



# Novi News



Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for over 48 years

Thursday, June 24, 2004

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Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your  
**GREEN SHEET**  
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**INSIDE**



**She wasn't kidding**

Novi Middle School teacher Claudia Wiseman reacts as her last few remaining locks are shorn off at the end of last Thursday's talent show. Wiseman volunteered to have her hair cut off by students if they raised more than \$1,000 for Relay for Life.

— Page 11A

**15 MINUTES WITH...**

**Blair Bowman**

Tomorrow morning, with shovel in hand, Blair Bowman will break ground on his new exposition center, but how much do you really know about this Novi businessman?

Find out what makes him tick and a whole lot more.

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## New expo center in the works

Officials to break ground Friday on new \$18M facility

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited groundbreaking of the first phase of the new \$18 million exposition, convention and conference center in Novi kicks off tomorrow, with developer Blair Bowman leading a flagpole dedication.

The new center, whose name has not yet been released, will be the second largest banquet and conference facility in the state, second only to the Grand Center in Grand Rapids.

Bowman, managing partner of TBON L.L.C., the company that will oversee the center, recently selected Clayco Construction Company Detroit, headquartered in Livonia, as general contractor for the center.

Elected officials will join Bowman at 9 a.m. to break ground on the new center. Novi Mayor Lou Cserdas will serve as the groundbreaking's master of ceremonies.

Officials will help Bowman dedicate a flagpole at the site in honor of Michigan men and women who have served in our



Livonia-based Clayco Construction Company Detroit has been chosen as the general contractor for the new exposition center on Grand River Ave., west of Taft Road.

nation's armed forces. U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-11th Dist.) will provide a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.

The 320,000-square-foot project will feature 26-foot-high ceilings in 214,000 square feet of exposition space, as well as a full-service banquet kitchen and

40,000 square feet of meeting and conference rooms.

The first phase of construction will include parking for 2,550 vehicles.

The project is being privately funded by Bowman and financed through Standard Federal Bank. "This project represents the culmination of many years of

planning, yet it required no taxpayer funding to make it happen," Bowman said, adding that the center should be complete in 14 months.

The new exposition center will receive a 8-year tax abatement from the city.

continued on page 2

## Contestants hope to 'survive' TV tryouts

Post Bar's tropical theme makes for a perfect venue

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The Post Bar in Novi was transformed into a Hollywood casting studio as about 150 brave souls came from across the area for the CBS reality TV show "Survivor" tryouts June 16.

The last person standing at the end of this show, which airs early 2005, wins \$1 million. A mother-daughter team showed up from Northville to tryout. Jessica Maynard, 22, who has a summer job with the Northville Public Schools, said, "I really wanted to do this because I've never done anything exciting. I've always been in the same town and done the same thing over and over. I'm just looking for something really exciting to do."

Maynard's mom, Debbie Erskine, 49, an office manager among other jobs, said she wanted to do something out of the ordinary before her next birthday. "I'm doing this because I'm going to be 50 in March, and I've never done anything wild and crazy in my life."

This is the adventure of a lifetime for Jim Stryker, 38, a security guard from Roseville.

"This is a chance to do something that's fun and totally different from anything I've done," said Stryker. "I'm an Army brat. I've grown up all over — I've lived all over the United States, I've lived in Germany, and been all over Europe. But nothing I've ever done could compare to being on 'Survivor.'"

Stryker admitted it would be fun, and said it's not really even the money that makes it so attractive.

"I really don't watch a lot of reality TV, but I've been hooked on 'Survivor' since the first season," he said. "I love the show. My wife and I sit there and yell at the TV screen."

Local TV representatives said the Post Bar was a perfect venue for the tryouts.

"It's a large location, and also the style of the building with the palm trees in the outdoor bar was appropriate,



Photo by John Heider

Northville High School alumni Kate Hammond, left, and Jessica Maynard talk about why they interviewed for a slot on CBS' "Survivor" last Wednesday at Novi's Post Bar.

because it has a tropical look," said Arin Towns, an account executive at CBS Detroit.

When "Survivor" hit, it was really just a summer replacement show, according to Jim Balistreri, director of marketing, CBS Detroit. It wound up turning around the network. "Now CBS is the number one network"

Steve Horaney, 37, of South Lyon, who works for a local automotive components supplier, said he came for the tryouts because, "My children have been hounding me and encouraging me to come do this. They heard about the tryouts when I was out of town last week traveling. I returned home yesterday, and they basically said I had to come try out."

Horaney said he'd be a good contestant because he's good with people. "I'm always looking for compromises, different ways to do things and making things happen," he 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@ht.homecomm.net.

## Council denies Fox Run's liquor license request

Members can't justify giving last one to retirement village

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Fox Run Village residents will have to continue enjoying their cocktails in their apartments or on the grounds instead of in the retirement community's two restaurants.

The Novi City Council denied the community's request for a Class C liquor license Monday, citing the fact that there is only one left to grant. The motion to approve the request failed in a 2-4 vote.

Mike McCormick, executive director of Fox Run, 41100 W. Thirteen Mile Road, went to bat for the residents, explaining that having a glass of wine with a

meal would enhance their lives. Fox Run has two dining venues — the Fireside Dining Room, which seats about 275, and the Hunt Club Cafe, which seats about 80.

"Obviously, we're disappointed," McCormick said Tuesday. "We really feel that having a liquor license would provide our residents with another socialization opportunity. We understand, however, that there aren't a lot of liquor licenses, and that part of the criteria is that the business is alcohol-dependent. Clearly, we're not dependent on alcohol service, but it is an important part of our culture," he said.

Fox Run opened its doors June 30, 2003, and has almost 300 residents, with about 2,300 expected within the next five years.

Entrance deposits at Fox Run, which are 100 refundable, range from \$10,000 to \$390,000, depending on the size of the unit. There's also a monthly fee

continued on page 2

**"Your business is not dependent on alcohol to be a success."**

Laura Lorenzo  
Novi City Council

## Galyans enters merger agreement with Dick's Sporting Goods

Each chain has one Novi location

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Galyans Trading Company, Inc., announced Monday that it has entered into a merger agreement, selling the company to Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Galyans has a store in Novi at Fountain Walk shopping center on

the south side of Twelve Mile Road west of Novi Road.

The two-story Galyans Sports and Outdoor store at Fountain Walk opened in October 2001 and covers 83,281 square feet. Each store employs about 200 people.

In terms of any specific plans, it's too early to predict what will happen to the individual stores until the deal is finalized, according to a spokesperson at the corporate office in Plainfield. The merger agreement could take from 90 to 120 days to be completed.

The Novi store features a climbing wall and all types of sporting

goods, including apparel and footwear. It's billed as a store with 40 specialty shops under one roof.

Other Galyans stores in Michigan are in Lansing and Grand Rapids.

There is a Dick's Sporting Goods store located at 21061 Haggerty Road in Novi.

According to the terms of the agreement, by June 29 Dick's will make an offer to purchase all outstanding company shares, followed by a second step merger of Galyans with a subsidiary of Dick's.

