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Volume 49 Number 1

Novi, Michigan

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SPECIAL SECTION



Gentlemen In Business

Find out who the top business men are in this area in our annual publication.

OBITUARY

Edward A. Brazen, 82

— Page 9A

SPORTS



Conference champs!

Tim Min and the rest of the Novi boys track team finished on top of the Kensington Valley Conference.

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AT LAST! City council approves budget; bids sought on legal services

■ Letters for competitive proposals go out this week

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

A request for bids for the City of Novi's legal services went out this week as one of city council's stipulations in adopting a city

budget for 2004-2005.

The council had originally planned to have requests for competitive proposals for legal services go out in October 2004. City council policy is to request bids every three years, and the city was about six months past that date.

Lynne Paul
The city was about six months past that date.

Council voted 6-0 to approve the budget May 26 during a Special City Council Emergency Crisis Meeting. Budget talks came to an abrupt halt May 25 after several motions failed to pass with the required five votes.

Member Toni Nagy was not present at the final budget meeting May 26. She is a court reporter and had a 5 p.m. deposition in Flint.

The 2004-2005 budget also includes the allocation of \$100,000 to the city's Judgment Trust Fund and the addition of

two police sergeants, one fire captain and one fire lieutenant Jan. 1, 2005.

The adopted budget also includes:

- Adding one additional police officer on Jan. 1, 2005;
- allocating \$88,374 toward improving the city's parks; and
- appropriating \$187,500 for six months of legal services. An additional \$187,500 for the remaining six months, was placed in the fund balance.

Planning Director David Evancoc's position was also rein-

stated at an earlier budget meeting.

The City of Novi's general fund budget for 2004-2005 is about \$25 million.

Member Lynne Paul said last week that she voted no on the final motion presented May 25 by Member David Landry because the council had not stated when bids for legal services were to be requested.

"I also had to ask the question of how we were going to contain

continued on page 4

Floods? Not here

■ Storm water management pays off for city

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

In the aftermath of the recent record-setting downpours (8.46" for metro-Detroit in the month of May), which dumped as much as three inches of rain over a four-day period, Novi residents might be asking, "Why didn't Novi flood?"

Benney McCusker, director, Department of Public Works, said DPW has a maintenance crew that does nothing but work on storm drains.

"We visit four or five main drains every year. There may be tree growth or debris. We have a lot of people who dump grass clippings and debris into the drains near their homes. They don't realize that this causes problems," he said.

DPW workers also review the city's catch basins, including looking at spots that might be mosquito breeding grounds because of the threat of West Nile virus.

McCusker said.

Joe Kapelczak is a former city council member and president of JCK & Associates, Inc., the Novi engineering firm that has worked on many projects in the city.

"It occurred to me after witnessing the recent rainfall that produced no flooding in the city that just maybe members of the city council did something right in the mid-1980s. That's when the city developed a storm water master plan with consulting engineers at JCK," he said.

Novi used to have a lot of flooding in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but Novi's storm water management plan eliminated flooding problems in the city.

In fact, the plan won an Eminent Conceptor Award from the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan in 1984 and a Michigan Society of Planning Officials Award the same year.

In 1987, Gov. James Blanchard gave the study the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for innovative technology. The plan was even displayed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., for six months

because it was such a model study on storm water.

"The study showed that what the city needed was a regional detention basin system, with improvements to the storm drains themselves. That eventually got about 70 percent built," Kapelczak said.

"It was under Mayor Romaine Koethel's administration that city officials first started talking about handling storm water as a utility in the city," Kapelczak said.

Memories flood back

Ed Kriewall, former city manager, agreed that flooding used to be a big problem in Novi.

"Nine Mile at Meadowbrook flooded because of Meadowbrook Lake. Novi Road flooded by the railroad tracks. South Lake Drive would flood because of Walled Lake. We really did not have any form of storm water management in place," Kriewall said.

The city created a Storm Water Management Committee, chaired by former council member Joe Toth, in the late 1970s to deal with the problem.

"The challenge had to do not only with engineering but also funding. The committee eventually came up with a proposal to address immediate needs. A bond issue was voted on in August 1982 to take care of some of these needs, which included the Patnales drain in southeast Novi, Meadowbrook Lake and funding for storm water detention basins," Kriewall said.

A millage was also passed about the same time that provided additional funding. The third component was to charge developers a connection fee to connect to the regional storm water management system.

"We had three different financing approaches. As far as we knew, we were the only city in the U.S. that had such a program," Kriewall said.

Besides the Meadowbrook Lake dam off of Nine Mile Road, "We also have a dam on Walled Lake, and many regional detention basins were built under the bond issue and storm millage program," Kapelczak said.

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



Photo by Pam Fleming

Joe Kapelczak, president of JCK & Associates, Inc., engineering firm in Novi, shows a display highlighting Novi's award-winning storm water management plan adopted in the mid-1980s.



Photo by Mark Hicks/Westside Photographic

War stories

Robert Sage, a veteran of the 129th Infantry 37 Division, and Ray Owens, who drove an LST 839 landing vehicle, share memories of WWII during Novi's annual Memorial Day ceremonies at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens and Knapp Cemetery.

What an honor for Novi seniors

■ Pared down program makes for a great night

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Expo Center was jumping with Novi Community School District administrators, Novi High School staff and, most importantly, Novi High School seniors last Thursday evening for the Senior Honors Convocation.

The purpose of the event was to recognize the many students who achieved scholarships, awards, four-year honor rolls, Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Cum Laude status.

The evening started out with a



John Lawrence

prelude, the National Anthem, an introduction and welcome by Novi High Principal John Lawrence, some words by class officers, student council and board of education representatives before the recognition of the students.

