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# Novi News

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Thursday, March 18, 2004

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Volume 48 Number 42

Novi, Michigan

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## SPECIAL SECTION



### Pets are us!

Anything and everything you need to care for and make your family pet more a part of your family can be found in this week's special pet section.

### INSIDE



### Frog Force

Doug Lambert, a Novi High senior, works on the master drive link on his team's robot "Frog Force" during last Friday's FIRST Robotics competition at EMU's Convocation Center.

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### OBITUARIES

Beverly M. Baskins  
Kenneth D. Stirsman  
Marvin J. Bowen

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# BABY KILLER FOUND GUILTY

Novi woman convicted of first degree murder in death of 2-year-old

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Nikole Michelle Frederick, a 24-year-old Novi woman, was convicted of first degree murder Tuesday morning at Oakland County Circuit Court in the death of 2-year-old Ann Marie Shawley

on Sept. 2, 2003.

Frederick was convicted on count one of first degree felony murder and on count two of premeditated murder. She received a second-degree murder conviction on the second count.

"I have to make a selection as to what count she'll be sentenced on, because she can only be sentenced on one count. My election will be first degree felony murder which carries a mandatory life sentence with no parole," said Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney Greg Townsend.

"I think that the jury did a great job and came back with a verdict that reflected the evidence. Justice is most definitely served, and I

give credit to the Novi Police Department for the work that they did on this case. I would especially like to commend Detectives Michael Warren and Victor Lauria for putting the case together," Townsend said.

The toddler was not Frederick's biological daughter but her stepdaughter — the daughter of her husband, John Shawley.

Closing arguments in the high-profile case that began March 1 ended about 3:45 p.m. Monday, with jury members announcing they had reached a verdict at about 10:45 a.m. Tuesday.

The jury deliberated less than five hours before reaching a decision.

"We're just proud of the work that the investigators did. We have faith in the legal system," said Lt. David E. Molloy of the Novi Police Department. "This is certainly the most gruesome case involving a child in my 15 years on the police department."

Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer said his department was convinced early in the investigation as to Frederick's guilt and that the jury would reach that same conclusion.

"The evidence was very strong, dominating and overwhelming and it documented a whole pattern of violent abuse over a signif-



continued on page 3 Nikole Michelle Frederick

## Kick off your Sunday shoes!



Photo by John Heider

Ren (Novi High's Andrew Camilleri), center, and the rest of the cast of "Footloose" work on the same-titled musical on a recent Friday afternoon. See more on page 17.

## Island Lake residents protest proposed condos

Computer glitch leads to second public hearing on plan

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Residents of Island Lake of Novi's Vineyards on the north end of the development are fighting

12 condominiums that were slated to be built behind their homes.

It looks like Farmington Hills developer Toll Brothers has agreed to move the units from this location to the future Phase 4B on the southeastern most part of the development. Island Lake of Novi is located north of Ten Mile and West of Wixom Road.

Members of the Novi Planning Commission approved Toll Brothers' preliminary site plan Jan. 14 to construct 12 condominium units on about seven

acres on this northernmost section of Island Lake. The condos were to be an extension of the Island Lake Arbors section of the Residential Unit Development.

The condos were to be located in three buildings in Phase 2B of the development following a preliminary site plan approval following the January hearing.

However, because of a computer glitch in the Novi Planning Department, some nearby residents did not receive notices prior to the public hearing.

The city did follow all standard procedures and did in fact send the notices. However, the Oakland County database that the planning department uses showed Toll Brothers as the property owners for some of the adjacent properties.

Thus, the department scheduled another public hearing on the matter March 10 so that these residents — in lots 16-23 on Island Lake Drive — could voice their

continued on page 20

## Road work season begins

Area braces for onslaught of projects

By Maureen Johnston  
STAFF WRITER

Beck is not going to be anyone's favorite road name for a while.

Construction on the south side of Northville Township began again this week, narrowing the road to one northbound lane for the next two months. Even after two-way traffic returns to top-speed at a new boulevard entrance at Six Mile, the northern stretch in Novi will go nowhere for nearly a year.

Like every expansion and resurfacing season, the fruit of road crews' efforts will be smoother travel and increased capacity for the growing communities. The 2004-2005 projects that affect Beck — from M-14 to I-96 — are part of a full schedule sown by Wayne and Oakland road commissions, local municipalities and the state department of transportation, with the calculated harvest as always contingent on Michigan's weather conditions.

### Eight Mile / Novi Road Project

Milling is in order for the washboard called Eight Mile

continued on page 20

For a complete map of road projects, please turn to page 21A.

## Some oppose Novi Family Fun Park; opening in June

Miniature golf, go-karts, bumper boats planned

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth businessman Jeffrey Wainwright and his wife, Theresa, want Novi families to have fun.

They're willing to prove that by constructing the new multi-million-dollar Novi Family Fun Park — an indoor/outdoor entertainment complex scheduled to open in June.

"We're building a family busi-

ness for families," Wainwright said.

The new park will be located on the south side of Grand River Avenue just west of Taft Road and across the street from the proposed new Novi Expo Center.

Modeled after a park in Tennessee, the project received unanimous approval on the preliminary site plan by members of the Novi Planning Commission at their Feb. 25 meeting. Discussion ran for more than four hours on the proposal, which Wainwright has been working on for about a year and a half. The park will cater to families with young children and will offer birthday party packages.

continued on page 4



The Novi Family Fun Park is being modeled after this similar park in Kentucky.

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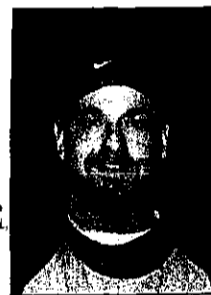
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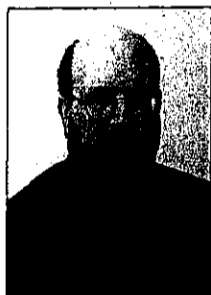
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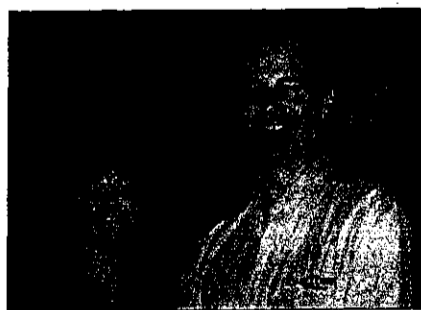


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Special Sections

### SERVICE AWARDS



25 Years: Sue Donovan and Dave Withers



20 Years: Ned Chubb and Buddy Moorehouse



15 Years: Linda Meoak, Shari Wice and Sandy Everly

## Novi woman guilty of first-degree murder in toddler's death

continued from front page

icant period of time — at least a half an hour to an hour of brutal torture — until the little girl died. There is no way that can be explained away other than an intentional act," said Shaeffer.

"I want to compliment the officers involved in the investigation for maintaining their professionalism and high standards. It's very easy to get personally attached to a case involving a small, defenseless little child. They had to overcome that and did," Shaeffer said.

"Society demanded justice in this case," he said. "Now the tortured screams of a little 2-year-old girl have been partially answered. It's a shame there isn't the death penalty for cases like this."

John Shawley reported to police that the girl was fine when dropped off by her biological mother, a resident of Emmet, Mich., west of Port Huron, at his home on Aug. 30 and when he went to bed on the night of Aug. 31.

When he got up the next morning about 8:30, he found his daughter's lifeless body at his home on Ocher Street in Old Dutch Farms mobile home park on Najer Road between Grand River and Ten Mile roads. The couple did not arrive at Providence Hospital until 9:37 a.m. Sept. 1.

Frederick later told police that the child was sick the night before and that she hit her head on the toilet when she pushed her into the bathroom so she could vomit in there.



Ann Marie Shawley

**"Now the tortured screams of a little 2-year-old girl have been partially answered."**

Chief Doug Shaeffer  
Novi Police Department

She also said that she decided to give the child a shower rather than a bath to wash off the vomit, and that she fell and hit her head a couple of times in the tub, according to Michael McCarthy, defense attorney.

In testimony during the preliminary

hearing last October, Oakland County Medical Examiner Lubisa J. Dragovich said the child died of brain swelling, forcing the brain stem down the opening of the base of the skull. The swelling was caused by at least four blunt-force blows to the head.

Second-degree burns were also found on the girl's buttocks and thighs that appeared to be from her lying on a heating vent. There was also a burn on her chin that appeared to be from the metal part of a disposable lighter as well as cigarette burns on the child's right forearm, front of the body and bottom of the right foot.

Dragovich also testified that hair had been ripped from the child's head in two patches — one behind each ear — and that there was tearing around the lips.

Dets. Lauria and Warren said one of the most important pieces of evidence in the case was a 37-inch piece of duct tape with large patches of the child's blood and human hair. The evidence was found in the bathroom of the master bedroom. The child's blood was also found on another piece of duct tape.

The child's blood and Frederick's fingerprint were also found on a roll of duct tape in the home.

"She gave multiple conflicting statements and admitted to pushing the child into the toilet, causing a head injury," Lauria said.

"We don't think there's any doubt that this was first degree child abuse and a felony murder,"

In his rebuttal to defense attor-

ney McCarthy's closing arguments, Townsend told the jury, "The arguments are not evidence." He pointed to the multiplicity and types of injuries to the child.

"This is not a case of 'I pushed her and she hit her head,'" Townsend said.

He also noted that Frederick's story to police was filled with fabrications and deceit and accused the defense of putting forth "what ifs" during closing arguments.

"You have to use common sense in looking at a case like this. When it comes to the life of a 2-year-old, the only thing that should come to mind is the care and concern of that child. There was no care or concern here," Townsend said.

"Use your everyday life experience," he instructed the jury before they went into deliberations. "Ann Marie died of a result of child abuse. When you make your decisions, make them on the

evidence."

Hon. Colleen O'Brien instructed the jury to not let sympathy or pity for the defendant influence their decision in the case.

"This is your job and no one else's. You are the only judges of the facts," O'Brien said.

Frederick did not take the stand during the trial and sat calmly during closing arguments dressed in a pink top and black floral print skirt at a table by herself.

"She did not testify, but it must not affect your opinion," O'Brien instructed the jury.

Townsend reminded the jury of testimony given by one of the William Beaumont Hospital physicians in Royal Oak who treated the child. The physician said that the type of head injuries that Shawley suffered were equivalent to injuries sustained in a vehicular accident at 60 miles per hour.

The couple was heavily criticized for returning home to

change clothes before driving to Beaumont Hospital. "Usually people do want to follow immediately or ride along in the ambulance," McCarthy said. "But they had other kids at home to care for."

McCarthy also contested the implication that Frederick knew the extent of the child's injuries. "There's no promissio when she wakes up to take care of a sick child. I don't think there's anything in this trial that shows this woman wanted to hurt or kill this child. In fact, she said, 'I loved her to death,'" McCarthy said.

Townsend said Frederick's sentencing is scheduled for 1 p.m. March 30 in Judge O'Brien's courtroom.

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.hometown.net.

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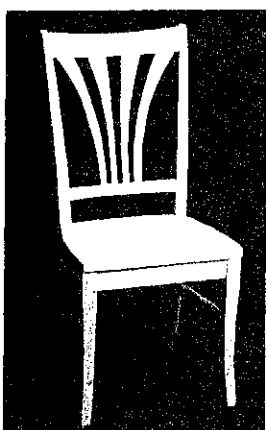
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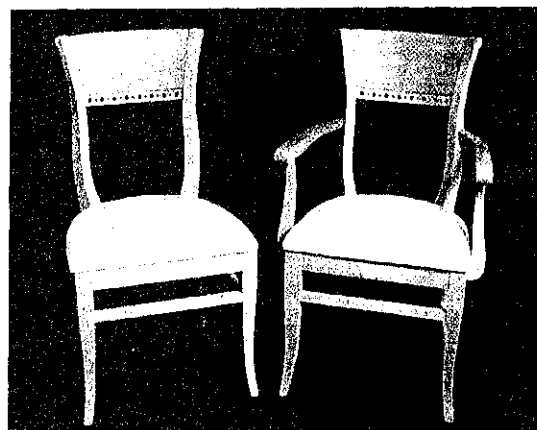
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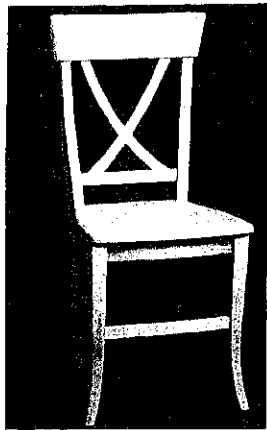
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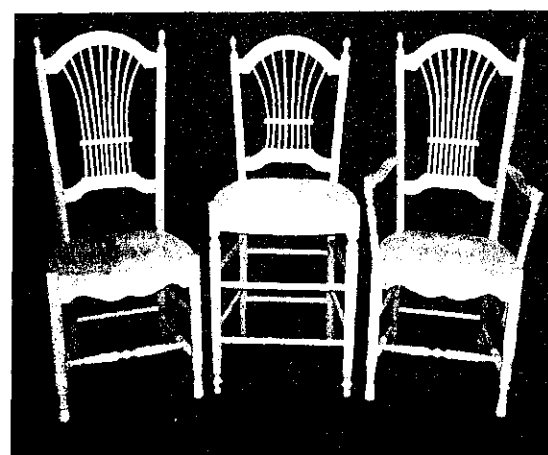
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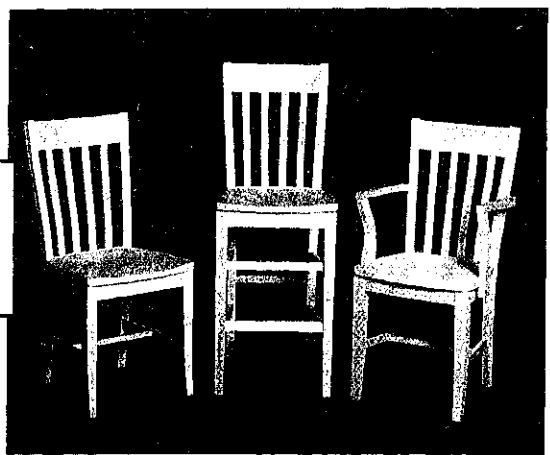


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## Council approves Lucky Strike liquor license transfer

■ Bowling alley, entertainment complex to open this summer

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The developer of Lucky Strike Novi, a new bowling alley to be built at Fountain Walk shopping center, received approval to transfer a liquor license at Monday's city council meeting.

The request was approved to transfer ownership of a 2001 Class C liquor license with Dance-Entertainment Permit, which is currently held in escrow, from S. K. Brewer's of Scottfield to the Fountain Walk business. A request was also granted for a new Outdoor Service Permit.

Scott Edwards, attorney for developer Steven Foster, a resident of Beverly Hills, Calif., said that this was the fourth time that representatives of Lucky Strike have appeared before city council. The developer plans to construct a 70,000-square-foot, two-story building at 44325 Twelve Mile Road in Novi.

The complex will include dining, bar service, billiards and arcade games downstairs and a 14-lane bowling alley upstairs with dining and bar service. Bowling leagues are not planned at the site, which is viewed more as more of an "upscale bowling concept."

Similar facilities are located in California in Hollywood and Orange County.

"This is exactly the type of development they're looking for at Fountain Walk," Edwards said.

Foster has a 10-year lease on the property with two five-year options. The developer requested seven additional bar permits.

Foster is the founder/creator and former chief executive officer of Jillian's Entertainment Corporation. He has opened 40 entertainment and

dining complexes in more than 21 states and also created Hi-Life Lanes, another upscale bowling concept he has introduced into 20 Jillian's locations, including the Mall of America, Universal City Walk and seven other malls. Foster's wife's name is Jillian.

Foster estimates that the first year of sales will total about \$8 million, with entertainment encompassing about 40 percent of sales, or about \$3.2 million. Food sales are estimated at 35 percent or \$2.8 million, and alcohol sales are estimated at 25 percent or \$2 million.

Council Member Laura Lorenzo did not support approval of the liquor license due to "the predominant environment of alcohol" with minors in attendance at the complex.

Those age 13 through 16 will only be allowed in the building from 2:30 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

"Your facility will be located only about two miles from the all-boy Catholic Central High School. I do believe there's a public health and safety issue here. You're basically targeting minors," Lorenzo said.

The building's operations manager said that staff members attend a training program regarding serving alcohol, that no minors will be allowed to sit at the bar and that employees will monitor the premises.

"I've never been in a bowling alley that doesn't have a bar, and the Imagine Theater sells alcohol. This is nothing new. I see this as a wonderful addition to Fountain Walk," said Member David Landry.

"I don't think that children, games and bars mix," said Member Lynne Paul, who did not support the project. "I really don't think seven bars is a good idea. You're serving alcohol around children."

