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SPECIAL SECTION



For green thumbs

Our Home & Garden section is filled with the latest in decorating trends, ideas for the backyard, garden tips, safety tips and much more.

Picked by the Gov.

Novi resident and retired University of Michigan Hospital employee Ramesh Venma was recently named to the Commission to the Services of the Aging by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Page 6A

SPORTS

The ultimate goal

For Moe Pawlak, the fact that she has scored 100 goals in soccer is hardly worth noting. Instead, she'd much rather focus on the season at hand and the team she's playing with.

Page 1B

INDEX

Business . . . . .7A
Calendar of Events . . . . .15A
Classifieds . . . . .1D
Entertainment . . . . .18A
Healthy Living . . . . .9A
In the Service . . . . .6A
Library Lines . . . . .6A
Opinion / Letters . . . . .16 / 17A
Police Report . . . . .4A
Reg. Marketplace . . . . .19A / 4B
Schools . . . . .12A
Senior Calendar . . . . .6A
Sports . . . . .1B

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Council denies Hooters

4-3 vote may prompt suit over liquor license

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council shot down a liquor license request by Hooters, but that doesn't mean the controversial restaurant won't be opening at Fountain Walk Shopping Center.

"The next step for us would probably be to start a lawsuit," said Charles Lane, a Clinton Township-based attorney for hooters. "The council didn't leave us a choice. That will be our direction and we will be pursuing it very soon."

Could Hooters succeed without a liquor license in Novi? Lane couldn't say either way.

"A liquor license is an integral part of most businesses," he said. "And as a result, the action taken by council is obviously damaging. I believe it was intended to be

"A liquor license is an integral part of most businesses. And as a result, the action taken by council is obviously damaging. I believe it was intended to be damaging."

Charles Lane
attorney for Hooters

damaging. We have to pursue our remedies, whatever they may be. Our expectations were that they would grant us a liquor license.

There was no reason why they should deny it. I think it was a miscarriage of justice, but that's what makes America unique. We

all have different opinions."
After a two-week postponement

continued on page 3



Photo by John Heider

Just a swingin'

Krystine Stanny, 17, gets in some high-flying swinging with buddy Amanda Grand (not pictured) during some Spring-like weather last Thursday at Novi's Tim Pope Memorial Play Structure. With temperatures in the 80s this past weekend, Winter may finally be behind the Novi area.

96 years old and learning

Novi resident gets updated Cleary diploma

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If you really believe in the saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks," don't tell Merle Lambertson.

Because at 96 years young, this Novi resident recently received an upgraded diploma from Cleary University.

Lambertson

Thomas Sullivan, president of the university, and Janet Filip, director of alumni relations,

drove all the way from the Ann Arbor campus to Novi to present the framed new diploma to Lambertson in person April 7.

The university, which was Cleary College when Lambertson graduated in 1924, also has a campus in Howell. The college became a university in 2002.

The new diploma states that Merle Flick-Lambertson received a Graduate Course 1 in Business Services from Cleary University instead of Cleary College.

"This would be the equivalent of a general business major today," Sullivan said.

Lambertson's late husband, Franklin, also graduated from Cleary.

Sullivan said, if he's not mistaken, that Lambertson is currently the university's oldest alum.

"I think our second oldest is Jack McGuinn, one of our alums

continued on page 2

Feed mailboxes

May 8 Food Drive to benefit three different organizations

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Post Office Food Drive is once again almost upon us, and those in charge hope it will be as successful as in years past.

Saturday, May 8 will mark the 12th annual year for the drive. Anyone interested in donating is asked to leave food by their mailboxes. When their mail is delivered, carriers will pick up the food up as they go, or special volunteers will run out and collect food from underneath the mailboxes.

All food collected will be

donated to one of three different locations:

- St. James Catholic Church in Novi
Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi
J'Noah House, a charity based in Livonia.

J'Noah House is run by the mother-in-law of a Novi Post Office carrier, who goes down to the inner city every Sunday year round and feeds and clothes people.

"A few of us are very involved in that charity at Christmas time, so we just kind of incorporated them in with our food drive," said Janell Thompson, a City of Novi letter carrier.

According to her, this food drive is the largest one-day food drive in America.

Thompson said that just last year Novi collected 11,500

continued on page 3

Thief nabs hearing-impaired couple's truck; no suspects

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Todd and Beth Barksdale, a hearing-impaired couple that lives in Novi, saved for over a year for their 1992 Chevy pickup.

They were finally able to purchase the vehicle last summer.

Then about a month ago, Todd Barksdale was leaving his job at Toys R Us in Novi and discovered that the truck had been stolen.

Beth Barksdale doesn't work outside the home but cares for their three children — Sarah, 10; Kyle, 6; and Matthew, 3.

"He went to work about 7 a.m.

one day during the week. He parked his truck in front of the building, as always. Another employee who arrived for work at around 10:30 a.m. saw his truck," according to Leanne Link of Novi, Beth Barksdale's sister.

But about 30 minutes later when he left work, he noticed that the truck was missing.

"When the police came out, the truck that was near Barksdale's had a window broken out," Link said. "The officer also noted that the steering wheel column had been tampered with, and after running the license plate, learned that this vehicle had been stolen

from Wixom the night before." "The officer on the case was very touched by the incident," Link said.

"He said something like, 'Here's a man trying to earn some money for his family, and he gets his truck stolen,'" she said.

Fortunately, the Barksdales do have a second vehicle.

"They have another vehicle, but it's an older model Aerostar van with a lot of miles on it," Link said.

"Todd was also really nervous after the truck was stolen because

continued on page 3



Photo by John Heider

The Barksdale family of Novi: Beth, Matthew, 3, Sarah, 11, Kyle, 6 and Stephen, pose outside their home just south of Walled Lake.

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# Cleary grad 96 years old, still learning

continued from front page

who lives in Florida and is in his early 90s," Sullivan said.

Lambertson even knew Patrick Cleary, the school's founder, whose grandson, Patrick, is involved in the university today. Lambertson, who has a daughter, Elaine Farrington, of Beverly Hills, worked for an attorney right out of college, and then worked doing payroll for Drake Print in Detroit.

"I was never out of a job," she said.

She also worked as a secretary for a county judge in Boone County, Ky., for seven years after the company her husband worked for, Square Deal Electric, transferred him to Kentucky. She took a break from the workforce for a while, however, after Lyme was born.

"Her work at Cleary served her well," Sullivan said.

Lambertson still drives and brags that her license doesn't expire until 2007. She enjoys going to Twelve Oaks Mall and

attends services at the United Methodist Church in West Bloomfield.

She said the new updated diploma will hang next to her other prized possession — a framed poster of the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor presented to Lambertson last year on the theater's 75th anniversary.

"We have our alumni and enjoy listening to stories about their lives," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said that university staff members enjoy presenting the updated diplomas to their long-time alumni.

"We love our alumni and enjoy listening to stories about their lives," Sullivan said.

*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@h.homecomm.net.*

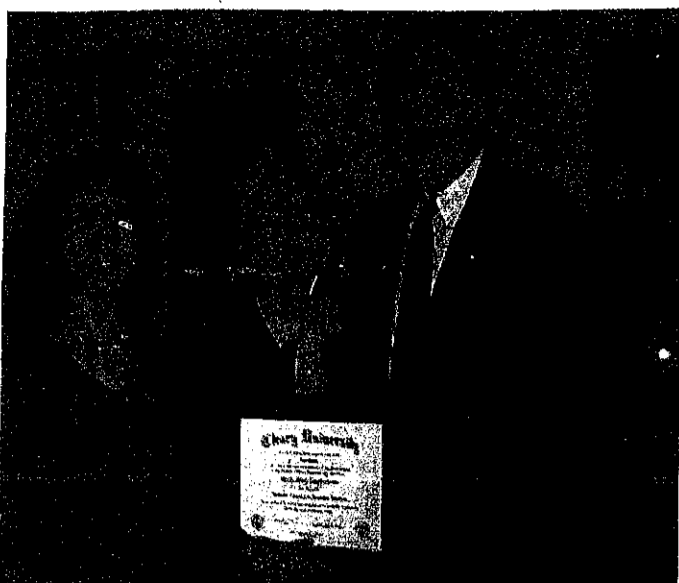


Photo by Pam Fleming  
Merle Lambertson, center, of Novi recently received an updated college diploma from Tom Sullivan, president of Cleary University, and Janet Filip, director of alumni relations. The school was Cleary College when Lambertson graduated in 1924. It became Cleary University in 2002.

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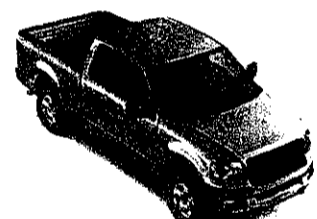
Includes security deposit and acquisition fee; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$500 renewal cash, plus \$3000 RCL cash.



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Includes security deposit and acquisition fee; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$500 renewal cash, \$4,000 RCL cash plus \$500 A,Z plan cash.



Current Ford Employee leases can Re-Lease a 2004 Explorer XLT

**\$267** customer cash due at signing.

Includes security deposit and acquisition fee; excludes tax, title and license fee. Customer cash due at signing is net of all rebates. Payment includes \$4,500 renewal cash, plus \$1,000 A,Z plan cash.



Current Ford Employee leases can Re-Lease a 2004 Ranger XLT 4x2

**\$174** customer cash due at signing.

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**OPEN SATURDAYS**

# Council says no to Hooters liquor license

continued from front page

to make a decision, city council finally concluded the debate with a 4-3 vote denying the franchise of the Hooters restaurant.

Monday, Council Member Lynne Paul, who was absent from the April 5 meeting where the vote was 3-3, cast the deciding vote. Those voting again to deny the request were council members Bob Gatt, Laura Lorenzo and Toni Nagy.

Those voting again to approve the request of Hooters of Novi, LLC to transfer ownership of a 2001 Class C liquor license with dance permit and request for a new entertainment permit included Mayor Lou Cordas and council members David Landry and Kim Capella.

"Hopefully, rather than sue, they give us the opportunity to discuss this and reconsider a vote," said Cordas. "I don't think any lawsuit is good for the city, especially an unnecessary one."

Lane said the Hooters franchise began in 1984 and by September of 1995, the first restaurant opened in Michigan. He explained to council that Hooters policy has always been that it is illegal to serve alcohol to minors and those who did so in the past have been terminated from the company.

There have been nine liquor law

violations by Hooters restaurants in Michigan and six of those involved the selling of liquor to minors. Gatt said that record is why he decided to vote no.

Lane spoke of an incident which happened in Livonia with another lawsuit. The mayor did not have the power to veto the council's decision. As a result, "ultimately the court" of appeals stated that the mayor did not have the authority to do it and they reversed the veto and let stand the council's decision to allow Hooters to come into town.

"Under their charter, the mayor has veto powers. The only thing is that was the basis of the lawsuit. The mayor did not have the power to veto the council's decision. As a result, "ultimately the court" of appeals stated that the mayor did not have the authority to do it and they reversed the veto and let stand the council's decision to allow Hooters to come into town."

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Background, and checks

Hooters of America is based in Atlanta. The business currently has 359 restaurants in 43 states and 12 foreign countries, 116 of which are actually company owned and operated, with the remainder operating as franchises. Hooters of Novi

At the April 5 city council meet-

**"We had no reason to deny that liquor license and it was inconsistent with our past decisions... They are simply a sports bar with a unique name that plays on the emotions of some people."**

Lou Cordas  
City of Novi mayor

ing, Lorenzo said she thought that the Novi Police Department should do a background check on Hooters President Coby Brooks, rather than just Robert Brooks, owner, which was done before Monday night's meeting.

Coby Brooks was checked through ICAT, Autotrack, LEIN and NCIC. There were no outstanding warrants, warrants, or civil actions.

There was no history of criminal violations and no history was located of alcohol violations.

The actual Novi store manager will be Thomas Louis Bosch, who lives in Northville. He has 23 years

of experience in managing restaurants. He has operated numerous restaurants and was most recently employed by Fuhracker's. He also has owned his own restaurant, Ruby Tuesdays, located in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Bosch was a partner in that restaurant from 2000 through 2002. He was checked through ICAT, Autotrack, LEIN and NCIC and there were no outstanding warrants, warrants or civil actions.

Cordas agreed. "We had no reason to deny that liquor license and it was inconsistent with our past decisions," he said. "I have a lot of my decision-making process on the police chief's report and all of the different departments' reports. One of my major responsibilities in my opinion is to pay attention to risk management. I felt that with no reason to deny, we potentially could have had a lawsuit filed against us."

Cordas believes that the vote was mostly based on emotions and not the facts.

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Council members Paul and Nagy both cited the lack of "uniqueness" in Hooters' menu items compared to other establishments in Novi. Lorenzo said she did not believe the restaurant was compatible with the area, noting its closeness to schools and the billing of Fountain Walk as a family area.

"They clearly have a couple of options," Cordas said. "The issue never was if they could open or not; the issue always was if they could have a liquor license. We say liquor, but all they want to do is serve beer and wine. They don't even want to serve whiskey or anything like that. They had the option to open without a liquor license or with a liquor license. I don't really know what the bottom line financially to them as far as how much money they would make on the liquor, but I know that 70 percent of their business is food. They are simply a sports bar with a unique name that plays on the emotions of some people."

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## Drive for food May 8

continued from front page

pounds of food, but in all 12 years, a half billion pounds has been collected.

"Novi is very generous when it comes to our food drive," she said. "It's really a wonderful thing. Our carriers work hard that day and it's all volunteer work. We have family and friends who help pick up the food and the churches are fantastic. Everybody comes together to do this and I would like to thank them all."

Thompson said that she is going to be receiving a proclamation of National Food Drive Day from the mayor of Novi, Lou Cordas, at an upcoming city council meeting.

*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@h.homecomm.net.*

## Thief nabs hearing-impaired couple's truck; no suspects

continued from front page

when they stole the vehicle they also had his address, his Social Security card and his driver's license because he left them in the car," Link said.

Link noted that besides the theft of the better of their two vehicles, the family has suffered a great deal of tragedy in the last year. Link's and Beth Barksdale's mother, Sally, has been in the hospital since last October due to various ailments. Plus, the family lost a cousin, Paul Neff, in Iraq on Nov. 7, 2003.

"It's been a crazy year. When my brother-in-law told me that his truck had been stolen, I almost fell over," Link said.

"They're a wonderful family, and they need lots of outside

help," she said.

The Barksdales' stolen truck is a silver 1992 Chevy 1500 series, license number VOLS01. "The vanity plate stands for the team the Tennessee Volunteers. Todd's a huge fan since he's from Chattanooga," Link said.

There are currently no suspects in the case.

If anyone would like to offer any type of assistance to the Barksdales regarding the loss of their truck, please contact Walled Lake United Methodist Church at (248) 624-2405.