Proud parents watched with great joy as their children walked on stage to receive which ever honors they earned during their four years spent at Novi High School. Unlike last year, nobody left early.

"Last year's program was about a little over three hours," Lawrence explained. "Because it was so long, people would get their awards and then they would leave. Our goal this year was to reduce the amount of time it actually took to get through all of the awards, but yet do a very respectable job of honoring students who have worked so hard. I think that we accomplished that."

Lawrence said that the program was streamlined this year. More information was given to attendees in the form of print so

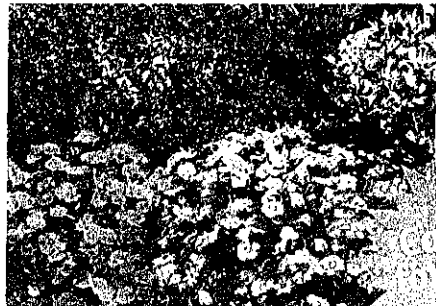
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BARN MOVING

Sections of Wixom, 10 Mile, Beck and 8 Mile roads in Novi are expected to be closed for periods of the day on Sunday, June 13, so that two barns can be moved from the Wixom/10 Mile area to Mayberry State Park.

The former farm where the barns currently are located will be transformed shortly into a subdivision. The subdivision developer, Toll Brothers, has donated the barns to the park to replace several barns that were destroyed by fire several years ago.

The largest of the barns to be moved is 42-feet tall, 40-feet wide and 70-feet long. The barn movings are being paid for by Toll Brothers.

If there is inclement weather on June 13, the move will take place on June 14, according to the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Assuming the move takes place on June 13, beginning at 6 a.m., 10 Mile will be closed between Napier and Wixom, and Wixom will be closed just north of 10 Mile. Each road will close prior to the barn actually moving onto the road (so utilities can be moved) and will re-open once the utilities have been restored.

Novi Road just south of Grand River
Project: Beginning June 14, the CSX railroad will close Novi Road just south of Grand River to replace the Novi Road grade crossing. The detour route is 10 Mile, Meadowbrook and Grand River.
Community: Novi
Completion Date: June 21

Grand River Ave., Beck east to the CSX railroad tracks
Project: There are intermittent lane closures in this section of Grand River as the city of Novi's contractor completes sidewalk work and restoration of the shoulders as the final step in the widening project that was largely completed last year.

Completion Date: June 15

Novi Road at 10 Mile Road
Project: Starting after the 4th of July weekend, RCOC will be widening this intersection to five lanes in each direction, as well as

Novi Road at 10 Mile Road
Project: Beginning June 21, the CSX railroad will close 10 Mile just east of Novi to replace the 10 Mile grade crossing. The detour

route is Meadowbrook, Grand River and Novi.
Community: Novi
Completion Date: June 28

12 Mile, West Parkway to Beck
Project: Beginning June 1, the Michigan Dept. of Transportation will close this section of 12 Mile as part of the construction of a new Beck/1-96 interchange. During the closure, the detour route is West, West Parkway, 12 Mile and Grand River.
Community: Novi & Wixom
Completion Date: End of July

10 Mile, Wixom to Beck; Beck, 10 Mile to 8 Mile; and 8 Mile, Beck to Mayberry State Park
Project: These sections of road will all be closed for approximately a couple hours throughout the day on June 13 so that several barns can be moved from near the Wixom/10 Mile intersection to Mayberry State Park. If it rains on June 13, the move will occur on June 14. The roads will be closed only while the buildings are actually being moved on those sections or while utilities are being moved or restored.
Community: Novi
Completion Date: Same day

ROAD REPORT

This list includes both Road Commission for Oakland County projects and projects undertaken by others, under permit, on roads under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission. Asterisks next to projects denote new projects or a change since last week.

* Grand River Ave. at Novi Road
Project: The Consumers Energy company is moving gas lines in this intersection in anticipation of the upcoming widening of the intersection. During the Consumers work, the westernmost southbound lane of Novi and the northernmost west-bound lane of Grand River are closed. Immediately following this work, the intersection widening project will begin, also involving lane closures, and the temporary closure of Grand River at Novi. The closure of Grand River for the widening project is expected to begin in mid-to-late July.

Completion Date: By June 1 (at which point the widening project will start)

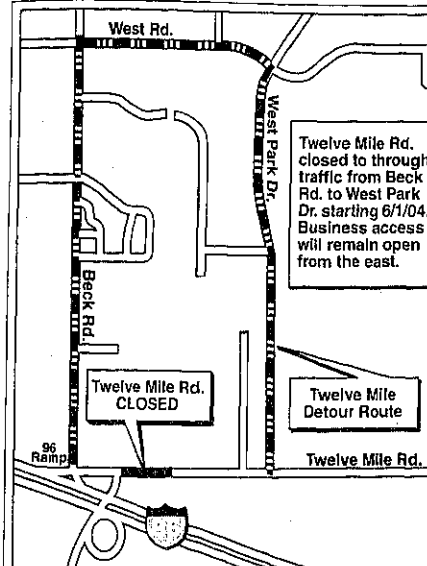
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Community: Novi
Completion Date: Same day



I-96 work causes road closures

Construction of the new I-96 ramps is scheduled to begin this month. Ramp work will require several road closures throughout the project duration, including:

Beginning Tuesday, June 1, Twelve Mile Road will be closed for realignment from Beck Road easterly to West Park Drive through July. Motorists will be asked to follow the posted detour routes utilizing West Park Drive, West Road and Beck Road.

