



# Novi News



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Tollgate Farm

"This is an oasis in the ascent of urban sprawl," said Marlene Fluharty, a 13-year farm veteran. That's how Adolph Meyer planned it decades ago.

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All American car display

Jerry Sacks is a car guy. This month, the nine-year Novi resident has a portion of his extensive collection of model cars on display in the Novi Public Library.

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SPORTS

Princeton-bound

Ryan Pritchard has always been able to combine athletics with academics. He is about to prove it again after earning admittance into Princeton, where he'll also play football.

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# Random drug testing resisted

## Severity of first offense one of many issues

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

As the clock ticks down to tonight's Novi High School athletic code of conduct meeting, Athletic Director Curt Ellis knows his charge.

His goal is to answer as many questions from the parents as possible. Since the last meeting he held on the topic, on Jan. 27, many parents have spoken up about it. Many are in favor of tightening up the code of conduct, but one thing's for sure, the part about the possible implementation of random drug testing

among student athletes has caused quite a stir in the community.

JoAnne Pritchard, mother of Ryan Pritchard, who plays center on varsity football and throw shot and disc in track, made her point quite clear during a recent school board meeting.

"There were four points that I made to the board of education," Pritchard said. "The first one was that I don't really understand why we are doing this and why, if there is a need for something like this, we're applying it just for the athletes."

Pritchard was speaking of random drug testing and also the stringent punishment for substance abuse.

"It seems to me that if we have a problem in Novi, it's less likely to be with our athletes and if there is a problem, we need to be looking at the entire school body and

### TONIGHT'S FORUM

A public forum to discuss the revision of the Athletic Code of Conduct, which includes random drug testing, has been scheduled for tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. at Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall B. The topic will be to answer previously submitted and new questions.

what we are going to do about that."

Pritchard doesn't believe parents have seen any data that says Novi High's athletes have a problem with substance abuse. In fact, she believes that they're already held to a higher standard because of the many expectations that are

placed on them. "We've got great teams, we've got great kids and we've got some of the highest grade point averages in the state," she said. "We've won many awards and yet, this sends the message that our athletes have a problem and I've seen nothing to support that. Surely, a kid could get in trouble and do something dumb, but we need to be of the mind set to help that student and educate them. Unless you're going to do it for everybody, I just flat out don't agree with doing it for just athletes."

Pritchard also explained that, from what she understood on Jan. 27, some high school students are pulled out of class to be interviewed by members of the school administration if it is believed they can provide information about other students who may be

in violation of different codes.

"That strikes us as hearsay," Pritchard said. "Kids know situations where other kids have been pulled out of class and interviewed and what we as parents challenge is, why didn't they contact us? One of the things Curt (Ellis) said was, if we talk to the parents first, they tell the kids not to speak. We're interested in making sure that they're rights are protected and that they're not put into a corrosive situation and are not intimidated."

Those students could be admitting something which could then have various repercussions for inter-athletics, academics and legal," Pritchard added.

"We're saying, let's review the tactics your using. As parents we want to know exactly how these

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Photo by John Halder

## Culinary creations

Schoolcraft College students Matthew Pearsall (with pan) and Karen Maronde work on creating masterpieces as part of the school's culinary arts department. The Livonia-based institution currently preparing two fund-raisers. For more on Schoolcraft, please see page 10A.

# Landry running for mayor's seat

## Councilman says strong tax base key to city's success

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Pro Tem David Landry, who recently announced his bid for the Novi mayoral election, says working on the balance between residential and office, service and technology land uses is what will help Novi remain a thriving community.

Landry, a novice skier who just returned from a trip in northern Michigan with his family, made the announcement he was running for mayor Feb. 12.

"It's something that I have been

seriously considering for a while," he said Monday. When the current mayor, Lou Csordas, made the formal announcement recently that he would not be running for a second term, Landry decided to put his political plan in motion.

Csordas, who said during his campaign that he would be a one-term mayor, is considering running for a State Senate seat if the Republican Party accepts State Sen. Nancy Cassis

(R-Novi) as its candidate for governor.

Landry has been with the law firm Nemier, Tolari, Landry,

continued on page 4A

# Novi couple barely escaped tsunami

## Benefit for victims planned for March 19 in West Bloomfield

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Raja and Priya Jaikumar of Novi could have been among the victims of the tsunami disaster that hit southeast Asia on Dec. 26, 2004.

But, a change in plans took them out of harm's way. Jaikumar, an engineer for General Motors, shared the couple's brush with disaster in a recent phone interview from his office in Warren.

He mentioned also that as a member of Nadanta, Inc., an Indian dance troupe in Southfield, he will perform in Tsunami Shanti (Peace for Tsunami Victims), a fund-raiser benefiting the victims of the disaster at 7:30 p.m. March 19 at West Bloomfield High School Auditorium, 4925 Orchard Lake Road.

The show, which is about the life of Buddha, is presented by the India Earthquake Relief Organization of Michigan and will be performed by the artists of Nadanta and the Chauladevi Institute of Dance and Yoga.

The performance was created and choreographed by Chaula Thacker of Nadanta, who operates the Chauladevi Institute.

Her husband, Bharat Thacker,

waited nervously when no one had heard from the Jaikumars after the tsunami. The couple had left their home in Novi for a family visit in Madras on the west coast of India in mid-December.

He was relieved, however, when he learned the couple was safe in Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay.

"We were in Malaysia and were traveling to India. We were going to go to the beach but, luckily,

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# 50's Fest fun begins March 4

## Fund-raiser kicks off annual July festivities

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

It's time to break out the school colors, poodle skirts and bobbie socks.

The Michigan 50's Festival Second Annual Sock Hop is slated for Friday, March 4.

The dance is a fund-raiser for the upcoming Michigan 50's Festival July 13-16 at Fountain Walk, Novi's newest shopping and entertainment complex.

The sock hop is sponsored by the Novi Expo Center, Leone Imports and Fountain Walk.

Cost to attend is \$10 for adults with children under age 12 admitted free.

The dance will include a special "Tribute to Elvis" by Sherman Arnold. A native of Charlotte, N.C., Arnold has been performing his tributes to "The King of Rock and Roll" since 1955. For more information, visit [www.shermanarnold.com](http://www.shermanarnold.com).

Other activities at the sock hop will include dance contests, hula-hoop contests and best costume contests for both adults and children.

Refreshments will feature "sliders" (also known as hamburgers); hot dogs and a full cash bar at 1950s prices. Beer and wine will be sold for \$2, with mixed drinks costing \$3 each.