Linda Busse, marketing director for Fountain Walk, said the entertainment complex should open sometime in mid- to late summer.

"We think it will really add to the entertainment component at Fountain Walk," Busse said.

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## New medical office building OK'd

■ Developer says area underserved

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

With the U.S. population aging, it's good to attract more physicians to a community.

Not only will we need more doctors to take care of us, but physicians will hopefully choose to live in the area and spend a good portion of their better-than-average incomes in the city.

That's exactly what's happening at the site, said Matt Sosin of Northern Equities.

Sosin told members of the planning commission that physician interest in the building is strong.

building in the city. Northern Equities Group, a Farmington Hills-based developer, plans to construct a 45,764-square-foot building on Cabot Drive between Twelve and Thirteen Mile roads. Cabot Drive is located just east of the M-5 Connector.

The property covers 3.47 acres on the northeast side of the city on the border of Novi and Farmington Hills. Haggerty Road serves as the property's eastern border. Automotive supplier Eberspaecher's new facility lies to the north of the property.

"We're very excited about this building. We've spent a lot of time designing it," said Matt Sosin of Northern Equities.

Sosin told members of the planning commission that physician interest in the building is strong.

"We're getting four to five calls a day," he said. "There's a need in this area for a class A medical building, and doctors want to be close to their patients in Novi."

Much of the discussion surrounding the project at the March 10 meeting centered on the need for two access roads into the new medical office building.

"I think it's critical to have a secondary access to the building," said Owen Markham, planning commission chair.

A secondary access road is especially important for a medical office building, since emergency medical services vehicles might be called to the site.

Northern Equities wanted to have an access road by the Eberspaecher property to the north, but the developer was unsuccessful

in negotiating an agreement with the automotive exhaust systems supplier on such a road.

The next best solution to the problem was to have a gated, emergency access road on Haggerty Road. But Haggerty is a county-owned road, requiring approval for such access by the Road Commission for Oakland County.

City officials believe the Road Commission would approve the gated access, however, as it wouldn't affect traffic on Haggerty Road. "It's a Road Commission issue," Sosin said.

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

## Clark, Crawford honored by local leaders, politicians

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Two of Novi's "finest" were honored at Monday's city council meeting.

Proclamations were presented to retirees Mayor Richard Clark and Kathy Crawford, senior activities coordinator and director of the Novi Senior Center, for their dedicated service to the City of Novi.

The proclamations were presented by State Sen. Nancy Cypiss (R-Nowi) and State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) at the beginning of the meeting and followed by comments from Mayor Lou Casade.

DeRoche said he recalled when the city was in need of a strong leader and Clark came forward. "Dick Clark said 'I'll put my hat back in the ring,'" DeRoche said. "What we have now is a city that's healed because of him," DeRoche said. "The city kind of came of age under his watch."

"Hopefully, this will hang somewhere in your home," Cypiss said in presenting a framed copy

of the proclamation to Clark. "It was a true pleasure to serve with you for four years. You did help our city during some troubled times," Casade said.

In presenting the framed document to Crawford, Casade said, "I remember Kathy Crawford as someone who made us laugh. Her jokes were always ones that you tried to remember, and then they were gone. Kathy and I go back many years — even before she served the city."

"We will remember her for her smile, graciousness and passion for everything she did."

"The programs that Kathy has been involved in are beyond cost. Seeing the lives that she touched, her selling and her counsel — we're going to miss you," DeRoche said.

Crawford, who plans to remain active in the city, said she was embarrassed by all the recent attention she's received over her retirement.

"It feels like I'm attending my own wake, which is kind of cool because I'd rather be alive at my own funeral," she joked.

DeRoche (R-Nowi) at the beginning of the meeting and followed by comments from Mayor Lou Casade.

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# State law change prompted by local teacher

**Tenure now revoked after felony conviction**

By James Mitchell  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan law will now prohibit felons from holding on to their teaching certificates after a conviction.

On Tuesday state lawmakers approved a bill introduced by local Rep. Craig DeRoche, who drafted the legislation after learning about former South Lyon teacher and coach Scott Anthony Harris. Last week, Harris was given a required tenure hearing before his teaching certificate could be revoked.

"This is going to stop the outrageous abuse of the tenure act like we saw last Monday," DeRoche said. "Lawyers argued for back pay for someone who was convicted of their fourth felony."

Harris had been suspended for

leaving an October 2003 arrest for possession of cocaine and marijuana and for driving under the influence of alcohol. Harris pled guilty to the charges in December.

The incident brought Harris's past to light, and it became known that when he was hired by the local school district, he had two felony and three misdemeanor convictions on his record and was on probation.

What alarmed DeRoche, along with many parents and residents, was that Harris retained his teaching certificate even after being convicted of a felony crime, and that a tenure hearing was required for revocation. Harris on Monday sought back pay from the school district from the time of his conviction in December to last week's tenure hearing.

After learning of the Harris case, DeRoche and his staff researched several recent incidents in which teachers retained the right to a tenure hearing after being convicted on felony charges.

DeRoche said that the new law will empower the state superintendent to fire "felonious teachers," and that the approved version of his bill accomplishes what he set out to accomplish.

"I feel good for the parents of South Lyon students and parents throughout the state," DeRoche said. "The bill was approved by the state House last month, and Senate acceptance was finalized Tuesday with unanimous approval. With modifications, the bill returned to the House Tuesday, where it gained passage after a 107-0 vote. The bill now awaits the signature of Gov. Jennifer Granholm."

The bill was approved by the Michigan Education Association, the statewide teacher's union. Al Short, Director of Government Affairs for the MEA, said that the organization questioned aspects of the bill during the legislative process, and that current policy did allow the state to revoke certificates.

The approved bill, DeRoche

said, puts the burden of proving why a certificate should be retained on the felon, not local school boards.

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



**State Rep. Craig DeRoche testifies before the Senate Education Committee in support of House Bill 5476, his legislation to remove felonious teachers from the classroom. To his right is House policy advisor Wendy Hofmeyer.**

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Wednesday, April 14, 2004

**Copy Deadline:**  
Thursday, April 15, 2004

**Publication Date:**  
Thursday, May 6, 2004

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### DISTRICT COURT REPORT

These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Feb. 24.

- Stanslaw Kwak — Stealing property — receiving and concealing motor vehicle
- Melvin Clarence Buckmaster — Assault with intent to murder (3 counts), felonious assault (3 counts), weapons-felony firearms (3 counts), arson-dwelling of a house
- Christopher Allen Hester — Home invasion, second degree
- Sacari Deshawn Henry — Retail fraud-1st

These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Feb. 24.

- Mary Heue Bennett — Operating under the influence of alcohol, failure to stop after collision
- Kelly Lynn Frederick — Retail fraud-1st, sentence enhancement/4th or subsequent offense

These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court

originating in 52-1 District Court for Feb. 24.

- Stanslaw Kwak — Stealing property — receiving and concealing motor vehicle
- Melvin Clarence Buckmaster — Assault with intent to murder (3 counts), felonious assault (3 counts), weapons-felony firearms (3 counts), arson-dwelling of a house
- Christopher Allen Hester — Home invasion, second degree
- Sacari Deshawn Henry — Retail fraud-1st

These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Mar. 1.

- Marjorie Ann Crabtree — Controlled substance (manufacture/delivery/manufacture) (more than 50 grams, sentence enhancement/second offense)
- Tiffani Jane Greenlee — Uttering and publishing
- Christopher Robert Greer (AKA: Phony, J) — Possession of controlled substance, controlled

substance possession of marijuana.

- Sacari Deshawn Henry — Retail fraud-1st
- Mark Richard Promo — Operating under the influence of liquor/per se, third offense felony
- Victor Chease Espinoza — Felony assault
- Jamie Jean Wendt — Malignant destruction of property over \$100

These are the cases that were scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Mar. 1.

- Leslie Allen Dyer — Operating under the influence of liquor/per se, third offense felony, driving while license suspended
- Jeremy Thomas Estell — Third degree criminal sexual conduct (13 through 15)
- Christopher Robert Greer (AKA: Phony, J) — Controlled substance-delivery/manufacture (Narcotic) 50-449 grams
- Timothy Lee Bush — Larceny from a motor vehicle, attempt receiving and concealing over \$200 under \$1,000

# BUSINESS

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

## Novi Expo tax abatement pushed back one year

**Construction delays cause need for extension**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Tax abatements are a wonderful creation by the state. They allow developers of special types of facilities to enjoy a reduction in their business taxes in exchange for economic benefits to a city or township.

Plans are for the Novi Expo Center, to be constructed on the north side of Grand River west of Taft Road, to receive such an abatement or reduction in taxes.

And members of city council voted Monday to approve a one-year extension of the eight-year tax abatement.

Developer and local entrepreneur Blair Bowman, who owns the property at the new site, explained that the extension was needed because of construction delays in the project.

The new multi-million-dollar facility was scheduled to open in December 2004. It is now slated

to welcome visitors no later than December 2005 but most likely earlier.

"We expect we'll be done way ahead of that. We're just moving the tax abatement back a year," Bowman explained to council members. "You'll see us again in seven and a half years," he said, meaning that he will need to request an extension of the abatement at that time.

Bowman blamed Michigan writers and construction on the Grand River improvement project as reasons for the delay of the opening.

"We're excited," Bowman said. "We've had a lot of hurdles, but we're looking forward to getting started."

Bowman said that under state statute, if the developer remains silent on the tax abatement issue that construction is supposed to be finished in two years. Therefore, he had to request the one-year extension.

"This is exactly what's allowed under the statute," Bowman told council.

If Bowman did not request the extension, the tax abatement would be reduced by half. "This would mean that we would have to reevaluate the entire project," he said.

Member Laura Lorenzo did

not support the extension as she does not support the tax abatement for the facility.

"I admire Mr. Bowman's entrepreneurial spirit," Donald Trump would be proud. But, I have to look at this from a revenue-producing standpoint, and I think tax abatements should only be considered for high-tech facilities. This facility will not be providing high-paying jobs to the community," Lorenzo said.

"But, I wish you well in moving forward on the project," she said.

"I don't see this as anything more than an administrative cleanup issue," Member David Landry said. "I'm not surprised this project got stalled due to the Beck Road situation," referring to recent state approval to fund construction of a new interchange at I-96 and Beck Road.

Member Lynne Paul noted that tax abatements are usually for assembly, manufacturing or research plants.

"Tier 1 automotive supplier Visteon, for example is receiving a huge tax abatement for its new global headquarters, Visteon Village, scheduled to open this summer in northeast Van Buren Township off Escorial at I-275. Such facilities usually offer the promise of tons of jobs and income to the community."

"This will be the second largest banquet and conference center in the state, with over \$200 million in offshoot economy to the area. Expo centers have been seen as an industrial use for tax abatement purposes," Bowman said.

As far as employment opportunities, Bowman said that the Novi Expo Center would provide hundreds of jobs during the construction of the building as well as many jobs after it opens.

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.



### Now, that's Italian!

Johnny Carino's Country Italian restaurant on the border of Novi and Commerce Township combined a fund-raiser for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center with a trial run of the new eatery last week. Pictured at the March 11 event are (l to r) Dan Chaon, operations manager of Tomatito Groto; Rodney Long, a partner from Chapel Hill, N.C.; and Rob Bruce, president of Tomatito Groto. The restaurant, which officially opened Monday, is located on Loop Road just west of Haggerty and north of Fourteen Mile roads.

Photo by Pam Fleming

## U of M researchers forecast Oakland County's economy

Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 19th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on April 29 at the Troy Marriott.

The 2004-2005 Employment Forecasts for Oakland County, a joint venture of the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services and the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan, will be presented at the luncheon, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Hosts for the luncheon are Bank

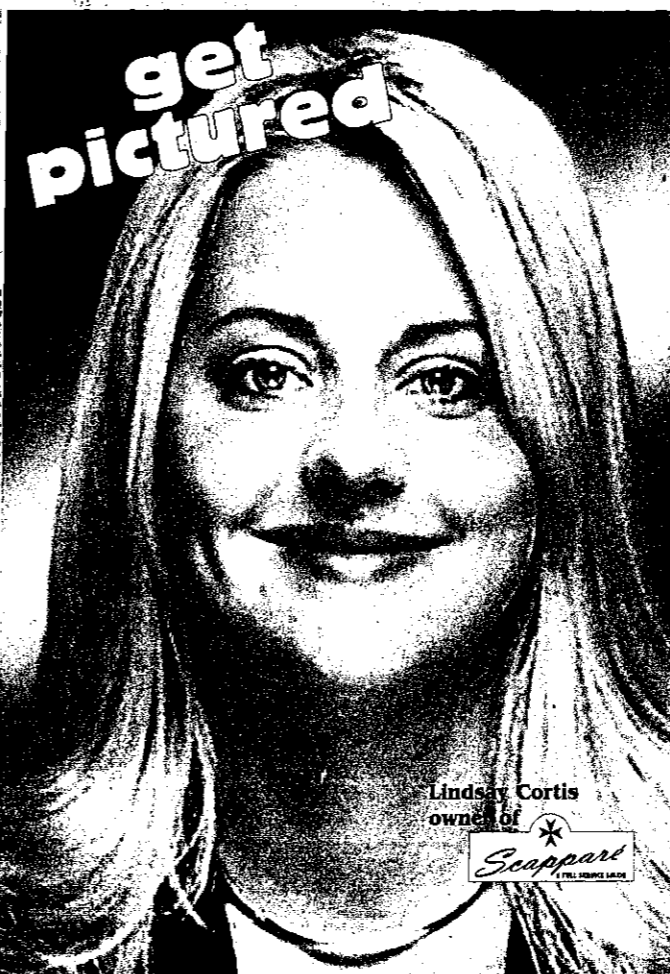
One, Michigan, Oakland Community College and Oakland County.

The cost is \$35 per person. Registration deadline is Friday, April 16. Call (248) 975-4419 for information.

George Fulton and Donald Grimes, economists with the University of Michigan Institute of Labor & Industrial Relations, will present the 2004-2005 Employment Forecast for Oakland County, which includes forecasts for total employment in private manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors with break-

downs for various industry categories. The outlook report is a main component for the County's long-term planning and promotion activities.

"The annual U of M economic forecast has proven amazingly accurate over the years in predicting job growth in Oakland County," said Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. "The information gleaned from this report helps us plan and prioritize our business-related efforts in a more efficient manner."



Lindsay Cortis, owner of Scappard

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

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STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE

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## County offers business loan workshop

The Small Business Loan Workshop is a seminar on finance options for small business owners. In this workshop, participants will learn what a banker looks for in a loan application, how a lender analyzes an application, the "5 C's of Credit," the essential financial statements and SBA's Loan Guaranty Programs.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, April 7, from 8:45 a.m. to noon at the Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac.

For location specifics and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$20 per person and includes program materials and refreshments.

The Web site address for Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Services is [www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/peds).

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STAR FAIRLANE 21	STAR GRATIOT	STAR GREAT LAKES	STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM		

**SENIOR CALENDAR**

**Thursday 3/18**  
 9 a.m. Massages Therapy  
 9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting  
 9:30 a.m. Line Dance  
 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open  
 noon. Lunch  
 12:30 p.m. Bridge  
 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Retirement Support Group  
 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Beginners Line Dancing  
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Advanced Line Dancing  
 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Computer-Beginner

**Friday 3/19**  
 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Body Recall  
 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open  
 noon. Lunch  
 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Computer-Beginner  
 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Dupl. Bridge

**Monday 3/22**  
 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Body Recall  
 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Gossie Lady  
 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sundry Shop Open  
 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Computer-Beginner  
 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Lunch

**OBITUARIES**

**Beverly M. Baskins**  
 Beverly Baskins of Novi died March 15, 2004, at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi, with Rev. Roger Stambaugh of United Baptist Bible Fellowship Church in Garden City officiating. Interment will be at Parkway Cemetery, Livonia.  
 Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home. Online sympathy messages: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.

**Marvin J. Bowen**  
 Marvin Bowen of Brighton died March 13, 2004, at Henry Ford Hospital. He was 78. Mr. Bowen was born March 5, 1926, in Pontiac to the late Melvin T. Bowen and Maryona Bowen.  
 He was preceded in death by one daughter, Sandra Kay in 1972.

**Kenneth D. Stirman**  
 Kenneth Stirman of Novi died March 12, 2004. He was 78.  
 Survivors include his wife, Elsie; three children, David, Charles and Danny (Shelley); six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five sisters; and five brothers.