Galyans' directors approved the merger agreement with Dick's and agreed to recommend that company

shareholders tender their company shares in Dick's offer and vote their company shares to approve the merger.

"The Galyans store at Fountain Walk has always been a draw to the center. Our expectation is that they will still be here and continue to experience the strong sales that they have in the past," said Linda Busse, marketing director at Fountain Walk.

Galyans, with corporate offices in Plainfield, Ind., near Indianapolis, is an active lifestyle retailer that focuses on the latest in sports, fitness, outdoor recreation and apparel.

Founded in 1960 in Plainfield, The Limited purchased the firm in 1995. Freeman Spogli bought a majority of the company in 1999, and the chain completed its initial public offering in June 2001. Galyans now operates 47 stores in 21 states.

Pittsburgh-based Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. is an authentic full-line sporting goods retailer operating 169 stores in 27 states throughout the eastern United States.

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.

Buy it up on our... **Green Sheet Classifieds**





# Milford boy wins Detroit Tiger tickets in HomeTown contest

By Aileen Wingblad  
STAFF WRITER

His brothers took a pass, but Milford resident Andrew Bellanti stepped up to the plate in honor of his dad and ended up scoring four box seat tickets to the Detroit Tigers June 27 game at Comerica Park.



Mike Bellanti and son Andrew.

Andrew, 8, submitted the winning entry in HomeTown Newspapers "Best Dad" contest — surprising him and his parents, Mike and Julie Bellanti.

"When my mom told me I won, I ran down the stairs screaming to tell my dad," Andrew said. "I said 'I won! I won four Tiger tickets!' I was surprised, but I think it's pretty cool."

Andrew learned of the contest from his mom, who read about it in the Milford Times. "She asked me and my brothers if we wanted to do it. My brothers didn't want to, so I decided to try it — I just like writing," he said. "It was pretty hard to write it, but I mostly just got some ideas from my mom."

Mike Bellanti said he found it "very touching" that Andrew would enter a contest, singing his praises. "It's quite an honor. It's these little things that make all the difference," he said. "And I think it is awesome. Andrew is a happy kid, always willing to help around the house. And he's a joy to have around."

Besides his parents, Andrew shares his Milford home with his brothers Brandon, 12, Jordan, 11, Jacob, 4 and Christopher, 1. A home schooler, Andrew enjoys ice hockey, roller hockey, riding his bike — and spending time with his dad.

Aileen Wingblad is a reporter for the Milford Times. She can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 22 or by e-mail at [awingblad@ml.homecomm.net](mailto:awingblad@ml.homecomm.net).

# Spider-Man swings into Walled Lake Northern

By Paul Green  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Lakes Area Arts Council is proud to present a special big-screen showing of Spider-Man on Tuesday June 29 at Walled Lake Northern High School's auditorium.

The event is designed to showcase the newly formed Arts Council to the community and get moviegoers excited about the June 30 release of the much-anticipated "Spider-Man 2" in which Tobey Maguire returns as Spider-Man to take on Dr. Octopus.

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase with proceeds going to benefit the Lakes Area Arts Council. The event is co-sponsored by the Walled Lake Public Schools and C3 Ministries and is open to the public. Seating is limited.

The event concludes at 9:30 with a drawing for the winner of a pair of passes to see "Spider-Man 2." Other prizes to be given away include comic books and T-shirts.

The Lakes Area Arts Council is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to create opportunity, excitement, and appreciation for the arts in order to educate, enrich

and strengthen the community. The LAAC, established in February 2004, looks forward to providing the community with a full range of events that support this goal in addition to a calendar of film events.

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# LIBRARY LINES

## Novi Public Library

**Hours**  
The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday during the summer.

**Drop-In Story Times**  
Story time for children ages four to seven will be held Thursday, July 1; story time for two- and three-year-olds will be held Friday, July 2. Each 30-minute session begins at 10:30 a.m. No registration is necessary.

**Discover New Trails**  
Sign-up is now underway for the 2004 Summer Reading Program, "Discover New Trails @ Your Library." The program is for children in the 4th grade and below.

**Stamp Your Shorts & Frisbee Golf**  
Kids in the 5th grade and up are invited to the library for a double dose of fun on Monday, June 28, from 1-2 p.m. Bring a plain white pair of boxer shorts or any other

**Hats Off**  
September Productions presents an evening of family fun on Wednesday, July 7, at 7 p.m. This talented group of actors will perform all-new skits with stories, songs, and

**Holiday Closing**  
The library will be closed Monday, July 5, for the Independence Day holiday.

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# BUSINESS

## INCAT may expand, earn tax credits from Michigan

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council members recently approved a major agreement for the INCAT company's business retention and expansion plan in Novi through the state's Single Business Tax credit program.

INCAT, a global firm founded in 1984 and headquartered in London and Novi, is a technology software and consulting business employing more than 600 people in North America, Europe and the Pacific Rim. The Novi office employs about 300 people, and the firm wants to add 300 more jobs in Novi over the next five years.

In connection with such an expansion, INCAT has applied, and will be considered for the State of Michigan Single Business Tax credit through the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Such approval depends upon INCAT securing a local commitment to participate in funding in conjunction with the state's contribution.

The city wants the firm to stay in Novi because the company's expansion would mean additional personal property tax for the city.

If the proposal is approved by the state, the state would credit \$20,000 to the city as a result of enhanced building/planning permitting procedures, with the remaining \$30,000 to be secured through selected alternatives.

Financial support for technology infrastructure would be funded by the Novi Economic Development Corporation. Based on information from the state and INCAT, the return to the city in terms of property tax payments is estimated to be \$46,682 over the next five years in addition to the current property tax.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I. TIPS TO QUIT SMOKING



Photo courtesy Novi Chamber of Commerce

**Children's dreams now sweeter**  
Novi Chamber of Commerce staff presented a check for \$10,000 June 15 at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Novi to Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit, a local charity that provides sleep education and essentials to needy children. From left: Keith Wilson, chair, Novi Chamber Board of Directors; Nora Champion, Chamber president; and Nancy Maxwell and Maria Borri from Sweet Dreamzzz Detroit. Funds for the charity were donated during the chamber's annual Charity Auction April 24 at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT  
The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48240, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2004 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004 PRIMARY ELECTION  
To the Qualified Electors of the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan. Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, July 6, 2004 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above election. If you are not currently registered to vote in the City of Novi at your present address, you may do so in any of the following ways:

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**Sheep lungs at Novi Meadows**

Marianne Malarkey's and Gary Hurst's fifth grade classes at Novi Meadows dissected sheep lungs as part of their Health Studies, in particular the Respiratory System. The kids not only dissected the lungs, but also got to blow up the lungs with an air pump to assimilate how they actually work. Before the dissection, they made a model of the lungs using plastic cups, balloons and straws. Included in the Respiratory System studies, the kids also learned the negative effects of smoking on the lungs. Here, Brandon DuBois, Kevin Kacan and Nick Kuczajda learn about a sheep lung.