Lori Kapelczak, president of the Michigan 50's Festival, said, "We had a sock hop last year, and the Michigan 50's Festival Board decided recently that they thought it would be fun to have a sock hop as a kickoff for the event. We're calling this the second annual, and

### SOCK HOP

The Michigan 50's Festival Second Annual Sock Hop 7-11 p.m. on Friday, March 4 at the Novi Expo Center's McKenzie Room.

For advance ticket sales, call (248) 349-1950 or visit [www.michigan50sfestival.com](http://www.michigan50sfestival.com).

Tickets can also be purchased at the door with cash or check.

we hope that this will become an annual event."

Kapelczak noted that last year a local deejay provided music for the event, but this year Arnold's band will play for the event.

"We've already doubled the ticket sales from last year's sock hop, with close to 200 tickets being sold," Kapelczak said.



Photo by RAVIN BHANDARI

Raja Jaikumar of Novi, a member of the Nadanta dance troupe in Southfield, as Lord Shiva.

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## A bastion of early American history preserved

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

Chinking a peppermint from its wrapper, Marlene Fluharty offered the treat on flat palm last week to a waiting Focheron.

"Hey Timmy, how are you?" she greeted the 30-year-old horse. "I've got a present for you. Wait until you see what I have."

Tim chomped the candy at Novi's Tollgate Farm along Meadowbrook and Twelve Mile roads.

He's one of four horses to call Tollgate home, said Fluharty, executive director of the Americana Foundation.

Along with Michigan State University, it maintains the land. Dormant gardens and pastel green barns serene in February's chill, the 160 acres serve the same purpose today as 175 years ago.

"This is an oasis in the ascent of urban sprawl," said Fluharty, a 13-year farm veteran. That's how Adolph Meyer planned it decades ago.

### 'A required function'

By the time Meyer, son of a German cabinetmaker, and wife Ginger bought the farm in 1951, the original 240 acres had dwindled.

Nearly half had been parceled off by John Bassett, a wagon shop whose father Samuel bought the land in 1831.

Admirer of early American woodwork and one-time employer Henry Ford, Meyer bought back about 30 acres.

Current farm manager Roy Prentice, who works a position Meyer created in the 1950s, said Meyer raised livestock and purchased German Shepherds in eight kennels.

"He managed this farm even as the area around



Belgian plow horses wander the field of Novi's Tollgate Farm where they are still utilized to till the farm's soil.

became more and more urban," Prentice said. "I think he always had that agricultural feel."

According to Americana, Meyer thought food production "would always be a required function if any of us are to survive."

But fertile land was disappearing, making way for new crops of homes and businesses.

"They used to use the barns for ads, especially GM... because it was hard to find a farm, even in the '60s," Fluharty said. "Adolph Meyer wanted this piece of land... to be available for people to remember the importance of agriculture."

His desire created the Americana Foundation endowment in 1960. Its goal was to keep the farm viable — and preserve and educate on heritage relics, like the Duncan Phylle and Townsend furniture Meyer loved.

Americana in 1987 donated the eastern 60 acres, with buildings, to MSU. Running the Tollgate Education Center, the university also has a long-term lease to help with the other 100 acres.

"I think it's been very important," Prentice said. "Had the university not been here and perhaps another owner owned the place, perhaps there would be a strong temptation to have the property developed."

"The most dramatic change would probably be the paving of Meadowbrook Road," said Kay Pratt, MSU administrative assistant. A white-fenced walkway built along the road preserved protected trees.

An old pear tree still blossoms, and Emerald Ash Borer research has been done onsite. MSU's extension program hosts horticulture classes and training on water and soil topics.

Master gardeners flock to the site to earn yearly volunteer hours, and volunteers tap syrup this month.

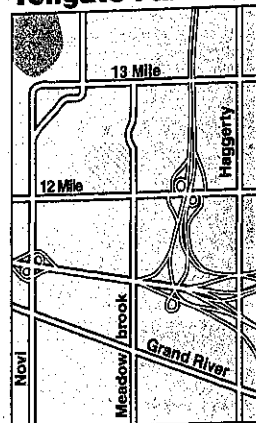
"A lot of the volunteers we have been here a lot of years," Prentice said. "They really adopt the site."

"As far as the Americana Foundation is concerned, this is

going to stay in agriculture," she said. "It's going to stay in open space."

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kovelie@h.homecomm.net.

### Tollgate Farm



SOURCE: City of Novi

• **What:** This 160 acres of farmland preserve once was stop No. VI on the toll road to Lansing. Today, the Americana Foundation, which supports educational and advocacy programs to preserve agriculture and conserve natural resources, own 100 acres. Michigan State University maintains the rest, including buildings and farm areas

• **Features:** five buildings from 1950s and earlier, 18 gardens, a 40-acre mature woodlot, pond, demonstration apple orchard, plant nursery, 18 gardens, four cattle, four horses, 10 sheep

• **Where:** 28115 Meadowbrook Road, at the northwest corner of Meadowbrook and Twelve Mile roads

• **Public Hours:** 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday; closed Sundays

• **Contact:** (248) 347-3860; www.msue.msu.edu/tollgate

Source: The Americana Foundation; Michigan State University Extension

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A view of Tollgate Farm's land looking to the northwest.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## Farmer's ideals live on at Tollgate Farms

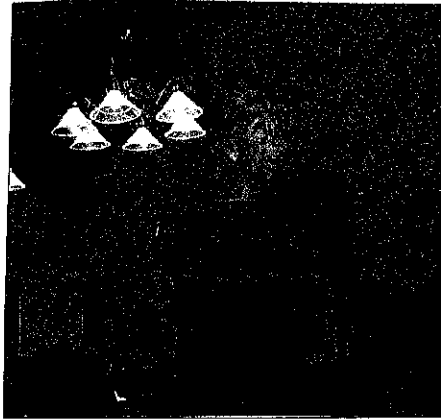


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Marlene Fluharty of the Americana Foundation based at Novi's Tollgate Farm, talks about the historic aspect of the former farm property and its importance in the future of the growing community.

continued from A2

Corn field crops ceased in the late 1980s, but yearly, 1,200 bales of hay are harvested for animals.

"It's kind of a mixed bag," she said. "It's very private. It's really refreshing."

Like many at Tollgate, Zradi's been there a decade-plus: "When you come here, I don't think you have any intentions of leaving. There's no reason to."

Gates remain open

Welcoming visitors from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. every day but Sunday, Tollgate offers plenty for the public, too.

Gardeners will hold a plant sale June 4, also welcome visitors in gardens Saturday mornings.

A fall fair includes horse-drawn rides and beeswax candle-making. In a July celebration, gardens explode with hundreds of rose varieties and salad fixings.

its nursery, apple orchard and animals are open to self-guided tours.

"A lot of people don't even know it's here or that it is open to the public," said Fluharty, who spent 22 years working at 40-acre farm in Rosebush, Mich. She hopes Novi residents will continue to visit the roots Adolph Meyer strove to preserve.