*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@h.homecomm.net.*

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**POLICE REPORT**

**Changing lanes**

A Farmington Hills man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated on March 24 at 1:23 a.m. at 1-96 and Haggerty Road. The patrol officer saw a silver 2004 Infiniti traveling northbound on Novi Road from Grand River. The vehicle changed lanes without signaling north of Crescent Boulevard and entered the I-96 expressway eastbound. Vehicle was paced by the officer at speeds of 80 to 85 mph in a 70 mph zone. The man told the officer he had just left the Fifth Avenue Ballroom and had had three beers, and that he had received an emergency phone call from his parents in India. After smelling the odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle, and failing the field sobriety test, the man consented to a breath test which yielded a blood alcohol level of .18 percent.

**Ballroom drinker discovered**

Another Farmington Hills man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 1-96 and Novi road at 2:15 a.m. March 26. The patrol officer noticed a 2002 Silver Saturn traveling at a higher-than-posted speed of 40 mph on northbound Novi Road. After turning his radar on, the vehicle was registered traveling at 51 mph. After approaching the driver for a speeding violation, the driver provided a driver's license but an expired registration and proof of insurance. After smelling intoxicants coming from the car, the officer asked

the man if he had been drinking. He responded that he had just left the Fifth Avenue Ballroom and that he had only drunk a "Vodka Smiles" at 9 p.m. when he got off work. He later said that he had had two to three drinks while at the bar and that his last drink was only an hour or two ago. After noticing his speech was slurred, the officer performed a breath test on the driver, whose blood alcohol was measured at .15 percent.

**Larceny on a Lumina**

A woman reported theft from her vehicle totaling \$50-\$200 at 10:35 p.m. March 26 at Ten Mile and Lathrup Roads. Items stolen from the gold Chevy Lumina included a small purse valued at \$20 and a red wallet inside the purse valued at \$10. The victim contacted Novi police to report that her purse was taken from her car which was parked in the street. The woman said she left her car for only about 10 minutes during which time the theft took place. The red wallet contained \$85 in cash. She said that she did not lock her car doors and did not know who would be responsible for the theft. No witnesses or suspects are available at this time.

**No headlight due to husband**

A Howell woman was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 11:57 p.m. March 26 at Novi Road and 1-96. The officer approached the woman's vehicle because her left headlight was out. She told the

officer that the headlight was out because her husband rear-ended the vehicle with his van. After noticing a strong smell of intoxicants coming from the black Ford Taurus, the officer asked the woman where she was coming from, and she said, "the bar."

She said that she had one glass of beer and had stopped drinking about an hour ago. After failing a field sobriety test, the woman was asked to take a breath test, which measured .15 percent.

**Sports Club reports theft**

The Sports Club of Novi was the site of a theft at 11:20 a.m. March 27. Items taken included a black men's wallet and about \$400 in miscellaneous currency, and a GM Mastercard. The victim said he had placed his belongings in his locker and left the locker unlocked. When he returned to the locker about 12:30 p.m., he discovered the theft and notified the staff. There are no suspects at this time.

**This vehicle makes wide turns**

A Dearborn man was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated at 12:54 a.m. March 28 at West Oaks Drive and Novi Road. The officer saw a blue Dodge pickup truck make a wide right-hand turn from Main Street to northbound Novi Road, going into the left through lane.

The vehicle then corrected, going into the right through lane. The driver was also driving 48 mph in a 40 mph zone. The driver was then pulled over by An Van Furniture. The officer noticed the smell of intoxicants coming from the vehicle and that the man had trouble grasping the registration for his car. After being asked where he was going, he said he was going home and missed the exit ramp onto I-96. He said that he was coming from a friend's house on Grand River Avenue.

When asked how many drinks he had had, he replied two drinks. After failing field sobriety tests, he was asked to take a breath test, which measured .13 percent.

Another theft occurred at Sunflower and Shadybrook at 7:30 p.m. March 27. The victim reported that two bottles of white Zinfandel wine valued at \$10 apiece and three-quarters of a case of Labatt's Blue beer were stolen from the man's garage, which was left open. There are no suspects at this time.

**Mailbox mishap**

A report of Malicious Destruction of Property was made by a resident on Sunrise Road near Nine Mile and Shadybrook roads at 9:14 a.m. March 28. The victim

**Where's the wine?**

The victim said he had told the officer that someone tore his mailbox off of its mount and threw it in his front yard. The man thought the incident took place sometime between midnight and 9 a.m. and requested extra patrol for his home.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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**Juveniles approached**

**Key goals, objectives outlined in draft**

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

City planners recently presented the first draft of Novi's Master Plan, outlining what's in store for the future of the community.

Darcy Schmitt, project manager from the Plan Review Center of the Planning Department, presented the document at the Planning Commission's April 7 meeting.

Commission members voted to recommend to city council that the plan be distributed to neigh-

**Novi Master Plan ready to be distributed**

boring communities, public utilities, railroads and officials in Oakland County.

Schmitt has been working on the document for several months. State statute requires cities to update their master plan every five years. It is yet to be determined whether the Novi Planning Commission or the Novi City Council will be the approving body on the plan.

"Basically, a Master Plan is required every five years because it's important to keep the plan updated to reflect current changes in the community," said David Evancoe, planning director.

"The plan asks what do we have, what do we want and how do we get it?" Evancoe said.

Area residents who wish to

view the initial draft can find a copy at the Novi Public Library, the City Clerk's office or the Planning Department. The document will eventually be available to review online at the City of Novi Web site.

Two members of the planning commission are also members of the Master Plan and Zoning Committee.

Goals and objectives in the plan include:

- Continue to protect the character of the southwest quarter of the city, as this is home to the majority of vacant land in Novi
- Encourage residential development to make adequate provisions for neighborhood open space
- Make sure that light industrial

and residential developments and compatible when located next to each other

- Enhance Novi's reputation as an attractive community to live in
- Create aesthetically pleasing developments, especially in residential areas
- Create a stronger cultural presence and identity for the city
- Protect the city's historic buildings and sites
- Protect the city's remaining woodlands and wetlands
- Increase recreation opportunities in the city in the face of less open space and funding
- Maintain adequate infrastructure in an environment of limited federal and state funding
- Make certain that various land uses have no negative impact,

physical or fiscal, on the community's infrastructure

- Promote interconnectivity between neighborhoods to reduce vehicle trips on main roads
- Interconnect the city's pedestrian and bicycle paths
- Ensure that the city continues to be a desirable place for business investment
- Determine the effect of non-residential development on the city as a whole
- "It looks like the finish line is in sight," Evancoe said.

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@nlh.com.com.net.

**CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCINGS**

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for April 12.

- Marjorie Ann Crabtree — controlled substance-delivering and manufacture (narc) L/50 grams, sentence enhancement/second offense.
- Cameron-Michael Paul Dunitz — larceny from a motor vehicle, sentence enhancement/10th or subsequent offense.
- Samuel Arthur Little, II — operating under the influence of alcohol/per se-third offense felony.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for April 13.

- Marilyn June Tulman — police officer - assault/resistance/obstruction (2 counts), sentence enhancement/10th or subsequent offense.
- Sheila Jackson — possession/controlled substance under/25

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for April 14.

- Donald Gilbert Fisher — unlawful driving away automobile, sentence enhancement/4th or subsequent offense.
- Heather Lorraine Krawiec — operating under the influence of alcohol/per se - third offense felony.
- Tammie Sue Whitmore — embezzlement-greater than \$1,000 - less than \$20,000.

**NOTICE**

**PUBLIC SALE.** Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on April 24, 2004 at 11:00AM at COLONIAL MINI STORAGE, 48200 West Road, Wixom, Michigan 48393. Contents will be sold by competitive bidding for cash only to the highest bidder and include miscellaneous household, furniture, tools and personal items including clothing. Units are as follows: 359 John Lipchick 408 Glenn Grainger 619 Shelia MacDougall 646 Crystal Harless 808 Timothy Swickard 888 Rishikavi Raghudas 1014 Troy Farnwalt

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<b>PLYMOUTH</b> Hines Park 40501 Ann Arbor Rd. at I-295 (734) 453-2424 hinesplym.com	<b>ROCHESTER HILLS</b> Crissman 1185 South Rochester Rd. Between Hamlin & Anson Rd. (248) 652-4200 crissmanlm.com	<b>SOUTHFIELD</b> Star 24350 West 12 Mile Rd at Telegraph (248) 354-4900 starlm.com	<b>SOUTHGATE</b> Southgate 16800 Fort Street at Pineywood (734) 652-8800 southgateholmesary.com	<b>STERLING HEIGHTS</b> Crest 36200 Van Dyke at 15 1/2 Mile Rd. (586) 939-6000 crestlm.com	<b>TROY</b> Bob Borst 1950 West Maple Troy Motor Mall (248) 643-6600 borstlm.com	<b>YPSILANTI</b> Sesi 950 East Michigan 9 Miles West of I-275 (734) 482-7133 sesilm.com

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# Granholm appoints Novi resident to Council on Aging

■ Ethnic background, hospital experience cited as reasons

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

It's not every day that a Novi resident is appointed to a special position by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Recently, Ramesh Verma, 66, of Novi, received a special letter from State Sen. Ken Sikkenia, majority leader of the Senate, informing him of his appointment to the State Advisory Council on Aging. His term runs from April 1, 2004, through July 28, 2006.

The State Constitution grants the State Senate advice and consent power over certain gubernatorial appointments.

The council is part of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging. The commission serves as an advocate for aging and older persons in all government decisions, advises the Office of Services to the Aging on the coordination and administration of state programs serving older persons and approves grants administered by the office.

The council meets six times a year in Lansing. Responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on the annual State Plan prepared by the Office of Services to the Aging, making recommendations to the commission about programs and services; reviewing and comment-

ing on state and federal legislation that affects the elderly; and participating in public hearings and conferences throughout the state.

Verma, who says he is semi-retired, currently works as a consultant for a local business. Before that, his most recent position was as director of Design and Construction for Henry Ford Health System, Corporate Facilities.

Prior to working for Henry Ford Health System, he served as director of the Design, Construction & Utilities Office at University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor.

A native of India, Verma was also a Captain with the Indian Army Corps of Engineers before he came to the U.S. in 1972.

Verma said he knows Granholm because he and his wife had a hand-raiser for the gubernatorial candidate in March 2003.

"They wanted someone on this particular council who had an ethnic background and hospital experience," Verma said.

Verma is Indian and worked for the University of Michigan Medical Center for 24 years.

Verma said he encouraged Granholm to appoint him to a position in the state government, so that he could serve as a spokesperson for Indian people living in the state.

"There are 40,000-plus Indian people in Michigan. I felt that



Photo by John Hester

**Novi resident and retired University of Michigan Hospital employee Ramesh Verma was recently named to the Commission to the Services of the Aging by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm.**

their voices needed to be heard," he said. "I wanted an Indian to be involved in state government."

Verma is extremely active in the Democratic Party. He is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party Executive Board and chairs the Michigan Democratic Party Election Committee.

He is also a member of the Michigan Indo-American Democratic Caucus.

Verma said that some of the issues presently facing older Americans include the cost of

prescription drugs and prescription drug insurance coverage, Medicare, Housing, expanding the extended family concept and care giving.

"I'm very humbled to accept this appointment," Verma said, "and I feel it's an honor to me as well as to the Indian community."

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@hi.homecomm.net.

## LIBRARY LINES

### Novi Public Library

#### 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 Tall Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

#### Chapter Club

The Chapter Club, our book discussion group for grades 4-6, meets Saturday, April 24, from 11-11:45 a.m. We'll be discussing "The World Eater" by Mary Amato, snacking on goodies, and playing games. Drop-ins are welcome.

#### Middle School Book Discussion

Our book discussion group for teens in grades 7-9 meets for food, fun, and a lively discussion of "Silent to the Bone" by E.L. Kangsburg on Saturday, April 24, from 11-11:45 a.m. No registration is necessary.

#### The Louisiana Purchase

The 1803 Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States "with just the stroke of a pen." Join retired social studies teacher Tom Barret on Thursday.

#### Engagement



**Morris-Klaas**  
Jim and Nancy Morris of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Alison Morris, to Ken Klaas, son of Christine Klaas of North Muskegon. The bride-elect is a 2001 graduate of Novi High School and is currently attending Michigan State University. The groom-elect is a 2001 graduate of North Muskegon High School and is also currently attending Michigan State University. A June 2005 wedding is planned.

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# BUSINESS

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

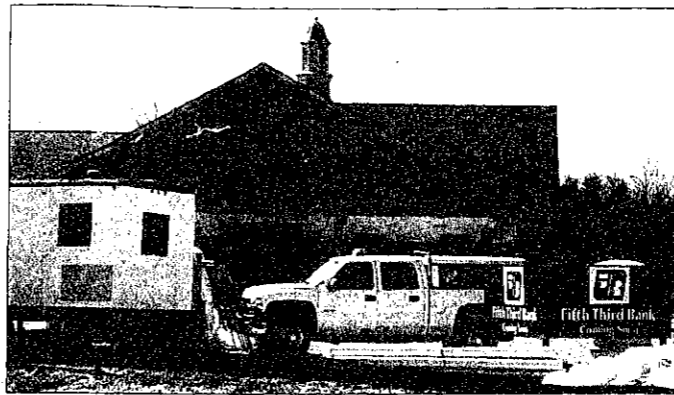


Photo by Duane Ramsey

Construction continues on the new Fifth Third Bank banking center on Grand River across from the Meijer store in Wixom, which is scheduled to open in June.

## Fifth Third branches out

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

Fifth Third Bank is proceeding with its current expansion in the local market with plans to open two new banking centers in Northville and Wixom in June.

Construction continues on the new Fifth Third branches located on Grand River just west of Wixom Road in Wixom and on Haggerty Road just south of Eight Mile in Northville Township.

Fifth Third Bank broke ground on both locations in January. They plan to open the Northville center in early June and the Wixom location later that month, according to Jeff Wagner, vice president of corporate real estate at Fifth Third for eastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio.

Both locations will include 4,200 square feet, full-service banking centers with teller and safe deposit service, four drive-

through lanes and drive-up ATM service. Mortgage, investment and small business representatives will be located at each center.

Fifth Third currently operates two branches in the area with an office on Center Street in downtown Northville and another on Novi Road near the entrance of the Novi Town Center. Wagner said the bank is currently looking for additional locations in the Northville and Plymouth areas.

The new location in Northville will eventually replace the storefront banking office downtown, Wagner said. The bank is looking for another location to maintain ATM service downtown, he added.

Fifth Third is also expanding into Washtenaw County with plans to open banking centers in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti later this year and three additional branches in the Ann Arbor area in 2005, according to Wagner.