**Messy, messy, messy!**

These Orchard Hills kindergartners in Jean Walle's class get messy as they tie dye shirts for their year end luau party. Pictured are Anthony Nguyen, Ashley Moore, Megan Nance and Lindsay Kawada.



**Novi Woods Mini Society**

Fourth graders at Novi Woods learned a practical lesson in economics when they created a Mini Society. Working in small groups, the students must create a product to sell, set a price, make advertising signs and run their mini store. With other students and parents serving as customers, the fourth graders quickly learned the law of supply and demand and adjusted prices accordingly. Pictured here, Angela Sherman, Ashley Miller and Danielle Johnson display their selection of picture frames and puppy chow.



**Breakfast, Michigan style**

During Michigan Week, VOICE, Village Oaks Elementary School's PTO, sponsored a Michigan breakfast for all students consisting of apple juice, blueberry muffins and Kellogg's cereals.



**'Tacorella'**

'Tacorella' was recently performed by Deerfield third and fourth grade students in the Greenhouse and Treehouse areas of the school. The bilingual musical, which was written by Spanish teacher Betsy Brown and music teacher Ainsley Sonntag, is an adaptation of Cinderella, but with a Mexican twist. In addition to the usual kings, queens, princes and ugly stepsisters, there are also some quirky memorable characters like the Duke Rico Suave and the Lasagna Godfather, who helps Tacorella (played by Sarah Hudgens, pictured) get to the ball."



**Pull hard!!!**

Novi Woods students enjoyed an afternoon of games and fun at the school's Field Day. Gym teacher Libby Crawford entertained them with races, hula hoops, water balloons and the tug of war, pictured here.



Courtesy photos

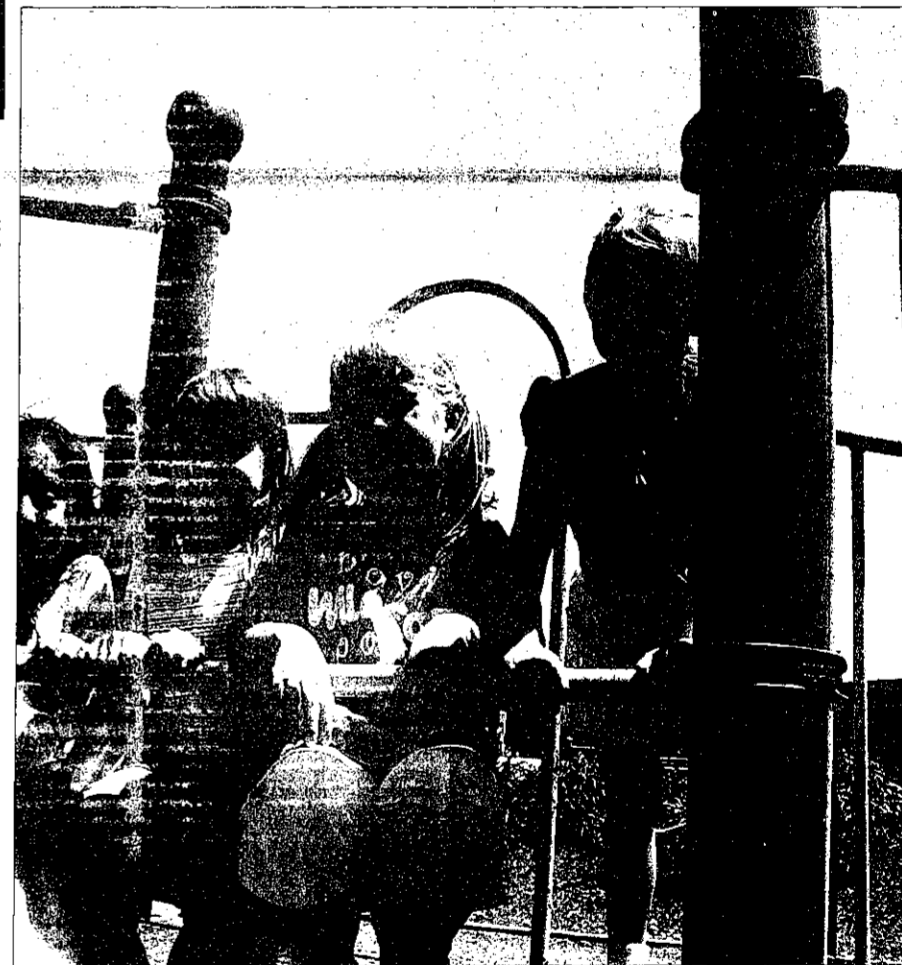
**Army Sgt. visits Girl Scouts**

The Brownies welcomed home Sgt. Jennifer Reimer from Iraq recently. Reimer is a medic with the 109th Battalion. The Brownies had adopted the Screaming Eagles of the 109 and sent Christmas Care packages and a special treat - Girl Scout cookies! Reimer described life in Iraq for children especially as related to girls, her responsibilities as a medic and her experience as a woman in the army. Especially interesting were the accomplishments of the 109th; bridges and roads rebuilt, schools for girls opened and supplied with books, hospitals supplied, equipped and Triage/EMT training given. They even built soccer fields and organized soccer teams for the children of Mosul, a sport many of the Brownies themselves enjoy.



**Corn Flakes, anyone?**

For a study on Michigan, students in Jean Walle's Kindergarten class at Orchard Hills Elementary School had breakfast from products made in Michigan recently. They ate Kellogg's Corn Flakes from Battle Creek, Jiffy muffin mix from Chelsea, Old Orchard apple juice from Sparta and Guernsey milk from Northville. Here, moms Laura Liddicoat and Andrea Klerx serve Corn Flakes to kindergartners Katelyn Spencer and Tristan Oliver.



**Village Oaks Kindergarten Picnic**

Sue Nanas's Kindergarten students at Village Oaks Elementary School enjoyed using the "big kid" equipment on the playground for the first time in preparation for next year as first graders. Here, sitting pretty and high in the sky are Megna Shotty, Jessica Miesowicz, Gabi Born and Hope Kapelanski.

**Orchard Hills Mini Society**

Right, Mini Society is a part of the third grade curriculum where students learn about the concepts of economics, production, marketing and sales. The kids created their own currency and each class has a treasurer. They had to purchase a storefront and design a catchy sign to help sell their products. The third graders got a chance to sell their products to the second graders, the fourth graders and then to family and friends. Here, third grader Eric Ballard sells his "Craft Creations" to fourth graders Dayna Spisak, Shannen Sherwood and Dylan Fahome.