In July, Beck Road north of Twelve Mile Road to just south of West Road will be closed for re-construction through September. Full completion of the new single-point urban interchange is scheduled for November 2005. The interchange will be the first of its kind in metro Detroit and will reduce land impacts to adjoining properties while maximizing traffic flow.

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'Bazaar' is wine lover's paradise

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

People come from all over metropolitan Detroit and the state of Michigan for the wines at Novi Fine Wine located on Ten Mile just west of Novi Road. Formerly the Food & Wine Bazaar and known simply as the "Bazaar" to local residents, it was voted the best wine store in Novi in the 2004 People's Choice Awards voting conducted by HomeTown Newspapers.

Customers have come from as far away as Grand Rapids and the northern part of the state for a particular wine, according to Lee Hershey, a local wine consultant who visits the store and helps customers find just the right vintage. "Selection is very important, and we have more than 1,500 varieties of wine in the store," said Hershey, who has worked for eight years as a wine consultant for the current and previous owners of the business.

NoVi Fine Wine carries more than 1,200 labels on its shelves and another 800 varieties on the floor and in the cooler. Many of the better wines are kept at 55 degrees in a temperature-controlled cooler that simulates a wine cellar, Hershey said.

The selection includes wines from the leading wineries in Michigan including Bell Lago, Black Star Farms, Chateau Charrel, Chateau Frimane, Cيقونه Vineyard and Lary Blauy. It also carries domestic wines from California, New York and Oregon.

Some wines are available from celebrity owners by actors, athletes and entertainers such as action Fess Parker, golfer Greg Norman, the late guitarist Jerry Garcia and singer Olivia Newton John.

The international selection includes wines from Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Hershey also serves as a wine educator, teaching wine courses in



Lee Hershey (right), wine consultant, hands a bottle of fine wine to Andy Nofar, owner of Novi Fine Wine, with more than 1,500 varieties of wine displayed in the background.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Burchart earns Avon honor

For increasing her million-dollar sales, Tammy Burchart is getting some wind in her sails. Out of more than 450 Avon District Managers in a 15-state region, only 40 were awarded with Avon's prestigious Circle of Excellence award and Novi resident Burchart was in this elite group.

As a Circle of Excellence winner, Burchart will receive an all-expenses-paid cruise to the Mediterranean in May. The award recognizes the top 10 percent of district sales managers in Avon's North region with the largest sales increase over the previous year.

Taubman signs 40 retailers

Taubman Centers Inc. announced the first 40 retailers for Northlake Mall, an enclosed, two-level regional shopping center, set to open in late 2005, in suburban Charlotte, N.C.

Taubman donates \$4 million

Affiliated Taubman, a former student at Lawrence Technological University, will donate \$4 million to help the 5,000-student private university build an innovative new Student Services Center.

Film event slated

The Michigan Production Alliance (MPA) has organized an event to promote the education of entry-level media professionals by offering a one-day seminar from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

AT WORK IN NOVI

Novi Fine Wine & Liquors
formerly Food & Wine Bazaar
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(248) 349-9690

Continuing Education Services at Schiefelbusch College for the past 20 years. The two-to-five-week classes that attract 60-70 people are offered each semester with a different wine-related subject for each course.

Formerly attends the classes, from people who don't know wines to some who have wine cellars in their homes," Hershey said.

Hershey also serves as a wine educator, teaching wine courses in

Michigan retail sales up
Continued positive retail sales

ENGAGEMENT

Harrison & Hogan
Neil and Mary Harrison of Novi announce the engagement of their son, Michael Harrison, to Amber Hogan, daughter of Tom and Peg Hogan of Denison, Iowa.

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Nicholas R. McLarty and Air Force Airman Kate M. Foley have graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

OBITUARY

Edward A. Brazen
Edward Brazen of Northville died May 27, 2004. He was 82. Mr. Brazen was born in Detroit on May 27, 1922 to the late Anthony Brazen and Antonia Bezzel Brazen.

LIFESTYLES

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



Michigan Badge

Seventeen Cub Scouts from Novi's Cub Scout Pack 54 recently earned the Michigan Badge, awarded to Scouts who learn about their home state, its history, culture and traditions.

Pictured at the ceremony, held at Rotary Park, are Cub Scouts Peter Colmery, Daniel Dixon, Daniel Garcia, Kyle Gassel, Kyle Hausstein, Nathan Hausstein, Jordan Horan, Kyle Kilporen, Krishnan Manivannan, Parker Maynard, Blake Reynolds, and Kevin Werner. Not pictured are Jacob Dobras, Andrew Lonsway, Andrew Matthews, Jack Sinkovitch and Tanner Vincent.

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Northville Public Schools

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the School Board Election for Board seats on June 14, 2004 has been scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Economic Development Corporation, Historical Commission, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission, Planning Commission, Stormwater Management & Watershed Stewardship Committee and Woodlands Review Board.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI.

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

Focus on Novi schools next week

First off - Thank you to Novi City Council for reaching an agreement on the city's budget! Time now to move forward. Speaking of... voters will have the opportunity to voice their opinions at the polls June 14 on two millage renewals and a new millage for Novi schools, which are facing a \$4.3 million deficit. Numerous cuts have already been implemented, and more drastic measures will be necessary if these millages do not pass. Also, five candidates, including two incumbents, are running for school board.

In next week's edition, we'll profile each candidate and offer our endorsements as well as take a look at the various impacts the budget cuts will have on the district.

On the brighter side, high school graduation ceremonies are this Saturday, and we'll offer our annual tribute to seniors in a special section. It's a fitting tribute to top off 13 years of schooling. Remember when you were an

elementary student and the last days of the school year were winding down? Two and a half months of glorious summer awaited you. Think of all the things you used to do.