The bank plans to break ground

in May for one center on the site of the former Big Boy Restaurant on Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor and another in the Kruger Shopping Center on Whitaker Road in Ypsilanti Township. Wagner said they plan to open both locations in October.

Fifth Third Bank acquired the Grand Rapids-based Old Kent Bank operations in Michigan in Livingston County and Canton in western Wayne County.

Fifth Third Bank provides banking, investment and electronic payment processing services to 5.7 million customers in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Florida.

With approximately 19,000 employees and \$91 billion in assets, Fifth Third ranks among the top 15 largest bank holding companies and 10 largest in market capitalization in the U.S.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Contours Express open a year

Lisa Martin, owner of Contours Express, announces her one-year anniversary as a Walled Lake business. Contours, a women-only fitness center, is located at 718 N. Puttice Trail, in the Walled Lake Commons Shopping Center.

Martin and her staff will host their one-year anniversary Open House from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 24. Light refreshments will be served, and prize drawings will

be offered. Martin is also advertising April's Special: \$100 off the enrollment fee.

### Brass Craft names manager

Brass Craft, a leading manufacturer of plumbing products for the professional and retail markets headquartered in Novi, recently announced the appointment of Larry Griffin as Channel Manager — Wholesale.

In his newly created position, Griffin will function as a liaison between the Brass Craft sales and

marketing organizations. He will be responsible for maximizing top-line sales by launching new products and programs as well as creating and implementing promotional strategies.

In addition to his wholesaler segment duties, Griffin will be responsible for the Ace, Do-it-Best and TruServ retail co-op accounts.

A graduate of Wayne State University, Griffin brings 20 years of related experience to Brass

continued on page 8

## SENIOR CALENDAR

### Thursday 4/22

9:30 a.m. Line Dance\*  
10 a.m. Golf League Orientation  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon  
12:45 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Bridal\*  
2 p.m. Adv. Line Dancing  
2 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer-Beginner Chicago-Live Trip

### Friday 4/23

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
9 a.m. Pancake Breakfast  
10 a.m. Body Recall  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop open noon  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m. Chugging\* 7/12:30 p.m. Duple Bridge  
Rigtime Festival, Frankfortville Trip

### Monday 4/26

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m. Body Recall  
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Music Rehearsal  
Healing Touch

### Computer Class-Beg. Clogging\*

### Tuesday 4/27

9 a.m. Pancake breakfast  
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Windows  
9:30 a.m. Line Dance\*  
10 a.m. Asian Pacific  
10:30 a.m. Bookmobile  
11 a.m. Elusive Stages of Alzheimers noon  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. DANCE  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Internet

### Wednesday 4/28

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength  
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Massage Therapy  
10 a.m. Body Recall  
10:30 a.m. Quilting  
11 a.m. Blood Pressure\*  
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday Shop Open noon  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Clugging\*  
12:30 p.m. Music Rehearsal  
4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Hillsdale M.S. Prom (bus departs at 3:30 p.m. if pre-registered)  
Covered Bridge Trip  
\*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone (248) 447-0414.

## IN THE SERVICE

Amy Pic. Richard A. Elliott has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge for supporting the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom and participating in Operation Northern Delay in Iraq. The soldier returned to Westport, Italy, where he is a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Elliott is an airborne infantryman over one year of military service. He is the son of Laura H. and Donald B. Elliott of Roseland St., Walled Lake/Lake Commerce Township. The private is a 2002 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School, Walled Lake.

During Operation Northern Delay at Baskin Airfield, paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade established the northernmost coalition offensive boundary and created a stable logistical intersecting point to allow the introduction of equipment and troops into the theater. The operation was the largest airborne assault since World War II and forced the Iraqi army to maintain approximately six divisions in the area to protect their northern flank, providing strategic relief for the Coalition Forces advancing on Baghdad.

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Sunday, April 25th | Sunday, May 2nd | 2-5pm  
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Circle C Ranch Camp	Ages 10-15
Teen Xtreme Camp	Ages 13-15
Horseshoers Camp	Ages 12-15
Counselor In Training Camp	Ages 16-17
Pennsylvania Paddle & Paddle	Ages 13-16
West Virginia Rock & Roll	Ages 13-16

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Kerri's Story:  
My Goal was to Run/Walk 13.1 Mile Marathon to raise money for ADA (American Diabetes Association) in January of 2003. I started Release & The Atkins Diet in January of 2003 Weighing 266 lbs. Went out the first day to exercise, walked 2 blocks and sat on the curb and cried, my legs hurt. I was out of breath and wasn't sure how I was going to make it home. I was so overweight. I continued with this journey until June. Went to Hawaii and Ran/Walked the 13.1 Mile Marathon weighing in at 206 lbs. - a loss of 60 lbs. in 5 mos. Since then I have continued with Release and to date I have lost 80 lbs. I feel great - my goal is to lose a total of 100 lbs. I booked a trip to Myrtle Beach for the end of July as a present for the new Skinny me! Kerri

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## Small parcel on Novi Road to be developed

### Secondary access a problem on site next to Wendy's

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Developers who want to build on a small strip of land less than a half-acre on the west side of Novi Road north of Grand River recently won approval to construct a commercial building. The parcel is known as the Novi Site.

The developer, Superior Diversified Services Corporation, requested a preliminary site plan for the property located in the Town Center District between Wendy's Restaurant and Blinds to Go.

Members of the Novi Planning Commission approved the project, which included 20 variances, at their March 24 meeting.

The developer is proposing a 3,000-square-foot building on the small parcel, which is only 58 feet wide by 354 feet deep.

The proposal has been before

the commission twice before. The site has some problems since it is extremely narrow.

The owners of Wendy's Restaurant will not allow the developers to add a curb cut on the property, and the developers also tried to do a joint site plan with Blinds to Go but couldn't work anything out with that landowner either.

Owners of Blinds to Go, formerly the House of Blinds, did offer to sell the property for \$800,000, but the developer thought this price was too high.

The problem is that a secondary access is needed for fire trucks and emergency medical services vehicles onto the property. The developer even suggested a movable ramp so that fire trucks could get to the property.

Fire trucks would have no problem driving over a 5-inch curb, however, according to the Novi Fire Department officials.

"I'm concerned that we're not only dealing with fire trucks," said Commission Member Mark Peterson. "I'm more concerned with ambulances getting to the property, and I don't like the idea of a ramp."

"I know we have to try to allow the owner to develop the property, but the applicant has not reduced the size of the building after three site plans," member Tim Shroyer said. "We wouldn't need all of these variances and waivers if they would reduce the size of the building."

"I agree with my colleague Mr. Peterson that there is a question of safety if there was an emergency medical call in the building," said member Victor Cassis. "But the real question is, 'Is this small area going to be developed or just sit there?'"

"The history of this town has been small lots. Wendy's sits on a site where a nice brick house used to be. And, this commission has accommodated many developers," Cassis said. "I hope we can reach some sort of solution."

Member David Ruyte said, "I have confidence in the developer and what he can do with the building. I know it's a high traffic area, but I can't see an abundant amount of people coming in and out of the building."

"Maybe Wendy's has their reasons for denying the secondary

"I'm more concerned with ambulances getting to the property, and I don't like the idea of a ramp."

Mark Peterson  
Novi Planning Commission

access," said member Richard Gault. "Secondary access isn't required in all cities, but it is in Novi."

"The issue has to be resolved with the Fire Department," said Member John Avdotios.

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.homem.com.net.

## Twelve Oaks giving away fantasy baby shower

From the folks who brought you Merry Me At Twelve, the \$85,000 dream wedding gift, comes Baby Me At Twelve, a fantasy baby shower, to be held on Saturday, May 8 at noon in the Twelve Oaks Center Court. The Baby Me At Twelve contest is presented by Emerald City Designs, Farmington Hills, and Twelve Oaks Mall.

Twelve lucky invitees, each of whom will invite nine guests to join her, will be pampered with refreshments, gift baskets, a maternity and baby fashion show, and exciting door prizes. The 12 winners will be selected at random and announced on WNIC 100.3 FM on or around April 30.

Once again, the Center Court of Twelve Oaks will be transformed by the talented folks at Emerald City Designs into a beautiful setting for this special event, to be held just in time for Mother's Day.

Look for colorful linens and gorgeous floral and plant arrangements to brighten up Center Court beginning April 21 through the day of the shower.

Moms-to-be can see the latest in maternity fashions and fun spring/summer outfits for their children from birth to five years of age during informal modeling which will take place throughout the event.

Mall merchants have put together special gift baskets for the new moms and every guest will go home with a goody bag of coupons and product samples. Light refreshments from mall restaurants and Genetti's Hole in the Wall, Northville will be served. Telum Credit Union, located at 44575 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Novi will gift each of the 12 City Designs with a \$50 savings account.

To enter, moms-to-be should

pick up an entry form at a participating Twelve Oaks store including A & W American Food, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Curved Cuts, The Children's Place, Crabtree & Evelyn, DC Sports, The Discovery Channel Store, Dominator Clothing, Gala Hallmark, Goddess Chocolates, Gymboree, Hagendaz, JC Penney Portrait Studio, Mini Maternity, Motherhood Maternity, Origins, Travel 2000/Point A Luggage and Waldenbooks. No purchase is necessary.

Entries must be 21 years of age or older at the time of entry. All of the parents attending the baby shower will be invited to register their children 12 and under for the latest creation at Twelve Oaks, our brand new Little Oaks Kid's Club. Little Oaks Club members will receive newsletters, free gifts, discounts, and winners must show proof of pregnancy or proof of adoption that will occur between April and July 2004. All entries must be received by mail no later than April 27 or may be dropped off in the Twelve Oaks Management Office by 9 p.m. on April 29 to be eligible. Entries can submit entry

forms in person at the Management Office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by mail to:

"Baby Me At Twelve,"  
c/o Management Office, Twelve Oaks  
27500 Novi Road  
Novi, MI 48177

All of the parents attending the baby shower will be invited to register their children 12 and under for the latest creation at Twelve Oaks, our brand new Little Oaks Kid's Club. Little Oaks Club members will receive newsletters, free gifts, discounts, and winners must show proof of pregnancy or proof of adoption that will occur between April and July 2004. All entries must be received by mail no later than April 27 or may be dropped off in the Twelve Oaks Management Office by 9 p.m. on April 29 to be eligible. Entries can submit entry

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### continued from page 7

Craft. Most recently, he served as director of sales — Knart, for Huffly Service First, a national retail service organization.

### MotorWerks has grand opening

MotorWerks Group, LLC, a full-service Mercedes-Benz and BMW service center is celebrating the grand opening of its new High-Performance Center at 3200 Walnut Lake Road in Commerce Township.

"The issue has to be resolved with the Fire Department," said Member John Avdotios.

Fired? Don't blame the boss

Fired from your management job? Take heart in the news that your boss didn't reject you, the corporate culture did. According to Steve Gravenkemper, an employee assessment expert, employees higher up on the food chain frequently lose their job because the organization's culture rejects them, not because their skills are inadequate.

"The right fit among key position holders becomes even more critical in a depressed economy because improper executive placements are extremely expensive, not just financially but with the associated costs of emotional upheaval in the workplace and loss of productivity and momentum," Gravenkemper said.

summer, don't cancel your travel plans! Reroute them to stay in Michigan, suggests staff members at Travel Michigan.

"We don't expect people to drastically change their travel plans this season. When you look at a map of Michigan, you start to realize that you can travel from one extreme of the state to the other on under two tanks of gas," said Dave Lorenz, vice president of Travel Michigan.

"Instead of cutting back on travel, try cutting costs in other ways, such as finding deals and discounts or packages on the michigan.org Web site. The site provides information on more than 8,000 properties in the state, with more than 200 cost-savings packages."

### High gas prices? Travel Michigan

When gas prices begin their expected upward climb this

Dr. Robert Atkins, the late physician who virtually started a new industry with his low-carbohydrate diet, has had quite an effect on our society. It seems that everyone — even fast-food restaurants — have jumped on the low-carb bandwagon.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

# HEALTHY LIVING

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 111 cstone@ht.homem.com.net

## Low-carb craze affects eateries

### Table bread baskets may be the exception, not the rule

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Robert Atkins, the late physician who virtually started a new industry with his low-carbohydrate diet, has had quite an effect on our society. It seems that everyone — even fast-food restaurants — have jumped on the low-carb bandwagon.

In response to this phenomenon, local businesses have started promoting low-carb or low-carb dishes and items.

Low-CARB DISCUSSION

Dr. Richard and Rachel Heller will discuss and sign their latest release "The 7-Day Low-Carb Rescue and Recovery Plan," at 6:30 p.m. May 12 at Borders Books & Music Novi.

The Hellers are the best-selling authors of "The Carbohydrate Addict's LifeSpan Program" and many other books in the Carbohydrate Addict's series.

Call (248) 347-0780



Photo by John Heider  
Mary Brady, owner of Novi Town Center's Diamond Jim Brady's bistro, shows off two of her low-carb menu selections: a chicken salad and a tuna (grilled, skewered) a la Atkins.

For more info on low-carb, please turn to page 10A.

## BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS



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Oakland County offers May workshops

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in May offered by the Oakland County Business Center.

Thinking about a Website? If you need the answers, come Thursday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to noon. Hosted by the Oakland County Business Center and located at the County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, the program will be presented by web development expert Christine Chlubenko of What Webs We Weave, LLC. Space is extremely

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URGENT NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED WELDING RODS

Scientists report that elevated manganese exposure from welding rods may have been associated with Parkinson's disease and manganese. Symptoms include shakiness, distorted facial expressions, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. If you have experienced any of these problems, call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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CELEBRATE SURVIVORSHIP!

Join your community to kick-off the 2nd annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Walled Lake.

Relay For Life Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap  
Saturday, May 22, 2004  
10:00 a.m. start time  
Walled Lake Events Field

To learn more about the Survivor's Victory Lap please call Barb Iovan at 248.483.4317.

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## Great Harvest offers low-carb selections

Now dieters can have their bread and eat it, too

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Low-carb diets continue to be all the rage for dieters across the nation.

And Northville bakery owners David and Julie Cole, who own Great Harvest Bread Co., recently decided to embrace this trend.

The owners introduced in January a new Low Carb bread that they bake daily.

"Consumers don't understand that there is a difference when it comes to carbs," said David Cole.

"Carbs don't make you fat," said Julie Cole, "but too much of anything — including too much of the wrong kind of carbs and not enough of the right ones — isn't good for you."

Whole grains or "good carbs" account for only 5 percent of Americans' carbohydrate consumption, according to an article in the *New York Times*.

Research conducted by staff at the United States Department of Agriculture on U.S. food consumption also showed that 93 percent of Americans don't come close to consuming the USDA and American Dietetic Association recommendation of at least three servings of whole grain foods daily.