**Chamber seeking items and sponsors for annual auction**

The Novi Chamber of Commerce's Annual Charity Auction will be held Saturday, April 24 at the Hotel Barometre. This year's charity is Sweet Dreamz Detroit. Sponsors include Varsity Lincoln-Mercury, Hotel Barometre, Twelve Oaks Mall, Bob Sellers, Novi News, Community Financial, Novi Expo Center, Republic Bank, Brit Irigoyen, Richard Gual.  
 To become a sponsor, donate items for auction or purchase tickets to this event, please call the chamber at (248) 349-3743.



Jeff VarnHagen, right, contemplates as Heather Monkmeier discusses her reaction to the film 'The Passion of the Christ' during a discussion at Novi's Coffee Trader last Tuesday night organized by the Christ Covenant Church and Nathan Pauli.

**Movie sparks passionate conversations**

By Phil Folly  
 STAFF WRITER  
 It attracted glaring attention for more than a year before its Ash Wednesday opening, with more than 9,000 articles having been penned.  
 Now, after less than four weeks at the box office, counters began ticking. Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' has brought in more than \$214 million, placing it 47th on MovieWeb.com's all-time top 100 grossing films list - ahead of 2002's 'Austin Powers' in Goldeneye and behind 2003's 'X-Men United.'  
 However, for a small group of local residents gathered at a softly lit coffee house, it's not about controversy or cash.  
 It's about faith.  
 Paul Green, a community activist from Commerce Township, wasn't sure how many people would show up to the first of 28 discussions on the movie at the Coffee Trader on Novi's Market Street. But he was encouraged by eight.  
 While the entire group agreed they'd like to see the movie again,

**SCREEN BEAT**

By Brian Renner

Sarah Polley, Ving Rittanis, Jake Weiber and Mehli Philier head an ensemble cast in a re-visualization of George Romero's apocalyptic horror classic, ' Dawn of the Dead.' An unexplained plague has decimated the world's population and yet...the dead aren't dying. They've become zombies, stalking in a constant quest to feed on the flesh and blood of the few remaining living. A group of desperate survivors in a Wisconsin town seek refuge in a large indoor mall, where they must learn not only to protect themselves from the ever-increasing zombie horde, but also to co-exist with each other as a last bastion of humanity. Sealed off from the rest of what used to be the world, the group uses every available resource in their against-all-odds fight to remain alive and human.  
 'Dawn of the Dead' is a Universal Pictures release and rated R by the MPAA for pervasive strong horror violence and gore, language and sexuality.  
 Quirky romantic drama 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind' stars Jim Carrey as Joel, who is stunned to discover that his girlfriend (Kate Winslet) had her memories of their relationship erased. Out of desperation, he contacts the inventor of the process, Dr. Howard Mierzwaik (Tom Wilkinson), to have Clementine removed from his own memory. As Dr. Mierzwaik and his crew (Kristen Dunst, Mark Ruffalo, Elijah Wood) chase him through the maze of his memories, it's clear that Joel just can't get Clementine out of his head.  
 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind' is a Focus Features release and rated R by the MPAA for language, some drug use and sexual content.  
 For more information, please log on to The Movie Insider at www.movieinsider.com. Please direct any questions, comments, and/or feedback to bri@the-movieinsider.com.

**LIBRARY LINES**

**Novi Public Library**  
 The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of I-480. For more information, call (248) 349-6724.

**Hours**  
 The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of I-480. For more information, call (248) 349-6724.

**INTERNET CLASSES**

**Novi Public Library**  
 eleven teams of 5th and 6th graders who have been in training since December for this event.  
**Big Kid Story Time**  
 Kids ages 5-8 are invited to join us for stories, special activities, and a snack on Tuesday, March 30, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. No registration is necessary.  
**Kids' Movie Night**  
 Kids in the 5th grade and up are invited to the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31, for a special movie screening of the animated feature 'The Wild Thornberrys Movie.' No registration is required for this free PG movie screening.  
**English Castles & Maritime History**  
 Join freelance writer and photographer Bob Wert for a maritime adventure in the south of England on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in the library. Community members are invited to attend and cheer for the

**WIXOM LIBRARY**

Walled Lake resident Marine Corps Sgt. Jeffrey Eddington and more than 2,200 Marines and Sailors assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Whidbey Island and the amphibious transport dock ship USS Shrewport, recently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf regions.  
 He is a graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and the son of Thomas Eddington.  
 Marine Corps Pvt. Bradley J. Baker of Walled Lake recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally. He is the son of Kathleen and Richard J. Baker.

**IN THE SERVICE**

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**CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 04-008**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Fram Building Group for Meadowbrook Townhomes is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction office trailer and two construction storage trailers. All three trailers will be located at the end of Mitchell Road. This permit would be issued for the period from the date of the meeting until March 23, 2005.  
 A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for temporary use permit.  
 The request will be considered at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Department and must be received prior to March 24, 2004.  
 DENISE ANDERSON  
 TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY  
 (248) 347-0415

(3-18-04 NN 119828)

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**CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 03-18-182.

**CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD WITHOUT CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 97-16, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, APPENDIX A OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO CREATE SUBSECTION 2516.1 TO CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTAL OF PLANS THAT PROPOSE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PUBLIC AND/OR PRIVATE ROADS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY BUILDINGS OR OTHER STRUCTURES ARE PROPOSED; AND TO AMEND THE SITE PLAN MANUAL, AS IT RELATES TO TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT THAT FOLLOW THE SITE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS, AS PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 2516.2.a, FOR RELATED PURPOSES.**

All interested persons are invited to attend. The proposed ordinance is available for review at the Planning Department. Verbal comments will be heard at the public hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI, 48375, until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2004.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
 JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY

(3-18-04 NN 119895)

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# CLASS NOTES

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

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### Sale to benefit TACC

Brian Langley, a Novi High School science teacher, is designing and selling T-shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants, with all profits benefiting TACC. The design on the apparel will promote learning in the classroom and the clothes will be sold to students in his classroom. It is a tradition for Langley to raise money for a charity every semester. Last time he raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

### Movie Night with Herbie

The gymnasium at Parkview Elementary School was turned into a movie theater for close to 300 movie-goers on Feb. 27. Parkview Families enjoyed an evening together watching "Herbie the Love Bug" while the concession stand was open for business. Those who attended had the chance to enjoy pizza, popcorn, pop and candy during the show.

### Village Oaks Coins For Caring

Coins for Caring was part two of the Village Oaks fourth grade community service project for the Special Olympics which took place Feb. 9-13. It takes about \$60 to send one athlete to the games, so the children wanted to see how many activities their school could send. Students from Laura Clavin's, Tom Gimenez's, and Christine Spirling's team came annually to each hall with a large bucket and the kids were invited to drop their spare coins in to show their support for children with special needs. The coins were counted each day and some of the students announced the daily totals. By the end of the week the children, teachers and parents of Village Oaks raised \$1,234.25 to donate to the charity. All money collected was sent in a Valentine's card to the local Special Olympics group with the caption, "Village Oaks Cares."

### Gifted Child Workshop at ITC

Planning for Your Gifted Child: An Evening with Dr. Karen Rogers. From her analysis of research that spans a full century, Dr. Rogers describes various types of gifted children, as well as options for school enrichment and acceleration. She reports the effectiveness for each option according to the research.

When: Thursday, March 18, 2004/7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Where: Novi Instructional Technology Center (ITC) Forum, 49000 Eleven Mile Road, Novi, MI 48374

Sponsored by: Section 57.3 GT Consortium Grant and Oakland Schools

No Cost--No Need to Register  
Karen B. Roger, Ph.D., is Professor of Gifted Studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, MN. She has published over 80 articles about gifted and talented students. Her paper on ability grouping, written for the National Research Center on Gifted and Talented, has been read by over 500,000 people worldwide. She is the mother of three gifted children and the grandmother of five young (potentially gifted) grandsons.

### Middle School Career Day

Novi Middle School's 14th annual Career Day will take place on Friday, March 19th. As in the past, the seventh graders will have the opportunity to listen to four speakers representing six different career pathways. These pathways, adopted by the Michigan Department of Career Development, include Arts and Communication, Business, Management, Marketing and Technology;

Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology; Health Sciences, Human Services, and Natural Resources and Agriculture. The pathway overview helps students learn about emerging career opportunities while connecting them to post-secondary education and the world of work. Several speakers are popular repeats from prior years, such as Jeff West, owner of Head West Salon; Dave Ray, FBI agent; Debbie Nantle, director of group exercise at Novi Sports Club; and Tim Prokop, firefighter. A new format is in place for the eighth graders this year. Each student will have a chance to go through "The Reality Store". The student will choose a profession, find out how much estimated salary and then visit "stations" such as housing, insurance, day care, groceries, etc. The student will try to determine what portion of the salary will be used for each of these necessities. The Reality Store is a concept developed by Career's Business and Professional Women's Association and will be sponsored in part by Scholecraft College.

### Building a Balance

The Novi Community School District is hosting a Healthy Families Build Balance Workshop on Saturday, March 27 at Novi Middle School. Times are 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be many activities for parents and kids alike. Special guests include popular fitness show host Peter Nielsen, Dr. C.J. Trapp III, Jo Ann Clements, Jennifer Kachalla, the Novi Sports Club and more. The registration fee is \$5 per adult and

children are admitted free. The minimum age is three and a half years old and toddlers must be toilet trained. All participants must be pre-registered by Monday, March 22. For more information or to register, call (248) 449-1206.

### School board election info

Novi School Board Elections will take place on Monday, June 14, but there are plenty of important dates before that.

Of the seven members, the terms of two—Bruce Bagdady and Julie Abrams—are up this year. Both plan to run again.

New terms start on Thursday, July 1 and each one is for four years. Monday, April 12 marks the nominating petition deadline for candidates. Candidates can either turn in nominating petitions or pay a \$100 filing fee by that date. Thursday, April 15 is the candidate withdrawal deadline.

Those interested can file at the Educational Services Building located on Taft Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

The Novi Community School District Board of Education meets on the first and third Thursday of each month during the school year. The current board is President Bradly, Vice President John Street, Treasurer George Kurian, Secretary Abrams, Carol Eifling, John Balagiza and Dave Brown.

### Scholarships available

The Novi Educational Foundation announced that applications for the 2004 Fuerst Scholarships are now available.

The Fuerst Scholarships are awarded with funds from the estate of Ruby Fuerst, a long-time Novi resident. The scholarships total \$20,000 per year and are distributed and administered by the Novi Educational Foundation.

Qualification criteria require all applicants to be residents of the Novi Community School District. Applicants need not be current graduates, but must be pursuing post high school education at an accredited community college, college, university, technical or vocational school. Scholarships will be awarded primarily on the basis of the applicant's financial need.

Applications are available at the Novi High School Counseling Office, the Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi or by calling (248) 449-1200. The deadline for submitting an application is Wednesday, March 31. For additional information, contact Bob Shram at (248) 449-1203.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri



Courtesy photo

### Dr. Suess' 100th birthday at Orchard Hills

Students throughout Orchard Hills celebrated Dr. Suess' 100th birthday with special projects and treats. They also read many Dr. Suess stories. Pictured are (l to r) third grader Kacy Kobakof, third grader Carrie Subject, second grader Brecken Mumford, second grade teacher Dawn Capling, third grader Jaisy Mathew and second grader Jessica Mathew.

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## Making of "Stranger in the Woods" presented at Orchard Hills

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Siblings Laura and Robert Sams own Sistro Adventures, which is short for sister/brother educational adventures. Together, they wrote, directed, edited and helped film the award-winning children's movie.

For this project, they also wrote the music and performed most of the character voices, including a rascally singing squirrel, a British oak leaf and a French snowdrift. Laura Sams combines a master's degree in natural resources education with a background in zoology and parks/recreation to find creative ways of helping people explore the natural world. She has studied llynxes in Africa and worked at a Mexican aquarium. Her film making adventures have taken her around Michigan, as well as to Alaska to film brown bears. In fact, she and Robert have just finished their first short film that they created on their own, entitled "Bearly Alike," about grizzly bears.

"We got to film grizzly bears in Alaska, and the film parallels a day in the life of the grizzly bears with a day in the life of Robert," Laura Sams said. "We finished that and it was just shown at the East Lansing Film Festival."

As part of her master's degree, Laura developed a teacher resource packet to go along with "Bearly Alike" to help teachers use it in classrooms.

"We want to see if we can find a distributor to carry it and try to get it more widespread, because I think it's a good one," Laura Sams said. "It's a funny one, too!"

Robert holds degrees in zoology and communications. As a filmmaker, he has filmed underwater on the coral reefs of Micronesia and has filmed Alaskan brown bears. He estimated that between January and May this year, the two will have probably performed their program to about 60 elementary schools.

"Our presentation is based on the book 'Stranger in the Woods,' by Carl Sams and Jean Stoick," he said. "We basically use a lot of video clips and footage to emphasize the points. We make sure the program is really interactive and we have a lot of different activities to get our point across to the kids."

The siblings have been performing at elementary schools for about three years now. They started doing it when they were full time students at Michigan State about once a week or so, but now they have been doing it full time since they graduated.

"We want to make more wildlife films for kids and continue sharing that creative process that goes into making something," Laura Sams said. "We travel to schools and libraries all over Michigan and sometimes in Ohio and Illinois."

Since Carl Sams and Stoick are coming out with a new book, entitled "Lost in the Woods," the two plan to make a movie to go along with it at the same time.

"We already have a market for it, and it makes sense to do it," Laura Sams said. "We're excited. We've already been brainstorming ideas. We're going to try to film all spring and summer and write some more music. I think we're going to write a song about the signs of spring and I wrote a lullaby, but the rest will be fun."

Robert Sams agreed. "For 'Lost in the Woods' we're thinking about having one of the characters in the movie be a buffoon or maybe a turtle," he said. "We'd like to see some goose or some different birds coming back from migrating south for



Photo by John Heiser

At the behest of Robert and Laura Sams, Orchard Hills students don make-believe moose antlers to join the unofficial "Stranger in the Woods" club during last week's presentation of the winter tale.

the winter. The book should be done they think early this summer and after that, it will probably take us another year to make the video."

Ultimately the two entrepreneurs want teachers to recognize their work and to use it as a resource in the classroom. In addition to this program, they do a variety of seminars and speeches on different topics, including the artistry and craft of creating educational nature films, basic outdoor photography and filmmaking tips, a behind-the-scenes look at films and using nature as a springboard for learning.

For more information, e-mail sibrosadventures@yahoo.com or call (517) 347-6663. Further information can also be found at www.strangerinthewoods.com.

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

## ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Brian Coles was among the graduates at Grand Valley State University during December 2003 commencement exercises.

Novi resident Robert Gilchrist was among the graduates at The College of Saint Rose (Albany, N.Y.) during fall 2003 commencement exercises.

Novi resident Brian C. Gulewicz, Walled Lake resident Crystal G

Buchanan, and Wikom residents Hironaka Okamoto, Kimberly C. Segal and Kati D. Vanderhoef were named to the Dean's List at Michigan Technological University for fall 2003 semester.

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## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS UPDATE

### Keith celebrates 40th

The community, parents and alumni of Keith Elementary School are invited to the school's 40th Anniversary at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 18 at the school, 2800 Keith Road, West Bloomfield.

The celebration will be a time for alumni to share fond memories of teaching, learning and growing-up at Keith, said Suzanne Cowles, principal.

One of the featured speakers at the celebration is Harry Domalaue, Walled Lake Central assistant principal. Domalaue was a kindergarten at Keith when the school opened.

For more information contact the Keith office at (248) 956-3700.

### Young leaders selected

Two seventh graders from Clifford Smart Middle School, Blake Scalet and Courtney Brodie, were recently selected to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

Both students were selected by Sara Lesiak, seventh grade counselor, and other teachers from Smart on the basis of their academic achievement and leadership abilities.

Brodie attended the conference in February and Scalet will attend this month.

### Music in the schools

Music departments throughout the Walled Lake School District are doing great things that coincide with Music In Our School Month. All three high school bands performed at this year's District Band Festival on March 6 at Walled Lake Northern High School.

Walled Lake Central High School Wind Ensemble, under the direction of David Rogers, took straight first division ratings. Symphony Band took second division ratings.

Walled Lake Northern High School Concert Band, under the direction of Chris Blackmer, earned a straight first division rating in performance and a second division rating in sight reading. Symphony Band earned a straight first division rating throughout all categories.

Walled Lake Western High School Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble, under the direction of David Abbott, earned straight ones. Other music related upcoming events include:

- Dublin Elementary's musical presentations "5-A-Day Live!" March 16; "How Does Your Garden Grow?," March 25 and "Into the Woods," April 1-2.
- Walled Lake Northern High School, "Grease," April 1 and 2.

### Magae picked by Daughters

Don Magae of Walled Lake, a senior at Walled Lake Western High School, has been selected to win the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) Good Citizen Award for the 2003-04 school year.