Well, we asked Novi kids what they planned to do this summer, and their answers are pretty fun to read. Some even drew pictures, and we'll present those in next week's Novi News, too.

Personally, I'm heading way up north into Canada with my dad in July for a week of fishing. Not only do I plan on catching a ton of walleye and pike, I also plan on bringing back enough great stories from my trip to write a book on his life. I hope you're planning on a great summer. If you've got children, a great way to kick it off is the Kids' Fair June 12. Have fun and enjoy!

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



Cal Stone

OPINION

LETTERS

Thanks for a great celebration

The Memorial Day Committee would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions to the Novi parade and ceremonies: AMVETS, Civil Air Patrol, The Bauman Family, Detroit Hummer, Henderson Glass, James C. Ross, DDS, The Marcus Family, McSweeney Electric, Meljer, The Novi Police Lieutenant and Sergeant Association, Novi Lions, O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home, Telecom Credit Union and Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

A sincere thank you to all of the veterans, volunteers and employees who assisted in the success of this event.

Tracie Ringle,
Memorial Day Committee
Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Vote June 14

As a Novi citizen, a former Novi administrator and now a member of the Novi School Board, I appeal to our community to please exercise your civic responsibility on June 14. These millage proposals are crucial to the future education of our students. Also, this is a very important School Board election as well. Because of the current financial challenges, the selection of a new school superintendent and the consideration of new employee contracts that will be facing the board this year, it is essential that we have the most creative, capable, independent thinking individuals making those decisions.

Therefore, I encourage you to choose Bruce Bagdady and Dennis O'Connor when you cast your vote on June 14. They will both provide excellent leadership for the next four years.

Dave Brown
Novi



Photo by Mark Hicks / Westside Photography

Moment of Silence
Jero Schell, of the Novi High School Marching Band, waits to perform "Taps" during the city's Memorial Day ceremonies. Special events took place at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden and then Knapp Cemetery prior to the annual parade on Ten Mile Road.

How to profit from full-day kindergarten

I read with great interest the article on May 27 regarding full-day kindergarten and the view that we were profiting on the program. It amazes me first to think that we would consider profiting on 5-year-olds, and secondly that our school educators would use such poor mathematics to predict that we actually were financially ahead with this program.

In 2000 Novi opened Deerfield Elementary School yet we still have fewer kindergartners attending Novi school than before this school opened. So any increase in money that is claimed based on full-day kindergarten (which started at Deerfield) would seem to be false. In fact, one could argue that our overall enrollment has dropped as a result of all-day kindergarten.

Many children in the kindergarten age do go to alternative kindergartens, but to say that was due to the desire or all-day service would not be totally true. Many select alternative learning for kindergarten and some do select combined daycare/childcare. If you really want to prove you are profiting on all-day services for kindergarten then charge people for a half day of day care. That is what they effectively get. Visit an all-day class and see what is going on. It looks so much like daycare for half of the day you wonder why everyone in Novi contributes to the daycare needs of the 20 to 30 families that as reported now use Novi kindergarten as a result of the all-day program.

It cost \$10.8 million to build Deerfield. We have four kindergarten classes to support buildings to heat and cool, staff and teachers to pay. It sounds to me like one could state that each all-day kindergarten should bring a few hundred dollars a day to school to cover the costs and help the Novi Public Schools profit on them.

I think we should call all-day kindergarten what it really is, half day kindergarten and 1/2 day daycare. If people want 1/2 day daycare and the Novi community wants our schools in that business then parents should pay for half day care. Based on the going rates in the area (\$150/week) that would be about \$75 each per week. If we have 43 more students as a result of the program and there are 180 school days, the schools would generate \$19,325 per year plus we would still get the state money of \$8,000 per student or \$344,000. Now that is profiting.

Dennis O'Connor and Bruce Bagdady deserve your vote but, most importantly your children and the children of Novi do also. I thank you for your time in reading this.

David Hildreth
Novi

George F. Kortlandt
Novi

Backing Bagdady and O'Connor

Over the past 10 years I have had the privilege of representing our community by serving as a member of the Novi Community School Board. This is a task that I take seriously knowing the education and future of

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. In order to be fair to everyone, this newspaper will not run letters to the editor the week prior to an election that open new issues. Expressions of thanks to political supporters are best made by buying an advertisement.

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OTHER OPINIONS

Have the tables finally turned for our Tigers?

Something is happening that hasn't happened for years. Slowly, cautiously, people are hesitatingly beginning to not only think about but even talk about them again, even in public.

We are talking, of course, about the Detroit Tigers, the city's once-mighty baseball team. Someplace deep down in the Motown psyche, Detroit is a baseball town; always has been, maybe always will be. Yes, the football team, the Lions, moved back to the city from the suburbs a few years ago. Yes, the Detroit Red Wings are always in contention for the Stanley Cup.

Yes, the Pistons are still in the playoffs. But forget all that. The Detroit Tigers seem — gasp — on the verge of becoming respectable again.

Last year, they were not just the worst in the league. They were the worst that has ever been in the American League, just one notch short of tying the all-time record for losses. They were nearly as bad as they were before.

Not only were they horrible, they weren't even interesting. There were no characters like Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, no furling slugger like Willie Horton who at least could deliver a mammoth home run from time to time. Nothing. Attendance dwindled. They fell off the front pages of even the local sports section. Hall-of-Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell's retirement at the end of 2002 ended many people's last reason for keep listening. It was as if there was a hole in the city's athletic belt. Then, this winter, Mike Hitch, the pizza baron who rebuilt the

Detroit Red Wings while presiding over a decade of disaster with the Tigers, opened his wallet to sign star catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez, for \$10 million a year, plus star left fielder Rondell White and a few other respectable, if less glamorous, free agents.