"As far as the Americana Foundation is concerned, this is

going to stay in agriculture," she said. "It's going to stay in open space."

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kovelie@h.homecomm.net.

A building conference center

Foundation is concerned, this is

### Tollgate Timeline

• **1831:** Samuel Bassett buys about 240 acres near Meadowbrook and Twelve Mile roads from the federal government at \$1.25 an acre

• **1836:** John Bassett, Samuel's son, moves to Tollgate; he farms, runs a wagon shop

• **1840-55:** wood frame farmhouse built

• **1890s:** "big barn" constructed

• **1895:** John Bassett is gored to death by an ox

• **Early 1900s:** small sawmill built; about 110 acres sold by Bassetts

• **1951:** Adolph H. and Ginger Meyer purchase Bassett homestead; they later raise livestock and purchase German Shepherds

• **1955:** farm house raised; manager's dwelling built underneath

• **1950s:** Meyers build two barns; add machine shop to "big barn," purchase about 30 extra acres for 160-acre total

• **1956:** Ernie Morris, first farm manager, hired

• **1960:** Americana Foundation established by Meyers to support preserving prime farmland

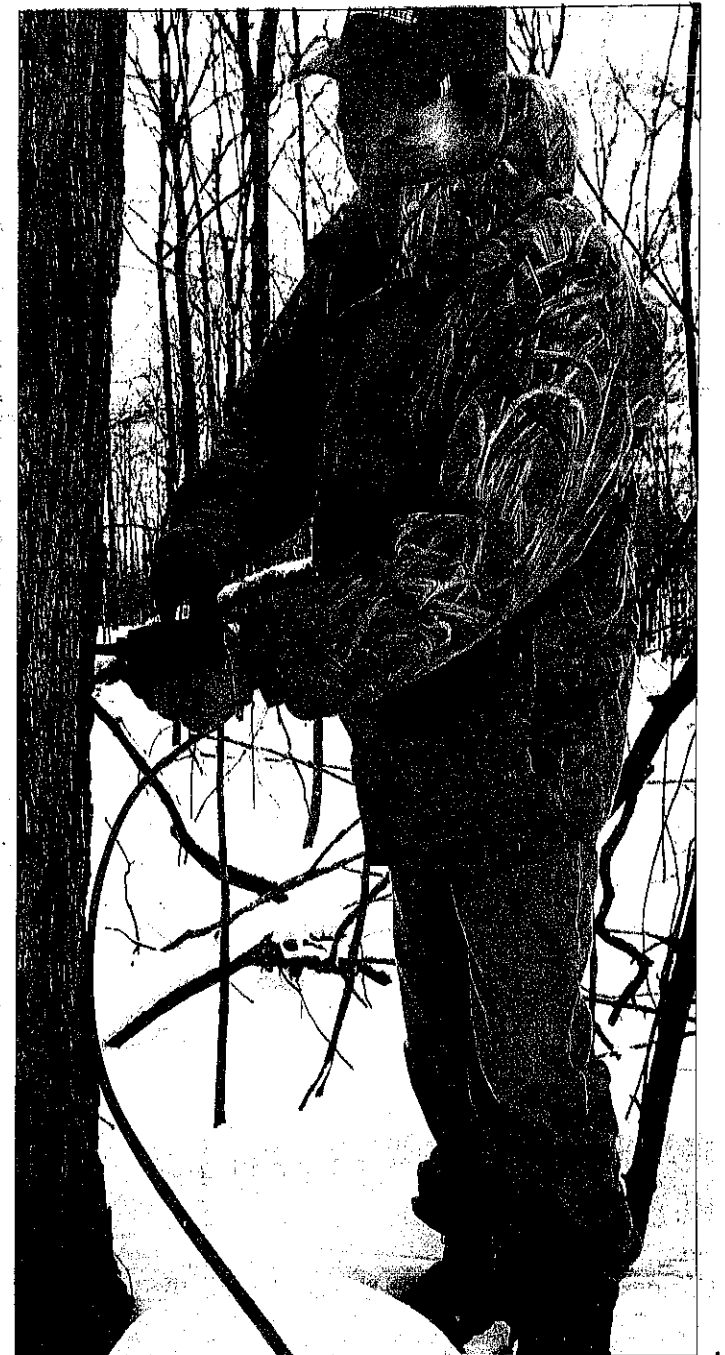
• **Late 1960s:** corn field crops phased out

• **1987:** all buildings on the east 60 acres donated to Michigan State University; conference center opens

• **1998:** pond's \$100,000 wetland system improvement completed

• **Circa 2000:** Meadowbrook Road paved

Source: Michigan State University Extension; The Americana Foundation



Tollgate Farms farm manager Roy Prentice demonstrates how the MSU educational facility taps into the sap of sugar maple trees to produce maple syrup.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

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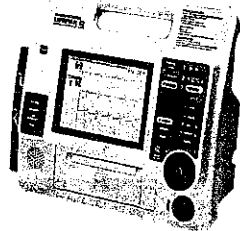
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- Squeezing
- Numbness
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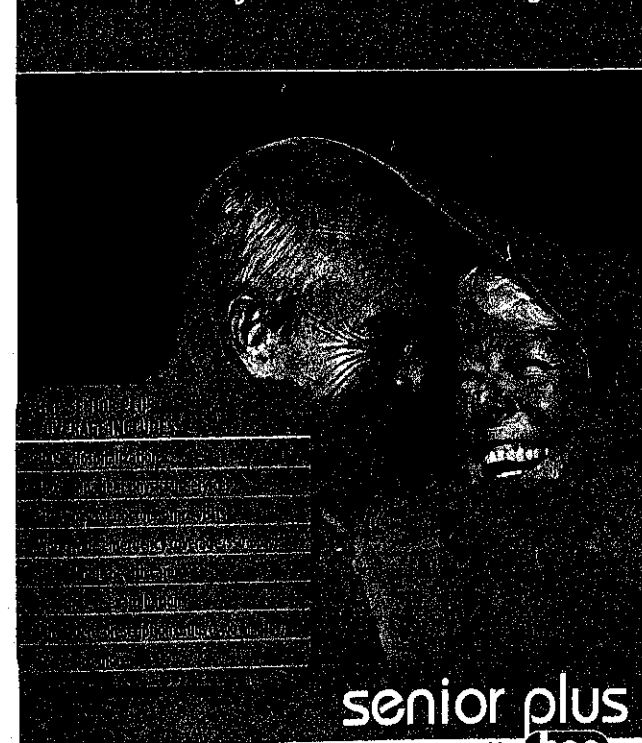
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# Drug testing focus of meeting tonight

continued from 1A

investigations are being conducted. Let's make sure we've protected the rights of the parents and the rights of the students."