Research has shown that just one serving of whole grains per day can significantly reduce the risks of heart disease and cancer — the top

two killers in the U.S.

The Coles said they were faced with the balance of staying true to their business of offering whole grain foods while meeting the demands of many customers' low-carb diets.

They discovered that by using whole grains, they can make a tasty loaf of bread with only 6 net grams of carbohydrates per 1-ounce slice. And almost 60 percent of those carbohydrates comes from the best possible, most healthful source — whole grains.

Whole grains provide the superior taste and nutritional benefits that few, if any, other low-carb breads have, according to the Coles.

Varieties of the new Low-Carb bread include Multigrain, Cinnamon Chip, Dakota (multi-seed), and Cheddar Garlic.

"We make it every day, and it

sells really well. The Cinnamon Chip and the Multigrain are the most popular," said Sean Sinclair, bakery manager.

"We've had responses from customers who say that this is by far the best low-carb bread that they've had, simply because it has texture and flavor, and it doesn't taste like cardboard," Sinclair added.

Great Harvest Bread Co. in Northville, located at 138 E. Main Street, opens at 7 a.m. Loaves of hot bread start coming out of the oven at 10 a.m. Free educational tours of the bakery can be scheduled by calling (248) 444-4404.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the *Now News*. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ln.fox.com.

## Prepare for accidents

By Ernie Harwell

We hear a lot about how we should eat better and exercise to stay healthy. And there's no doubt about it, we need to do those things.

But there are other very practical things we should do to maintain our health and take responsibility for our own safety. For example, it's incredibly important to buckle your seatbelt every time you ride in a car. There are still far too many people getting hurt or dying in car accidents because they don't buckle up.

If people you care about still don't wear seatbelts, help them develop the habit.

We also need to teach our kids how they can protect their health and safety. One way to do this is to make sure they're properly protected when they're riding their bikes or in-line skating. They need to wear helmets and

not take unnecessary risks that can lead to broken bones or worse.

By taking these simple precautions, we can dramatically reduce our chances of being injured when accidents happen.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's too late.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lela," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.



E. Harwell

not take unnecessary risks that can lead to broken bones or worse.

## St. John Health pursuing near perfection with launch of Six Sigma

As the saying goes, nobody's perfect. St. John Health (SJH) is taking bold steps to come very close to near perfection with the launch of Six Sigma, a management philosophy and process that employs rapid, evidence-based decision-making that pursues 99.99966% effectiveness.

The central idea behind Six Sigma is that if you can measure how many "defects" you have in a process, you can systematically figure out how to eliminate them and get as close to "zero defects" as possible.

St. John Health is the first health system in the state and one of only a few health systems in the country to embark on the revolutionary process. Coached by experts from General Electric (GE) whose CEO Jack Welch championed the philosophy during his tenure as head of the company, St. John Health leaders and staff are embracing the process and tools to achieve sustainable and measurable change in improving patient care and performance.

Some of the key commitments St. John Health has made in adopting Six Sigma include:

- Pursuit of perfection in patient care delivery
- Measuring everything that is done
- Tying together cost, quality and service — committing to all of these, every time
- The customer (patient) dic-

ates quality

Senior management is intimately involved in the quality of care and its improvement

Six Sigma permeates everything that is done, from one-on-one discussions with employees to building new facilities

"Our vision is to be the premier healthcare provider in southeast Michigan by consistently providing the highest quality patient care experience in all that we do," says Elliot Joseph, president and CEO of St. John Health.

"We are investing significant financial and human resources in Six Sigma to achieve our vision," he says.

James Tucci, MD, chief medical officer for St. John Health and a key member of the Six Sigma project team says Six Sigma, which has been used with great success in other industries, is based on a scientific process of decision-making that is driven by data, not guesses or anecdotes.

"The Six Sigma process improvement relies on hearing the voice of the customer to first understand the customer's "critical to quality" (CTQ) expectations. This is being done through customer telephone and written surveys, interviews, and observation," he said. "For example, we know that on average hospitals across the country take up to nine hours for a patient to be seen from the triage area where they are evaluated to admission to the hos-

pital," says Dr. Tucci.

"A critical part of Six Sigma is to ask our customers their expectations for a particular process. If the customer says that the time should take no more than six hours, our goal and process for achieving success will be six hours," he adds.

Dr. Tucci says Six Sigma methodology teaches that the most effective way to improve complex processes is to accurately focus on one aspect of the problem where there is the greatest opportunity for improvement. To that end, St. John Health is launching four projects at Providence Hospital and Medical Center and St. John Hospital and Medical Center to reduce average wait times and to decrease variation in wait times for the emergency departments, operating room and patient discharge.

During the next fiscal year the remaining St. John Health Hospitals will identify people trained as facilitators to lead process improvements. "Six Sigma will be the way we work at St. John Health, not an add-on to existing work. The process will allow us to establish a consistent, disciplined approach to process improvement across our health system which will increase speed and confidence in decision making and provide the highest quality patient care experience for our customers," said Joseph.

## Howell History Days

May 1 & 2, 2004



Neil Woodward - Live in Concert

Hear Michigan's Troubador for a one of a kind entertainment! Sunday, May 2nd, 3pm, All Saints Chapel Tickets \$10 each

## Lake Central Rail Tours

Ride the historic rail cars out to Whitmore Lake and back to Howell All Aboard at 1pm & 3pm, May 1 & 2 Tickets - \$15 adults, \$12 for seniors & kids to 12 years old Kids under 2 FREE



## So Fine Brothers Band

Howell's favorite Rock n' Roll good times band! Saturday, May 1st, 4:00pm-6:00pm Courthouse Amphitheater Sponsored by Aria Bookellers and Backhaus Auto Sales

## EVENTS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours & rides of historic Livingston County Courthouse, Self-led tours of Howell Carnegie District Library, Tours & history of Howell Opera House, Tours of Howell Depot Museum, Lantark model trains at RT Flooring, Vintage clothing at Depot Museum, Quilt Show at First National Bank, third floor

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Flea Market on North Walnut Street  
1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Train ride to Whitmore Lake and back at Howell Depot Museum (\$15 adult, \$12 Seniors and kids); Walking & Home Tour at Howell Depot Museum (\$7 each)

## EVENTS SATURDAY ONLY

9 a.m. Flapjack Breakfast at Howell Masonic Lodge. All-you-can-eat for \$5  
10 a.m. to noon Go Fly A Kite Art Project at Howell Opera House  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Antique Appraisals at First National Bank, third floor (\$10 for one item, \$15 for two)  
11:30 a.m. Boeke-Jennings Funeral Home receives Centennial Michigan Business Milestone Award  
noon to 2 p.m. May Pole Celebration at Depot Museum

noon to 2 p.m. Fifth & Foremost at Lady Rebecca's Choice  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m. May Day Victorian Tea at Blue Willow Tea Room, call (517) 540-1589  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Barbershop Quartet roving around downtown  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m. So-Fine Bus. Concert at Courthouse Amphitheater

## EVENTS SUNDAY ONLY

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Howell Farmers' Market and Carriage Rides on State Street  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Costume Jewelry Appraisals at First National Bank, third floor, 100 years of 4H History on courthouse lawn  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Games for kids with prizes, courthouse lawn  
noon to 2 p.m. Can-Can Dancers at Howell Opera House, performances every 15 minutes  
3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Neil Woodward Concert at All Saints Chapel (\$10 per person)  
TBA Bagpipe Concert roving around downtown

For more information: [www.downtownhowell.org](http://www.downtownhowell.org) or call 545-4240

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## Sheraton joins low-carb craze

A popular breakfast bar serving consists of a variety of bagels, pastries, and breads. If you're one of the 32 million Americans cutting carbohydrates and find it nearly impossible to stick to your diet on the road, you're not alone. But now you have a solution when traveling.

The Sheraton Detroit Novi will introduce Lo-Carb Lifestyle by Sheraton, the most extensive line of low-carb food offerings at the hotel industry. Lo-Carb Lifestyle by Sheraton will also be available in 200 other Sheraton hotels in North America followed by an expansion overseas later this year. Lo-Carb Lifestyle by Sheraton features all-

new low-carb restaurant menus, room service offerings, cocktails, club lounge service and to-go snacks.

In an industry first, Sheraton has also developed a special banquet menu meaning that meeting attendees and even guests at weddings, fundraisers and other social functions can easily stick to their low-carb regime. Low Carb by Sheraton is taking the low-carb craze! Even the hotel mint is going low-carb — a new, delicious chocolate mint with just 2 net carbs is on its way to a pillow near you.

Lo-Carb Lifestyle by Sheraton features more than 15 menu items covering breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, snacks and cocktail nibbles. Highlights include a Portobello Chicken Burger, Seared Norwegian Salmon, Mediterranean Garlic

Chicken and Salmon Lettuce Wraps as well as favorites including a New York Sirloin, No-Buns Burger, Chicken Wings and plenty of bacon and eggs. At the Sheraton Detroit Novi, the menu items are available to order throughout the hotel at DuVine's Market, Sports Edition, and In-Room Dining, which is room service. Most of the items contain less than five net grams of carbohydrates. The low-carb drinks menu includes low carb beer, a gin and tonic and specialty drinks including a Leatini (Smirnoff vodka, vermouth and lemon twist), a Skinny Greyhound, (Tanqueray and grapefruit juice with a fresh strawberry) and more.

The Sheraton team of professionals has tasted more than 100 low-carb snacks ranging from cookies to candy bars to nuts to beef jerky to

selfy beans to develop to-go snacks and several hundred hotel chefs are completing a training program focused on preparation and cooking techniques for the new menu.

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Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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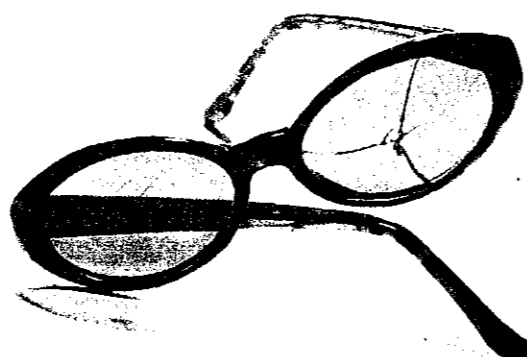


Photo by Michael J. Morrison

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## Conservancy receives \$30k grant to protect farmland, ranchland

The Novi-based Americana Foundation is awarding Headwaters Land Conservancy a \$30,000 grant to preserve farmland and ranchland in 2004. Headwaters Land Conservancy helps private landowners protect land in the eleven-county region of northeast Lower Michigan. This large landscape region is often referred to as "Club Country" due to the large number of hunt and fish clubs, some containing the largest parcels of undivided private land left in the Lower Peninsula. Ranchlands are large parcels of private land that support agriculture, forestry, and wildlife and provide the wild and rugged landscapes defining northeast Lower Michigan.

Large farms and hunt clubs still are the prevailing landscape in

northeast Michigan, but the window of opportunity to conserve these and other working lands is closing fast as landowners age, retire and the land changes hands. In addition, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) has negatively affected the deer herd and deer hunting in this region and some large landowners are considering selling their land to speculators for subdivision into smaller five and ten acre parcels.

"Large tracts of private land are disappearing in northern Michigan and this trend will escalate as the tremendous intergenerational land transfers take place," said the Conservancy's Director of Development Kit Muecke. "This grant will help us accelerate our land protection outreach to hunt clubs and large property landown-

ers. It will also assist us with our annual Big Lands Meeting."

The Big Lands Meeting was created in 2002 with the objective of reaching landowners and hunt clubs that own half a section (320-acres) of property or more and presenting them with the various available land protection options. The first meeting was held during the summer of 2002. The 2004 Big Lands Meeting will be held Saturday, June 26 in Alpena County and reservations are required. More information can be found on the Events page of the conservancy's website at [www.headwatersconservancy.org](http://www.headwatersconservancy.org).

For more information, please call (989) 731-0573, e-mail [headwaters@glakes.com](mailto:headwaters@glakes.com) or visit [www.headwatersconservancy.org](http://www.headwatersconservancy.org).



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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 sweatbands, with all profits benefiting Teens Aiding the Cancer Community this semester. 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.

It's not something that you can do in a heartbeat," he said. "We have to bring people in who will look at all the facilities. We're just starting that analysis."

### Wee People at Orchard Hills

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Becky Hurst's first grade class at Orchard Hills got in the spirit by donning the masks of leprechauns.

### Orchard Hills third grade Music Extravaganza

The third graders of Orchard Hills sang their hearts out under the direction of Music Director Annie Bailey at their Spring Music Extravaganza. It had a patriotic theme, which included several early American ballads, a visit by John Phillip Sousa (Matt Ballard) and a freestyle game of "Music Jeopardy" hosted by Mr. Let's Play (Principal Paul Lettner).

### Living history at Novi Meadows

Husband and wife team Bob and Mary Bray visited Novi Meadows portraying Benjamin Franklin and his daughter, Sarah Franklin Bache. They shared the wit, wisdom and warmth of Franklin with an emphasis on the joy of reading. They also talked to students about always doing their best and never to fly kites in a thunderstorm.

### Deerfield Family Reading Night

Many activities were enjoyed by all who attended the Deerfield Family Reading Night a few weeks ago. Some of the various activities included visually impaired centers, Spanish centers and authors from Michigan, including Rhonda Gowler Greene and Cathy Black.

### Box tops for cash

Novi Woods, PTO Chairperson Denise Sukowich awards Nancy Bain's third grade class a check for collecting the most Box Tops for Education this year. The class earned \$25 to spend on books for their classroom.

### General Mills' Box Top program

will be used to buy books for the school's guided reading program.

### Outstanding Novi teachers sought

The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom. Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

### Novi Christian student finalist in competition

David Williams, a senior at Novi Christian School, will compete for scholarships of up to \$50,000 this month in the first-ever Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Competition.

### Senior honors program shortened

The Novi High School academic awards senior honors program will be a little shorter this year. The event is on Thursday, May 27 and instead of calling each student up for every award they were individually, as in years past, each student who won multiple awards will now receive his or her awards in one trip.

### Custodial/maintenance and transportation privatization exploration

The Novi Community School District is currently exploring the possibility of privatizing its custodial/maintenance and transportation departments. According to Jim Koway, assistant superintendent of business and finance, it may be more cost effective to have an outside company do those services. That's what the exploration study is supposed to find out.



Robert and Audrey Allison told stories and let students play unique instruments from around the world.

## Detroit storytellers visit Village Oaks

### Husband, wife team share positive messages

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Robert and Audrey Allison, a husband and wife storyteller team from Detroit, visited Village Oaks Elementary School to perform to students.

Robert and Audrey Allison, a husband and wife storyteller team from Detroit, visited Village Oaks Elementary School to perform to students.