Fans remained skeptical. They'd been fooled before. But an amazing thing happened. The Tigers won not only on Opening Day, when they shut out Toronto. They went out to win their first four games. When you consider they started 0-11 and 0-6 their last two years, that was an awesome performance.

People started trickling back to the ballpark. Attendance officially has increased from 319,000 to 409,000, but in reality has ballooned by more than that. The American League counts tickets sold, including season packages, not people in the stands. Last year, there was little reason to come.

As the season blossomed slugger Diniro Young got hurt, and the pitching was still dicey, but last week they were hovering around .500. When you consider that last year they were 9-34, the improvement seems miraculous.

"People are talking about them again," said Ernie Harwell, who thinks he has detected a resurgence of interest. In part, he thinks this is because of affection for Alan Trammell, the longtime Tigers star who is in his second year as manager, and a staff of coaches that includes two other veterans of the Tigers' 1984 World Series team, Lance Parrish and Kirk Gibson.

"Even when they lose, they are interesting, and they are in every game to the end," said

Sonny Elliot, Detroit's legendary weatherman who has been a part of Opening Day ceremonies since at least the 1960s.

Novi native Jennifer Sullivan, 29, has a framed jersey signed by Trammell, who she worshipped as a 9-year-old. She hasn't been to a game in years, "but I definitely want to go this year. I'm starting to pay attention again," she said.

Nobody is looking for a pennant this year. Nobody is even dreaming of the playoffs, which makes it a bit easier to woo back the fans. "Their aim doesn't have to be too high," Harwell notes. Ernie thinks the team will win perhaps 70-75 games out of 162 this season. That would be a dreary dawdling for most teams.

But after last year's 43-119 season, even coming close to breaking even may be enough to win back the hearts and minds of disappointed Detroiters.

They have reason to feel hurt. The Tigers haven't had a winning season in a decade. That is their longest dry spell in history. During that time, fans have endured a nasty strike, controversy over a new stadium, and an over-shifting roster of nobodies. Things like that put a strain on a marriage.

But the Tigers and Detroit have been together through two world wars and two riots, from steelcars to motor cars. From Ty Cobb to Al Kaline, and since before anyone heard of Henry Ford. Bonds like that aren't easily broken.

So far this year, they are being repaired. That's not hard when expectations are so low. Next year, the public may be more demanding. But it seems safe to say that's one problem the team, and their town, would very much like to have.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.



Jack Lessenberry

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PARKS & RECREATION

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

What a way to kick off summer!

■ City's first Kid's Fair set for next Saturday

By Kim Baker
INTERN

Novi's very first Kid's Fair will kick off the summer Saturday, June 12 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Community Sports Park at 8 Mile and Napier.

The event, hosted by Novi Parks and Recreation, will include many activities, all of which are free.

"We're going to have all kinds of cool stuff," said Traic Ringle, event and marketing



coordinator. She assures there will be fun for kids of all ages. "We have something for a 3-year-old to a 15-year old."

There will be a carnival area, featuring moonwalks, Putt-Putt golf, tattoo artists and kettle corn to satisfy the kid in everyone. The Extreme Recreation Zone, featuring the Nemesis Professional Skateboarding Team skating and signing autographs and an area for kids to try out in-line skating, will be there for the older kids.

Plenty of nature-oriented activities will also be available, including flower potting, a petting farm, butterfly exhibit and a nature interpreter will be there to guide kids in finding native plants and animals in their own backyards. More adventurous nature lovers will enjoy Outdoor Adventure Area, offering camping and fishing demonstrations.

Kids can tap into their creativity by participating in hands-on crafts, trying out percussion instruments with and visiting the puppet station to learn puppeteering and put on mini-performances.

Live entertainment will give the family a break during their busy day. Parents can relax and worry not because the Novi Police Department, Fire

Department and Community EMS will be on hand for a Health and Safety Area.

If weather is not permitting, the fun will move indoors to the Novi Civic Center.

Novi Parks and Recreation is very excited about providing a free community event for the kids, said Ringle. "It's going to allow some family time...and set the tone for summer."

YOUTH SOCCER

This is a non-competitive league based on teamwork, respect and responsibility. Players will learn rules, game strategies, and team tactics. Players will also develop the fundamentals of dribbling, passing, shooting and goal tending.

REGISTRATION

Children who register for both fall and spring (registration dates: May 5-June 23) will be placed on the same team for both seasons. Players who register for fall or spring ONLY will be randomly placed on teams that have openings.

Season
Fall 04 & Spring 05 combined
Fall 04 only
Spring 05 only

Registration Dates
May 5-June 23
May 5-June 23
Nov 23-Jan 20

EQUIPMENT

Shin guards are mandatory, no metal cleats are permitted, and mouth guards are highly recommended. Pre-school and Kindergarten divisions use a size 3 ball. Remaining divisions use a size 4 ball.

PRICE

All divisions - \$70 resident; \$84 Non-resident

For more information, call Wendy DuVall-Angelocci at (248) 347-0400 or e-mail her at wduvall-angelocci@ci.novi.mi.us.

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Kings of the league

■ 'Cats secure purr-fect run for crown, earn their fifth-straight title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It has been a season of domination for the Novi Wildcats baseball team.

They've hardly noticed their foes, mowing almost every team they've played in the conference and taking just two losses in a tough non-conference schedule.

Most recently, the 'Cats earned four more wins in the Kensington Valley Conference, beating Pinckney and Milford in double headers.