Though Ellis didn't witness Pritchard's comments at the board meeting himself, he did have a few of his own.

Ellis explained that the athletic code of conduct is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, 12-month-a-year code of conduct. He said that if a student violates that code of conduct, and he or another administrator finds out and can substantiate it, that student would be disciplined accordingly.

"We work well within the scope of not only the law, but the Michigan school code," he said. "I think that, as is often the case, we spend a lot more time focusing about how we got that information or what we heard than what

# Landry running for mayor's seat

continued from 1A

Mazzeo & Johnson, P.C., in Farmington Hills for 17 years. He describes his practice as one third municipal defense, one third general business practice and one third personal injury work.

A native of Pontiac and graduate of Cranbrook, Landry spent a year between high school and college as an exchange student in Kilmolton, England. He earned a double major in political science and economics/business administration at Albion College before studying law at University of Detroit.

Landry wants to lead the city along the same path as Corder and former Mayor Richard Clark.

"I think that as we move toward rebuildout, we have to make sure that the city develops with a tax base sufficient to generate revenues to pay for infrastructure and city services," he said.

"That means that we have to manage the buildout of the city to encourage higher tax-generating land uses, such as office, service

and technology uses."

Landry believes Novi has plenty of residential land use and needs to now focus on uses that provide more tax dollars to the community.

"We need to make sure that we maintain a strong tax base to provide residents the services they deserve," he added. "It's easy to spend, it's more important to invest."

Landry noted that the population of Novi has doubled in the last 15 years. "We were at about 200,000 people in 1990, and now we're at over 500,000. In 2020, when we're predicted to be built out, our target population is 750,000 to 800,000. We only have 15 years. When we have 800,000, we have to make sure we have police protection and proper water and sewer," he said.

The candidate believes public safety, roads and water and sewer should be the city's top priorities. "This is why governments exist. We have to make sure we keep our eye on the ball. We're building a city, so we have to do it right," Landry said. He said that if the tax rate is suf-

**"We need to make sure that we maintain a strong tax base to provide residents the services they deserve."**

David Landry  
Mayor candidate

ficiently planned that city leaders shouldn't have to increase millages. "Achieving the right balance (between residential and higher tax-producing land uses) is essential. The communities that have problems are the ones that don't maintain the balance," Landry said. He added that it's also important

for the city to maintain an environment friendly to new business as well as keeping established businesses in mind.

"These are the people that got us where we are today," he said.

Landry, who also served a year on the Novi Planning Commission, and his wife, Julie, have three sons: Ben, 17, and Max, 15, who attend Novi High School, and Jackson, 13, a Novi Middle School student.

Landry enjoys music and playing the guitar in his spare time.

Although he doesn't have a campaign manager, he said there will be a group of people that he will ask to assist him in race, much like his campaign for city council.

Landry said he's ready for the campaign to begin.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more people, listening and tackling these problems," he 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

# Couple escaped tsunami

continued from 1A

changed our minds. We had never experienced an earthquake before and felt tremors at our hotel. After the tremors, we headed out. We didn't even think about the waves. We rented a car and finished some shopping. We didn't know about the tsunami until the night of the disaster," Jaikumar said.

The earthquakes hit about 5 a.m. on Dec. 26 and were centered west of Indonesia, Jaikumar said.

"We were about 70 kilometers from the beach and more than 400 miles away from the center of the tsunami. Malaysia was affected in the northern part of the country, but we were far enough inland that we weren't affected," he said.

Born in south India, the Jaikumar have lived in Novi about three years and have no children.

"Our hometown is in south India. None of our relatives were there, but my grandfather's brother's property was damaged on the east coast of India," he said.

"We hadn't been back (to India) for a couple of years, and we were there for two weeks," he said. "We were just being stupid tourists. We feel so bad. If we'd known about the disaster, we might have gone to help. We feel lucky. We have friends in Malaysia who still have relatives missing, but we didn't know anyone affected by the disaster."

The couple left Malaysia Dec. 27 to fly to Mumbai and then back to the U.S. — just a day after the disaster.

"The earthquakes kept coming for two or three days. But we weren't near the beach, so we didn't feel them. Some of the islands got almost completely washed away off the southern coast of India. There was no life left after the tsunami hit. It wiped out entire villages and coastal towns," he said.

Jaikumar noted that many animals sensed the imminent danger.

"They started moving inland before the tsunami. We heard that an American couple was actually

**"We are so far away from that place, but the world is not that big. It will give me some kind of inner peace regarding the disaster."**

Raja Jaikumar  
Dancer, Nadanta, Inc.

saved because they were riding an elephant, and the animal started running inland. But, natural disasters happen. You can't do much about it," he said.

The goal for the March 19 fundraiser has been set at \$25,000, with JEROM hoping to collect a total \$100,000 for the disaster victims from several sources.

"We have already collected more than \$60,000 for the victims since early January," Bharat Thacker said. "The goal of the show is to provide peace for the tsunami victims. All of the dialogues will be in English, so this performance is suitable for anyone from any cultural background of any age."

Jaikumar said he is glad to be performing in the benefit to help the victims of one of the worst natural disasters in history.

"We are so far away from that place, but the world is not that big. It will give me some kind of inner peace regarding the disaster," he said.

All proceeds from the performance will be donated to the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund. Tickets are \$20, \$35 and \$50 with special Patron seating for those making \$100 or larger donations. For tickets, contact the Thackers at (248) 661-3580 or Dr. Mav Sanghvi at (248) 349-4726.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

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

## POLICE REPORT

### House hit with eggs

A 42-year-old resident on Glenmore reported a malicious destruction of property incident to police at 10:23 a.m. Feb. 18. The man said that he noticed that eggs were thrown against his front porch. The last time he was outside was at 9 p.m. on Feb. 17. He noticed the eggs at 8 a.m. on Feb. 18. He did not see or hear anything suspicious during the night but wanted incident documented.

Upon arrival, police saw several broken eggs on the front porch, which appeared to have been thrown against the house. The man's wife, who also talked to police, said that she did not know who might have thrown the eggs.

### Possible dealership theft

A 23-year-old sales representative reported a possible theft from a vehicle at the Varsity Lincoln Mercury dealership that may have happened sometime between Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 at 49251 Grand River Ave.

The salesman told police that one of the "demo" plates he uses

to give customers test drives was stolen. He said that he had the plate until about two weeks ago, that the dealership staff has been searching for it, and that he feels the plate was stolen.

Police said they would notify dispatch that the plate number was stolen. The man agreed to contact police if the plate is found.

### Speeding on Meadowbrook

A 27-year-old man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 11:16 p.m. Feb. 18 at Meadowbrook Road and I-96.