**Orchard Hills Butterfly Parade**

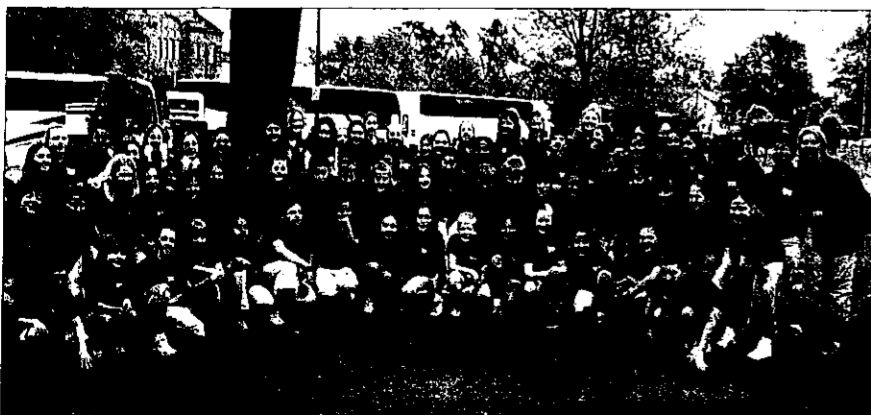
Jennifer Smith's kindergarten class at Orchard Hills Elementary School has been studying butterflies and their life cycles. To top off their lessons, they made butterfly costumes and went on a butterfly parade around the school.



Courtesy photos

**A magical time at Village Oaks**

Kristina Poullot and magician Sarah Miller show off their talents at the annual fourth grade "Show Off Show," held recently at Village Oaks Elementary School.



**Novi Meadows Choir Club in Ohio**

Left, about 70 Novi Meadows Choir Club students attended The Music in the Park Festival in Ohio on May 15 and placed first in their age group. The choir competition was held at a middle school near Cedar Point and the awards ceremony was at Cedar Point later in the day. The choir club received a first place trophy in its age group and achieved a superior rating from the judges. In the overall category, Novi Meadows placed second against choirs of all ages.



**Novi Meadows Spring Concert**

Novi Meadows School hosted its annual Spring Concert recently. The fifth grade band is conducted/directed by Kristen Hurd and the sixth grade band is conducted/directed by Alan Oliphant. Each song was introduced by a small group of students to explain the choice of song and song writer. The Novi Meadows gym was jam-packed with proud parents and friends of these musicians. There are over 250 fifth graders in band and over 180 sixth graders. Here, Oliphant conducts his band.



**A lesson in class and elegance**

E is for "Elegant Day" in kindergarten at Novi Woods Elementary School. Above, Sam Jenkins escorts Alicia Samson into a formal party where students observe proper etiquette and elegant manners after a week-long study of the subject. Elegant day activities included dining to classical music, promenading through the school to show off their elegant behavior and playing games set to classical music.

**Village Oaks visits Greenfield Village**

Fourth graders from Village Oaks Elementary School took a field trip to Greenfield Village in May. They learned about Michigan History. Pictured here are fourth graders Mitchell Hutton, Rohan Patel, Katie Kelly and Yoko Yuyama









## Artist goes international

■ Buresh invited to show in D.C.

By Lori Taylor  
SPECIAL WRITER

In many cases life inspires art. In the case of local artist Judy Buresh, art has inspired life. Buresh is a cancer survivor, as well as the ceramics artist in residence for Providence Center for the Healing Arts in Novi.

As a cancer survivor, artist and teacher, Buresh was chosen to participate in the 2004 International VSA arts Festival and Educational Conference. Her work was selected by an international jury for inclusion in the Festival June 9-12 in Washington, D.C.

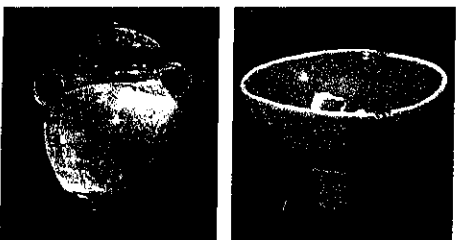
After her cancer diagnosis, Buresh says, "My world shifted on the axis of cancer. I have used art to regain my present state of health and continue to help others through teaching." She adds, "I am engaged in the search for identity beyond cancer. Under the physical scars lie a psyche struggling to come to terms with disease and life. Since my diagnosis my artwork has become more daring, more personal and poignant, and less veiled."

The VSA arts Education Conference is the only international conference that brings together art, education and disability. Cutting-edge visual and performing art from around the world were showcased at prestigious venues throughout Washington, D.C. Participants had the opportunity to witness creativity in progress, participate in an infusion of cultures, and learn about innovations in arts education for students with disabilities.

The International VSA arts Festival is a four-day extravaganza held every five years at select cities around the globe. President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush served to the Honorary Chairs of the 2004 Festival.



Top, Judy Buresh begins work on one of her clay pieces. Below, two examples of her fine work, a vase and a bowl.



Buresh attended the Festival as one of two ceramics artists selected from an international pool of candidates. Two of her works Ceramic Bowl and Large Bali Jar will be showcased at the Washburn Gallery and Union Station until June 30, 2004. The works feature a unique China Red glaze developed by Buresh, who is

a master glaze chemist. "Glaze chemistry is my passion," Buresh said. "I love to experiment with metallic oxides to achieve rich colors and textures. My pieces are thickly layered with fused glass, semi-precious stones, shells, cork and other scavenged materials complete my work."

### Fighting cancer with creativity

Providence Center for the Healing Arts, located in the Assarian Cancer Center, provides a variety of programs that promote emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being for cancer patients and their families, as well as the public. Ceramics classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information, contact Lori Taylor at (248)-465-5455 or e-mail her at Lorraine.Taylor@providence-stjohnhealth.org.

## VARSETY

LINCOLN MERCURY

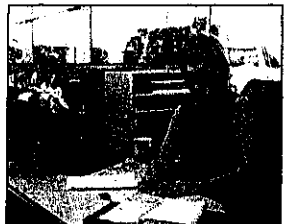
### WELCOMES

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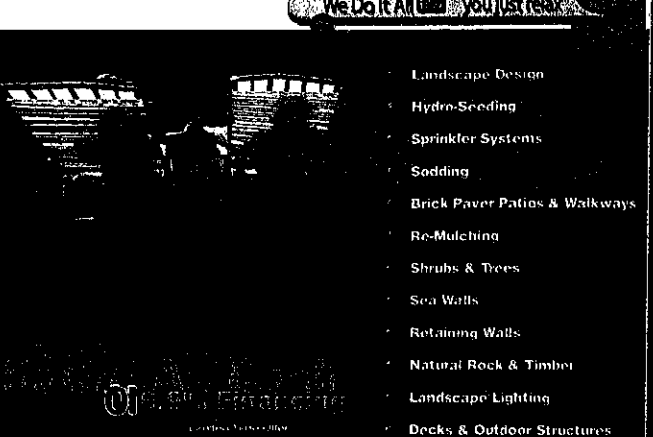
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## Factory Representative offering DIGITAL HEARING TECHNOLOGIES AT BOTTOM PRICES! One Week Only!



### Pam Cummings

is the Factory Representative that will be at University Audiology Hearing Services in Brighton this week. This special sales event will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott, located at 7799 Conference Center Drive, due to space requirements. (Exit 145, Grand River off of I-96)

Pam is a licensed Specialist from the state of Virginia. She now travels the country as a factory representative, sponsoring special events for those that are experiencing hearing difficulties. Her vast experience and knowledge, as well as her genuine understanding and caring

for those with hearing difficulties, make her a tremendous asset to those who are seeking help in their hearing for the first time. Her extensive knowledge of digital technologies is also a major benefit to those who currently wear hearing instruments and are seeking an improvement in their hearing and speech understanding in background noise.