"They guys have just been determined," Novi coach Rick Green said. "They've been playing some of the best baseball I've seen from them. They have some big goals in mind and are determined to reach them."

In fact, even though they wrapped up the conference, none of the Wildcats seemed to even notice.

"I'm not sure they even cared, to tell you the truth," Green said. "They have something else in mind this year. I plan on telling them congratulations before we play Brighton. They won the KVC. I'm sure they've all realized it, but they want more."

That wasn't apparent when the Novi players took on and pounded Pinckney last Friday. They beat them 10-0 in a mercy and 7-0.

In the first game, Mike Hart threw a no-hitter over five innings with six strikeouts.

Adam Brandeau was solid, cranking out three RBIs in the game before it was called due to the mercy rule.

"I think Adam is really getting hot right now and is looking forward to the District tourney," Green said. "When he's on, he's as solid as they come."

In the second game, it was all about Kevin Cisto from the mound. The junior struck out 10 over the course of the contest.

"His velocity was great," Green said. "He was throwing very well."

Ryan Regan looked strong through the day, going 2-for-2 in the second game.

Novi collected just five hits in the second game, but had eight guys waked and went 9-for-9 on stolen bases with Cisto and Matt Nickels currently leading the team in that department.

Against Milford, Novi won the first game 12-1 and the second game 11-1. Billy Morrison won the opener, striking out 10 in six innings, while senior Chris Scott earned the win in the second game.

"Chris would be a number one pitcher on a lot of the teams in the KVC," Green said. "We just have an extremely deep pitching staff."

Green added that he is looking to use Scott in the Districts and the state playoffs if his squad makes it that deep. The senior is a quality pitcher and is strong against left-handers.

Zach Flavin looked strong, notching 10 RBIs in the two games with two three run homers.

"I think he has 55 right now," Green said of Flavin's season RBIs. "He has nine home runs."

Nickels went 2-for-4 in the first game and 2-for-2 in the second game with a home run in the nightcap.

Another impressive performance came from Tyler Farrant, who went 2-for-2 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

"He's one of the hardest workers on the team, if not the hardest," Green said.

Doug Benton and Scott have been hitting well through the last few weeks too. Benton was on a streak, hitting five home runs in four games with the first five RBIs of the game against South Lyon recently.

Scott hit three homers in a double header against Lakeland with eight RBIs.

"Once he gets hot, he's on a roll," Green said. "Hopefully, he gets on a roll in the state playoffs."

The Wildcats will play Salem at noon Saturday in the District Tournament. The game will be held at Salem with the finals coming at 3 p.m.

Novi is currently 26-2 on the year. "The teams have been impressive over the years," Green said. "We've won the KVC for the past five years. This year, it was pretty easy and that's a credit to this team."

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

SPORTS

B¹

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Conference Champions!

Track boys shock league

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Mathematically, the numbers were staggering. If the Novi Wildcats wanted to win their conference, they'd have to finish in third place in the league meet and hope the Pinckney Pirates would be able to beat the Milford Mavericks.

The Pirates weren't up to the task though, but the Wildcats found another way to accomplish their task. They instead finished second in the league meet, topping Pinckney and Brighton to earn the top spot in the Kensington Valley Conference.

It worked out well. Novi and Brighton headed into the KVC meet tied for first place with each squad being awarded 7 1/2 points for the tied position. Milford finished third and had six points while Pinckney was fourth with five points. The winner of the league meet, which was Milford, earned eight points for a total of 14. Novi took second and was thus given seven points, earning a total of 14 1/2 points to win the Kensington Valley Conference outright.

"It was an awesome show we put on," Novi coach Bob Smith said of the meet. "It was such a close season that we didn't know what to expect really. The top four teams in the conference were the closest I've ever seen. Normally, there are two strong teams that could win the conference, this year there were four."

The Wildcats didn't mind. They headed into the conference meet looking to make the most noise they could — and talk about an explosion. The 'Cats had just two first place finishes but used their depth to keep them in the running.

Taking first was the 4-by-200 team of Justin Davis, Josh Woods, Brandon Coles and Carl Yiu in a time of 1:31.20. An impressive time to say the least, considering the squad broke their own school record with the run.

Also earning a first-place finish was the 4-by-100 team of Davis, Woods, David Carnegie and Yiu. That squad combined their talents for a run of 44.20 seconds.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi sophomore Tim Min competes in the long jump during a track meet at Hartland High in May.

"They really stepped up," Smith said. "The 4-by-200 team wasn't even seeded first. They were confident, as was I, that they'd prove to be the top seeded team by the end of the meet. They did."

The Wildcats had strong performances across the board. One of the more notable runs was by Trent Sisson, a senior who will graduate Saturday. Sisson scooped out a time of 51.30 seconds to mark the

fastest time by any Wildcats in the 400-meter dash for three seasons. Unfortunately, especially in the KVC, the time wasn't good enough for first and Sisson crossed the line as the fifth fastest in the league.

Two guys who really helped make the difference in the final score were Amol Huprikar and Mark Moore — both juniors.

"They've underperformed all

Continued on B5

Was there ever any doubt about it?

■ Novi Wildcats soccer wins KVC, gets ranked at top team in the state of Michigan

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

We're number one!

Only one team has a right to chant that before all is said and done and that's the team that the soccer coaches' association chooses to be the top ranked team in Michigan with a poll.

That team happens to be the Novi Wildcats.

"We are now number one in Michigan," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "We finished the season with a 17-1 overall record, 11-0 in the KVC and are KVC champs for the second year in a row."