An officer was running stationary radar on Meadowbrook Road south of Twelve Mile Road when she clocked a black 2003 Chevy Tahoe traveling at 55 mph in a 40 mph zone.

After initiating a traffic stop,

the officer could immediately smell an odor of intoxicants coming from the Tahoe and that the man's eyes were bloodshot and watery.

When asked how much he had had to drink the man replied that he had had a couple of beers. He then said that he had two or three drinks about two hours before.

A breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .10 percent.

### Cavalier's window smashed

A woman on Wellington reported a malicious destruction of property incident that occurred sometime between the hours of 9 p.m. Feb. 18 and 2:37 a.m. Feb. 18.

The resident told police that a window had been smashed on her green Chevrolet Cavalier.

The woman said she had left her apartment around 9 p.m. on

Feb. 18. When she returned at about 2:45 a.m. Feb. 19 she found the back window of her car broken. A rock was sitting on the back seat.

The woman said that she believes this incident and another incident in which her luggage and one tire were taken is related to a domestic assault that occurred

continued on page 6A

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NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given that on 3/17/05 at 3:30 p.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Storage, 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI, (Space No. 174) David Bruce 50 boxes, 30 household furnishings, 1 office equipment, 1 exercise equipment, 1 other/misc.  
(Space No. 22) Valerie Cloud 12 household furnishings; 2 other/misc.  
(Space No. 432) Julie Norton 20 boxes, 10 other/misc, 40 household furnishings  
(Space No. 103) Tri-Mont Store, 1 dishwasher, 5 boxes, 4 household furnishings, 40 other/misc.  
(Space No. 17) Gary L. Fischer 18 boxes, 1 other/misc, 1 dishwasher, 1 washer  
(Space No. 18) Gary L. Fischer 75 boxes, 3 power tools, 20 other/misc.  
(Space No. 568) John W. Powell 30 boxes, 4 household furnishings, 10 other/misc  
(Space No. 294) Curtis Smith 40 boxes, 5 household furnishings, 2 other/misc, 1 recreation equipment  
(Space No. 283) Curtis Smith 7 boxes, 1 household furnishings, 3 other/misc.

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## POLICE REPORT

continued from 5A

between her and her brother. She said her brother was arrested for domestic assault, and that his friends are retaliating against her for having him arrested.

She also said that these friends have told her brother that they were going to make her pay for having her brother arrested. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$155. The incidents are being investigated by the Novi Detective Bureau.

### Novi Road speeder

A 33-year-old woman from out of state was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 2:10 a.m. Feb. 19 at Westford and Novi roads.

An officer was traveling in a fully marked squad car driving north on Novi Road north of Twelve Mile Road when he saw a gray Saturn in the right lane exceeding the 40 mph speed limit. The officer was driving 50 mph, and the Saturn was pulling away from the squad car.

The speed limit from Old Novi Road to Thirteen Mile Road is 35 mph, and the Saturn was still driving over 50 mph.

After stopping the driver, the officer could smell intoxicants coming from the car. The woman dropped her driver's license in the car and had trouble finding it, then gave the officer two copies of her insurance certificate instead of her registration.

When asked, the woman told the officer she had had three beers. A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .17 percent.

### No headlights on

A 26-year-old woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 3:16 a.m. Feb. 19 at Novi and Ten Mile roads.

An officer was eastbound on Ten Mile east of Novi Road in a fully marked patrol car and in full uniform when he saw a silver 2004 Chevrolet station wagon driving toward him with no headlights on.

The officer immediately turned around and activated his emergency lights, at which point the driver stopped in the middle of the road, putting the car in park.

The officer then asked the driver over his public address system to pull onto the shoulder or on private property.

While talking to the woman, the officer could smell intoxicants and noticed that her eyes were bloodshot and glassy. When asked, the woman said she had consumed two 12-ounce beers between 8 p.m. and 1 a.m. and had not eaten that day.

### No tires, no wheels

A 41-year-old woman reported a theft from her vehicle on flower that took place between the hours of 8 p.m. Feb. 18 and 11:30 a.m. Feb. 19.

The woman said that she had

### Four vehicle thefts

Three men age 20, 21 and 29 had thefts from their vehicles that occurred between the hours of 10 p.m. Feb. 19 and 7 a.m. Feb. 20 on Wedgewood at west Pontiac Trail and Springlake.

Two of the men told police that they parked their cars in the lot at 10 p.m. on Feb. 19 and later found items stolen from their vehicles. Stolen items included four AM/FM stereo CD players and about 40 CDs. The 29-year-old man was informed by police of the theft when an officer noticed that both of his vehicles had been broken into, with the driver's-side window out on his van.

Vehicles involved included a 1999 Mercury Villager van traveling northbound on Market Street approaching Grand River. The light was red, and the driver did not come to a stop before proceeding east on Grand River.

A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .09 percent.

### Father's car broken into

A 21-year-old man reported a theft from his father's white 1993 Jeep on Timberlane near west Pontiac Trail and Wedgewood that happened between the hours of 9 p.m. Feb. 19 and 9:30 p.m. Feb. 20.

The man reported that a Sony car stereo with CD player was stolen from his father's vehicle in the parking lot. The man said that he had spent the night at his friend's apartment nearby and that when he walked out to his vehicle to drive home he noticed that his father's car had been broken into. The suspect or suspects had entered the vehicle by breaking the front, passenger-side window.

### On shoulder, drifting

A 54-year-old woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 9:29 p.m. Feb. 21 at Nine Mile and Haggerty roads.

An officer was eastbound on Nine Mile driving from Meadowbrook when he saw a silver 1999 Cadillac Catera in front of him drive on the dirt shoulder and then pull back onto the road. The driver then drifted to the centerline and then right of the fog line.

After activating his emergency lights twice, the woman finally stopped in a CVS parking lot.

The officer knocked on the driver's window, but the woman had difficulty locating the switch to put the window down.

When she put the window down, the officer immediately noted an odor of intoxicants and asked for her license, registration and proof of insurance. The woman handed the officer her wallet, at which point he asked her to remove her license.

### When asked, she said that she had not been drinking nor was she on any medication. She said she was coming from "here" and was going "there."

A breath test showed a blood alcohol level of .23 percent.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

## Women held in Livonia, Novi; forced to work as strippers

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

A preliminary exam is scheduled at 1 p.m. in U.S. District Court in Detroit today for two men jailed on charges they lured Ukrainian women to the United States on the promise that they would be provided jobs, then held them captive in Livonia and Novi.

The two Livonia residents were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents Feb. 15 for forcing at least four women from the Ukraine to work as exotic dancers at a local strip club.