If you are seeking help, we suggest that you call now to schedule your free consultation with Pam Cummings. Appointments with Pam are limited, as she will be in town for this special event for one week only! Call 800-494-EARS (3277) now to schedule your appointment.

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 20A

Novi News

Thursday, June 24, 2004

## Preplanned funerals ease burden on survivors

If you ever have had to arrange a funeral, you know the great amount of planning involved, from deciding flowers and the number of funeral vehicles to the punctuation on the headstone. The details can be overwhelming for a grieving family.

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), using a funeral home because it's served your family before is not necessarily a wise choice. Since costs of services can vary greatly among funeral homes, the FTC recommends shopping by telephone or in person for the best services at the most reasonable prices.

A traditional funeral, which includes a viewing or visitation, a formal funeral service, a hearse to transport the body to a funeral site and burial costs about \$6,000. Add obituary notices, flowers, acknowledgement cards and limousines and the cost can surge above \$10,000. A cremation can cost as little as \$1,000 or about \$3,000 if it includes a memorial service and burial. Add flowers and extras, and the price can be as expensive as an average funeral.

### Preplanning

Start by contacting some funeral establishments in your area about the kind of services that are available and how much they cost. According to the FTC's Funeral Rule — a federal law designed to protect the consumers — if you visit a funeral home in person, it's required by law to give you a general price list of the products and services it offers. If this list doesn't include specific prices for items that vary in cost, caskets for example, then the home is required to show you the prices before it shows you the caskets.

If you feel uneasy about talking to someone face-to-face, contact the home by telephone. By law they are required to provide pricing to anyone who asks for it. (You can print a copy of the Funeral Rule at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).)

Put your preferences in writing. (Keep in mind prices increase and funeral homes go out of business or change owners.) Give copies of your preferences to your attorney and keep a copy in a place accessible to your family. Don't specify your wishes in your will because a will is often read after the funeral. Also, refrain from placing your only copy in your safe deposit box, which is inaccessible on weekends and holidays.

### Prepaying

If after conducting research you want to prepay some or all of your funeral arrangements, you can do so in a variety of ways. One way is to buy what's called burial insurance or "preneed" insurance from your funeral home. Before signing the papers, if the funeral director can't provide price guarantees, get in writing how much the policy will be worth in two, five and 10 years. Find out what happens if you cancel the policy or move out of state, and what your recourse is if the mortuary closes or goes out of business, or the cemetery runs out of burial space. The policy should spell out all the goods and services you want the insurance to cover, as well as contingencies.

Other ways to prepay funeral services, as suggested by the California Consumer Affairs Department (CCCA), include:

- **Preneed Trust Contracts** — Choose the services you want, sign a contract that spells out the specifics of those services, and then pay a set amount into the trust administered by the funeral home. The CCCA recommends asking for a guaranteed price plan, finding out if the money in the trust increases in value over time, and learning where the money is being invested. Find out if you have to pay the whole amount of the service and burial into the trust at one time or if you can make payments. And ask if funeral arrangements can be transferred to another establishment in the event you move out of the state.
- **Savings** — Set aside savings to cover funeral expenses.
- **Paid on Death Account** — Set up a POD account at your financial institution designating your funeral establishment as the beneficiary of the funds.
- **Life Insurance** — Plan for a portion of your life insurance policy to be used to cover your funeral expenses. Instruct the beneficiary to handle the arrangements in accordance with your last wishes.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League.

Advertorial



By HAL GOULD

Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman, hires professional workers with years of experience to get the job done right. He also requires employee drug testing and often hires pros with 15 to 20 years of experience.

## My Handyman solves problems

By Annette Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

Now that the warm weather is finally here, it's the perfect time to throw open the windows and tackle some of those indoor maintenance projects. Maybe you've put off those home repairs, or you've been thinking about painting those walls. Now you can get to the bottom of your to-do list without breaking a sweat, with one call to My Handyman. This summer, sit back and relax while they take care of all those time-consuming tasks.

### And painting too!

To complement their services, My Handyman now has added indoor painting to their list of repair and maintenance skills.

"It's really taken off, mainly it was by customers' request. We've had enough people asking about it," said Dayn Benson, owner and president of the local branch of My Handyman.

It made perfect sense for them to include painting in their repertoire, since they're capable of handling all those other miscellaneous tasks that somehow seem to crop up. They can complete the job from start to finish, because they can repair that dry-wall or fix the crown moulding at the same time.

### Jack of all trades

My Handyman provides a one-stop shop where customers can get five different trades with just one visit. No need to call several tradesmen.

"In one visit we can do multiple tasks, such as fix drywall, minor plumbing or electrical, put up those shelves and clean the

gutters," said Benson.

When Benson opened his business three years ago, he realized that many people lacked the skills or time to perform most of the everyday tasks needed to maintain their home.

Benson notes that customers have commented there's a true euphoria when their phone call is answered promptly and technicians do exactly what they need them to do, and more. It's why their motto is "On time, done right."

My Handyman provides a perfect way for working families to keep up with time-consuming or frustrating chores. When left unattended, those problems don't go away, they only grow more burdensome in size and cost.

"Most of my customers are working couples, who have to get the kids to ballet and soccer. They just don't have the time," he pointed out.

### Professionals only

Benson also realized that frequently the handyman trade lacked a level of professionalism. He decided to change that with the opening of his business. He's careful in selecting and coordinating employees with the appropriate talent and skills.

"We hire a lot of guys with 15 to 20 years of professional experience. We screen them and require a drug test," he explained.

For an added sense of security, My Handyman employees wear uniforms and drive a company truck. They're also geographically located throughout many local communities, and are often residents of the local neighborhood.

"We're different. We're differ-

### HOME MAINTENANCE LIST

Taking care of a home takes continuous maintenance, have you remembered these spring chores?

- Gutter and downspout cleaning and repair
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- Repair siding
- Brick and tile work
- Install screens for windows and screen doors
- Fix door jams, hinges
- Fence repair
- Wood repair
- Painting exterior doors
- Install locks and deadbolts



Mike Morton was named as a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally; judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience.

lock up and they're gone," said Brueger.

Benson is proud to note that one of their technicians was a national finalist for Mr. Handyman of the Year, Mike Morton. It's a prestigious honor for the local franchise that Morton was in the top 1 percent of all technicians nationally, judged on customer satisfaction, prompt arrival and experience. The Mr. Handyman franchise was also recently featured on a segment of the Oprah show.

Benson notes they do more than repairs; think of them for routine chores. In fact, this time

of year, they can tackle those warm weather tasks like installing screens on windows and doors as well as make sure those gutters are clean.