And for the second year in a row, the Wildcats found themselves doing something that no other Wildcats squad had done in the previous years — they beat the Brighton Bulldogs. This time, Novi walked away victorious, 2-0.

Even with the win, O'Leary said his squad could have come into the game with a more ferocious attitude.

"Brighton gave a very inspired effort and we gave an average effort," he said.

The Wildcats scored the first goal of the game about 25 minutes into the contest. Moe Pawlak had a near-breakaway and took the ball in with a hard shot on goal. The shot bypassed the goalie, hit the post and rebounded into the box where Chelsea Atiyehi was waiting to knock it into the empty net for the 1-0 lead and the only score of the first half.

It wasn't until 20 minutes into the second half that the Wildcats were able to add a second tally. This time, Stephanie Crawford took a nice crossing pass from Pawlak and dribbled around the Brighton goalie to put the score into the open net for the 2-0 lead and the final goal of the game.

But, the Bulldogs weren't finished trying.

"Brighton held a strong advantage in possession of the ball but never really got any quality scoring chances," O'Leary said.

With about four minutes left to play, the Bulldogs got their best chance of the game. An aggressive corner kick by the Brighton squad found one of the 'Dogs heading the ball cleanly and right for the net. Kim Herbst, who earned the

shutout in goal for Novi, made a great move and saved the shot to preserve the victory and the shutout.

"On the other hand, we didn't possess the ball very well but had six great opportunities to score and converted two of them," O'Leary said of the flip side of the coin.

Coming off the bench and playing some remarkable soccer for the Wildcats, according to O'Leary, were Kellie Walker and Emily Esbrook.

The Wildcats were gearing up for the post-season at last check, which began Tuesday when they hosted Redford Union after the Novi News went to print.

The winner will take on Stevenson at Northville today at 4 p.m. The winner of that game will move on to play in the final tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Northville.

"This is the hardest district in the state," O'Leary said.

Novi is currently ranked first in the state, while Northville is second and Stevenson is fifth.

"The winner of this district will have a great opportunity to go very far in the state playoffs," O'Leary said.



Photo by Barbara Herbst

Two Novi Wildcats trap a Brighton player in a game earlier this year.

Scam-proof financial information

Victims of fraud reported losing over a half a billion dollars in 2003, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The agency logged more than 500,000 consumer complaints. Fraud related to Internet auctions, Internet sales, bogus sweepstakes, as well as other kinds of fraud, accounted for more than 58 percent of the complaints. Identity theft accounted for the remaining 42 percent of complaints, an increase of about 2 percent over 2002.

Education and awareness are your best defenses against fraud. By learning about fraud and how you may be vulnerable — you remove the element of surprise, the scammers' biggest advantage in his scheme to separate you from your money.

Here is a sampling of scams (there's too many to list) to be on the lookout for along with some steps you can take to protect yourself. You can view additional scams on Bankrate.com at <http://www.bankrate.com/birm/news/advice/20030620a1.asp#main>.

Counterfeit credit cards. A fraudster, posing as a clerk, waiter, or anyone whom you've handed your card to for payment, uses a process called "skimming" to pull data from your card. Instead of just charging your card, the scammer will make an extra swipe into a device the size of a pager called a skimmer. The skimmer stores the data until it can be downloaded and sold to make counterfeit cards.

To protect yourself, keep an eye on your card at all times. Use your card at trusted businesses and establishments where you're familiar with the staff. And each month review your credit card statements, line by line, to make sure there aren't any unauthorized transactions on your account. While you won't be responsible for the purchases with a counterfeit credit card, it could take you months, even years, to sort out your credit report after a thief makes the charges in your name.

Twice a year order a copy of your credit report from the three reporting bureaus—Transunion, Experian and Equifax.

Online auctions with a twist. Scams. If you're on an online auction site and you get an e-mail from someone offering you the same product at a cheaper price, delete it. If this mystery person is anything like a Kentucky man arrested in November of 2003 for offering to sell items he didn't have, he'll ask you to send money for the item. And you'll receive nothing in return.

Credit card three-digit code. Scams. The three-digit code on the back of your credit card may be all that a crook needs to complete a fraudulent transaction. Be wary of callers who say they're with the fraud departments at VISA or MasterCard and then ask you if you've purchased an anti-telemarketing device. When you say "no" they then tell you that there's been an unauthorized charge to your account for this device. Then they ask you to verify your credit card information and reveal your three-digit code so they can "block" the charge for this device.

To protect yourself...don't provide any personal information—your social security number, bank account numbers, passwords, credit card numbers, three digit credit card codes or your mother's maiden name—to anyone who calls or e-mails you.

"Dot-com fraud" with an international flair. If you're selling an item on the Internet, a car, for example, and you're contacted by someone who says he buys cars for overseas clients, think twice if he references a Nigerian connection. There have been numerous fraudulent schemes where buyers have sent cashiers checks for more than the amount than the sellers have requested, and have asked the sellers to send the difference. The sellers refund the difference and later learn the cashiers check has bounced.

To protect yourself...steer clear of business opportunities that involve a Nigerian connection. Or call the financial institution to verify authenticity.

File complaints with the Michigan Attorney General's Office at www.michigan.gov/ag. Questions can be directed to 1 (877) 765-8388. Also consider filing a complaint with the FTC by phoning 1 (877) 382-4357. Or visit www.ftc.gov.

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@mcul.org.

Advertorial

Details transform so-so to spectacular

Remodeling Remedies cures make-over woes

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

The kitchen is heart of your home and the hub of entertainment. Now it can be as beautiful as it is efficient, says Jim Faydenko of Remodeling Remedies in South Lyon.