According to the criminal complaint, Michael Aronov, 32, who is a citizen of Lithuania, and Aleksander Maksimenko, 25, a U.S. citizen, are suspected of recruiting women from the Ukraine to travel to the United States under the guise of working as waitresses here.

Once the women arrived in the U.S., they were forced to work at Chestnut's strip club in Detroit.

The U.S. District Court complaint states that on May 27, 2004, two Ukrainian females arrived in the U.S. at Washington Dulles International Airport. The women were expecting to go to Virginia Beach, Va., but were met at the airport by Aronov.

He told them that there had

been a change in plans and that they would have to go to Detroit placed them on a Greyhound bus bound for Detroit.

Upon arriving in Detroit, the two women were met by Aronov and Maksimenko and driven to a motel in Novi.

The women were paid by customers of the club as payment for these "expenses." The complaint said two of the women had been forced to work since May.

The other two were recruited as strippers overseas and arrived in the U.S. in September with their husbands. They have not seen or spoken to their husbands since their arrival in the United States.

The women were driven to their work from their apartment and back again. There was no telephone in their apartment. The women were regularly taken to the men's house in Livonia. The complaint also states the women were intimidated, hit and threatened with death if they tried to leave.

On one occasion, one of the women was locked in the basement of the Livonia residence for several hours as punishment for trying to run.

ICE special agents also executed a search warrant at 20344 Ellen Dr. in Livonia and uncovered evidence substantiating the complaint, including financial documents, firearms and numerous knives hidden throughout the residence.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan, has accepted the case for prosecution. Both men were arraigned Feb. 16 in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, with charges pending for forced labor.

The Novi Police Department provided assistance in the investigation. The Novi Police Department was not involved in the case.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Virginia Morgan ordered the detention Feb. 17 of Aronov, and Maksimenko on charges of forced labor.

The investigation by ICE special agents is ongoing.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.



Andrew Boakes, 5, donates a few pennies to the Novi Public Library's fundraiser effort during a recent visit.

## Brother, can you spare a penny?

Million Pennies Campaign could net Novi Public Library \$20,000

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

The Friends of the Novi Public Library are asking area residents to bring in their pennies for the building fund, according to Brenda Evans, library director.

"Whatever a person gives, it will be doubled with the Walker's Good-Bye To Roaming," she said.

Evans said the Friends of the Library came up with the creative idea so that patrons of all ages could participate in this important fundraiser for the city.

"If anyone would like to go our Web page, they can obtain more background on the project and the Walker's donation," Evans said.

The library's Web site is www.novilib.org.

There is a large jar on prominent display in the lobby of the library where members of the community may drop off their pennies.

For more information about the Million Pennies Campaign, contact Marcia Dominick at (248) 349-0976, ext. 111.

The Novi Public Library is located at 45245 W. Ten Mile Rd. next to the Novi Civic Center just east of Tall Road.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 589-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.

# COMMUNITY

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Event canceled

The Sand, Sun & Fun event that was scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26 has been canceled.

### Breakfast with the Bunny!

Join this special friend for a great morning. Families will enjoy a portable breakfast with live entertainment, games, an art project and the annual egg hunt.

Saturday, March 19 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Price is \$8 per person. Tickets are on sale now.

The event is presented in partnership with the Novi Lions Club.

### Mother/Son mad science

Marela of Motion will take moms and sons on a journey through the world of Newton's three laws of motion. This interactive event is all about the fundamentals of moving science.

Audience participants will have a chance to take part in wacky experiments, while the Mad

Scientist prepares to unveil their top secret "Motion Machine."

Professional photos and snacks are included in the evening. Be sure to dress casual.

Friday, April 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Price is \$14 for non-residents and \$12 for residents. This event is for ages 5-10.

Tickets are required and available at the Novi Parks office through Thursday, April 7.

### Arbor Day 2005

The annual Arbor Day celebration is an opportunity for you to learn about nature, plant and mulch trees, receive information about tree care, give back to your community and celebrate being a Tree City USA award recipient.

Snacks, beverages, equipment and gloves will be provided. There will also be raffle prizes.

Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m.-noon at Community Sports Park.

For more information on the above events, call (248) 347-0400.

### Youth bowl-a-thon set for March 12

Novi Youth Assistance is hosting their annual Bowl-a-Thon at the Novi Civic Center.

The event will be held Saturday March 12, beginning at 1 p.m. The Bowl-a-thon was created 23 years ago as the major fundraiser for Novi Youth Assistance. Last year saw the greatest amount ever raised by the bowlers, totaling over \$22,000.

This year's Bowl-a-thon is a wonderful opportunity for a wider audience to come together to assist the area youth. Individuals or teams come together for 3 fun-filled hours to become better acquainted with their neighbors, to bowl and help raise funds for the local youth.

Novi Youth Assistance is an organization made up of community volunteers, as well as a small professional staff, whose purpose is to provide positive growth experiences for both children and their families in the

Novi school district. There are various types of programs such as youth recognition, family education, mentoring, and many others.

One-hundred percent of the money raised during the bowl-a-thon will go directly to these programs such as the Jeanne Clarke Teen Center, and Mentor's Plus. Without this fundraiser and the generosity of so many within the community, many of these programs would cease to exist.

This year's Bowl-a-thon will feature the 2nd annual bowl-off between the Novi Police and Novi Fire Departments. Last year the "NO-VI Pin" went to the Fire Department, who tipped the scales in their favor in the last frame of the game. The rematch should prove fun, and very competitive this year. Please come out and join the fun.

To register for the bowl-a-thon, sponsor a lane or donate a gift call the NYA office at 1-248-347-0410.

# Library's model car display shows a part of Americana

Resident's collection now at library

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Sacks is a car guy. This month, the nine-year Novi resident has a portion of his extensive collection of model cars on display in the Novi Public Library.

The All-American car display will only be shown through the end of the month. Sacks' father, Samuel, who was born in Russia, started out as a machinist and then became a foreman at the Packard plant in downtown Detroit at Grand Boulevard and M. Elliott. He worked at the lower east side factory for 25 years.

He noted that the first Packard was built in 1899. "They actually built cars before Ford did. They started in 1903," Sacks said. "His mother, Anna, was from Baltimore.

"That's where the family was, but when the Detroit factories started to pay the big \$5 a week, he moved to Detroit," Sacks said. Sacks' brother eventually bought a used 1935 Packard. "We couldn't afford a new one — that's for sure," he said.

Sacks had his model cars on display at the library in March 1999 in observance of Packard's 100th birthday. He recently asked the library staff members if he could show the display again, and they readily agreed.

He has a few earlier models at home in cabinets, but the ones at the library date from 1912. Sacks has more than 170 cars in his collection and said his love affair with the models started about age 6.

