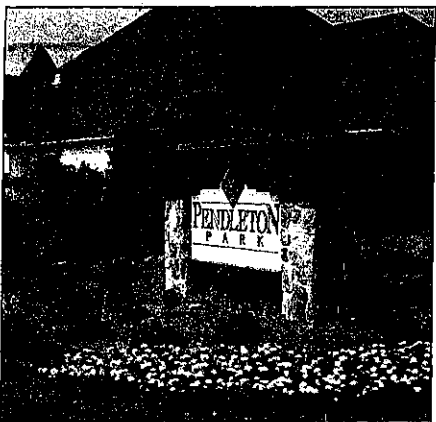
"A lot of residents like the hot tub, so we open it pretty early for them to enjoy," says Wright. You

will also find a party area that is convenient for get-togethers, many of which are hosted by Pendleton Park, such as luaus and cookouts. The staff promotes a friendly atmosphere and encourages residents to get to know one another through a wide range of activities. This is what truly makes Pendleton Park residents feel at home.

"It's not about the food, it's about friendship," smiles Herrst. The food helps keep the children happy though! On Friday, it is not unusual to see a cheerful stream of children who know they can head down to the clubhouse for a cookie. Pendleton also hosts a weekly Saturday morning gathering for the residents to share brunch and conversation. This popular event sometimes draws almost 100 people, many staying for hours to play pool or cards. You will always see members of the staff mingling at the events, like assistant manager Diane Wright. Her outgoing personality is one of the reasons they are so successful.

"I lived here before I even started working here. I always invite people to come to breakfast. Then you'll see, we really are a neighborhood," says Wright. She'll remember your name and most likely even remember what you like for breakfast!

Wright is only an example of the helpful staff that makes Pendleton Park special. Their team includes Michelle Herrst, property manager; Diane Wright, assistant manager; Suzanne Graham and Lisa Thomas, leasing consultants; TJ Breczko, maintenance supervisor; Charley Hall and Joe



From Saturday morning gatherings for brunch and games to enjoying the pool and playground, there's plenty to get involved in at Pendleton Park.

Ferraiuolo, maintenance technicians; and Vicky Breczko, housekeeping. This friendly group of hard-workers will welcome you and treat you as part of their Pendleton family.

Just like a community, these staff members, along with the residents, keep the property in top shape. From Market Day in spring, where Pendleton gives out flats of flowers to beautify the patios and balconies, to the abundance of sparkling Christmas lights in the winter, these homes are inviting to all. Set perfectly in New Hudson, Pendleton Park has easy access to I-96 and is only minutes away from Novi or Brighton. Located at 57715 Grand River, they are also next door to the new Lyons

Crossing and Lyon Oaks developments, with the convenience of retail and service outlets, including several restaurants and five banks, all within strolling distance.

Prices begin at \$887 per month, and leases may vary from six, nine, or twelve month terms. Stop by and meet the group at Pendleton Park - you are welcome seven days a week for a grand tour! Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m.

Feel free to call (248) 446-4400 for more information or log onto their website through www.apartmentguide.com, or email them at pendletonpark@comcast.net.



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