Paying attention to details can transform a kitchen from so-so to spectacular, and there are lots of exciting new trends that can make it attractive and functional. A kitchen remodel is one of the most practical and satisfying improvements a homeowner can make, says Faydenko.

Two Rooms In One

One of the latest trends in kitchen design is the open floor plan, which includes the dining room area. That is, literally removing walls and combining the dining and kitchen area to create an open, airy look and a free flow of traffic.

In many cases, the formal dining room is more like a museum — attractive but not very functional. The open floor plan makes use of valuable space as well as the dining room furniture, which is usually a big investment. Now the family can use both on a daily basis.

Faydenko incorporated the concept into his own custom home, saying, "With the open floor plan, we don't have a dining room. It's built around the way we live."

The layout suits their family with three children well, since they love to entertain and require a kid friendly design.

Lighten Up

Along with the open floor plan, creative and innovative uses for lighting are another of Faydenko's specialties. He suggests installing lighting in unique areas, such as underneath the upper cabinets allowing for optimal task lighting. When



After

Paying attention to details can transform a kitchen from so-so to spectacular, and there are lots of exciting new trends that can make it attractive and functional. A kitchen remodel is one of the most practical and satisfying improvements a homeowner can make.

installed with a dimmer switch it's especially nice in the evening, casting a soft glow and allowing you to navigate through the kitchen. He uses a special kind of xenon bulb that stays cooler than a typical halogen bulb.

"I won't do another kitchen without it," the builder adds.

Get Cooking

Today's appliances are among the hi-tech trends. Many come in stainless steel or commercial styles. For the family that's serious about cooking, wine refrigerators, warming drawers, second dishwashers, and double ovens make for an ideal place to prepare a meal. Panel kits can camouflage refrigerators to match the kitchen cabinetry. Custom made cabinetry offers built in specialty drawers for conveniences like pull-out cutting boards, hidden bread boxes,

full extension glides for deep drawers, spice drawers and silverware dividers.

Today's islands also expand counter space and often use upscale materials such as solid surface countertops, like granite, or furniture-like detailing to become a focal point of the room. They also provide significant storage and offer extra serving space while entertaining.

Hardwood flooring and ceramic tile adds a sleek contemporary look to the latest kitchen floors. Central vacuuming makes clean up quick and easy with a conveniently located toe-kick vac pan for disposal.

When it comes to fixtures, Faydenko favors Grohe kitchen and bath fixtures for quality and styling. New set-in sinks make wiping up a breeze. There's no lip around the edge, so sinks are flush with the counter. Even tangled electrical cords can disappear into the countertops with the use of a few tricks.



Before

Tire of your kitchen, get help from Remodeling Remedies by calling (866) 226-9080 or (248) 486-7494. Check out their website for a wealth of information at www.remodelingremedies.com.

projects weeks in advance. "I know where the guys are going to be working well before they do. I'm in control of scheduling. My guys have my tools and I know when they clock in," he said.

Their decades of experience provide valuable input to any remodeling project.

"We've been doing this for years, and our experience shows in the quality and service we provide," he said.

Contact Remodeling Remedies toll free at (866) 226-9080 or (248) 486-7494. Check out their website for a wealth of information at www.remodelingremedies.com. They have taken the time to add links to all their favorite picks for materials.

Steps To A Dream Kitchen

It all starts with the client's call to the Remodeling Remedies office. The conversation will include talk about the project's budget, initial concepts and ideas for the proposed work and both the homeowner and Remodeling Remedies will have a chance to decide if they are a good fit for one another.

If it is agreed that the next step should be taken, Faydenko will make an appointment to meet with the client and discuss the

project further. He strongly urges that both the husband and wife (or whoever else is involved in the decision making process) be on hand for this meeting. "Too many details get lost in the translation when one party tries to relay information on to the unavailable partner," says Faydenko. "It's a large investment and needs to be thoroughly understood by everyone involved."

At this point a fee is collected by Remodeling Remedies and a design is created. This is a 3-D computer generated drawing of the proposed plan. Simultaneously, the client begins shopping for their products and fixtures. Remodeling Remedies provides a list of required materials and recommended vendors. They're tried and true suppliers in the area. Once the design and product selection is finalized an exact detailed quote is calculated and presented to the homeowners.

If the client chooses to go ahead with the project, the fee is credited toward the cost of the project. If the client chooses another contractor — the plans, the product selections and the quote are still theirs to keep.

Finally, let Remodeling Remedies go to work — then enjoy your new kitchen!



Jim Faydenko, left, and the crew of Remodeling Remedies can make your home more attractive, inviting and more valuable.

No Time Like The Present

Faydenko and his partner, Gary Hess, encourage anyone thinking of kitchen improvements not to wait. Often customers remodel just prior to putting their homes up for sale. They're missing out on years of enjoyment.

"Why wait when they can enjoy them now?" he points out.

Remodeling dollars are not only a sound home investment, but something the client can also enjoy. A kitchen remodel that costs between \$28,000 and \$32,000, can net a 90 percent return on value when sold, according to Faydenko.

Finish The Job

Since the kitchen is the heart of the home, it stands to reason that a remodel project can be disruptive. Faydenko understands this, and takes careful precautions to ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible. One way they can ensure results at Remodeling Remedies is by controlling their labor force. Hess and Faydenko have employees who are scheduled in for clients'

Thinking about remodeling?



Remedies **REMODELING REMEDIES INC**

- Specializing in Kitchens, Baths, Basements, Additions & More
- Experienced Craftsmen
- Quality Work at a Great Value
- Professional Service
- All Work Guaranteed
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Enjoy a lifetime of beauty while adding value to your home.