## 7th Grade

- John Abba, Keny Abel, Erik Appelbacher, Grant Alexander, Michael Aljabh, Elizabeth Andrews, Patrick Anosa, Forth Anthony, Tawny Apsley, Rasha Arghal, Nicole Austin, Fernando Babler, Matthew Baker, Megan Barber, Michelle Barber, Rachel Baratt, Colin Bart, Diana Baykov, Katelyn Beaton, Ryan Bell, Shera Bhatia, Sruha Bhattacharya, Benjamin Blanchard, Jacob Blossfeld, Bradley Brassil, Bernad Brockman, Kelli Brown, Leslie Brown, Christopher Bruns, Jennifer Bruns, Michelle Fernandes, Laura Felcher, Kelly Flanagan, Alicia Fleming, Michael Fostick, Benjamin Fraser, Jason Freeman, Nicholas Garvin, Nicholas Geuter, Deborah Ghosh, Evan Giampa, Aletta Glones,

## 8th Grade

- Chen, Dylan Clark, Samantha Clarkson, Stephen Cook, Lisa Copeland, Mason Currie, Kristen Crencenz, Evan Cusick, Suya Dalavay, Katherine Dale, Nathaniel Daly, Zachary Danks, Leslie Davies, Brittany Davis, Hilary Diawon, Adam Dieter, Jonathan Dietrich, Heather Doubrav, Myah Doss, Ryan Dougherty, Ashley Drayson, Shane Damber-Gaynor, John Dreyer, Christopher Edwards, Cody Esekender, Danielle Falzone, Justin Farago, Danny Fawar, Jordan Feight, Jennifer Felcher, Michelle Fernandes, Laura Felcher, Kelly Flanagan, Alicia Fleming, Michael Fostick, Benjamin Fraser, Jason Freeman, Nicholas Garvin, Nicholas Geuter, Deborah Ghosh, Evan Giampa, Aletta Glones,

### Oakland Schools Board to interview superintendent candidates

Yesterday, the Oakland Schools Board of Education interviewed three candidates for the position of superintendent and will do two more interviews today. Each interview is expected to run for up to 90 minutes.

The interviews with the Board are open meetings. However, room availability has limited the seating capacity for these meetings.

Interviewed yesterday were:

- Charles Bremer, Superintendent, Howell Public Schools, Michigan
- William Mayes, Superintendent, Huron ISD, Michigan
- Sally Vaughn, Superintendent, Livingston ESA, Michigan

Today's interviews in Conference Room B, will include:

- Glenn Pelecky, Chief Administrator, Mississippi Bend Area Educational Agency, Iowa at 5 p.m.
- Vickie Markavich, Superintendent, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, Indiana at 7 p.m.

Following the interviews, the Board is expected to determine which candidates they will consider as finalists for the position and invite to return for a second interview.

### Student from Novi part of a team that wins national competition

Emily Hepburn of Novi, a junior Russian language major at the University of South Carolina, is part of a team of undergraduate marketing students who captured top honors in the American Marketing Association case competition. The event took place at the American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans March 25-26.

It is the second consecutive year that the students in the Moore School of Business's American Marketing Association chapter have taken home the top honor in



P. Renner

### Read Around the World winner

Patrick Renner of Orchard Hills Elementary School read the most hours in the school during "Read Around the World" held during March reading month. During the month, he read 49 hours and went 16 days without television. Renner is in third grade in Mrs. Brandan's class. He credits all his teachers and especially Mrs. Burkhardt, reading specialist at Orchard Hills, for teaching him how to read.

### Senior honors program shortened

The Novi High School academic awards senior honors program will be a little shorter this year. The event is on Thursday, May 27 and instead of calling each student up for every award they were individually, as in years past, each student who won multiple awards will now receive his or her awards in one trip.

### Custodial/maintenance and transportation privatization exploration

The Novi Community School District is currently exploring the possibility of privatizing its custodial/maintenance and transportation departments. According to Jim Koway, assistant superintendent of business and finance, it may be more cost effective to have an outside company do those services. That's what the exploration study is supposed to find out.

"We were directed to analyze the situation and that's what we're doing," he said. "We're exploring the possibility of privatizing the custodial/maintenance and transportation. There are companies that do that."

Koway said that it takes a lot of analysis to do a study like this.

### 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, May 12, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 99-18, 164.

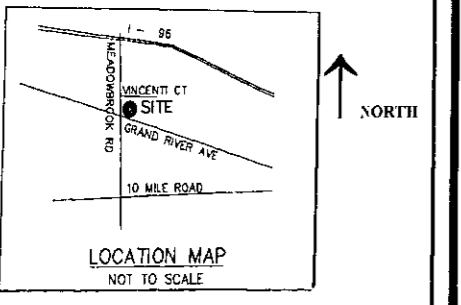
Relating To Fences In The Residential District: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTION 2503.1 OR ORDINANCE NO. 97-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, TO REVISE THE STANDARDS FOR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY.

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. 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, May 12, 2004.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY  
(4-22-04 NN 127591)

### 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 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider HUNTER OF NOVI SITE PLAN NUMBER 04-09 FOR POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONCEPT PLAN APPROVAL, LOCATED NORTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND EAST OF HEADBROOK ROAD. The subject property is approximately 6.72 acres. The applicant is proposing an automobile dealership.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the 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., Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY  
(4-22-04 NN 127594)

### Schools of Choice Enrollment

at Walled Lake Central, Northern and Western High Schools for 2004-05 - 9th and 10th grades only



- FREE ENROLLMENT to Oakland County residents.
- Comprehensive curriculum, including a variety of advanced placement classes, foreign language, band, orchestra, choir and drama
- Freshman, JV, and Varsity athletic opportunities
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Walled Lake Northern 6000 Bogie Lake Rd. Commerce, MI 48382  
Walled Lake Western 600 Beck Rd. Walled Lake, MI 48390

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For more information on Walled Lake Schools, visit our web site at www.walledlake.k12.mi.us

We're Making Tomorrow!

### NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 04-015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Greco Isles Eatery Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow outdoor seating for the period of May 15, 2004 until September 30, 2004. Greco Isles Eatery Inc. is located in the Phasaron Inn Plaza at 29777 Grand River Avenue just west of Haggerty Road.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 28, 2004. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Denise Anderson at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

DENISE ANDERSON  
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY  
(248) 347-0415

### The Great Spring Sale



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package includes:  
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Pamper Mom • Win a Spa day at Scappare Salon  
Enclose this entry form along with your letter of 200 words or less and be eligible to win a spa package for your mother.

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown Newspapers  
c/o Pamper Your Mom  
101 N. Lafayette  
South Lyon, MI 48178

## 101 Things to do in SUMMER

The Special Section that shines its focus on Fun activities for all in the Good Ol' Summertime!

Space Reservation Deadline: April 26, 2004  
Copy Deadline: April 27, 2004  
Publication Date: May 27, 2004

Milford Times . . . . . 248-685-1507  
South Lyon Herald . . . . . 248-437-2011  
Novi News  
Northville Record . . . . . 248-349-1700

## Adrenaline Sock Series

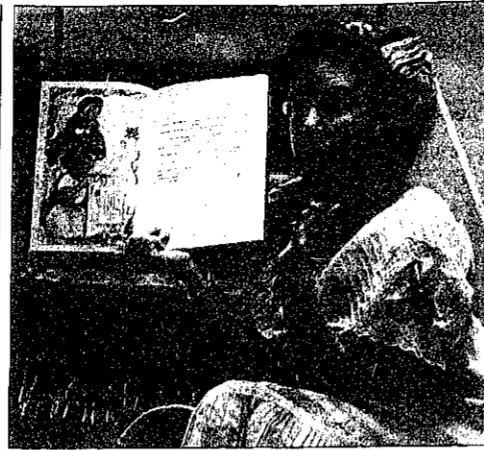
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Contour Flex REDUCES BUNCHING  
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**Parkview Fun Fair**

Parkview Elementary School held its annual Fun Fair event on March 19. Families had a great time exploring the 21 different games and activities found inside the classrooms, some of which included the Cake Walk, Wild Hair Shop and Boo-boo Clinic. The snack center sold popcorn, hot dogs, nachos and cheese, pizza and pop. Each year, the PTO sponsors a family Fun Fair night filled with games, food, a raffle and just plain fun. This is the school's last fund-raiser for the year. One of the biggest attractions at the fair was the raffle which had over 100 prizes, which were donated by area businesses, Parkview families and friends. There were over 200 volunteers who participated in making this fair a success. Pictured here, PTO Vice President Sally Falsetti leans over to spray some color in a young girl's hair. The girl with the ROCK star tee on in the back waiting in line is Anna Marie Giroux.



**Village Oaks celebrates Easter with Cascarones**

Many cultures have a tradition of colored eggs, especially around Easter. In Mexico it's common to see colored eggs thrown at fiestas during carnival, just before lent. They're not hard boiled like the eggs in the United States. Easter egg tradition. Instead, they're eggs that have been hollowed out and have a surprise filling - called cascarones. Here, Village Oaks students celebrate Easter, Mexican style.



**Novi Woods celebrates learning**

Novi Woods students shared months of hard work with their families at the Annual Celebration of Learning on March 31. Parents had the opportunity to visit their child's classroom, see progress through a compilation of the student's work and meet with teachers. Pictured here, Art teacher Isolde Sarnecki looks on as Gary and Tammy Latham admire first grader Hannah's art portfolio.

**O'Tooles**  
"A Touch of Irish"

**CO-ED CHICAGO STYLE SOFTBALL**  
Games played behind O'Tooles every night except Saturday. Leagues start week of May 16. To sign up your team and more info call 248-348-8217

**CO-ED SAND VOLLEYBALL**  
Games are Mon. - Fri. nights and all day Sundays. Leagues start week of May 16. To sign up your team call Ron 248-380-4550/248-521-1300 cell

**Hurry! Leagues Fill Quickly!**

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Monday-Friday	9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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\*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of April 22, 2004. Offer may be terminated or subject to change at any time. CD rate is available for personal accounts only and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer available only at our new Novi branch. New funds only; transfers from or renewals of existing TCF accounts excluded from this offer. \$500 minimum opening deposit required. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. \*\*May be closed major holidays. Contact branch for details. © 2004 TCF National Bank

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Oakland County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Laboratory Open House**  
DATE: Thursday, April 22  
TIME: noon-1 p.m.  
LOCATION: Building #38 East, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac  
DETAILS: This is an opportunity to witness first-hand the work of Oakland County's finest crime scene investigators.  
PHONE: Please contact Mandy Ford, Community Liaison, at 248-343-0129

**Novi Borders Bookstore Happenings**  
DATE: Friday, April 23  
TIME: 10 a.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Town Center  
DETAILS: Meet children's author Andrew Clements. He will read from and sign copies of his new book *The Report Card*. Andrew Clements is the multi-faceted author of picture books, including *Big Al*, and two other novels about school life, *Frindle* and *The Laundry News*.

**Friday Evening Fitness Hike**  
DATE: Friday, April 23rd  
TIME: 5:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Join the Crossroads Group of the Sierra Club for a brisk four mile hike on at Kensington Metro Park. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot.  
PHONE: For more information contact Cheryl McConnell at Cheryl.McConnell@MichiganSierraClub.org or 517-552-1464.

**Faith Community Presbyterian Church chamber music concert**  
DATE: Friday, April 23  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: 44400 West 10 Mile Road, Novi  
DETAILS: The community is invited. Pieces by Mozart, Bartok, Brahms and Beethoven will be presented. There is no cost for this event, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the three international Master Degree musicians studies at Michigan State University.

**Fountain Walk of Novi "Spring at the Fountain" Family Event**  
DATE: Saturday, April 24  
TIME: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
LOCATION: Fountain Walk, a shopping entertainment complex, is located at I-96 and Novi Road.  
DETAILS: This family event features dance performances, puppet shows, character visits, crafts and surprise giveaways. All activities are free.  
PHONE: Call 248-348-8762 for more information.

**Walled Lake City Library National Library Week Celebration**  
DATE: Saturday, April 24  
TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple  
DETAILS: All ages may participate. Enter a photo of a pet by April 24.  
PHONE: 248-634-3772

**"Falin Dafa" Meditation for Your Health Educational Seminar**  
DATE: Saturday, April 24  
TIME: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Rd.  
DETAILS: This is free seminar sponsored by Michigan-based non-profit organization, Oriental Culture Association. There will be teaching of exercise and meditation.  
PHONE: To register, www.saltindia.org

**Novi Chamber of Commerce 12th Annual Charity Auction**  
DATE: Saturday, April 24  
LOCATION: Hotel Barometre, Novi  
DETAILS: Partial proceeds from this year's auction will benefit "Sweet Dreamz Detroit". The organization provides bedtime essentials for a good night's rest to grade school children in need throughout Southeastern Michigan.  
PHONE: (248) 349-3743

**Church of the Holy Cross Clarity Golf Scramble and Auctions**  
DATE: Saturday, June 26  
TIME: 1:15 p.m. shot gun tee-off  
LOCATION: Coyote Golf Club, on Milford Rd., in New Hudson.

**Hudson**  
DETAILS: Join us for 18 holes of golf, prize holes, being holes, silent auction and live auction, dinner and music. Benefiting the Detroit Area Haiti Mission school sponsorship program, medical aid, and building program. Cost is \$125/person.  
PHONE: www.coyotegolfclub.com

**Career Opportunity Forum**  
DATE: Tuesday, April 27  
TIME: 5:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and wine; 6-7:30, presentation  
LOCATION: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans 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 in the workplace. It will feature 10 female financial associates who will give brief presentations on working in the financial services field.  
PHONE: Peggy Kalks, (248) 380-4300 or  
peggy.kalks@thrivent.com

**Cooking Class by Let Me Cook, PCS-Spring Salads**  
DATE: Wednesday, April 28  
LOCATION: Oak Valley Middle School, 4200 White Oak Trail, Commerce Township  
DETAILS: Class will go over salad basics and quick tips for great anytime salads. You can make your ordinary salad into an extraordinary one with our help! We will also learn about salad dressings and 10 fat and healthier alternatives. \$15 per person plus a \$10 materials fee payable to the instructor. Instructor is Chef Chad of Let Me Cook, PCS.  
PHONE: To register call (248) 678-8390

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

**"Hollywood Nights" 24-Hours Marathon**  
DATE: Friday, April 30 until Saturday, May 1  
TIME: begins 10 a.m. Friday, ending 10 a.m. Saturday

**LOCATION: Emagine Theatre, Fountain Walk in Novi, 1/4 mile west of Novi Rd. at 12 Mile.**  
DETAILS: Benefiting Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan, participants raise a minimum of \$94.70 in pledges, bring the money in and then sit back and watch as many movies as they want in 24 hours. Food provided. Must be 18 or older to participate.  
PHONE: 1-800-825-2536 or leukemiafoundation.org.