My Handyman can handle repairs for homeowners and commercial businesses in western Wayne, Livingston, Washtenaw and Oakland County. Charges are by the hour. Small jobs don't lend themselves to estimates; however they can give you an idea about the cost of most routine chores. Call (877) MyHandy, (877) 694-2639 or visit their Web site at [www.myhandyman.com](http://www.myhandyman.com).

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**Tracking the best**  
Northville was well represented on the boys' All-Area track and field team, even earning the Player of the Year nod in Monchil Filev. Two girls made the Dream Team squad too.  
— Page 2B and 3B



**It's open**  
Lakeshore Park offers a summer haven right here in Novi for those seeking the "up-north" feeling without the drive.  
— Page 5B



**It's your money**  
It's hard to determine who has your best interests in mind. The financial advisors at Raymond James Financial Services in Highland believe it's important to be objective when it comes to your finances.  
— Page 6B

# SPORTS & MORE

B-1

Time to focus on other topics

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, June 24, 2004

# CHAMPIONS!

Novi's neighbors prove to be the best

By Matt Simich and Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITERS

The overall consensus is the harder a person works, the more it pays off in the end. As of last Saturday, the Northville Mustangs girls' soccer team can attest to that as they won the state championship in Division I play.

While their fellow students were lounging back, enjoying the sunshine, the lack of homework and the three months of summer, the Mustangs were out each and every day working to become the best team in the state. It was a goal that was finally reached when they topped the Grand Blanc Bobcats, 3-1, in the state finals game.

"We were a little jittery in the beginning about coming to the state finals," senior Loren Tacconelli said. "But once we realized we could pass around this team, we started doing it."

The jitters were very apparent in the opening minutes of the contest. Though the Mustangs had topped a tough Brighton Bulldogs soccer club, 2-1, just three days prior, they seemed as though they were tentative with their play. As the clock continued to tick, the Northville girls settled into their game and began to push themselves to find the cracks in Grand Blanc's defense.

Northville had the first chance for a score as Danielle Toney brought the ball in against the Bobcat defense, worked it toward the goal and fired it in. A heads-up defender stepped in its path, kicking the ball free and putting the Bobcats on the offensive.

Grand Blanc did some testing of their own, pressuring the solid Northville defensive corps and looking for an open shot. Grand Blanc found an opportunity and tried to take advantage of it as a hard kick sailed over Mustang goalie Katie Weicksel's head, just grazing the fingers of her outstretched hands. Fellow Mustang Lindsay Hill responded in turn, coming in hard and sliding in front of the unobstructed ball to make the save. Grand Blanc recovered the ball and shot again, this time being stonewalled by Weicksel. A third attempt in the same flurry of action found Northville's Deanne Kubas finally clearing the ball.

The offensive pressure put on by the Bobcats came from a strategy that took the Mustangs a few moments to discover.

"Originally, they had two forwards up top but then they changed to three and that gave us a little trouble," midfielder Tessa Adkins said. "But once we figured it out, we played back a little more and handled it well."

Once the strategy was discovered, the Mustangs began to take over control of possession as they slowed the Bobcat offensive to a crawl through the remainder of the first half. The midfielders made it easy on the defense, keeping the ball in the Grand Blanc zone through the majority of the half's remainder, a strategy that paid off as Toney took a pass from Lauren Hill and fired it home for the first goal of the game at 12:02 and the 1-0 lead.

Coming onto the field to begin the second half, the Mustangs had a renewed spring in their step. Their eyes were wide with excitement and determination and they turned their attention to the Grand Blanc Bobcats. It was clear that they, too, were ready to finish the game off with some impressive play.

In the opening minutes of the half, both squads had their chances to score, but it was Northville that tacked a second nail in the coffin with the 27:55 mark. Tacconelli set up a play with an incredibly throw-in from about 25 yards. The ball



The Northville Mustangs begin to celebrate as a Grand Blanc player feels the weight of the loss in the state championship game suddenly falling on her shoulders.

Photo by David Aguilar

hounced before Whitney Guenther dribbled it and passed it forward to Jen Kritch. Kritch followed her instincts as she turned just outside the box and fired a long shot that slid past the Bobcat goalie and into the back of the net for the 2-1 advantage.

Just minutes later, Lauren Hill scored on a redirection with 19 minutes remaining in the game. Guenther, who had taken the first shot on goal before having the ball redirected, was awarded her second assist of the day as the Mustangs took a commanding 3-0 lead.

The dark clouds were on the horizon, but Grand Blanc was determined to weather the storm. With just three minutes left in the game, the Bobcats put on their final show of the season. Grand Blanc's Jill Kehler put up her team's only goal with a perfectly-placed free kick that cut the lead to 3-1. That would be all of the fight that would prove to be left in the state runner-ups, who ended their season with a 22-4 mark.

As the clock's seconds ticked away, the Northville bench began counting them down,

chanting out each number before exploding into a fury of cheers and screams.

For the first time since 1984, the Northville Mustangs were state champions.

"There isn't really a feeling quite like this, to know that you're number one in the state," Northville coach Ron Meteyer said. "There is always the fear that you're going to choke at the last minute or stumble at the last gate, but the kids kept their composure, kept their smarts and played smart ball."

And brought home a state title in what will prove to be the last time many of them will play organized soccer. The Mustangs graduated 10 seniors this year, three of which will play soccer at the collegiate level. Lauren Hill will be taking on the top players in the country at the Division I level as she plays for the University of Maine next season while Tacconelli will play for Madonna and Kubas will walk on at Michigan State.

Northville, which ended their year with an 18-2-2 record, will have some huge gaps to fill come next spring, but that's the last

## THE BREAKDOWN

It was a game that the Northville Mustangs soccer team was prepared to win. They knew what their weapons were, deployed them and earned a huge victory over Grand Blanc, 3-1, for their first-ever Division I state championship.

Northville wasn't as dominating in the rest of the statistics as they were in the score. Instead, the numbers show the game to be exactly what one would expect from two squads as powerful as these: A hard-fought one.

### ■ Scoring summary:

1. Northville: Danielle Toney (1st half; 27:58); Assist from Lauren Hill.
2. Northville: Jenn Kritch (2nd half; 52:04); unassisted.
3. Northville: Lauren Hill (2nd half; 67:11); Assist from Whitney Guenther.
4. Grand Blanc: Jill Kehler (2nd half; 76:56); unassisted.

### ■ Statistics:

	Northville	Grand Blanc
Shots on goal:	6	7
Saves:	2	4
Fouls:	6	4
Corner Kicks	2	2

thing on their minds. Instead, they're busy reminiscing about the moments of a game that will stick in their minds forever.

Tomorrow, they are Mustangs looking to reload their team, but for today they are Mustangs who are state champions.

It amazes me what people get upset about in this day in age. The newest uproar? The recent signing of the bill that would allow Mourning Doves to be hunted.

We're talking about people getting all fired up because some counties in the lower peninsula (not even all of them) are going to get to hunt a bird that was, until recently, classified as a song bird.

This bill doesn't cover all of the counties in this part of the state, let alone the entire state, and yet people are already crying out about the extinction of this species.