Other Good Citizen award winners are John Michael Kuzmich of Milford a senior at Milford High School; Priscilla Kestler of Highland a senior at Lakeland High School; and Angela Jane Kurat of Milford, a senior at West Highland Christian Academy.

The awards were presented by the Grand River Trail NSDAR Chapter of Milford. The students and their parents were honored at a luncheon held at the Lyon Township Library, hosted by the DAR members.

The DAR Good Citizen Award stresses the qualities of good citizenship - dependability, service, leadership and patriotism - among high school seniors. The contest is open to members of the senior classes of local high schools in good standing with the State Board of Education or accredited public and private high schools.

Each Good Citizen received a pin, certificate and wall card recognizing his or her achievement.

Magae, the son of Donald and Ann Magae of Walled Lake, will attend Cedarville University in the fall, where he will major in political science secondary education.

She Brown of Highland serves as Grand River Trail's Good Citizen chairperson. Lynda MacDonald of White Lake is chapter regent.

**get pictured**

**in his suits**

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**Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, April 12, 2004**

**Copy Deadline: Tuesday, April 13, 2004**

**Publication Date: Thursday, May 15, 2004**

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## Home & Garden

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**Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 29, 2004**

**Copy Deadline: Tuesday, March 30, 2004**

**Publication Date: Thursday, April 22, 2004**

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South Lyon Herald  
Northville Record  
Novi News

**WEST**  
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus

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### Orchard Hills Family Bingo Night

Third grader Nicholas Martin, his brother Brennan, who's in kindergarten and their mother, Carol had fun during the Orchard Hills Family Bingo Night. Families packed the gym for a fun night of bingo, treats and prizes. Principal Paul LePiae called the numbers.



### Novi Youth Assistance raises a record \$22,000

Approximately 150 Novi Youth Assistance supporters bowled in the 22nd Annual NYA Bowl-a-thon at the Novi Bowl on March 6. Bowlers enjoyed pizza donated by the Novi Bowl and Domino's, and every bowler took home a prize that was donated by area businesses. Teams included the City of Novi, Novi Community Schools, Novi Adult Ed., The Mayor and the Big Labowski's, Novi Lions Club, Novi Lionesses, The Whitney's, The Nicholson's, Mentors PLUS, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Deerfield teacher Barb Knight and kids, Novi Meadows, Parkview, Village Oaks, Orchard Hills. The seventh and eighth grade Middle schools, Novi Meadows fifth and sixth graders, Dinsler's, O'Brien Family, St. James and the McNamara's.

Whitfield, Tim Harper and Diane McGregor. Rich Shulz won the men's high game and high series with a 275 and 671. Tracey Shore won the women's high series with a 683 and Janis Wagner took women's high game with a 236.

"We could not have done it without the support of our sponsors St. John Health, Providence and Brighton Hospital as well as the area businesses and all the great bowlers," said John P. O'Brien, chairperson of this year's bowl-a-thon. The success of this year's bowl-a-thon will allow YA to continue bringing quality programs to the families of Novi. Programs such as the Jeanne Clarke Summer Teen Center, Mentors Plus, Youth Recognition Camp, Recreation and Scholarships and Alcohol/Drug awareness will all benefit.

In the first annual battle for the NO. V1 pin between the police and fire department, the firefighters squeaked out a 10-pin win. At the presentation of the NO. V1 pin Jeff Johnson, assistant fire chief, said, "It was a fun competition but the real winners will be the Novi families that Youth Assistance helps." The Fire Department team was led by the Chief Art Longshun, Johnson, Bill Brown and Rick Shulz. The Police Department team was led by Lon Lowen, Terry

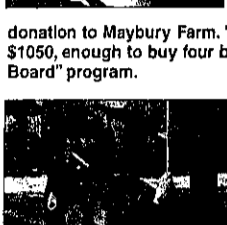
### Novi Woods Fourth Grade Disability Awareness Workshop

Fourth graders at Novi Woods learned valuable lessons when they participated in a disability awareness workshop last Thursday. With various vision impairment goggles on, the fourth graders are seeing what it might be like to have glaucoma, cataracts, color blindness, or low vision. Pictured are (l to r) Kiel Mennerich, Lucas Carey, Emily Sheeran, Cara Davies, Katie Seelenbinder and Theresa Drafta.



### Hats in school? It's OK for one day

Most schools won't let kids wear hats in school, but on Friday, March 5, students who attend Village Oaks were encouraged to wear their hats. Those who wore a hat, like Zack Hanson (pictured), also brought a donation to Maybury Farm. "Hat Day for Maybury" netted \$1050, enough to buy four boards in Maybury's "Buy a Board" program.



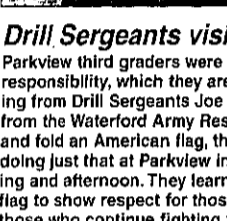
### Novi Meadows Math Olympiad competition

Each year sixth graders compete to be part of the Math Olympiad team at Novi Meadows. Sixth grade Math Teacher Lisa LaPorte selects the top-scoring 35 students from the class to be members of the team. Last Tuesday, the students took the fifth and final Math Olympiad test for this year and afterwards, LaPorte knew that Deepa Etikala (pictured) was the school's top scorer.



### Fifth grade roller skating party

Fifth graders from Novi Meadows had fun during their roller skating party, held on Feb. 26. Pictured here are (back row) Alyssa Miller, Taylor Howell and Becca Berman; (front) Nahoko Shinomiya, Molly Sutka, Colin Talbot, Madalyn Buha and Krista Tice.



### Drill Sergeants visit Parkview

Parkview third graders were given a very important responsibility, which they are very proud of. After learning from Drill Sergeants Joe Harvey and Mike Hogan from the Waterford Army Reserve, how to raise, lower and fold an American flag, the students took turns doing just that at Parkview in small groups each morning and afternoon. They learned that Americans fly the flag to show respect for those who lost their lives and those who continue fighting for freedom.



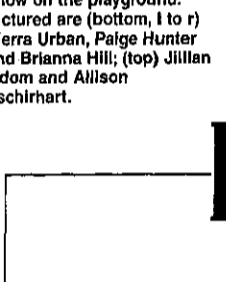
### Novi Woods roller skating party

Novi Woods students enjoyed a night of skating with their classmates at the school's Feb. 24 skating party. Pictured here are fourth graders Katie Enright, Andrea MacDonough and Kassie Darling.



### Having fun in the snow

Third graders at Orchard Hills aren't phased by all the snow on the playground. Pictured are (bottom, l to r) Sierra Urban, Paige Hunter and Brianna Hill; (top) Jillian Odum and Allison Tschirhart.



### The following Novi High School students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society:

Monica Aron, Geoff Atai-Ahrens, Jennifer Barlage, Emily Barton, Josh Bush, Margaret Chang, Katherine Colacino, Brandon Coles, Cai Depotter, Erin Dwyer, Katie Furnas, Ryan Gie, Sangira Ghosh, Kyle Goodman, Sarah Greenberg, Lisa Hardon, Ryan Heffernan, Kelli Herrick, Erica Howard, Laura Janik, Linda Janik, Nui Jiang, Sarah Jones, Jiltee Kim, Ji-Yeon Kim, Jeff Kolb, Sonia Kotucha, Brad Larson, Jeff Lee, Heather Liu, Laura Lynch, Andrew Macek, Bindu Maayam, Andrew McGinn, Kenneth Michalak, Marybeth Miles, Mark Moore, Greg Moricette, Jennifer Mu, Lauren Murray, Brent Neville, Radhica Patel, Matt Perelli, Lauren Pettin, Jennifer Phillips, Alice Qi, Pattie Ramos, Apoorva Rastogi, Courtney Ratkowiak, Aleehya Ratnala, Povan Rauipati, Matthew Renner, Rachael Rogg, Denise Rowe, Ellic Schulhoff, Won Young Shim, Anuripal Singh, Brad Sisson, Audrey Smith, Xue Song, Ruchira Srin, Matt Switt, David Switzer, Kristin Thomas, Suzy Vujovic, Shannon Wagner, Megan Walgen, Jennifer Wang, Swei Wang, Jennifer White, Sean White, Wei Xie, Katalin Zorio and Eric Zhao.

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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](http://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

United Way • Observer & Eccentric • HomeTown

# The 2004 FIRST Robotics Competition

## The FUTURE Is Now

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

**N**ovi High's Robotics Team, Frog Force 503, made its school proud last weekend when it took

second place in the Great Lakes Regional Robotics Competition, held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. The team will now be attending the Western Michigan Regional Competition at Grand Valley State University in Allendale on April 1-3.

Frog Force 503 was part of a three team alliance, which also included Team 280 TNT from Taylor and Team 494 the Martians from Goodrich. All were Michigan teams. First place went to Team 322 from Flint, Team 66 Flyers Willow Run and team 279 Tech Fusion from Toledo.

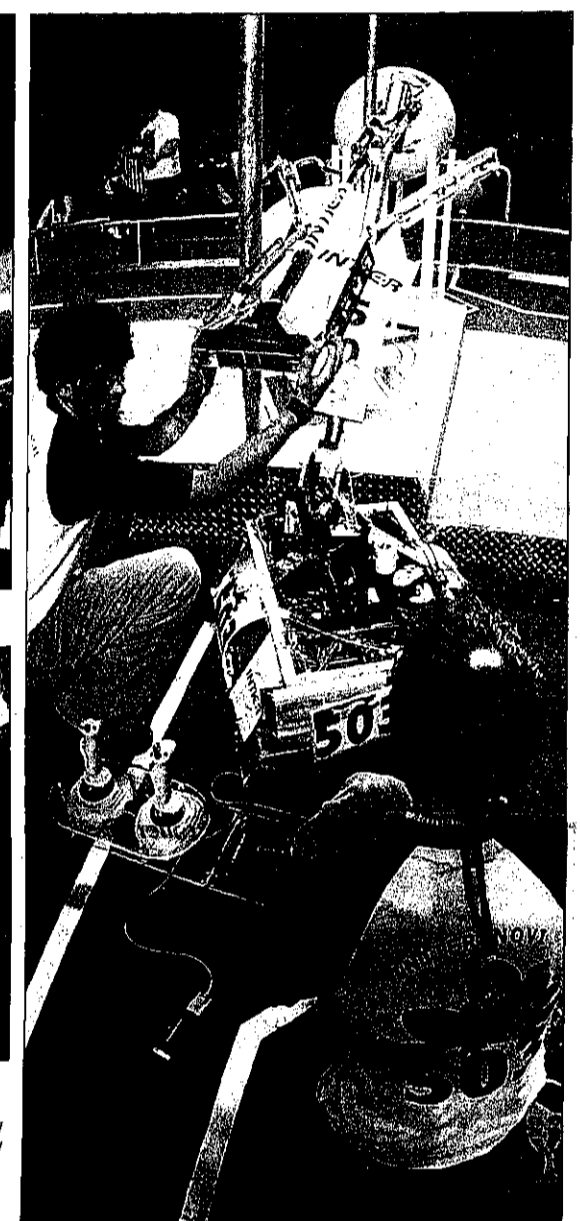
This year's robot was supposed to be able to accomplish four different functions during the competition, to move on its own; to either grab a ball or knock a ball down; to work with humans by feeding balls to them and at the end of it all; to hang itself from a suspended bar in the center of the playing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

In addition to taking second, the team also won The Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award, which celebrates the Entrepreneurial Spirit. This award recognizes a team, which since its inception has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan in order to scope, manage, and obtain team objectives. Frog Force displays entrepreneurial enthusiasm and the vital business skills for a self-sustaining program. The Frog Force Team is sponsored by Inter Automotive.

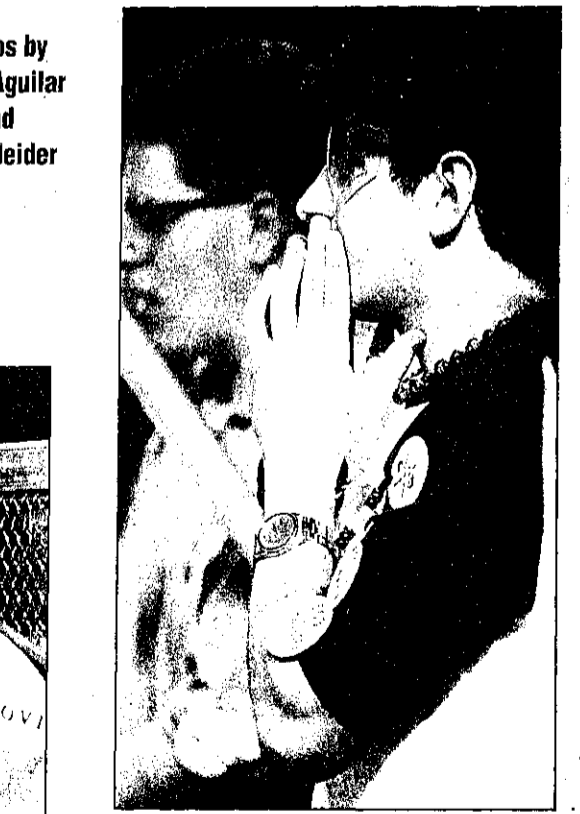
Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or at [rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net).



Travis Rozek and Sudeep Rohatgi contemplate their moves.



Above, AJ Franchi (left) and Joey Belter prepare Novi's robot.



Above, AJ Franchi holds his breath as Novi's robot goes through its maneuvers.



Right, John Singler, co-coach (left), and Joey Belter give their team's robot the once-over.

Photos by David Aguilar and John Heider

Left, Doug Lambert works on the master drive link on his team's robot "Frog Force."



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**12th Annual Spring Boating Expo**  
DATE: March 18-21  
TIME: Thurs., Fri., 2-9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
DETAILS: More than 150 exhibitors under one roof, showing boats for slump, fishing, cruising, personal watercraft, electronics, accessories, dockage, canvas, docks, boats and much, much more. Adults \$8, children under 12 free with adult.  
PHONE: (800) 224-3068, or visit [www.springboatingexpo.net](http://www.springboatingexpo.net)

**Kathy Crawford Retirement Celebration**  
DATE: Friday, March 19  
TIME: 5-10 p.m.  
LOCATION: Central Park Estates Clubhouse east side of Beek Road, between 11 Mile and Grand River  
DETAILS: Hosts of dozens and drinks will be served at this party honoring the many years of life work Kathy Crawford has put in at the City of Novi's Senior Center.  
PHONE: Kathy Johnson at (248) 449-5888 or Kathy5888@aol.com

**Jazz Pianist Eric Reed**  
DATE: Saturday, March 20  
TIME: 7-10 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Wycom Road and 11 Mile Road  
DETAILS: Former pianist with the Wynton Marsalis Septet will play a fund-raising concert for Novi Coalition that cares. Tickets are \$20-\$30 for students.  
PHONE: (248) 449-1206 or visit [www.concertsforcanca.com](http://www.concertsforcanca.com)

**Faith Community Presbyterian Church**  
DATE: Sunday, March 21  
LOCATION: 4440 West 10 Mile, Novi  
DETAILS: Dr. Rev. Henderson will be presenting a commentary on the Passion of the Christ film.

**Democrats of West Oakland County Meeting**  
DATE: Tuesday, March 23  
TIME: pizza social, 6 p.m.; business, 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Mama Mia's Restaurant in Wallied Lake on South Commerce Rd., 1 block north of Pontiac Trail.  
DETAILS: The speaker will be David Green, MD, from the Michigan Universal Health Care

Alliance who will speak on the topic: "Robbing You of Your Medicare Benefits." Guests welcome.

**Running a Campaign**  
DATE: Saturday, March 27  
TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Rd., between Orchard Lake and Farmington Roads.  
DETAILS: "Money, Organization & Media" will help candidates for local office learn what it takes to organize a successful campaign. People who plan to work on such campaigns are also welcome.  
PHONE: Visit [www.livestoncalendar.com](http://www.livestoncalendar.com) or call the League of Women Voters office at (248) 647-1350 to obtain a brochure and registration form.

**Educator Appreciation Weekend**  
DATE: Friday, March 26-Sunday, March 28  
LOCATION: Borders Novis, 430745 Crescent Blvd., Novi Town Center  
DETAILS: The store will offer educators a 25% discount on regularly priced items, including items not included for classroom use. On the designated weekend, teachers, librarians, principals, home educators and other educators can stop by their local Borders to enjoy special discounts on thousands of books, CDs and videos/DVDs to use in their classrooms or for personal enjoyment. Borders will also treat them to free coffee and tea and a 40% discount on food and beverage items from Cafe Borders during the weekend.  
PHONE: (248) 347-4643

**Mid-Michigan Cat Fanciers AFriscios "March Madness Cat Show"**  
DATE: Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
DETAILS: Adult \$5, Senior \$4.50, Youth \$3.50. Proceeds support Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society, the Michigan Humane Society, and The Morris Animal Foundation.  
PHONE: (734) 654-2302 or [www.midmichigancatfanciers.com](http://www.midmichigancatfanciers.com)

**Oakland County Office of Emergency Response and Preparedness "Skywarn" Classes**  
DATES: March 27, April 6, April 7, April 15 and 21  
TIME: Varies according to dates.  
DETAILS: Skywarn is an effort

to save lives during severe weather emergencies by expanding networks of spotters and by encouraging the widest possible participation in tornado warning programs. One class, with both basic and advanced materials is offered. Public invited to attend. Limited space available.  
PHONE: Call (248) 858-530 to register.