**Michigan International Women's Show**  
DATE: Thursday, April 29-Sunday, May 2  
TIME: Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
DETAILS: \$8 at the door, \$7 advance (purchase online at www.internationalwomenshow.com or in person at Meijer). Stencil for groups of 20 or more, \$4/youth 6-12, free for children under 6. Unique shopping, treats and surprises from Meijer's, fashion shows, food samples, author appearances, prizes.  
PHONE: 1-800-849-0248

**Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce New Member Reception**  
DATE: Friday, May 14  
TIME: 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.  
LOCATION: Chamber Office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste. B, Walled Lake  
DETAILS: We encourage all new members to attend. Current members are also welcome invited.

**Boy Scouts of America, Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program**  
DATE: Saturday, May 15  
TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
LOCATION: Plymouth Twp. Park, 43250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (between Beck and Sheldon)  
DETAILS: All BSA troops in the area, along with club members children and non club members children are invited. Cost is \$35/student, non member and free to MFC members children. A \$5/person fee for Scouts. All ten requirements for Merit Badge will be demonstrated, discussed and applied. Event is for ages 10-17, lunch will be provided along with refreshments. All students must have eye protection and head protection. First come, first serve.  
PHONE: 248-624-2826

**Boest Camp Day**  
DATE: Friday, April 30  
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi  
DETAILS: Sponsored by Providence Center for the Healing Arts. A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wellness that can be very beneficial to the participants. Cost is \$45/person. Open to the public.

**APRIL CITY MEETINGS**

- 24 City Council Budget Council Chambers 9 a.m.
- 27 Storm Water Management & Watershed Stewardship Committee Civic Center 7 p.m.
- 28 Planning Commission Council Chambers 7:30 p.m.

**KINDERGARTEN**

- Important Dates coming up for children attending Novi Schools Kindergarten 2004-2005
- Tuesday & Wednesday, April 20 & 21 — Village Oaks Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
  - Wednesday & Thursday, April 28 & 29 — Orchard Hills Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
  - Tuesday & Wednesday, May 4 & 5 — Novi Woods Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
  - Thursday & Friday, May 6 & 7 — Deerfield Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
  - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 10, 11, & 12 — Parkview Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
- PHONE: To RSVP by April 15, call Dale Ross, 734-420-2233

**Huron Valley Sinai Hospital Pickles and Ice Cream Bowl**  
DATE: Saturday, August 21  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: All Star Lanes, Walled Lake  
DETAILS: A benefit for Harris Birthing Center. Dinner, raffle, games, bowling, prizes.  
PHONE: 248-937-3627

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9835, or e-mail to cstane@hvh.com

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248.937.3300 • www.hvsh.org

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
HURON VALLEY-SINAI HOSPITAL OPEN HOUSE  
"PASSPORT TO GOOD HEALTH"  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## 'Rise to Honor' puts Jet Li at your fingertips

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

So you think it's cool when Jet Li marches into a room and starts kicking some major butt in the movies do you? Well, it's your lucky day.

The action can all be yours now in the form of "Rise to Honor," a video game packed with so much martial arts fighting that you'll want to jump out of your chair and jump into the fray in real life.

"Rise to Honor" follows Kit Yan through the streets of Hong Kong and to San Francisco as he fights to keep himself, his friends and his honor alive. The story line in the game is extremely solid, offering up some nice dramatic scenes mixed in with a ton of impressive fighting.

And when it comes to the fighting, let's just say this isn't your

pop's martial arts game. No more button mashing for the most part — life revolves around your analog joystick on the PlayStation 2 controller. With your right stick, you control the fighting and direction of the attacks while you move Kit with the left stick.

One of the more unique aspects of the game — besides the controller's use for the attacks — is the fact that the gamer doesn't have to re-orientate the character on the screen to fight off a swarm of enemies.

Someone coming up behind Kit? Throw a kick or a punch that way to ward them off.

The game also offers an incredible defensive package. One of the most annoying aspects to fighting games is the lack of the ability to truly fend off attacks. Not only can Kit Yan fend those hoes off, but he can retaliate with a counter attack that can eas-

ily send your opponent onto his backside and out of the fray for a moment.

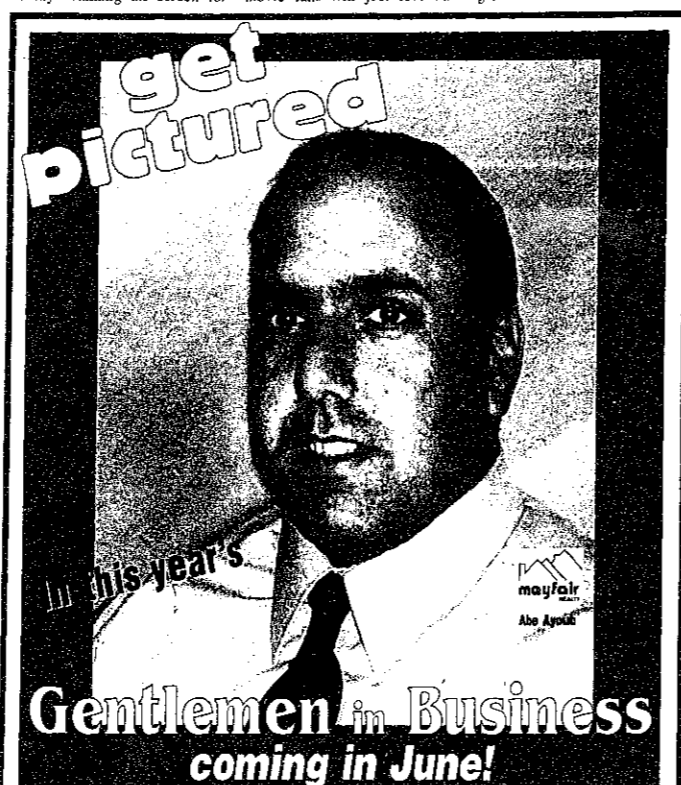
If there's a downside to this game, it's probably the fact that there is so much fighting. In some areas, no sooner do you finish fighting off one near-impossible nash before another one is jumping into the action. Since the controls are so unique, it's not surprising that you may find yourself pausing the game to give your beaten and battered thumbs a break.

This game is rated Teen and for good reason. Beyond going around and beating the heck out of people, Kit sometimes has to resort to using weapons such as a pistol or even a nail gun at one point. Thankfully, the developers at Sony kept the bloodshed off the screen, which no doubt helped them to keep the rating down. No blood? What's the fun

in that? To tell the truth, you don't even miss it. The action is so intense that you just go from one fight to the other and are constantly scanning the screen for

approaching badasses. There is no doubt that this game is a must have for the following fans: Action, fighting and movie fans will just love this

game. Oh, and let's not forget Jet Li fans, who will be thrilled by the amount of voice acting the scrappy actor put forth for this game.



Reserve your space by April 27, 2004  
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## Ready to live out that 'Fantasy'?

By Sam Eggleston  
ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Do you have brothers or sisters? Aunts and uncles? Heck, even a mom and a dad? Well, no matter what family or friends you have, you can just forget about them.

"Final Fantasy XI" — which was recently released on the PlayStation 2 after having been on PC for nearly six months — is the kind of game that traps you with beautiful scenes, intriguing design and a world like no other. Soon, you find yourself playing hours upon hours and suddenly there's no reason to shave, shower or speak to anyone other than your co-stars on the game.

Think that's a bad thing? Not really — it's just a credit to the immense impressiveness this game brings to your television.

"Final Fantasy XI," which comes complete with a 40-egg hard drive and is currently available in stores, brings you to the world of Van'diel. In this world, it has been 20 years after the great war with the Shadow Lord and Van'diel is returning to

its once normal status. However, the heronmen of the Shadow Lord are stirring and the nations of Bastok, San d'Oria and Windurst send out a call for help for adventures far and wide — and that's where you come in. You start by selecting a nation that you will be loyal to and start out small — very small. Much like in the real world, you have to build your reputation, your ability and your experience before you ultimately take the fight to the Shadow Lord and his minions. Don't worry, you don't have to do it alone — there are literally thousands upon thousands of players in this online world who are willing to form teams, work together and strive for the ultimate goal.

Don't worry, there's plenty to do while you're trying to turn your character into one of the top ones in this massive world (and that won't be easy, mind you — there are a lot of extremely dedicated players there right now with some high-level characters). There is a job system that has you choose one of six jobs in the beginning of the game, which

will expand to 15 once you've played a little while. From there, you have subjobs, which is a secondary job used to add to the existing profession of your character.

Rumor has it that once all of the jobs have been unlocked, there will be a whopping 225 possible combinations — impressive.

While this game offers so much enjoyment — here's a word to the wise: It's addictive and very daunting at first. For those veterans of online gaming, sliding into "Final Fantasy XI" won't be a problem. For those newbies out there, the task of getting ready to dive into the world is almost confusing at first, but once you get the hang of everything, you'll be off like a shot and well on your way to enjoying one of the best games on the market today.

So the recommendation? Buy this game, of course. It's so thrilling and so impressive that even the first-time gamer will find that they fall in love with it rather quickly. The speed at which things go by is impressive to say the least and you don't feel as though you're being bogged down

## "Hollywood Nights" dream come true for movie lovers

If you love movies, this is your dream come true! Watch them nonstop on 18 screens for 24 hours with all the popcorn and diner on you can consume. It's all part of "Hollywood Nights" 24-Hour Movie Marathon at Emagine Theatre in Novi to benefit Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF).

"Hollywood Nights" kicks off Friday, April 30 at 10 a.m. and goes until Saturday, May 1 at 10 a.m. Participants must raise a minimum of \$94.70 in pledges, bring them to the lobby of Emagine Theatre on the morning of April 30, and then sit back and watch as many movies as they want for 24

hours. Movie Marathoners will enjoy unlimited access to popcorn and pop, as well as lunch and dinner on Friday, and breakfast on Saturday. The "Super Star" that collects the most money in pledges will win a one-year pass for two to Emagine Theatre's Registration forms for "Hollywood Nights" are available at Emagine Theatres in Novi and Birch Run, metro Detroit Hollywood Video stores, Oakland County branches of Citizens Bank, or by calling CLF at 1-800-825-2536. You can also register at CLF's web site leukemia@michigan.org. You must be 18 years or older to participate.

Emagine Theatre is located at Fountain Walk in Novi, 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. at 12 Mile (off I-96 at the Novi Rd. exit). "Hollywood Nights" is presented by 94.7 WCSX and Emagine Theatre, and the Daily Oakland Press.

Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan is an independent statewide organization that provides information, financial assistance, and emotional support to adults and children affected by leukemia, lymphoma, and related blood disorders. Until there's a cure, CLF is here to help families overcome the challenges these conditions present.

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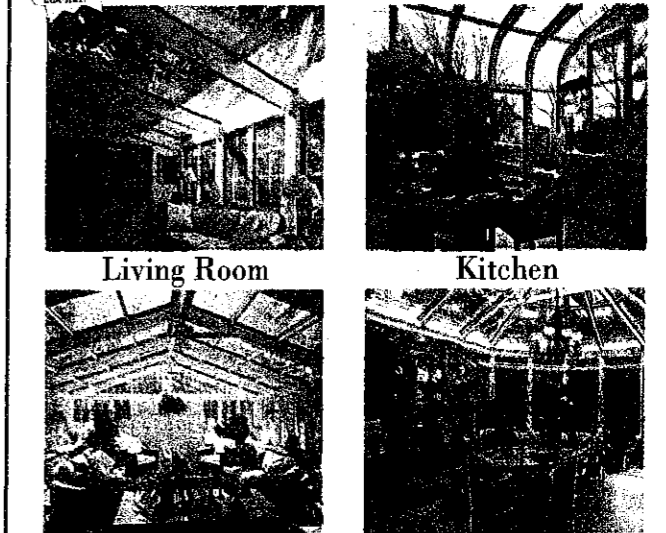
By Brian Renner

Jennifer Garner stars in the romantic comedy "13 Going on 30" about a 13-year-old girl, Jenna Rink, who on the eve of her 13th birthday, wants to be pretty and popular. After a humiliating experience with the coolest kids in school, Jenna makes a desperate wish for a new life. Miraculously her wish comes true, but with one catch... she's only five days away from her 30th birthday. "13 Going on 30" is rated PG-13 by the MPA.

Action-thriller "Man on Fire" stars Denzel Washington as a government operative of fortune who has pretty much given up on life. In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect a child (Dakota Fanning) whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship rekindles his spirit. When she is abducted, his fiery rage is unleashed on those he feels responsible. "Man on Fire" is a 20th Century Fox release and rated R by the MPA.

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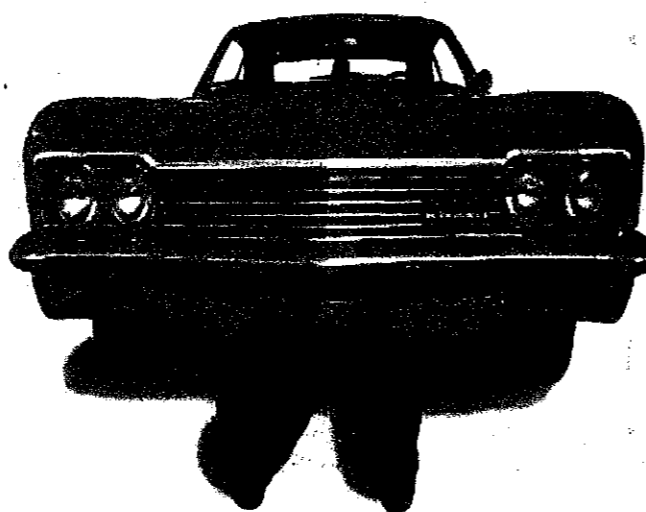
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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

20A

Now News

Thursday, April 22, 2004

## Tips for saving money on insurance

Insurance industry experts say homeowners insurance premiums are rising across the nation. The Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.) cites rising construction costs for repair and replacement of homes and increasingly expensive natural disasters as the primary reasons for the increase in premiums. The typical American homeowner will pay approximately \$615 for homeowners insurance in 2004, \$46 more than he or she paid in 2003, according to the industry trade group.

The onus is on the homeowners to shop around for the rates and coverage that are best for them. Companies offer several types of discounts, but they don't offer the same discount or the same amount of discount in all states. That's why you should ask your agent or company representative about any discounts available to you.

From the I.I.I. ([www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org)) here are some tips that may help you save money.

### Raise your deductible

The deductible is the amount of money you are responsible for paying toward a loss before the insurance company starts to pay a claim. Deductibles on homeowners policies typically start at \$250. If you double that deductible you could save up to 12 percent on your annual premium. Raise your deductible to \$1,000 and you could save as much as 24 percent.

### Buy home and auto policies together

Some companies that sell homeowners, auto and liability coverage will give you a 5 to 10 percent discount on your premium if you buy two or more policies from them.