What is a person supposed to say to that? My answer: Gimme a break.

I grew up hunting animals, birds and a few other things. I still do it to this day. I also fish. I have a keen interest in trapping to harvest furs. Yet, in all of the things I've done, will do, have an interest in and follow, none of them have managed to wipe and entire species out of Michigan in my lifetime.

This bill will allow hunters to thin the overabundant population of Mourning Doves; it will also bring an estimated \$87 million to Michigan's economy. With the bill being signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, with major support from sportsmen, Michigan became the 41st state to establish a dove hunting season.

Let's look at this from a different angle. The majority of the complaints I've heard (except those relating to adjectives as soft, fluffy, pitiful-looking, harmless, loving doves) are aimed towards the possible extinction of the birds because of the possibility of a high bag limit. For those who don't hunt, a bag limit is the amount of a species one hunter can get during a season or on one given day.

I know through the years I've hunted a variety of critters. Besides the ones that you're only allowed to take one of during a season, I've never filled my bag limit on a single day. Maybe I'm a bad hunter, or maybe I'm not, but I'm guessing the majority of those clad in blaze orange and carrying shotguns and rifles are in the same boat as I am. Filling a bag limit isn't what we're after. We go out trying to fill our freezers with meat to feed our families.

Here's the part of the conversation where a lot of folks just grunt and say I can fill my freezer with meat I buy at the grocery store. Yup, I'm well aware of that. I'm also well aware of how they kill those animals, and I have to say that it makes me even in more favor of hunting. I also know how much that meat costs. Let's see, \$4.50 for a cheap steak or \$35.00 in hunting expenses that will feed me for two-straight months. The cost difference is about six meals at the store compared to 60 meals when I take a hunting trip.

Not all hunts are nearly that successful either. I've been out and wasn't even able to catch a glimpse of the hunted let alone bag it. I've also been out where I've spent double my above-mentioned price and only had enough meat for two or three meals. Expensive? Yes, at times. For the most part, with what I hunt, the cost-to-meat ratio is well worth it.

Which brings me back to the doves, actually. Have you ever seen one of these things? They don't have enough meat on them to make a meal out of a single bird. You'd have to get 10 just to feed a family and that alone is going to deter many hunters from even going out and bothering with them.

In my opinion, not only is opening up this season a fine-and-dandy thing to do, I think it's hardly going to change the population of the doves in this state. The hunting will be done in select counties, by extremely avid hunters and during very precise times of the year. Look at any of the other birds or animals that are hunted in Michigan each year. Not only do the populations still thrive, but they're far from being extinct.

The doves are safe from me, that's for sure. In fact, while on vacation I've been able to speak to numerous hunters and each and every one of them just shake their heads when asked if they'll be hunting doves any time soon. They seem to think along the same lines I do: There's no point if we can't feed our families.

Good luck to those going out to hunt the doves when the seasons open. To those opposed to this season: Your complaints were heard and noted, but the bill passed. It's time to move on and focus your energies on other things.



Sam Eggleston





## 7 inexpensive ways to rejuvenate living space

With winter finally behind us, now is a good time to start thinking about how to spruce up your surroundings. It doesn't take a large and expensive renovation to rejuvenate a space, just a willingness to be creative. Consider employing these inexpensive suggestions to brighten up your living space this summer.

• If you want to freshen up your living room but don't want to invest in brand new furniture, consider purchasing ready-made slipcovers. Prices vary according to the size of the furniture (chair, loveseat, sofa) and the fabric.

Generally, the heavier the fabric, the more expensive the slipcover will be. Prices also depend on the company you order the slipcover from. A machine-washable 100 percent cotton sofa slipcover from Target.com will run you about \$129. A brushed twill sofa slipcover from Pottery Barn runs about \$700. Visit [www.slipcovers.com](http://www.slipcovers.com) for other companies who manufacture slipcovers.

• Perk up your dining room décor by adding a cascading fern or fresh cut flowers from your garden. Plants naturally draw attention away from uninteresting areas of the room.

• Live up old light fixtures with a fresh coat of paint and top old lamps with new shades. Create a focal point in your room by illuminating a favorite piece of art or furniture with soft, inviting light.

• Pick a sunny weekend to refinish an old dresser or coffee table. Any more you're not limited to conventional colors like cherry and mahogany.

Professionals at your local home improvement store can mix custom stains.

• Have a den or study that requires some "jazzing up?" Consider designating a wall for a picture gallery and group your pictures by theme. A friend of mine collects prints from cities she visits. Her study, for example, features work from artists who live in Colorado. Quaking yellow aspens and colorful sunsets adorn her walls and add color to a room that would otherwise disappear in a sea of paper and computer equipment. For continuity, hang similarly sized and shaped frames together. Decorating experts also suggest matching frame colors so as not to detract from the pictures themselves.

• Want to dramatically change the look of a room but don't want to invest in expensive wall coverings? Try your hand at faux painting. Using simple tools like sponges, rags and newspaper to apply a combination of paint and glazes, you can produce dramatic textures with minimal decorative painting experience and expertise. Visit your local home improvement store for tips on combining and applying colors. Lowe's and Home Depot stores often conduct do-it-yourself courses on faux painting.

• If you're looking to make some subtle changes to your kitchen, consider replacing the hardware on your cabinets. Cabinet hardware comes in a variety of sizes, finishes and styles. When making your selection, be sure and consider the overall style of your kitchen. For kitchens that are eclectic or contemporary in style, consider opting for utensil-style hardware. Each piece costs between \$3 and \$4. For formal kitchens, slick with brass, iron or pewter hardware. Prices can range from \$5 to \$10 per piece.

Even minor changes to a home, such as paint and cabinet fixtures, can add hundreds—if not thousands—of dollars to its value.