**Friends of Marbury meeting**  
DATE: Thursday, April 1  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Northville Public Library  
DETAILS: Discussion of upcoming events.  
PHONE: (248) 348-2687

**Rose Workshop/Roses-West Rose Society**  
DATE: Thursday, April 1  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Community Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi.  
DETAILS: Pruning, fertilizers, sprays, Top American Rose Society members will demonstrate and answer your rose questions. Handouts and social hour.  
PHONE: Call 248-449-4626 for info.

**Comic Storytelling**  
DATE: Friday, April 16  
TIME: 11 a.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Center Center, Meadowbrook Rd., Novi  
DETAILS: Master Kyuraku is from Tokyo, Japan. He is a master of his performance will be interpreted by [suzukimay.com](http://www.suzukimay.com) of Novi. While his language is Japanese, his gestures are easy for anyone to recognize. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a look at this popular form of story-telling outside of Japan. Admission is free.  
PHONE: For further information and reservations, contact Rachel Zagardi, Senior Recreation coordinator at the Novi Senior Center (248) 347-4403, [zagardi@ci.novimi.michigan.us](mailto:zagardi@ci.novimi.michigan.us) before 4/12.

**Novi Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Charity Auction**  
DATE: Saturday, April 24  
LOCATION: Hotel Baronette, Novi  
DETAILS: Partial proceeds from this year's auction will benefit "Sweet Dreams, Detroit." The organization provides bedtime essentials for a good night's rest to grade school children in need throughout Southeastern Michigan.

**March City of Novi meetings**  
18 Historical Commission Civic Center 10 a.m.  
18 Ordinance Review Committee Council Chambers 6 p.m.  
24 Planning Commission Council Chambers 7:30 p.m.

**Career Opportunity Forum**  
DATE: Tuesday, April 27  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.; hrs of Deservees and wine 6:7:30, presentation and refreshments 7:30-8:30.  
LOCATION: Thriver Financial for Latherans and its Eastern Great Lake Region Regional Financial Office (RFO) at 39500 High Pointe Blvd., Suite 300, Novi  
DETAILS: Forum is targeted at women looking for a new avenue to develop compassion and learn the value of helping others while they are working for a good cause.  
PHONE: (800) 456-5413.

**40-Day Lenten Journey**  
DATES: Begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 following the 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service. Welcome and brief orientation meeting at 8:30 p.m., Oasis Meetings through Lent on Tuesdays 7:45 p.m. - 9 p.m. or Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.  
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, (between Beck and Tall Roads).  
DETAILS: The Purpose Driven Life, book by Rick Warren. Requires 40 day commitment to reading a brief chapter each day and applying the lessons learned. Call to reserve your spot and preferred meeting time and we'll hold a copy of the book for you.  
PHONE: (248) 349-1175 or visit us on the web at [www.churchofholycross.com](http://www.churchofholycross.com) or e-mail to [holycrossnovi@hotmail.com](mailto:holycrossnovi@hotmail.com)

**Acoustic music jam session**  
DATE: the second Wednesday of each month  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Mill Race: Historic Village, Cady Inn, just north of Main Street on Griswold in Northville.  
DETAILS: Bring your traditional acoustic instrument and music to play.  
For more information, contact Mary or Eric at (248) 760-9694 or [MaryH@winwin.com](mailto:MaryH@winwin.com)

**Worship service**  
DATE: every Wednesday  
TIME: 12:10-12:50 p.m.  
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 W. Ten Mile Road (between Beck and Tall Roads), Novi  
DETAILS: Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes

**Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission SWOCC special meeting notice**  
DATE: Wednesday, April 28  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

**ON-GOING**  
**SWOCC Studio Tours**  
DATE: On-going  
LOCATION: 33309 Nine Mile Road, Farmington  
DETAILS: Have you wondered what goes on behind the scenes a television studio? Why not come in for an up close and personal look at SWOCC Studios, your local community television station. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.  
PHONE: Melissa Cohn at (248) 473-2840 to schedule your group.

**Oil Painting/Scapure Show, "Escape to Tranquility" by artist Theresa Lannan**  
DATE: through April 9  
TIME: 5-7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Nancy A. Fine Art Gallery, Assarian Cancer Center, Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.  
DETAILS: Free, gallery hours, Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
PHONE: (248) 465-5455

**Lekemia & Lymphoma Society's Peniles for Patients program**  
DATES: now through April 10

**Free Blood pressure screening**  
DATES: every Monday  
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
DETAILS: This service will be available until Jan. 31.  
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375  
PHONE: (248) 477-2000

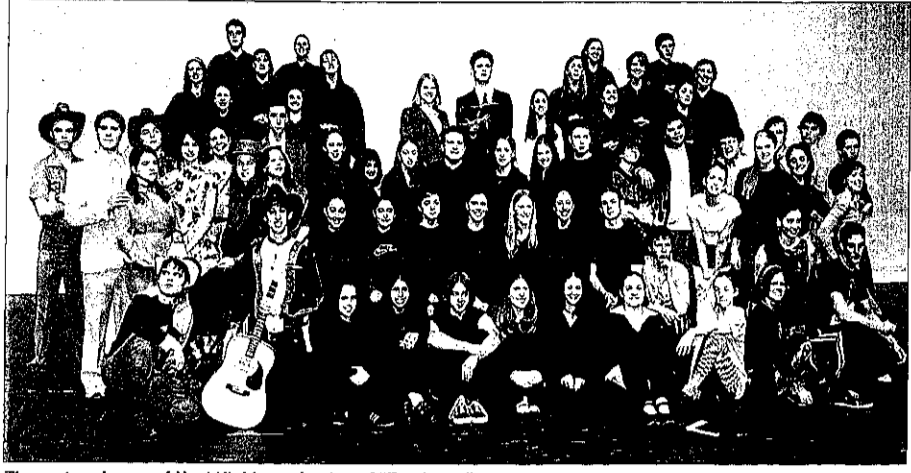
**Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics**  
DETAILS: Free wellness check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.  
PHONE: Oakland County Health Division, Mary White, Program Coordinator, Child Health Clinics, (248) 858-1380.

**Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"**  
DATE: every Tuesday night  
TIME: 5-8 p.m.  
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi.  
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes brought to you by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Aug. 26 - Modern Japanese Calligraphy, Ceramics. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).  
PHONE: (248) 465-5483.

**Women's Prayer Support**  
DATE: every Saturday  
TIME: 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (Parking is behind the church)  
DETAILS: You are welcome to come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.  
PHONE: Nancy & Susan (248) 926-8332 or by e-mail at [harvestfellowship@comcast.net](mailto:harvestfellowship@comcast.net)

**Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167, fax to (248) 349-9832, or e-mail to [calstone@ht.honcom.net](mailto:calstone@ht.honcom.net).**

# Kick off your Sunday shoes at 'Footloose'



The cast and crew of Novi High's production of "Footloose".

## Novi High's production opens next week

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

It's almost time to let your hair down, kick off your Sunday shoes and just dance! Novi High School's rendition of the 1984 hit movie "Footloose" opens next Thursday and everyone involved, from the directors, to the cast and crew, are very excited to present it to the public. In fact, unlike recent years, one of the goals for this musical is to have the audience singing along and dancing with the performers.

Every year, Director and Choreographer Kristen Robb tries to choose a different genre of music for her students to perform. Last year it was "West Side Story," which was a heavy, deep drama, with a few main lead parts. Two or three kids got to sing and the chorus was barely in. Robb this year's musical, however, she was looking for a contrast to the previous year. That way the community could enjoy a wide variety of musical genres and the kids, especially, have the opportunity to play different parts and understand characters of the different musical genres.

"It's a fun, more contemporary musical in contrast to last year," Robb said. "I also chose this musical because it involves a lot of kids. There are a lot of fun characters. There are about seven girls who sing solos or small duet parts. Same with the boys. It's fun and uplifting, compared to last year's."

One thing that has been different this year from last year was the amount of time the students had to rehearse. It's been pretty tight this year because they have lost a lot of their Saturday rehearsals due to scheduling conflicts in the auditorium. In order to adjust, the kids just had to lengthen their rehearsals during the week.

"The kids have been doing great jobs, they're very energetic and they have to be because this is a very energetic and uplifting show," Robb said. "It's physically stressful for them because there is a lot of dancing and a lot of these kids are classically trained vocally and the vocals in this show are concert pop, rock style music. It was difficult for a lot of them to get out of that classical sound and get a more pop sound in their voice. Just recently they have come around and are really enjoying it."

**Deja vu?**  
If some people in the community are experiencing deja vu right now, there is a good reason. Northville High School performed the same musical a couple weeks ago, but rest assured - Robb insists that Novi's version is just as good and also quite different. She said that it was just a coincidence that Northville High did "Footloose" as well.

"I did not know that they were doing it and I don't think they knew that we were doing it," Robb said. "If we would have known ahead of time I probably wouldn't have chosen that show. Novi and Northville are tight communities and I think in the future we might do better planning and communicating with each other so the community will have more of a variety of shows to participate in."

Robb explained that there were some differences in the two musicals. "We made our show PG rated and they kept in a lot of the adult language," Robb said. "I left a lot of that out."

Lauren Lopez plays the part of Ariel Moore, one of the lead characters in the movie. "Our play has a lot more dancing than Northville's did and a lot of the character interpretations are different in our show," she said.

**The story**  
According to Robb, "Footloose" is a sturdy tale of teenage rebellion and the struggle to overcome well-intentioned but misguided oppression. This basic premise is juxtaposed with the theme of coming to terms with loss - a boy's loss of his father and a man's loss of his son. She said that the dancing is every bit as electric as it was in the film, but even more energetic on stage, as it is an integral part of the basic story-telling formula. The production takes the film's core of material and transforms it, creating a theatrical presentation which is familiar and, at the same time, brand new.

"The musical Footloose captured the heart of America and made it beat to the music of its soundtrack," Robb said. "Popular 1980s songs, 'Let's Hear It For The Boy,' 'Holding Out For A Hero,' 'Almost Paradise,' and the title song, 'Footloose' by Kenny Loggins, keeps the audience toes tapping."

Robb explained that budgeting for the musical comes from community involvement in purchasing program ads and donations for set supplies, paint, wood, lighting and from ticket sales. The musical's supplies are not funded by the school.

"This is an uplifting story of hope and dreams and trust," Robb said. "It includes all of these nice values and morals, believing in yourself and going for your dreams. I want to give a big thanks for the wonderful support of our parent volunteers. Their tireless effort and involvement in the production process has been greatly appreciated."

**Their roles**  
Lopez described her role as the daughter of the reverend of the town.

"My father, Reverend Shaw, is kind of runs the town because they don't have a solid government, so he makes the laws and

as his daughter, kind of rebel against him because he never pays attention to me," she said. "He is kind of a harsh man because his son has died before the show takes place. He misses his son and because of that he outlawed dancing. Ariel meets Ren and she's really interested in his ways because he's a bad boy."

Andrew Camilleri, who plays the role of Ren McCormack, explained the plot further. "Ren is a guy who came from Chicago and he's kind of an accent to everyone else who's in the city of Beaumont, where he goes to," he said. "The city has a law against dancing and he starts dancing because he doesn't know that there is a law against it. He gets confronted by people and there is a lot of problems with him and a lot of other people in town. He converts the town to dancing by the end and the whole reason why dancing was banned was because Bobby, who's Ariel's brother, and his friends were out partying one night and were dancing before he died."

**DETAILS**

**STUDENT DIRECTORS**  
Karen Miller - Student Director  
Alison Davies - Stage Manager  
Teresa Azevedo - House Manager  
Jason Margolis - Lighting Head  
John Henry III - Head Crew  
Megan Steele - Head Crew  
Chelsea Thorpe - Head Crew

**DANCE CAPTAINS**  
Samantha Perry  
Janine Waranowicz  
Carrie Burnett

**VOCAL CAPTAIN**  
Christina Thompson

**PRODUCTION STAFF**  
Samantha Perry - Director/Choreographer  
Don Daniels - Director/Producer  
Heather McKalg - Director of Drama  
Mark Hourigan - Band Director  
Norm Norgren - Technical Director  
Rick Wahlstrom - Set Director

**TICKETS**  
Opening night is Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. The show runs on March 26 and 27, also at 7 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Call (248) 449-1500.



Piano players Chris Renaldwicz and Christina Lis are part of the band that will accompany Novi High's production of Footloose on March 25-27.



Lauren Lopez, left, portraying "Ariel," sings along with the musical's choir during a Friday afternoon rehearsal.



Novi High School student Gordon Bowdell portrays "Willard."

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**Wednesday, March 24  
4 to 7 pm**

- Resumes will be accepted
- No charge for admission
- Open to the public

For more information call 734-462-4421

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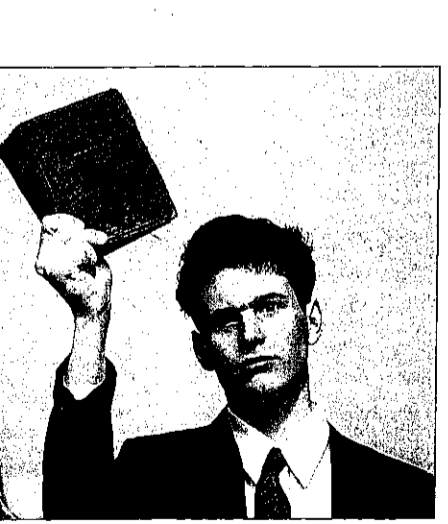
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-Detroit Free Press



"Footloose" director Heather McKalg, front, and Don Daniels (choir director) look at their Novi High troupe during a Friday afternoon run-through.

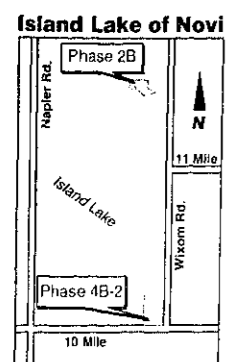


Bryan Dechart portrays "Rev. Shaw."

**Photos by John Heider**







SOURCE: News-Press/Dept

## Residents protest proposed condos

continued from front page

opinions on the property in question.

The city has since instituted a cross-checking system in which planners will compare Oakland County records with the City Assessor records.

Residents in the Vineyards section of Island Lake of Novi hired Novi attorney Matthew Quinn to represent them in the matter. They contend that Toll Brothers told them that nothing would be built on the property behind them, and that they paid a premium price for lots that overlook woodslands and wetlands. The homeowners do not want to look at condominiums behind their properties.

"We think we've arrived at a win-win situation for both the residents and Toll Brothers," Quinn said at the March 10 public hearing.

"We're working with the homeowners now to come up with a solution," said Jason Rickard of Toll Brothers.

This change in the Residential Unit Development for Island Lake of Novi will first have to be approved by city council before the condos are moved to Phase 4B in the southeastern part of the development.

Quinn noted that the city originally rejected a plan for 41 condominiums to be built on this southeastern portion. Instead, 19 single family homes were planned for this area.

THE ADDITIONAL 22 UNITS TO THIS area would increase the total of 41 condos in this southeast portion of Island Lake of Novi. The overall development totals 597 acres.

Toll Brothers is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 491-1701, ext. 105, or by e-mail at tffenton@tlh.com.com.net

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# Area braces for onslaught of road projects

continued from front page

Road between Novi Road and Center, the result of a bad patch of some surface mix a couple of years ago.

"We plan to mill off the asphalt and get it replaced," said director of Wayne County roads Patrick Hogan. The agency starts its repair program in early May, he said, so a date for the work will be set between now and then.

## Eight Mile/Haggerty Project

A couple of miles east on Eight Mile, Wayne County Road Commission crews will help address some of the congestion at Eight Mile and Haggerty by reworking the south side of the road. Northville Township's busiest intersection is the challenge of department manager Hal Brink, who will oversee the April through September project.

high volume traffic area," he said. "But it's not anytime we haven't encountered in the past."

Last fall, in order to encourage the improvement plan's first course of asphalt poured on Haggerty, the project will resume mid-April with some additional resurfacing south of Eight Mile, with the bulk of the project on the east-west frontage.