"When I was a little kid, my first toy that I ever had was a little toy fire engine. I had it for at least 20 years," he said.

He's been collecting cars since before he came back from the Korean War, when he served in the U.S. Army.

"I was drafted. That was the last draft I came back a PFC (Private First Class)," he said. He knows a

lot of interesting facts about old cars, such as the fact that Studebaker made a car in 1947 that looked the same from the front as the back.

"That was the first new car out after World War II," he said.

His collection includes Packards, Studebakers, the Ford Model A, a Jeep military vehicle and a 1936 Ford Delco Cabriolet, which is a convertible.

He even has a model of an old streetcar used in the former Department of Street Railways in Detroit.

There's also a two-ton 1952 Hudson Hornet, with the roof fan and the body brown. Sacks said this was a popular look in those days.

"I had a 1951 Hudson when I got out of the service in 1953. My wife, Flora, was looking for a car, and we ended up with a four-door sedan in two-tone gray," he said.

The display features a 1938 Cadillac V16 Fleetwood, and what he calls the most popular car in the world — the 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air. "Everybody knows that car, and everybody wants to see it," Sacks said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
Jerry Sacks holds up a couple of his car models he's got on display at the Novi Public Library. Both models he's holding are Packards.

The display also has a model of one of the first Chrysler 300s, which DaimlerChrysler still builds today, and the more recent PT Cruiser.

He has 24 albums with photos of cars from 1896 to 1970. His first car was a 1935 four-door Ford he bought in 1948.

"I paid \$250 for it, found out later it had a cracked block, so I sold it to a mechanic for \$250. I was lucky," he said.

Sacks, 76, retired at age 65 after working 55 years in the clothing business — first for United Shirts and then for Hughes & Hatcher.

"I'm done now, because I have no room for a fifth cabinet," 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.

# Child care centers see minimal change during school breaks

Working parents tend to plan ahead

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Mid-winter recess is a time when kids and teachers can take a breather from the daily grind of the school year. A time when kids can put aside their school work for a few days to build snow men, snow forts and have snow ball fights.

But what about parents? Unless they're teachers themselves, most of them probably don't have the same scheduled breaks for their kids. In families where both parents work, how do they go about making sure their young children are well taken care of while they're out earning the all-mighty dollar?

One way is to send their kids to one of the many child care centers in the area. One would think that during a break, like last week, child care centers would be packed to the gills with screaming children. Apparently, however, according to many directors of those facilities, that's really not the case.

"On those days, my husband and I take a vacation day," Benkarski said.

Benkarski also explained that there are a few days in June after school district is out for the summer and a week in August before the kids go back to school, when the CARE program is not available, however.

"On those days, a few friends and I will each take a day off to watch each others kids," she said. "I do wish, however, that they would offer CARE continuously from the end of school, through summer, and into the next school year with no breaks. My husband and I don't always have the vacation time available to take during these periods and sometimes it can be a struggle trying to arrange alternate care."

Blooming Day child care center is also a pre-school for mostly 3 to

be teachers or they may have older siblings at home," Miller said. "We do have a few older siblings that will come in on weeks like that because their brother or sister are here."

People have to register to drop their kids off at most child care facilities, but Miller did say she would be happy to accommodate desperate families who are looking for a child-care center.

Another way, which is probably the most practical, that parents can make sure their kids are taken care of, is by utilizing the Novi Community School District's CARE program. It offers child care for children in kindergarten through eighth grade before and after school and during most school breaks.

Parent Lisa Benkarski takes advantage of the program as much as possible. "With both parents working, my family heavily relies on the CARE program," she said.

During this past winter break, both my boys attended CARE and had a great time."

CARE will also be offered during spring break from Thursday, March 24 through Monday, April 4. However, on snow days, when Novi schools are closed, so is the CARE program.

"On those days, my husband or I take a vacation day," Benkarski said.

Benkarski also explained that there are a few days in June after school district is out for the summer and a week in August before the kids go back to school, when the CARE program is not available, however.

"On those days, a few friends and I will each take a day off to watch each others kids," she said. "I do wish, however, that they would offer CARE continuously from the end of school, through summer, and into the next school year with no breaks. My husband and I don't always have the vacation time available to take during these periods and sometimes it can be a struggle trying to arrange alternate care."

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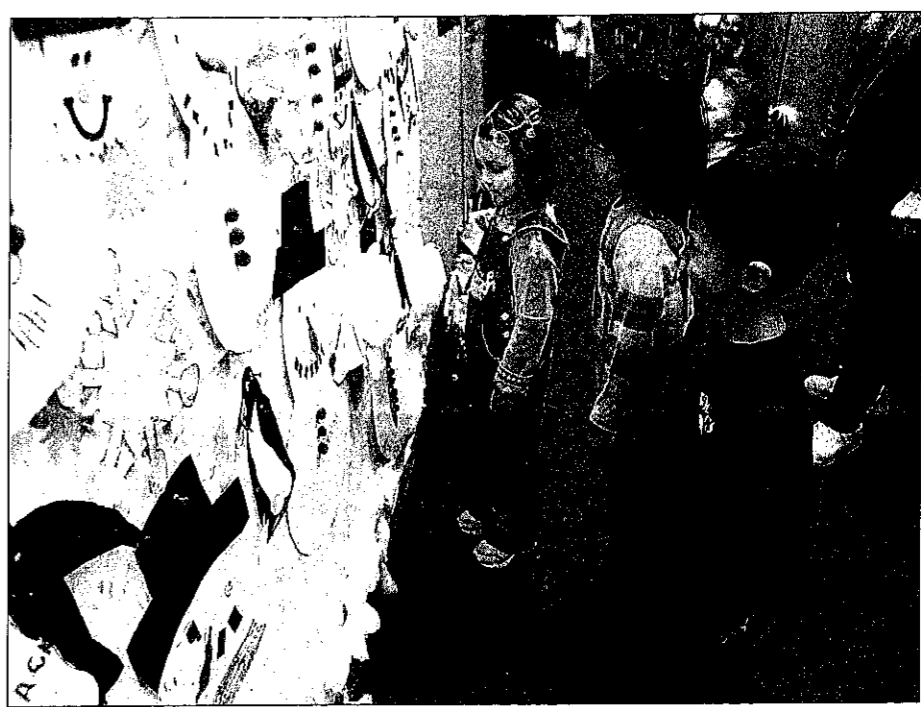


Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
Sophia Austin, Hoshi Furut and Jack Alvea take a look at their Children's Ark preschool classroom's Winter mural artwork. The preschool's located in the Faith Community Presbyterian Church.

5 year old children. Even though the school district is out, the program continues like it's a typical week.