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

### Story idea?

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

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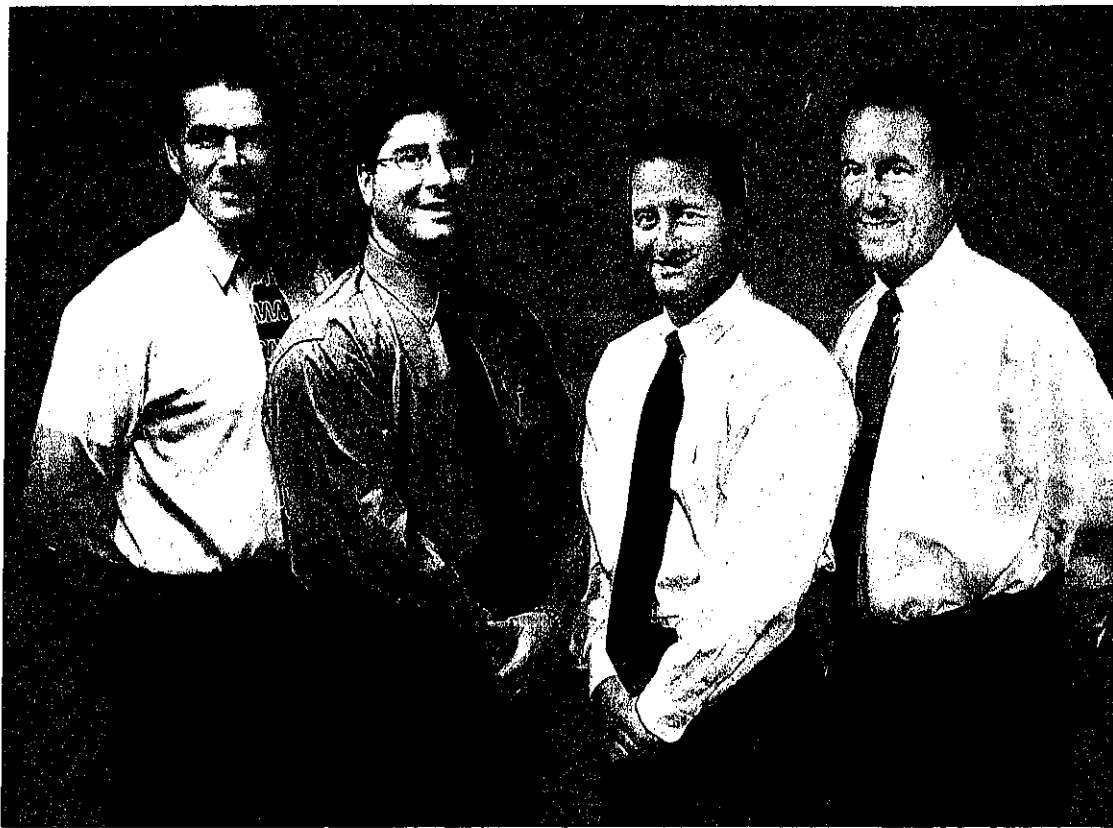


Photo by HAL GOULD

By doing the research, the financial advisors at Raymond James Financial Services in Highland can provide customers with complete information, coordination and planning. Pictured above are financial advisor Donald I. Gillis, partner Robert P. Petrillo, managing partner Jeffrey P. Petrillo and financial advisor John C. Reynolds. In expanding, the firm is hiring series 7 brokers at the growing branch.

## Raymond James Financial makes most of your money

Annette Jaworski  
SPECIAL WRITER

There are a lot of investment companies out there clamoring for your attention and hard earned money. It's hard to determine who has your best interests in mind. The financial advisors at Raymond James Financial Services in Highland believe it's important to be objective when it comes to your finances. It's one reason they don't offer any proprietary products. They're free to be impartial in their selection of products and advice.

Managing partner, Jeff Petrillo, notes that financial planning at Raymond James is a little different than with a company trying to sell their own wares. The focus at Raymond James is not oriented strictly to sales; rather it's geared toward developing relationships. They welcome the opportunity to work one on one with their clients and discuss their long-term goals.

"It's not about picking out the hot stock. We like to sit down and help clients figure out what to do with that extra \$100,000 they made on the house. We'd like to help them stick to an investing philosophy," said Jeff Petrillo.

Partner, Robert Petrillo adds, "What differentiates us is the ability to offer a myriad of investment vehicles. We've moved from a sales based service to a consultant based one."

By doing the research, they can provide customers with complete information, coordination and planning.

"Most people are intelligent enough to make sound financial decisions when offered the right information and ramifications of a particular approach. The key is to provide that information in a way that's relevant to the client," said Robert Petrillo.

Quite simply, they can handle

the details so that small business owners and professionals are free to do what they do best - run their business. And for a family, it can provide peace of mind.

Financial advisor, John Reynolds finds that focusing on the customer's needs gives them an added level of comfort.

"My approach is to get to know the people first and then to match them with the appropriate investment strategy that they feel comfortable with. I usually tell people if you don't feel comfortable don't do it," said Reynolds.

### Planning ahead, professional connections

With over 50 years of combined experience in financial planning among the four advisors, they can foresee potential problems their customers may encounter, and many the customer hasn't considered, says financial advisor, Don Gillis. For example, has the small business owner planned for a buy/sell agreement in a partnership? In a family owned business have they determined a succession plan?

If they're self-employed, have they compared the benefits of investing money in a retirement plan, instead of paying it to the IRS? Will any of the recent tax law changes affect their finances? For complicated tax situations, the advisors at Raymond James have access to tax specialists who have the answers.

The advisors specialize in more than financial advice; they also act as a comprehensive source for all their client's financial needs.

"We try to be a hub of information," explains Gillis. For example, if clients need a CPA or attorney for estate planning, they can arrange those professional contacts, in many cases saving them money.

If they have a discussion

### FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

The secret to a successful financial future is not picking out the hot stock, it's how you behave along the way, says Don Gillis. Paying attention to details can make a big difference in your financial security.

1.) Have you reviewed your tax situation to lower your tax liability?

2.) Did you regularly and systematically plan and save for retirement?

3.) Have you planned for succession of your estate, to minimize any tax burden?

Are you in the right investment accounts based on where you're at in your life, either just starting out, nearing retirement, or in retirement?

beforehand about their needs, we can save them a lot of billable hours," Gillis said.

### Education first

One of Petrillo's primary concerns is to make certain that families plan for their children's college education. Opening a \$29k plan while they're young is ideal, but it can begin at any age, and is not complicated. He believes every family should plan ahead for college expenses, and invites them to come in to discuss it. They'll be happy to explain it.

"We can show young parents how they can put away so much per month so they can send their kids to college," said Petrillo.

They're also leaders in the industry when it comes to aiding small business owners design a comprehensive financial plan as well. As entrepreneurs themselves, they support the spirit

behind their effort. In addition, Raymond James along with two other local businesses has stepped forward to create a scholarship for Millford High School students, called the Young Entrepreneur Award. This year's recipient was Russell Farnum, a senior at Millford High School.

### In your neighborhood

With the opening of their attractive new facility in Highland, they now offer customers the security of dealing with someone locally, where they can conveniently drop by and handle their affairs.

"The nice thing about Raymond James is that it has a Midwest people friendly personality. Being from New York City, it's a very different philosophy," said advisor John Reynolds.

With four different financial advisors, with different personalities, there's one to suit every style of investor, adds Reynolds. It also adds a depth of expertise.

Another way the advisors reach

### History of Raymond James

As a company, Raymond James built a solid reputation. Based in St. Petersburg Florida in 1962, the firm is currently run by Tom James, CEO, whose father founded the company. Raymond James, Worldwide, is a member of the New York Stock Exchange.

The Highland firm is locally owned by brothers, Jeffrey and Robert Petrillo. Located in Maverick Park at 2753 South Millford Road, suite 101 in Highland since their relocation in October 2003. Call (248) 676-2003 or (800) 400-071 for more information. Or, check out their website at [www.raymond-james.com](http://www.raymond-james.com).



With the opening of their attractive new facility in Highland, Raymond James Financial now offers customers the security of dealing with someone locally, where people can conveniently drop by and handle their affairs.

## RAYMOND JAMES IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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(Located in Maverick Park on Milford Road just south of the entrance to Millford High School)

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