On the south side of Eight Mile from Haggerty east, just past Hickory Lane beyond the overpass, crews will widen the road, resurface it all as well as reconstruct under the bridge. To assist drivers exiting I-75 onto Eight Mile, they will install new signals for the first time on the southbound side and reconstruct the expressway ramps.

"When it's done, it's going to be a lot easier," Brink said. "It's going to be a lot easier to get through. Drivers will be able to follow the curb easily to go east on Eight Mile, motorists exiting the southbound ramp will not feel like they have to weave to make it before eastward traffic."

## Beck Road Project

Wayne County's Beck Road widening project, currently between Five Mile and Six Mile roads, continues last summer's construction. The Michigan Department of Transportation project, which is scheduled to start in mid-July, will be a four-lane concrete boulevard, welcoming Northville Township motorists with a new median.

"Much of the work in this project is to reconstruct the Beck Road from M-14 to Five Mile is scheduled as final phase of project."

"We have to come back and adjust the catch basins up an inch and a half and put another lift of asphalt on," Wolbrock said. "That work will require only temporary lane closures."

## I-96 and Beck Road Interchange

On the other end of Beck Road, Novi engineer Nancy McClain is a six-page memo outlining for the administration the road closure and detour information related to the I-96 interchange project. The \$45 million Michigan Department of Transportation project, divided into five stages through November 2005, is scheduled to begin May 17.

Starting in mid-July, and continuing through August 2005, Beck Road between Grand River Avenue and 12 Mile Road will be closed to through traffic. The signal detour routing for the north and southbound Beck Road traffic will be to use the Wisnom Road bridge over I-96 via Grand River Avenue, West Road, and West Park Drive, McClain said. Novi Road will not be signed as a detour, she added, but remains an option.

As with road construction projects last summer, the city will use several methods to update residents on project progress, McClain said. The engineer suggested watching the city's Web site, www.ci.novi.mi.us, and cable channel 13. She also invited residents to call (248) 347-0460 to request to be included on e-mail lists.

continued on next page

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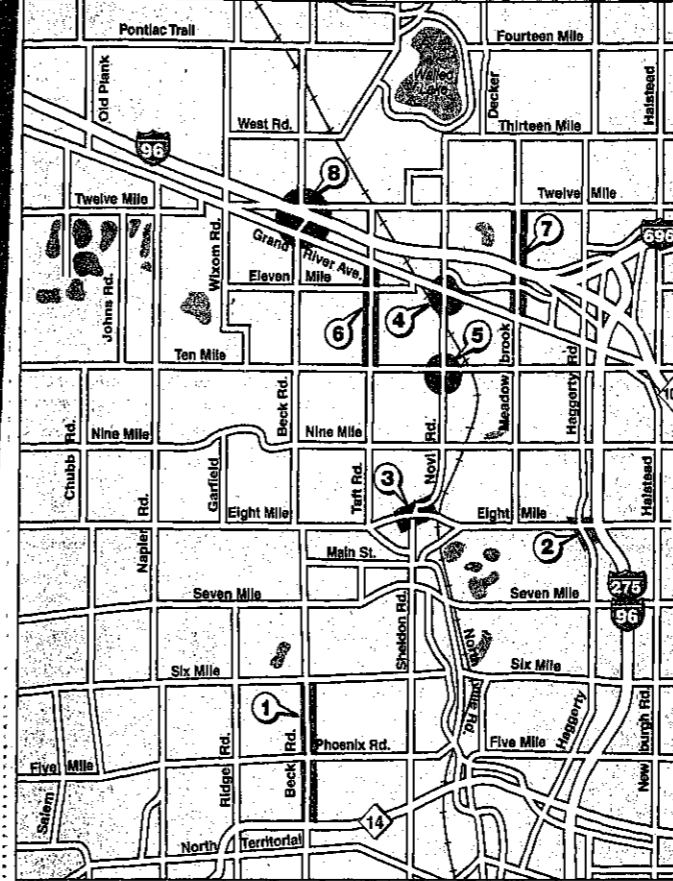
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## Ready for Road Work

SOURCES: Wayne and Oakland County road commissions, Northville Township, City of Novi departments of public works



- 1. Beck Road Project**  
Location: Five Mile to Six Mile  
Scope: Construction of four-lane concrete boulevard  
Estimated timeline: March through July  
Project cost: \$3.7 million (for 2003 and 2004 road work M-14 to Six Mile)  
Related projects: Five Mile/Beck intersection scheduled for subsequent 5-6 weeks; Final surfacing of Beck Road/M-14 to Five Mile scheduled as final phase of project.  
Note: Traffic restricted to one lane, northbound only, through May.
- 2. Eight Mile/Haggerty Project**  
Location: South side of Eight Mile from Haggerty east to Hickory Lane (beyond the overpass)  
Scope: resurfacing; widening Eight Mile, total reconstruction under the bridge, new signals, reconfiguration of expressway ramp  
Estimated timeline: mid-April through September  
Project cost: \$1.4 million  
Concurrent project: resurfacing of Haggerty Road, just south of Eight Mile, addition of sidewalk.
- 3. Eight Mile/Novi Road Project**  
Location: Eight Mile Road west toward Center Street  
Scope: Milling and resurfacing  
Estimated timeline: Date this summer yet to be determined.
- 4. Novi Road/Grand River Project**  
Location: Grand River to 10 Mile Road  
Scope: Reconstruction and lane widening  
Estimated timeline: June into November  
Project cost: \$2 million
- 5. Novi Road/10 Mile Project**  
Location: All four approaches to intersection  
Scope: Widen approaches by adding lanes  
Estimated timeline: July through August for utility and underground work  
Project cost: \$2 million  
Note: If conditions allow, road rebuilding and widening will follow the initial phase, then continue through November. Eventual widening of Novi road to five lanes from 10 Mile to Grand River—the "Novi Road Link"—is scheduled for completion in 2005.
- 6. Taft Road Project**  
Location: Grand River to 10 Mile Road  
Scope: Repaving, minor drainage work  
Estimated timeline: June through August 2004  
Project cost: Approximately \$1.6 million
- 7. Meadowbrook Road Project**  
Location: Grand River Avenue to Twelve Mile Road  
Scope: Reconstructing and widening  
Estimated timeline: July through December 2004  
Project cost: Approximately \$1.6 million
- 8. I-96 and Beck Road Interchange**  
Location: Beck Road at 12 Mile and I-96  
Scope: Complete reconstruction of the interchange  
Estimated timeline: May 2004 through November 2005  
Project cost: \$45 million  
Note: Beginning in mid-July, and continuing through August 2005, Beck Road between Grand River Avenue and 12 Mile Road will be closed to through traffic.

# Road work: Area braces for onslaught of projects

continued from page 20

and fax lists. Before construction begins on the major road projects, the city will host informational meetings, McClain said. "We'll be keeping as much information out there as we possibly can."

Novi voters through part of their 2000 road bond chipped in a \$2 million toward the Beck Road interchange project. The city will pay for Meadowbrook and Taft projects as part of the capital improvement program funded by gas-tax money through the state, McClain explained.

A combination of sources pay for the Northville and Novi Road intersection improvements described above and below, including 80 percent federal funding, and a split between the respective county and municipality on the remaining 20 percent.

## Novi Road/Grand River and 10 Mile

Motorists will pause for construction a couple of times along Novi Road this summer. The Road Commission of Oakland County is planning reconstruction and lane widening of all four approaches where Novi Road meets Grand River. "It will go out to bid in May, at least that's the plan at the present," said Craig Bryson, the road commission's

public information officer. "Construction usually begins a month after the bid letting."

County staff still is finalizing traffic management plans for the \$2 million project, Bryson said. "We're not sure yet if it's going to close—we'll know that as we get closer to the start date. There will not be a detour unless we close the road."

Further down Novi Road at 10 Mile, the county will widen the approaches from three to five lanes. However, work in July and August likely will be limited to utility and underground work, Bryson said.

## Taft Road Project

City engineer Nancy McClain is trying to time her entrance and exit on Taft Road between school buses. By bidding the repaving between 10 Mile and Grand River by the end of April, contractors could start by the beginning of June, she estimated. "I'd really like to be out of the

way by the time school starts again," McClain said. Taft will not close during the \$970,000 repaving project, she said. However, she will urge through traffic to detour.

"If you need to go to the schools, if you need to go to the subdivisions, there will always be access in there," she said. There likely will be flag personnel, and part of the road may be closed for part of one day. "For all intents and purposes, there will be traffic both ways," McClain said.

"It won't have as severe an impact as Meadowbrook will," the engineer said. "It won't be as intense of project or as long in duration."

## Meadowbrook Road Project

The city is reconstructing and widening all of Meadowbrook Road to three lanes from Grand River to 12 Mile Road this summer. Once completed, the southern part of the street will be as wide as the northern stretch, Novi's McClain explained. Design of the approximate \$1.6 million project is scheduled for completion in May, with bidding to follow in June, McClain said. Construction should be substantially complete by December. There will be some road closures during the construction, so detour signs will direct motorists to follow from Grand River or

from 12 Mile to Haggerty or Novi roads.

"We may be doing it in phases—north of I-96, south of I-96, just to make it easier," McClain said. "We'll have information about that scheduling in about a month and a half."

The city will host kick-off informational meetings before the project's start so business owners and residents know what to expect, McClain said. "What we'll be doing continuing through the construction is holding at least monthly meetings on them."

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B-1

## Quick Hits

### Alberty takes fourth in state

Chris Alberty, a sophomore, made it very clear that though he may not have been the biggest name in diving when he arrived at U of M for the state championships, he planned on becoming one in the near future.

The sophomore Wildcat diver earned himself an applaud-worthy 353.1 points in the state finals March 12 and 13. The results? A fourth-place finish in the state and All-State honors.

Alberty, who was just one of 17 Wildcats on the swimming and diving team this year, finished behind Tyler Fick of Bay City Western (437.55 points), Ryan Kish of Rockford (394.40) and Kyle Overway of Zeeland (354.60). Both Fick and Kish are seniors, while Overway and Alberty look to have some promising future diving competitions as both are just sophomores.

### A farewell to Amy Denys, Novi cheerleading coach

Novi cheerleading coach Amy Denys will be hanging up the clipboard in the coming weeks.

Denys, who is one of two coaches along with Emily Parker this year, will be missed not only by her squad but by this paper as well. Cheerleading is a tough sell at times, but Denys has made strides to show just why the athletes who take up the sport deserve to be in these pages just like any other.

Denys ended her cheer coaching on a high note, taking her squad to the state championships and finishing 10th to prove that her squad is one of the best in the state of Michigan (see page B3 for results).

We would like to wish Denys the best in her future endeavors and hope that if she decides to come back into the coaching world that she'll do so with the Wildcats of Novi.

### Volleyball falls in first-ever Regional tourney appearance

The Novi volleyball team made the trip to Regionals but found themselves coming up against the eventual tournament champions, Birmingham Groves. Groves, which won in two games, seemed to just have the ball fall for it throughout the day.

The Wildcats had some impressive performances but could only watch as their strong season came to an end.

— See page B3 for results

## GAME OF THE WEEK



### Post Season Tournaments

### Great runs in post-season!

If there's one thing sports writer Sam Eggleston has been blessed with, it has been great runs in the playoffs.

— Page B2

NOVI NEWS

hometowillife.com

Thursday, March 18, 2004

# Sixth in the state: Wild 'Stangs rank up with the best

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team knew going into the state finals that they would have to put up some of their best performances if they hoped to rank with the best of the best — and that's just what they did.

The gymnastics team, which is coached by Lindsay Schultz, took sixth in the state of Michigan

behind some of the best teams that have come out of the sport in recent memory. Earning a first-place finish was Farmington, which netted 150.175 points to upend reigning champion Rochester Adams' 146.95. In third place was Livonia, which earned 146.325 points from the judges, while Brighton took fourth with 144.62 and Portage took fifth with 144.05. Novi-Northville's points tallied up to 143.6. The event was held at Plymouth High School for both the team competition held March 12, and the individual competition March 13.

With the strictest judging that they have faced all year, the Wild 'Stangs were prepared to see slightly lower scores than during the regular season — but no one could tell by looking at the score sheets the judges filled out.

On the bars, the squad earned their best performance from one of the youngest members on the team, Sarah Ikhani-Pour. She collected a 9.175 while Maggie Mills earned a 9.025 and Julie Foucher took an 8.7. Rounding out the scoring were Janna Ramsey, 8.55, and Amanda Perelli, 8.325.

The beam, which has proven to be one of the stronger events for Novi-Northville this season, had a different leader emerging in Maggie Mills. She earned an 8.85 while Jenn Mehl scored an 8.725 and Rachel Deneau notched an 8.7. Scoring an 8.625 was Julie Foucher and Trish Brownfield recorded an 8.3 in the event.

The typically highest-scoring event in gymnastics, the floor routine, didn't disappoint the fans who came to Plymouth High School to watch the extremely competitive event. Novi-Northville was led by Mills, who earned a 9.4 while Deneau scored a 9.3 and Foucher collected a 9.0. Brownfield wasn't far behind her teammates, recording an 8.95 while Ramsey rounded out the scores with an 8.35.

The vault showed itself to be another strong event for the Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team. This time it was Foucher who stepped up to lead the herd with a 9.425 while Perelli recorded a 9.125 and Jacqueline Gazette collected a 9.1. Scoring 8.8s were Jessica Glancy and Marcie Fink.



Wild 'Stang gymnast Rachel Deneau goes head-over-heels at last Friday's competition at Plymouth High.

Photo by John Felder

### DIVISION I INDIVIDUAL FINALS

VAULT		
Name	Team	Score
1 Gwen McConkie	Troy Athens	9.800
2 S. MacDonald	Adams	9.600
3 Alyssa Kelly	Canton	9.525
4 Danielle Inman	Freeland	9.500
5 Christy Keller	Forest Hills	9.475
6 Megan Simon	Grand Ledge	9.450
6 Cynthia Hughes	Portage	9.450
8 Nichole Drouillard	Brighton	9.400
9 Shannon Jodoin	Farmington	9.375
9 Jessica Nieman	Freeland	9.375
11 Kyla Krygler	Traverse City	9.300
11 Stephanie Novak	Tecumseh	9.300
13 Heather Smith	Mona Shores	9.275
14 Sarah Tomkovich	Farmington	9.175
15 Martina Tolkov	Saline	9.150
15 Andrea Pisanl	Livonia	9.150
15 Emma Platt	Northville	9.150

UNEVEN BARS		
Name	Team	Score
1 Megan Simon	Grand Ledge	9.800
2 S. MacDonald	Adams	9.725
3 Kyla Krygler	Traverse City	9.575
4 Martina Tolkov	Saline	9.550
5 Cynthia Hughes	Portage	9.425
6 Gwen McConkie	Troy Athens	9.350
6 Megan Chappo	Canton	9.350
8 Sarah Tomkovich	Farmington	9.325
9 Kelly Patrick	Farmington	9.300
10 Alyssa Kelly	Canton	9.275
10 Heather Schaffler	Troy Athens	9.275

BALANCE BEAM		
Name	Team	Score
1 Megan Simon	Grand Ledge	9.625
2 Sarah Houchins	Farmington	9.525
3 Kyla Krygler	Traverse City	9.375
4 Martina Tolkov	Saline	9.300
5 Christy Keller	Forest Hills	9.200
6 S. MacDonald	Adams	9.150
7 Cynthia Hughes	Portage	9.125
7 Katherine Brown	A.A. Huron	9.125
9 Gwen McConkie	Troy Athens	9.075
10 Danielle Inman	Freeland	9.050

FLOOR EXERCISE		
Name	Team	Score
1 Cynthia Hughes	Portage	9.700
2 S. MacDonald	Adams	9.675
3 Shannon Jodoin	Farmington	9.625
4 Kyla Krygler	Traverse City	9.600
4 Sarah Houchins	Farmington	9.600
6 Megan Simon	Grand Ledge	9.575
7 Christy Keller	Forest Hills	9.550
7 Nichole Drouillard	Brighton	9.550
9 Martina Tolkov	Saline	9.525
10 Alyssa Kelly	Canton	9.450

ALL AROUND		
Name	Team	Score
1 Megan Simon	Grand Ledge	38.450
2 S. MacDonald	Adams	38.150
3 Kyla Krygler	Traverse City	37.850
4 Cynthia Hughes	Portage	37.700
5 Martina Tolkov	Saline	37.525
6 Gwen McConkie	Troy Athens	37.500
7 Shannon Jodoin	Farmington	37.025
8 Sarah Houchins	Farmington	36.950
9 Christy Keller	Forest Hills	36.925
10 Alyssa Kelly	Canton	36.775

# DISTRICT CHAMPS, AGAIN!

By Matt Slimch  
SPECIAL WRITER

## Wildcats edge Mustangs in double overtime

Friday night the Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats basketball teams battled for the District title in front of a capacity crowd. The teams played on neutral ground at Salem High School but the stands were packed with fans wearing black and orange on one side of the hard court and green and white on the other. This game was not just another

skirmish between cross-town rivals. One team would head home while the other would advance to the next level in the playoffs. It took two overtime periods for the match to be settled. The Novi Wildcats took home the trophy, beating the Mustang 68-63.