### Consider insurance when buying

The price you pay for homeowners insurance depends on how much it will cost to replace your home and the likelihood it will burn down or be damaged by a natural disaster. The chances of your getting a break on your insurance are better if you buy a home with electrical, heating and plumbing systems that are less than 10 years old. Your insurance may also be cheaper if your home is close to a fire hydrant and is located in a community that has a professional rather than a volunteer fire department.

### Improve home security and safety

Ask your agent how much you'll save if you install simple safety devices like smoke detectors and dead-bolt locks. By installing a sophisticated sprinkler system and a fire and burglar alarm that rings at the police station or other monitoring facility, you save as much as 15 to 20 percent on your annual premium.

A system like this can come with a hefty price tag. Before you make such a purchase, find out what kind your insurer recommends. Then determine how much the device would cost and how much you'd save on premiums.

### See if you can get group coverage

Alumni and business associations often work out an insurance package with an insurance company, which includes a discount for association members. Ask your association's director if an insurer is offering a discount on homeowners insurance to you and your fellow graduates or colleagues.

### Make homes resistant to disasters

You may be able to save on your premiums if you make your home more resistant to disasters. Ask your agent what kind of discount you can get if you install storm shutters and shatterproof glass, and reinforce your roof, or replace it with stronger materials.

### Look for private insurers first

If you live in an area that's vulnerable to coastal storms, fires, or crime, and you've been buying your homeowners insurance through a government plan, consider looking into private insurance. You could find that there are steps you can take that would allow you to buy insurance at a lower price in the private market. Log onto OFIS' Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/ofis/0%2C1607%2C7-154-10555---%2C000.html> for more information.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League. Send questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or [mccl@mccl.org](mailto:mccl@mccl.org).

Advertorial



Photos by HAL GOULD

Erin Snook and her father, Ken Snook, are now delivering the fresh meats customers have come to enjoy from Snook's Butcher Shoppe. The shop is located inside Colasanti's at 468 South Milford Road in Highland. Call (248) 887-3205 or visit [www.snooksbutcher.com](http://www.snooksbutcher.com).

## Snook's delivers to your door

Family butcher shop offers the finest in meats, seafood, convenience foods

By Annette Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

When you walk into Snook's Butcher Shoppe, you can feel there is something different in the air — this is not a typical meat department that you would find at the grocery store. The counters are neatly stocked with a wide array of the finest fresh meat, poultry and seafood. Snook's employees are talking and swapping recipes with their customers as they wrap each item according to their customer's specifications. Butchers in crisp white coats are visible in the back room as they grind fresh hamburger and cut steaks to order. Indeed, this is no ordinary shopping experience — it seems that old-fashioned values like service, quality and attention to detail are alive and well at Snook's Butcher Shoppe.

Ken Snook of Snook's Butcher Shoppe began working in the meat industry when he was 13 years old. In 1979, he and his wife, Barb, opened Snook's Butcher Shoppe and began working to make their meat market a household name in the Highland and Milford area. Over the years, Snook's has relocated from its original location at M-59 and Duck Lake Road to where it now resides — inside Colasanti's Plants and Produce.

"We decided to move into Colasanti's approximately 12 years ago in an effort to create a 'one stop' shopping experience for our customers. We wanted to offer services that were both high end and convenient," notes Ken.

Snook's is known for offering only the best of the best when it comes to their products. Items such as Bell and Evans Natural Chicken, Piedmontese Natural Beef, Grade "A" pork, U.S.D.A. Choice

beef, honeybaked hams, prepared dishes, and fresh seafood are just some of the items that cater to the discriminating customer's needs.

"We don't carry run-of-the-mill products in our store," explains Ken. "We know our customers have high expectations for the food they serve to their families and guests."

Aside from a great selection of steaks, chicken and pork, Snook's offers many items that you simply can't find at other stores. Items like Tomato-Basil Marinated Chicken, Lemon-Orange Herb Crusted Pork Roast, Apple Almond Pork Chops and Homemade barbecued beef and pork are just some of the items that make Snook's Butcher Shoppe unique. One great feature that was just added at Snook's is a recipe on every label. You don't have to know how to cook anything they sell — you just have to want to eat it. Each package comes with a label explaining how to cook the item you purchased. Ken hopes "this encourages people to try new things when creating meals for family or guests and makes preparing dinner even easier."

Convenience has undoubtedly been a top priority at Snook's Butcher Shoppe, and their most recent addition — online ordering and home delivery — is no exception. Ken's oldest daughter, Erin, has decided to follow in her father's footsteps and carry on the family business — with a bit of a twist.

"A few years ago, we began to realize many of our customers were making a weekly drive from cities such as Waterford, Clarkston and Lake Orion. Driving for over a half hour to buy meat was not only time-consuming, but sometimes impossible for so many of our customers. After some thought, the idea to do the driving for our customers and bring our store directly into their homes through the internet came about," says Erin.

After months of website design and brainstorming, Snook's Home Delivery Service began offering online ordering and home delivery through their website,

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

Erin explains, "Using the online store is no different than if you were to come in to our physical location. Every single product you would find in our store is listed online with a photo and proper portion and ordering guidelines."

One great aspect of shopping online with Snook's is that they use "Estimate Ordering" for all orders. While other companies offering similar services charge a set price for each item (example: \$10 per 8-ounce steak), Snook's simply gives you an estimate of your order total when you check out. Your actual total is not computed until each item you order has been individually weighed and packaged fresh.

"What estimate ordering does," explains Erin, "is it only charges our customers for what they receive. We cut everything by hand at our store, so of course each steak is going to vary slightly in weight. We don't believe our customers should pay for anything more than they receive."

A typical online shopping experience would work like this:

Visit their website at [www.snooksbutcher.com](http://www.snooksbutcher.com).

Click on the "Let's Shop" icon and browse through the categories of items in the online store, adding items to your "cart" at your leisure. Once you have added all of your desired items to your cart, and reached the \$75 minimum order requirement, simply "check out." During the check out process, there is a space where you can indicate any special cutting or wrapping instructions as well as your desired delivery time.

The delivery service runs every day except Monday within two-hour time blocks from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. On your chosen day of delivery, you will receive an email with your exact order total (including the \$9.95 delivery fee — the only extra charge associated with this service) as well as a more specific delivery time. Your order is transported by refrigerated truck directly from Snook's Butcher Shoppe to your door.

Snook's new online service can be found on their website where you can also sign up for their newsletter with news about the latest trends in meat, recipes and coupons. Their store is located inside Colasanti's at 468 South Milford Road in Highland. Call (248) 887-3205.



Snook's is known for offering only the best meat and seafood.

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**They've seen better days**  
There have definitely been better ways to start the season out than the way the Novi-Northville Knights Rugby Club did. They went out and took a beating, 41-0, against division foe Washtenaw. Sure, Washtenaw returned 12 of their 15 starters from last year, but there are definitely things that need to be fixed if the Knights hope to get their season back on track.  
— See Page B3 for story

**Next Level Athlete**  
His is a name that has become known well through the Novi area — Tim Moore. This former Wildcat is currently on the injured list at the University of Notre Dame but is working hard towards recovery in time for the cross country season this fall.  
— See Page B3 for story

## Wildcat country

The Novi Wildcats baseball team has a couple of things really working in its advantage right now — darn good pitching, darn good hitting and darn good coaching.



**Sam Eggleston's GAME OF THE WEEK**

This squad, which is coached by Rick Green, will be looking to make all of those factors work together when they take on conference rival Milford April 30 at 4 p.m. The game will be played at Bicentennial Park.

Though the Wildcats don't "officially" have a home field this year, they have already started to make a habit out of making the road their home. Just look at their record: At press time, the Wildcats were a remarkable 6-0 with a 2-0 conference record. The squad doesn't seem too beat up over not having a field to call their own. Heck, they might as well just enjoy owning everyone else's fields.

Of course, the Wildcats are the target of choice this year. They are the team to beat in the Kensington Valley Conference and each and every team they play will be coming after them with a vengeance. If there's one thing I've noticed about the KVC, it's that the other teams don't like it when one squad reigns as king for too long. The Wildcats have owned the title for the past four years straight and are looking like the favorites again this year.

So what can be done about it? In my opinion, absolutely nothing. If the Wildcats play to their potential, there basically isn't one team that I've had the chance to consider that can beat them. With a pitching staff as deep as five hurlers to choose from and batters that are cleaning up rather nicely with some decent home run dingers already this year, I expect Novi will make a clean sweep of the conference and earn themselves league crown number five.

So what of Milford? I think Novi isn't going to have very much trouble with the Mavericks. This squad just has way too much firepower to be taken down by that particular squad.

**Novi 7, Milford 3**

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

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, April 22, 2004

## Trade anyone? Novi's Pawlak willing to give up 100 goals for one title

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

For Moe Pawlak, the fact that she has scored 100 goals in soccer is hardly worth noting.

Instead, she'd much rather focus on the season at hand and the team she's playing with.

"I just want to go out and have this team win states," she said. "That's the ultimate goal. I don't care about all of the rest of it. I just want to go further than last year and possibly win states."

So 100 goals doesn't seem like that big of a deal?

"Not really," Pawlak said matter-of-factly. "It's not really anything. Not at all."

Pawlak would much rather sit back and talk about her team and the role they have played in her successes. She notes — like a true teammate — that none of those 100 goals would ever have been scored had it not been for those around her.

"It's not just me dribbling down the field every time," she said. "They are a part of every goal scored, and it's because of them I score."

It's players like fellow senior Nikki Hermann that have helped her reach such a milestone.

"Me and Nikki have been playing together since we were 8," Pawlak said. "There's a bond between us. The entire team has one. We all play for each other."

Pawlak's coach, Brian O'Leary, knows very well that teammates play an important factor in helping a single player stand out above the rest — but he believes she shines alone as well.

"As far as girls go, she's probably the best I've ever had on a team," he said. "She's probably the best one out there if you ask me."

According to O'Leary, there would be no doubt in who should earn the most coveted individual prize in all the land had his squad made it just a little further in the playoffs last year. As it is, he said that Pawlak should still be in the running for the title of Miss Soccer.

"She's definitely one of the top three," he said. "She's the best player out there and it was that way last year and the year before that. She's just not getting the state-wide recognition she deserves."

Pawlak said she doesn't mind if she's getting the attention or not. She isn't one to talk herself up dur-

ing the interviews she's had and she's hardly one to care if a squad decides to put their best marker on her or even double team her.

"That's fine with me," she said. "It opens up more space for someone else and it lets us find the other player that they're leaving open."

Her ability to score and to control a game with her ability to pressure her opponents made Pawlak one of the most highly recruited players in the state. She considered her options through campus visits and met with various teams before making her final decision.

Pawlak, who has committed to play for Michigan State next year, said that she has had plenty of time to consider where she would play at the next level.

"I actually started early in my junior year and went on a lot of unofficials," she said of campus visits. "I saw some MAC schools, some Big Ten schools and looked at a lot of different levels."

She even ruled Michigan State out of her search before a visit to their campus — but things definitely have a way of changing.

"That was before the whole recruiting process," she said. "I never considered State, but when I went there I loved the girls and loved it there. I could really see myself playing there and getting challenged."

She said that she plans to major in elementary education and possibly focus on special education programs as well.

"I just love kids," she said.

At first, her options weren't even in Michigan. "I wanted to go to Hawaii first," she said. "But I ended up choosing a college closer to home because my parents have always been such a big part of my soccer career. I wanted them to come see my games. It really wasn't that big of a decision."

Pawlak's parents, Ron and Pat, have indeed been big supporters, as have her 22-year-old brother, Brent, and 20-year-old sister, Jaelyn.

For Pawlak, scoring 100 goals or 1,000 wouldn't mean anything if she couldn't reach her goal of a state championship — a goal that may be in her future if her team can play the cards right.

"This is probably the strongest supporting cast she's had in four years," O'Leary said. "They're all ready to have a big season."

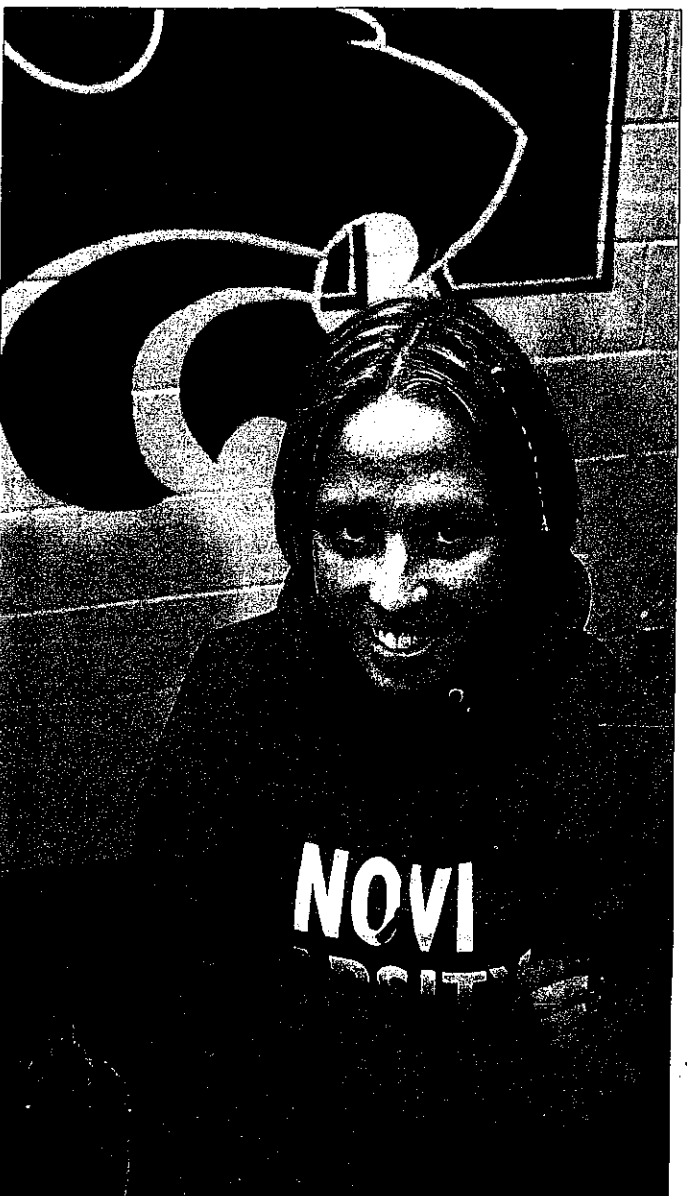


Photo by John Heider

Novi's Moe Pawlak may be all smiles for the camera, but she's as serious as they get on the soccer field. In fact, the 100-plus goal scorer is willing to trade every goal she has ever scored for one tiny thing — a state championship.