"It is always fun to play Novi," said Mustang Chris Oakland. "They are a great team and unfortunately the ball

didn't bounce our way at the end of the game."

### How They Got There

The two teams had to fight their way through games on both Monday and Wednesday night to make it to the final round.

The Mustangs started their week of District play facing off against the Salem Rocks on

their home court. What some thought would be a quick victory turned out to be a long, grueling game. The Mustangs hung in there and won the game with a last minute free throw by Tim Singleton. The score was 30-29. Mark Sorenson, Marcus Davis and Brett Asher had six points each. Sorenson also grabbed three steals and Singleton had a great blocked shot.

Meanwhile, things were heating up between the Wildcats and the Churchill Chargers. It was neck-and-neck the whole way but the Wildcats came out on top by a score of 58-55. Brad Simpson was the scoreboard leader with 22 points. This was followed up closely with Anthony Harbin adding 15.

Wednesday night brought looser play to the hard court as

continued on B2

### Kim Zarczynski Senior Volleyball

For a senior to see her season come to an end is never easy, but Zarczynski did it in style. Not only was she a major factor in the great success the squad had this year, but she refused to quit at any point in her team's loss in the Regional Tournament. Zarczynski is a great leader and a great representative of Novi High School spirit and determination.



## Athletes OF THE Week

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### Brad Chandler Senior Basketball

It has to be a great feeling. Chandler, who was instrumental in Novi's run to the Regional last year, made himself comfortable in a 22-point showing in the District final over Northville last week. The victory secured another trip for the point guard to the Regional — and this year he probably won't be satisfied with just getting there.

# Novi edges 'Stangs

continued from B1

The Mustangs went up against the South Lyon Lions. This game, thought to be one of the toughest match-ups of the tournament, was actually a blowout. Northville was always ahead of the Lions, which led them to a 51-33 victory. Singleton came up with 16 points, followed by Davis with 14 points and Sorenson with 11 points.

Across town, the Wildcats also clawed their way to a victory over the Canton Chiefs, 60-50. Simpson led the score sheets again with 26 points. Brad Chandler also chipped in 14 points for the Wildcats victory. This set the stage for the Novi-Northville championship match at the end of the week.

## Fateful meeting

It seemed like fate that the two teams should meet in the finals. Both the Mustangs and the Wildcats were ready for the classic cross-town battle in this annual war.

The game started with Northville winning the tip-off and immediately scoring, thanks to Davis who received a pass from Singleton. On the next play, Singleton put the ball up for an easy two points. But Novi's Chandler came right back with a three-pointer at the top of the key. That's what much of the quarter was like - back and forth, both teams equally intense. When the buzzer sounded, the score was tied at 13.

In the second quarter neither team lost that intensity. At one point Novi's Trevor Hauser launched up a three-point bomb and Singleton answered right back with another try at the Mustang end of the court. It was dead even. When one team got some momentum going, the other team would soon take it away. Just when it seemed like the half was over, Asher got the last shot off for two points making the score 26-25 Mustang lead.

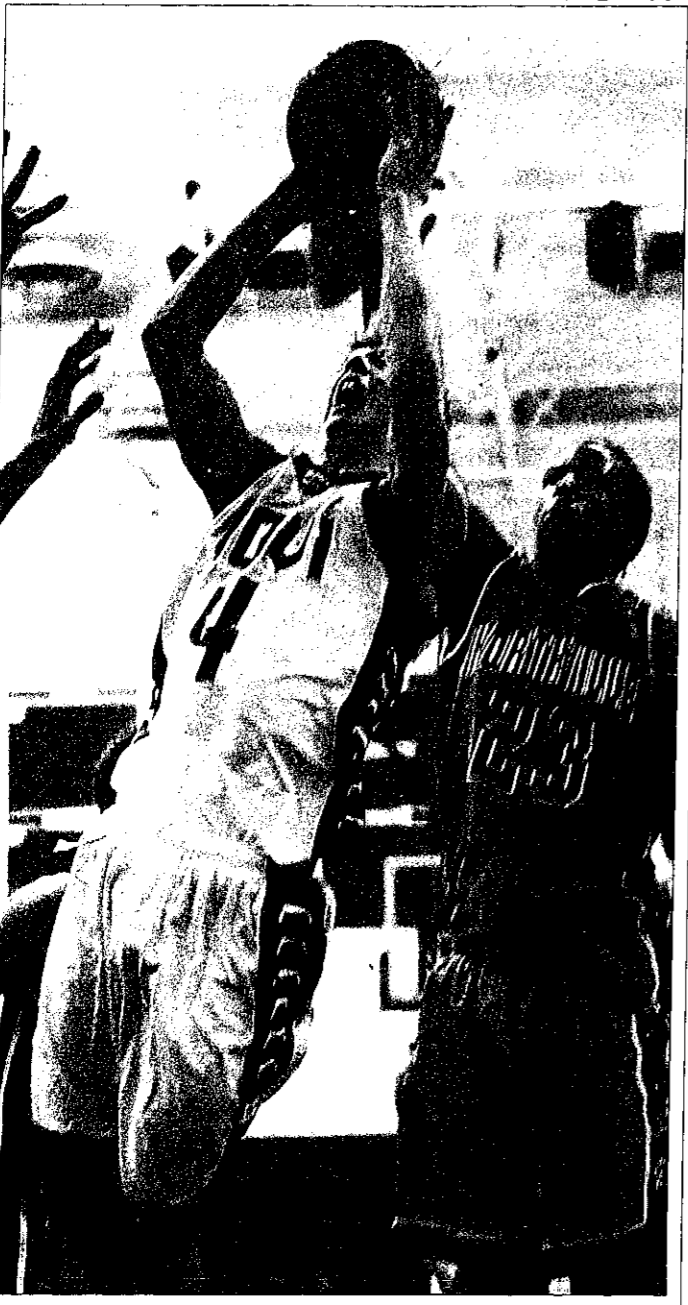
Both teams rested and took the court to start the second half, which would finish in a cliffhanger. The teams were offensively and defensively even. Wildcat Anthony Harbin did a great job of drawing the crowd in as he scored the layup and drew a foul. He sealed the deal with the extra point, giving Novi a three-point lead. But almost instantaneously Sorenson tied things up yet again with another three-pointer at the end of the quarter being the two teams to another tie score of 38-38.

Northville got the energy flowing into the fourth quarter and the Wildcats knew they had to stop them defensively in order to slow down the Mustangs. That's exactly what they did. Novi's defense shut down the 'Stangs. Things didn't seem to be going anywhere until Northville's Davis put in three triples in a row, making the score 51-41 with 4:06 left in the fourth quarter.

Novi took a quick timeout to calm things down and regroup for a new strategy. After the timeout the Wildcats's Harbin sunk two free throws to give the Wildcats the lead 51-53. The Mustang took a timeout and came out very cautiously. They used every second of that minute and waited to strike. And strike they did. Chris Oakland was wide open and tied the game at 53. This match was going into overtime.

## It's Not Over Yet

Overtime started with a tip-off to the Mustangs who were looking to end things. Asher scored a layup, making the score 55-53. Two minutes later Asher scored



As Mustang Marcus Davis tries for a block, Wildcat Trevor Hauser, center, goes up for a basket during last Friday's district finals playoff game at Plymouth Salem.

again. The Mustangs then took another minute off the clock.

But the Wildcats would not give in. After a two free throw basket from Novi's Simpson, making the score 57-55, the Wildcats fouled Davis with six seconds left in the overtime. Davis split the two free throws making it 58-55, Mustang lead.

The Wildcats passed the ball in with five seconds left. Chandler received the inbound pass and dribbled it up to half court... three seconds left. Chandler spotted Hoover in the corner... two seconds. Hoover grabbed the ball with one second and time stood still as he shot the ball in the air. The buzzer sounded and the ball came down with a clean SWISH. The Wildcats had tied the game 58-58. The game was going into double overtime.

"In the first overtime we weren't making our shots," said Wildcat Brad Chandler. "But there were flashes of my whole high school career when Hoover made that last shot."

With renewed confidence, the Wildcats took the court. Harbin gave Novi four points early in the overtime. Chandler and Simpson also put in three points apiece. As the time was winding down, Oakland came in again and delivered another three-point basket for Northville. But it was not enough as the Wildcats went on to win the District Finals 68-61.

"In the second overtime we just had the momentum and knew we were going to win," said Novi's Matt Simich in an interview for the Northville Record and the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

## Post-season always impresses

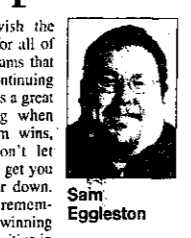
If there's one thing I've been blessed with as a sports writer, it's been darn good post-season play. The Novi Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats have proven to be true competitors in every post-season tournament they've been in since my arrival here in 2001. They play to the fullest of their abilities and, quite simply, never give up.

This year hasn't shown itself to be any different. Both the Northville community and the Novi community should be proud of what their teams have accomplished already and what they are quite likely to accomplish in the coming days and weeks.

Our teams are just amazing when it comes to their tenacity and desire to prove to be one of the best teams in the state. I'm glad that in my playing days I never had to worry about facing these squads - that's definitely not something any team should look forward to.

I have seen some impressive results thus far this year, and have full confidence that said results will continue through the ends of the respective seasons as well as in spring sports. The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats are two great groups to cover as a sports writer, and I have to be thankful to have landed in such a rich sports environment.

I hope that the stories I have been able to write this year get to continue as the post-season tournaments grow and finally come to a close. The teams from both schools definitely deserve proper thanks for all of the hard work and dedication they've put in during the regular season.



Sam Eggleston

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 via e-mail at seggleston@hi.home.com.net.

# NOVI PUBLIC

## UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

**Freshman Volleyball**  
Overall: 25-4; KVC: 12-2

The freshman volleyball team finished a very successful season with a solid victory over Pinckney, 21-18, 22-20, 17-21, 21-16. The Wildcat ninth graders ended the year with the best record in the Kensington Valley Conference action. Against Pinckney, Rachel Burris had two aces, Brenna Quinley had four digs and Lauren Purdy had four kills.

**JV Volleyball**  
Overall: 19-12-7; KVC: 7-7

The junior varsity volleyball team finished its regular season on a high note when it defeated Pinckney. The Wildcats finished the year with a 7-7 league record and a 19-12-7 overall mark. Against Pinckney, Novi lost the first game of the match but battled back to win the next three games. Kaelya McAbay had a team record of eight aces. Brittany Stefanson added four, and Jessica Barni had three.

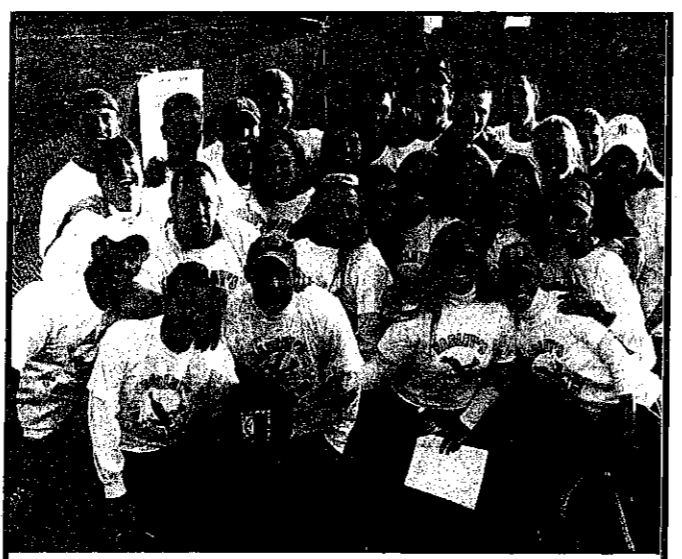
**Junior Varsity Basketball**  
Overall: 15-5; KVC: 10-4

The basketball team completely dominated the Pirates of Pinckney Friday night, 44-22, to take sole possession of second place in the KVC. Steve Hart collected his first double-double of the season recording 11 points and 11 rebounds. AW Stanek and Sean White picked in with seven points apiece. Brian Putvin provided a huge spark by holding Pinckney's 6-foot-6-inch center to just two points despite giving up four inches in height.

**Freshman Basketball**  
Overall: 11-9; KVC: 7-7

The freshman basketball team, coached by Brian Feicher, ends its season with a thrilling 39-36 road victory over Pinckney. The Wildcats started slowly when Pinckney scored the first 11 points of the game. The Pirates held a 10-point halftime lead before Novi pulled out the victory. Despite foul trouble, Sean White poured in 11 points. Wiley Moss also chipped in with nine.

*If you would like to see your underclassman sports results listed in this portion of the sports section, email sports writer Sam Eggleston to find out how and where to submit the information. He can be reached via email at seggleston@hi.home.com.net.*



Wildcat Bella Feldbaum, right, and Laura Rybicki go up for a block during Saturday's playoff game against Birmingham Groves. The game was played at Novi Middle School.

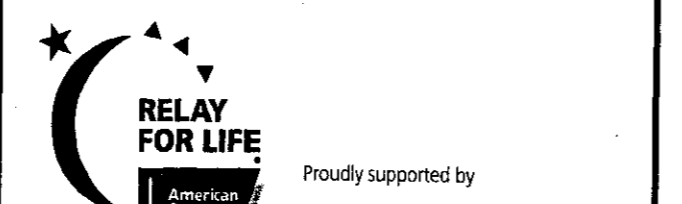
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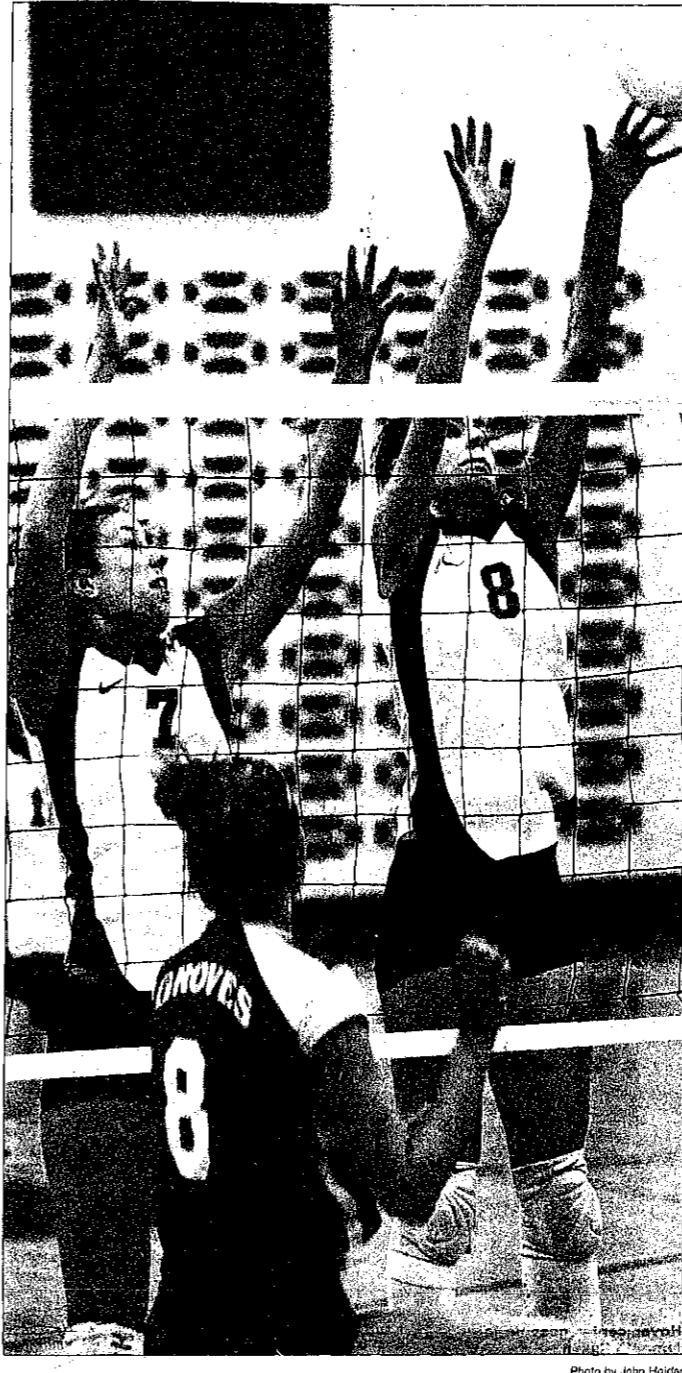
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Wildcat Bella Feldbaum, right, and Laura Rybicki go up for a block during Saturday's playoff game against Birmingham Groves. The game was played at Novi Middle School.

## Cheer takes 10th at finals

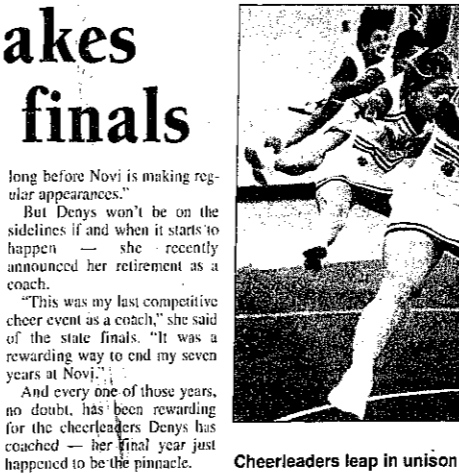
By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

long before Novi is making regular appearances.

But Denys won't be on the sidelines if and when it starts to happen - she recently announced her retirement as a coach.

"This was my last competitive cheer event as a coach," she said of the state finals. "It was a rewarding way to end my seven years at Novi."

And every one of those years, no doubt, has been rewarding for the cheerleaders Denys has coached - her final year just happened to be the pinnacle.



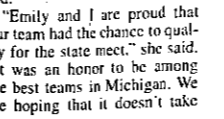
Cheerleaders leap in unison to make a toe-touches.

## Did the Movie leave you with questions?

Join members of the community in casual conversation about Mel Gibson's new Film, **The Passion of the Christ**. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM starting March 2nd through April 8th

**Two locations:**  
**Coffee Trader in Novi,**  
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## Wildcats fall in tough Regional tournament

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

If there was one thing the Novi Wildcats volleyball team could say after bowing out of the Regional Tournament March 13, it was that they lived up to their own expectations even though they were much higher than anyone else's.

"I'm very proud of what this team was able to accomplish this year," Novi coach Julie Fisetle said following the game. "We came together as a team and played as a team. One or two players didn't stand out this year, and that was what made us so successful."

Fisetle noted that though sports writers in various papers that covered the Kensington Valley Conference schools picked her squad to finish near last in the run, her team proved them wrong and any other doubters wrong.

"HomeTown Newspapers [Milford Times] picked us to finish second to last, I think," she said. "We finished in second place. That's a big difference. Yeah, we lost a lot last year, but the girls who were on this team knew they were capable of winning and they proved it."

Novi cut the lead to 4-2 following a Groves error before Feldbaum earned another point for her squad with a vicious shot. Groves tied the game and then sped to a 4-1 lead just moments later before the Wildcats were able to regain their footing.

Novi cut the lead to 4-2 following a Groves error before Feldbaum earned another point for her squad with a vicious shot. Groves notched their score to 5-3 to edge ahead slightly before a combined block by Zarczynski and Feldbaum earned another tally for the Wildcats. Feldbaum tied the game at 5-5 just moments later on a well-placed hit.

The Wildcats took the lead on an out-of-bounds hit by Groves' Ashley Lamb for the 6-5 advantage. The Falcons tied the game up the Falcons through an intense first stretch of play. Groves scored the first point on an out-of-bounds hit by the Wildcats, but Novi fought back to tie it just moments later, 1-1.

The Falcons, who went on to win the Regional tournament over Farmington Mercy, took a two-point lead, an all-time shut by Laura Christ and another by Molly McDonald.

Trailing 3-1, Novi tapped home a point from Bella Feldbaum before Amanda Toffoli slammed a shot just near the line for the 3-3 tie.

## A long drive to Regionals

A near eight-hour drive was what separated Novi graduate and assistant volleyball coach Rusty Herbst from him and his Wildcats when the Regional tournament came to town.

"Eight hours. At an average pace of 60 miles per hour, Herbst crossed 480 miles just to make sure that he was on the sidelines for the first-ever trip to the Regional tourney by the volleyball team."

"I told them that if they make it to the Regional I'd be there," Herbst said after the game. "I got in the car yesterday and drove over seven and a half hours just to be here today."

"Though the Wildcats weren't able to make even more history by recording the first-ever Regional victory, Herbst said it was a good time nonetheless.

"I love this team," he said. "I'm so proud of them. Each of those girls played their heart out."

Herbst - who is currently working in a training program in Syracuse, New York - expects to be back in the area in just a few months. His job, which will find him working in Farmington Hills, won't be enough to keep him away from the bench in Novi.

"I'm hoping to work with the soccer team," he said. "And, of course, coach with the volleyball team as well."

Herbst is no stranger to sports. The Novi graduate was a key member during his stint on the Wildcat soccer team under the guidance of Brian O'Leary. He went on to play club for the University of Michigan.

"There's no doubt, he's going to keep bleeding his green and white for some time to come. 'I love Novi,' he said. "I grew up here. I played here. I want to coach here. I just love it."

Zarczynski - Rikard - and Sam Stricker.

"You always miss your seniors," Fisetle said. "They showed great leadership this year and are going to be hard to replace. I'm going to miss each and every one of them."

<b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD</b> High 5th Street, Northville Lutheran Pastor Church 349-3346 Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 11:00 am Contemporary Service at 11:00 am Sunday School: 9:45 am Rev. Terrence Keener, Pastor	<b>CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 2015 Meadowbrook Rd. Northville Worship & Church School: 9:30 & 11:00 am Youth League: 6:30 pm Rev. W. Kent Case, Senior Pastor Rev. W. Kent Case, Senior Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 am Rev. Terrence Keener, Pastor
<b>NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH</b> 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield WEEKEND LITURGIES: 9:30 am & 11:00 am Sunday Service 10:00 am. All are welcome! Unitarian Universalists: the religion that suits you 248-354-4888 - www.northwestu.org	<b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 770 Taylor, Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: 9:30 am & 11:00 am Sunday 7:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM Church 349-2921, School 349-2510 Pastor: George Czuprynski, 349-2510 Rev. Terrence Keener, Pastor
<b>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 21355 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi at 1/2 Mile Morning Worship 10 am Sunday School Nursery 10 am 248-348-7757 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Wagoner Ln., Lutheran Synod Sunday School: 9:45 am Adult Bible Class: 9:45 am Prayers: 10:00 am Thursdays: 7:00 pm Pastor: Rev. James H. Smith, 349-0565
<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)</b> 10 Mile between 1st & Beck, Novi Phone: 349-1175 Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 am Rev. James Henry Foster www.churchoftheholycross.com	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 349-1144 8 Mile & 1st Road Worship Services: 9:30 am & 11:00 am Rev. John Hice Rev. Jennifer Raby
<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 42400 W. 10 Mile, Novi 248-361-2245 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard A. Henderson, Pastor Worship & Church School: 9:30 & 10:30 am Sunday	<b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 40311 11 Mile at 5th Rd. Dorcas: 10:00 am Daycare: 9:15-12:00 pm Sun School: 9:45 am - Youth: 11:00 am & 6:00 pm 349-2477 / 349-2421 www.firstbaptistchurch.org
<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI</b> 43325 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48274 Sunday 9:30 am & 11:30 am Reverend George Czuprynski, Pastor Pastor Office: 349-7778	<b>OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> Northville High School on 6 Mile Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Casual, contemporary live band (248) 615-7592
<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 2352 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi MI 48375 Mass: Sat 5 pm, Sun 7:00 am Missa of the Holy Family 6:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm Holy Days 9 am, 9:30 am, 10:30 am Fr. John G. Budge, Pastor Fr. Paul Baker, Associate Pastor Pastor Office: 349-8847	<b>MILL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> All Mill Race Historic Village Practical Christianity Contemporary Worship Sun, 10 AM - West, Rev. 7 PM 248-388-1509
<b>WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH</b> "A Place To Grow" Rialto Plaza 14024 Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 AM The Barnard Inn, Novi, MI (92nd & Wixom Rd) Novi New Info: (248) 978-8299, Email: <a href="mailto:help@worldwidechurch.com">help@worldwidechurch.com</a> Web: www.worldwidechurch.com	<b>HARVEST FELLOWSHIP</b> 40029 Pontiac Hill Worship 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
<b>WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> St. James St. Novi Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421 Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421 Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421	<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 915 Tealwood, 1115 Cornersway Sunday School 9:30 Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421
<b>BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA</b> 14000 Wagoner Ln., Northville Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421 Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421	<b>CROSSPOINT MEADOWS CHURCH</b> Pastor: Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421 Pastor: Rev. Dan L. Langley Pastor Office: 349-2421

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



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, March 18, 2004

## Getting back on track after bankruptcy

More than 1.6 million people last year discharged their debt by declaring bankruptcy, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. And they did so for a variety of reasons, including extended unemployment, illness, injury, divorce, business failure and poor financial planning.

The choice to declare bankruptcy is a personal one that comes with serious consequences. And though a filing can stay on your credit record for up to 10 years, there is life after bankruptcy. To achieve long-term financial health you'll need to understand why you got into debt the first time. Next, consider how you can rebuild your credit. This is a process that will require time, patience and discipline.

**Craft a budget** - The first step in achieving financial health requires examining your income and expenses. To get a realistic idea of how much you're spending each month, consider tracking your spending for at least a few months. Draw up a budget for all of your basic expenses: rent or mortgage payments, utility and household bills, car payment, and work related expenditures. At the end of each month, compare your total income with your expenses. If you find that your expenses are more than your income, you'll need to find a way to reduce your expenses. One way to do this is to cut back on the incidentals you spend money on — lunches and dinners out, trips to the cinema. By treating yourself occasionally, instead of routinely, you could save a lot of money.

**Build an emergency fund** - Be sure to include an emergency fund as an item in your budget. Experts recommend putting away at least a year's worth of living expenses. Say you can't save? Each time you break a dollar bill, drop the change into change jar. If you deposit \$2 in coins into your change jar every day you can save over \$700 a year. You might also consider having your pay raises deducted from your paycheck and deposited into savings.

**Check your credit report** - Order copies of your credit report from all three reporting bureaus — Experian, Equifax and Trans Union — because each company may have different information on file about you. Review each report carefully to make certain the information is accurate and complete. If you find an error, you can use the directions that come with your report to request that the credit agency investigate your claim. If you're not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, you can contact the creditor directly to resolve the problem. You can also prepare a 100-word statement explaining why you believe the information is incorrect. The agency must provide the statement when you request your report.

**Steer clear of credit repair companies** that claim they can clean up your credit record for a fee. You're the only one who can repair your credit. And the only way to do it is to be patient, live within your means, pay your bills on time and use credit wisely. Doing so will demonstrate to creditors that you can handle your personal finances.

**Rebuild your credit** - Once you've determined that the information in your credit report is accurate, you'll want to start working at getting positive information on file. Consider applying for a secured credit card. This is credit backed by money you've put on deposit at your financial institution. Use your card at least once a month, but only if you know you can pay the balance due on time. Once you're comfortable using your secured card, consider applying for a gas card, but avoid opening many credit card accounts. Too many accounts, even if you don't use them, tell creditors that your risk for racking up debt is high.

**Don't wait to get help** - At the first sign of financial trouble, seek the help of a non-profit credit counseling agency. GreenPath Debt Solutions are offered in person, over the phone and via the Internet.

Phone them toll-free at (800) 550-1961, or contact them via their Web site at [www.green-path.com](http://www.green-path.com).

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League, a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to [mcd@mcul.org](mailto:mcd@mcul.org).

Advertorial

## Bell's Landscape offers guaranteed service

By Annette Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

You might call them the one-stop shopping of landscaping. Bell's Landscape Service Inc. in Wixom is ready to handle all of your outdoor landscaping needs — commercial and residential, from construction to maintenance all year long. Family owned and operated, Mike Bell's background includes a hefty 32 years in landscaping and 28 years in business.

From pruning to planting, they're proud of the diverse range of services they offer. Not only do they maintain residential sites, they also maintain condominium and apartment complexes, office and retail sites, commercial and industrial sites.

"If you're looking for someone to take care of all of your outdoor home and commercial landscaping needs, I'm your guy," said Bell. "The nice thing about what we do is that we can manage all those areas at once."

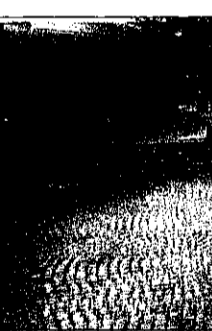
What does that include? From start to finish they'll create, construct, design and install an award winning landscape on your site. As a licensed builder, Bell's Landscape Services can install a custom deck, retaining wall or gazebo; complete that with brick paver walkways and patios. Enjoy evenings outdoors and improved security by installing landscape lighting. Sit back and relax with popular water features including ponds and fountains.

Many of Bell's landscape designs have received awards from their peers in the industry. Most are for the design/build projects that they've created. Because their goal is customer satisfaction, much of their business comes through personal referrals and many are repeat customers that have stayed with them throughout the years.

Many people, especially working couples often lack the time and energy to keep their landscape looking attractive, he observes. Hiring a dependable landscape service can remove one more task from a busy schedule. Bell's Landscape can keep your property looking beautiful with a complete schedule of landscape maintenance programs. That's their expertise.

"Seventy percent of the households are dual-income families, and they don't have the time to maintain their landscape," said Bell. "My customers rely on me to take care of their maintenance needs."

Bell's landscape maintenance program begins with the basics like lawn cutting and fertilizing. Along with lawn service, they install and repair sprinkler systems to keep grass healthy and green. They also provide shrub and tree care, mulch installation; pruning and bed care to maintain beautiful flower beds. Seasonal



Bell's Landscape can turn your back yard into a wonderful gathering place with a patio, deck, landscaping and more. Call (248) 486-0960 for a free estimate.



Mike and Mary Bell of Bell's Landscape Services sit on a bench with their dog "Spike," while Mike Jakubiec, Koa Mosher, Dave Crain and Scott Bell back them up. Bell's Landscape designs, builds and maintains landscaping for residential and commercial customers.

services include those big jobs that are so hard to find time for like spring and fall clean up.

Bell's commercial property customers have also received many beautification awards for their design. In addition to their routine maintenance, they also offer professional parking lot sweeping and maintenance for commercial buildings or subdivisions.

Keeping a clear flow of traffic and preventing slip and fall on snow and ice is critical for commercial sites. During the winter season they offer professional snowplowing and salting.

Forget shopping around with several vendors. Bell's business philosophy is simple; offer a



From green, kempt lawns to paver patios and landscaping, Bell's Landscape offers attractive solutions.

complete range of services with professional results. While some landscape companies come and go, quality work and professionalism is never compromised and it has helped them build a solid reputation. They guarantee quality workmanship.

Mike and Marcy Bell have been Lyon Township residents for the past 15 years and have raised three children, Scott, Steven, and Stacey in the community. They have been active participants in the schools and the township since they moved here. Clients will be in contact with Marcy when they call the office at Bell's Landscape, she has been running the office operations for many years.

"My oldest son Scott has taken an active roll in management and plans to be a second-generation owner one day," Marcy Bell said. "The other two kids are still attending school."

Bell takes pride in his entire staff and believes in continuing

education. It's one reason they call themselves "The Landscape Experts." Each employee completes an extensive training program and is supervised by professionals on the job site. Currently, they're working with employees to participate in the new, (CLT) Certified Landscape Tech program.

"It's part of an effort to show a higher level of professionalism," he said.

Bell's Landscape is licensed and insured, which is another guarantee that clients will receive quality work. To ensure prompt service they also own, maintain and repair all of their own equipment. Their service region covers a 30-mile radius that encompasses a wide area north to M-59 and south to I-94, west to D-19 and east to Telegraph Road.

Bell's Landscape Services Inc. is located at 28401 Haas Road in Wixom. Call (248) 486-0960 for a free estimate, or check out their

### TIPS TO SELECTING A LANDSCAPER

- Select a landscaper who you feel comfortable working with.
- If starting new construction, be prepared with an idea, concept and budget.
- Determine what needs to be done to complete the project, such as what steps or materials are required.
- Get a true cost so you won't be surprised with additional charges or low quality materials.
- Check their credentials. Are they licensed and bonded or insured?
- Get references from former customers.
- Remember you get what you pay for. If the price seems too good to be true, it usually is.

website at [www.bellslandscape.com](http://www.bellslandscape.com). Hours of business are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Call us for an estimate!

Call us first... we'll create an award winning landscape for you!

248-486-0960

[www.bellslandscape.com](http://www.bellslandscape.com)

## Bell's Landscape Services, Inc.

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