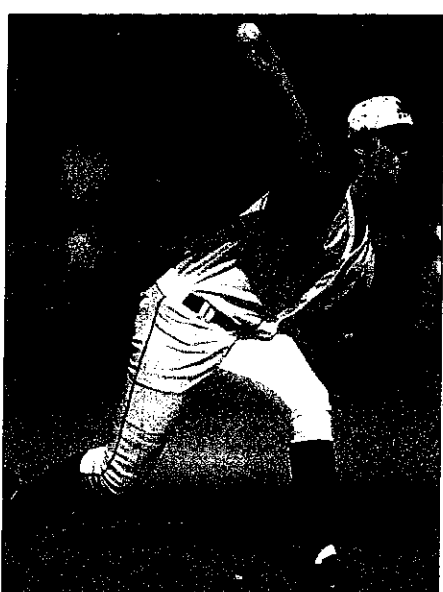


Photo by John Heider

Novi pitcher Billy Morrison throws to a batter in the Wildcats' Monday afternoon game against Detroit Country Day at Ford Field in Livonia.

## Have what it takes?

Wildcats baseball ready and willing to take on the challenges in their hunt for KVC title and more

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Take them out to the ball game, take them out to the crowd — wait a minute, these guys are the ball game.

The Novi Wildcats baseball team, coached by Rick Green, isn't fooling around this year. They've come out of the gates in a dead run and gathered a 6-0 record thus far in the season and a 2-0 mark in the conference.

The team, which has won four-straight Kensington Valley Conference titles, is on the hunt for another crown to wear and they aren't afraid to say so.

"I definitely thought we'd start off this way," senior Chris Scott said. "A lot of the guys have been talking about the season and looking at our schedule and the upcoming games, there's not a team on there that

we think has a legit chance of beating us. As of right now, our goal is to stay undefeated. We're not looking ahead to the playoffs right now, we just want to go undefeated in the regular season and then worry about everything else."

And with how quick this squad has jumped right into the competition, there may be a chance that this will be one of the best Wildcat seasons in the history of the program. In fact, talk around the town has compared this year's team to the 2000 team that made a run to the state semifinals with players like Mitch Maier and A.J. Rowe on the squad.

"It really does," coach Rick Green said when told of the comparison. "I think we actually have a deeper pitching staff than that year. Then, I had two or three solid pitchers. This

year, I have four or five and I'm barely going to be able to use them that much."

### Pick an ace, any ace

The four aces on the squad are names that basically every Wildcat baseball fan is well aware of. Seniors Mike Hart and Danny Morrison are joined by juniors Billy Morrison and Kevin Cislo.

Hart throws a variety of pitches, including a two- and a four-seam fastball, a slider and is working on a circle change-up. He is also trying to add a knuckle curve to his arsenal.

"My brother used to throw it when he pitched," Hart said. "I tried it Friday when I threw a bit off the mound and it looked pretty good. It felt natural too

Continued on B2

### Ryan Pritchard

Junior

#### Track and Field

If there's one thing that Pritchard has always been committed at being, it's the best at what he does. The Wildcat junior is living up to that as he went from a competitor in the shot and discus to the guy who owns it on a week-to-week basis. Expect to see some impressive throws from him this year.



## Athletes OF THE Week

If your business would like to sponsor our Athletes of the Week, please contact Lisa Tincu, advertising executive, at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail at ltincu@ht.homecomm.net.

### Laura Vaughn

Senior

#### Golf

Vaughn is the kind of athlete that isn't going to let her senior season fizzle out without too much of a spark — instead, she seems determined to help lead her golf team to one of their best seasons in recent memory. Vaughn has the leadership capabilities and the talent to do just that, having led her squad already this year in a dual meet.







# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

4B

Novi News

Thursday, April 22, 2004

## Review insurance for peace of mind

If you haven't reviewed your homeowners insurance policy in a while, you might consider taking a few moments to reacquaint yourself with the specifics of your coverage. Changes can be accomplished by a review of your policy and a phone call to your agent.

### Changes in your insurance needs

Certain events should precipitate a call to your insurance agent. If, for instance, you've recently married or divorced, made your home safer by adding an alarm system, or upgraded your home's heating, plumbing or electrical system, you'll want to notify your insurance company to find out how your homeowners insurance will be affected. You'll also want to notify your insurer if you've put an addition on your home. You don't want to be underinsured.

### What are you covered for?

A standard homeowners insurance policy, typically provides coverage for the structure, personal belongings, liability for causing bodily injury or property damage to other people, and the living expenses — hotel charges, and meals — you incur while waiting for your home to be rebuilt.

A standard policy covers the structure of your home in the event your home is damaged or destroyed by fire, hurricane, hail, lightning or other disasters listed in your policy. It won't pay for damage caused by a flood or earthquake; you'll have to buy separate policies to cover these disasters. The policy won't cover routine wear and tear either. Most standard policies also cover structures that are detached from your home such as a garage or tool shed. These items are covered for about 10 percent of the amount of insurance you have on your house.

### Your personal belongings

With a standard policy, your clothes, furniture, appliances, sports equipment and other items are also covered if they are stolen or destroyed by fire or other insured disasters. Generally companies will provide a significant percentage of the amount of your dwelling coverage limit, sometimes as much as 70 percent, depending on the insurer. And unless you've opted against off-premises coverage, your belongings are covered anywhere, though they may not have the same level of coverage.

Coverage on big-ticket items like jewelry is limited. To insure these items for their full value, you can purchase a "floater" or "property endorsement" policy for each item, which will reimburse you for its appraised value even if you lose it. If the item is new, hold on to the bill of sale to provide to the insurance company. Older items will need to be appraised.

### Liability protection

Standard liability protection covers you against lawsuits for bodily injury or property damage you or your family members cause to other people. You're also covered if, for example, your dog chews your neighbor's Persian rug. If you're sued, the liability portion also pays for the cost of your defense as well as a court award. Ask your agent how much your liability limit is. If it's \$100,000 you might consider buying more coverage. Should you ever find yourself in a drawn out legal battle, your legal fees alone could add up very quickly.

Standard policies provide limited medical coverage for a person or persons who are accidentally injured in your home. Coverage may also apply if the injuries happen off your property, except in the case of an automobile accident where liability may be covered by your automobile insurance.

### Living expenses

The living expenses you incur while your home is being rebuilt are covered under a standard policy. These include hotel and meal charges and additional living expenses for which many companies will provide about 20 percent coverage of your dwelling coverage limit. You can ask your agent to increase your coverage, with the understanding, of course, that your premium will increase.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League. Send questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or [mcd@mcu.org](mailto:mcd@mcu.org).

Advertorial

## Renovations add value to your home

Jim Seghi takes the headaches out of home remodeling

By Annette Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

When it comes to the makeover mania, an obvious place to start would be your home. If you live in a great neighborhood, have a nice lot and enjoy the community, why move? Jim Seghi of Jim Seghi Renovations in New Hudson says you can love your home, too! Instead of moving, you can update your existing home and avoid the headache of selling, financing and building.

"There are so many homes out there in great communities that are 15 to 25 years old, that need a little facelift," said Seghi, who's ready to turn your dreams into reality.

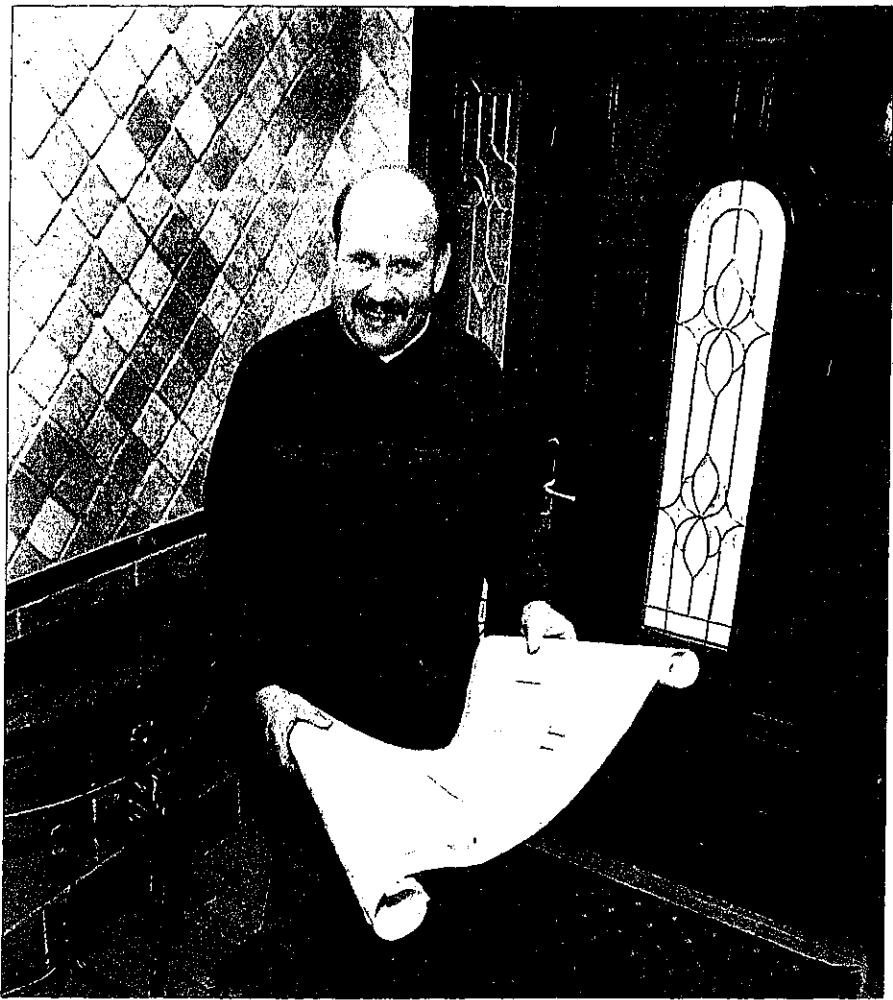
This year is a landmark celebration of their success, when Jim Seghi Renovations will recognize their 15th year in business.

In an industry where competitors can come and go, he is proud of the reputation and longevity of his business. He's happy to use his experience to achieve the customer's goal. Not only is the business well established, he's been a member of the local community for 18 years.

Using a reputable contractor assures the client of a successful project. Seghi's expertise benefits the customer in many areas, such as creativity, down to basics like safety.

With spring on the way maybe it's time to update your home with a new kitchen or add a bath to the master suite, he suggests. It'll not only improve livability, it will increase the value and beauty of your home.

Don't underestimate the impact of even small improvements, he adds. Even small improvements can impact the livability of your home and it will increase the market value. Jim Seghi Renovations is able to handle any size job from major renovations of 2,700 square feet to a kitchen backsplash. He tries to think in terms of what's best for his customers.



Photos by HAL GOULD

Jim Seghi of Jim Seghi Renovations in New Hudson offers design and remodeling services to help people improve the value of their homes and make living in their homes more enjoyable.

"When a client comes in, I try to think of the value of the project to the homeowner. Is it money well spent? I like to get them the best bang for their buck," said Seghi.

He also understands that each person's ideas, concerns and needs are unique and is happy to guide those who are uncertain with his knowledge. He takes his time to carefully go through each project with his client so there are no surprises. He believes his

customer deserves his undivided attention.

"Some people come in and have no clue where they want to go with a project. And some people have the entire project laid out down to the faucets and the color of tile," said Seghi.

He's also an important liaison between an architect and a homeowner when it comes to major projects. Many don't work directly with the consumer.

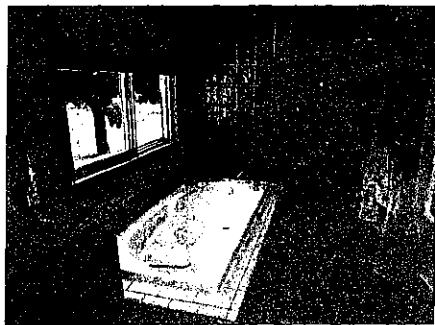
"I spell it out code- and structure-wise as a builder and bring the two parties together," he explained.

The company also offers design services that focus on unique and creative use of space and exciting finishes with attention to detail.

### Details

Want some ideas or inspiration? Why not visit their helpful website at [www.jimseghirenovations.com](http://www.jimseghirenovations.com) for more information on their business and coupons for other local merchants.

Jim Seghi Renovations is located in New Hudson and covers the greater Metro Detroit Area. The company can be contacted at 248-437-2454.



Jim Seghi Renovations designs custom bathrooms, kitchens and more. To learn more call 248-437-2454.

### RENOVATIONS MAKE DOLLARS AND SENSE

Even if you're not in the market to sell, it's nice to know that a renovation adds value to your home. Below is a list of basic renovation projects and the percentage (compared to cost) that they commonly return to the homeowner upon sale.\*

Kitchen Remodel (200 sq. ft.)	87 percent
Bathroom Remodel (5X9 ft.)	80 percent
Attic Bedroom (15X15 ft.)	73 percent
Home office	54 percent
Two story addition (24X16 ft.)	83 percent
Bathroom addition (6X8 ft.)	81 percent
Family room addition (16X25 ft.)	78 percent
Sunroom (200 sq. ft.)	60 percent
Deck (16X20 ft.)	75 percent
Exterior paint 2 story	74 percent
Siding replacement (1,250 sq. ft.)	73 percent
Window replacement 10	68 percent
Re-roofing (3,000 sq. ft.)	60 percent

\*BASED ON COST VS. VALUE REPORT NATIONAL AVERAGES PUBLISHED IN REMODEL MAGAZINE

## Jim kept our renovation in budget and on time

He even brought homemade lasagna

Testimonial by Julia Cerra

A SATISFIED CUSTOMER OF JIM SEGHI RENOVATIONS

Many happy customers throughout Seghi's 15 years have helped build his business through referrals. That includes Juliana Cerra, who hired Seghi in 2002 for a spacious new kitchen upgrade and addition. They selected Seghi on the basis of his straightforward assessment of the project and down-to-earth attitude. He listened to their ideas and made useful suggestions that showed he understood their goals.

We wanted to stay in budget and have a seamless addition. Jim planned each step of the process and work progressed on the site every day....

Exterior construction began in May and the renovation was complete in September. He even brought us homemade lasagna to ease the strain of being without a kitchen for 12 weeks.

Now Rob and I have the gourmet kitchen of our dreams, complete with "Thor" a 48" Viking range, two double sinks and a custom solid cherry bar built by my husband to match the new cabinetry. We are planning another phase of construction in the future to include a woodworking shop and textile art studio. No worries, we'll just call Jim Seghi.

## Jim Seghi Renovations

Turning Dreams Into Reality



- Kitchens • Baths
- Recreation Rooms
- Additions
- Design Services
- Professional Installation

15th Anniversary  
Growing with our community

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