Nishi Nagar, center director for Blooming Day, explained that if both the parents are working, those children who regularly attend the pre-school, and who don't have any siblings going to the Novi Community School District, continue their normal schedules. If they do have siblings in the district, however, she will accommodate one or two parents in need.

"Let's say we have a 5-year-old kid, but the sibling is 7," she said. "Sometimes they will ask us if they have no place to send them and if the age difference is not too much, we'll accommodate them."

That is discouraged, however, because when 7 or 8-year-old kids are dropped off and see all of the younger children, they usually become bored pretty quickly.

"They don't have the appropriate activities to keep them occupied," Nagar said. "More often

than not, they will not enjoy the experience."

Hand held video games are not allowed, there are no televisions in the facility and they won't be allowed to play outdoors.

"It's not a question of making money on our part, or a lost opportunity, it's a question of, for five days, at eight hours a day, what is this kid going to do?" Nagar said. "Parents know that if they don't have any other option, we can accommodate, but we tell them it's for the benefit of the

child. They will get really bored and they won't want to come back."

"Parents in Novi pretty much know the public school district's calendar," Nagar added. "They tell us when they will have vacations and they usually plan ahead of time."

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

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

**Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi** presents an Alpha Course, "Exploring the Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,690 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at www.alpha.com. Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee.

CMC offices are located at 39830 Grand River Ave., Ste. B1-C (west of Haggerty). Phone (248) 427-2700; Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m..

**Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. Communion will be served at both services. Adult Sunday School is offered at the 9 a.m. service.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which accepts all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and New Hudson.

All are welcome at worship and any of the Adult Education classes.

The church also invites you to an Adult Education Lenten series of classes, "The Gospel of Mark" held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. This class will be led by Dr. Richard Henderson. The Men's Group will be meeting at Lucky Strike on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship. The community is invited to the Jazz Vespers performance on Saturday, March 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Faith Community Presbyterian is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345.

**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch and praise God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. The Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge. The Rev. John W. Henry II is assis-

**Worship Service of Compline** is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 46700 W. Ten Mile (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-holycross.com

**Meadowbrook Church** Sunday, Feb. 27, March 6 and 13, worship and Church School are at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 2, 9, 16, confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Services at 7:30 p.m. — a weekly study of the book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus J. Borg.

The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.

**Oak Pointe Church** Service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. For more information, visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

**St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 Ten Mile Rd., Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

**First United Methodist Church of Northville** presents a community-wide healing service with prayers for healing of body, mind, relationship and spirit on the first Monday of each month at 4 p.m. The service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 26, The church will be holding an event entitled From "Apostle to the Apostles" to "Prostitute": Mary Magdalene and Women in the Early Christian Church. Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon will also be speaking.

Mary Magdalene played an important role in the life of Jesus. Her powerful presence in the first four Books of the New Testament is followed up by a significant silence in later books of the Bible. At some point in early Church history, she was declared to have been a prostitute, even though there is no evidence of that in Scripture.

Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon is the President of the Ecumenical Theological Eminentry (ETS) in Detroit. He received his Master of Divinity, M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees from Yale University.

**The Holy Family Church** offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. The following is the schedule for the 2005 calendar year. All masses begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church: Feb. 26; April 30; May 28; June 25; July 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 24; Oct. 29; Nov. 26.

Lenten Opportunities: Join with others to pray every Tuesday evening we have a 7 p.m. mass and during Lent there will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 10 p.m. All are welcome to come and pray at any time.

Scripture Sunday: A Lenten Walk Through John's Gospel. Maria Koncius will offer a study of John's Gospel on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and a repeat on Thursday morning at 9:45 a.m. during Lent.

**The Blind Man - Tuesday**

**We moved to Novi!**

**Oak Pointe Church now calls Novi home! We meet in Novi High School on Sunday mornings, and we hope you'll join us sometime. We mix contemporary music, relevant teaching and a casual atmosphere to create a unique Sunday service. You'll also find an exciting children's program, small groups for adults, and cool student programs.**

**Sundays 9:30 & 11:15am Novi High School**

**248.912.0043 info@oakpointe.org www.oakpointe.org**

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High & Elm Streets, Northville  
1 Luback, Pastor  
Church: 249-3147 School: 349-3146  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
Contemporary Service at 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Celebration 10:30 a.m.  
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Dr. Ron Blake, Pastor

**MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. North of 8 1/2 Mile  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.  
248-348-7757  
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt  
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty  
Sun. 7:45 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School & Nursery 10 am  
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor  
www.churchoftheholycross.com

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345  
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.  
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor  
Worship in Church School 9:30 & 10:30 on Sunday  
Rev. Leo Cook

**ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
NOVI  
46325 Ten Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48314  
School: 347-7778  
Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Reverend Bishop Gregory Taylor  
Pastor: (248) 347-7778

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
2626 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48335  
Masses: Sat. 5pm; Sun. 7:30am, 8:45am, 10:30am, 12:15pm  
Holy Days: from 5:30pm-1:30pm  
Fr. John G. Budzys, Pastor  
Fr. Paul Balan, Associate Pastor  
Phone Office: 349-8947

**WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
St. James St. Meadows Service Center  
4400 S. W. Blvd., Novi, MI 48314  
Traditional Services: 8:30, 10:30 a.m.  
Contemporary Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Lenten Service: 7:30 a.m.  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. M. J. Szymanski

**CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH**  
Pastor: Danny L. Langley  
Traditional Service - 8:30 A.M.  
Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M.  
Meeting in Novi Civic Center  
248-444-7755  
crosspointemeadows.org

**MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi or 8 1/2 Mile  
Morning Worship 10 am  
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt  
Minister of Music: Patrick Kufy

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
23225 Gill Road  
Between Grand River & Freedom  
248-474-0524  
9:15 traditional, 11:15 Contemporary  
Sunday School 10:30  
Daniel Cove, Pastor  
Sara Sargent, Intern

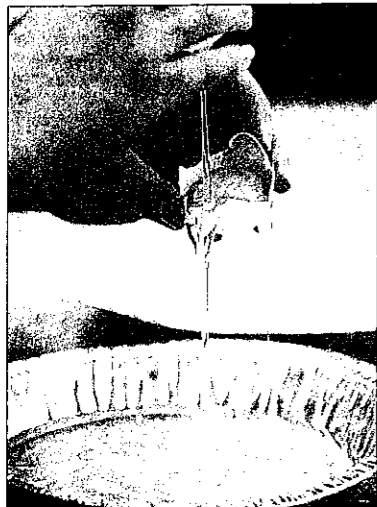
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Morning Worship 10 am  
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt  
Minister of Music: Patrick Kufy

# Schoolcraft College students know how to Spice Things Up

Photos by JOHN HEIDER



Culinary Arts Program student Elizabeth Velasquez begins to separate 15 egg whites to make chocolate creme brule.



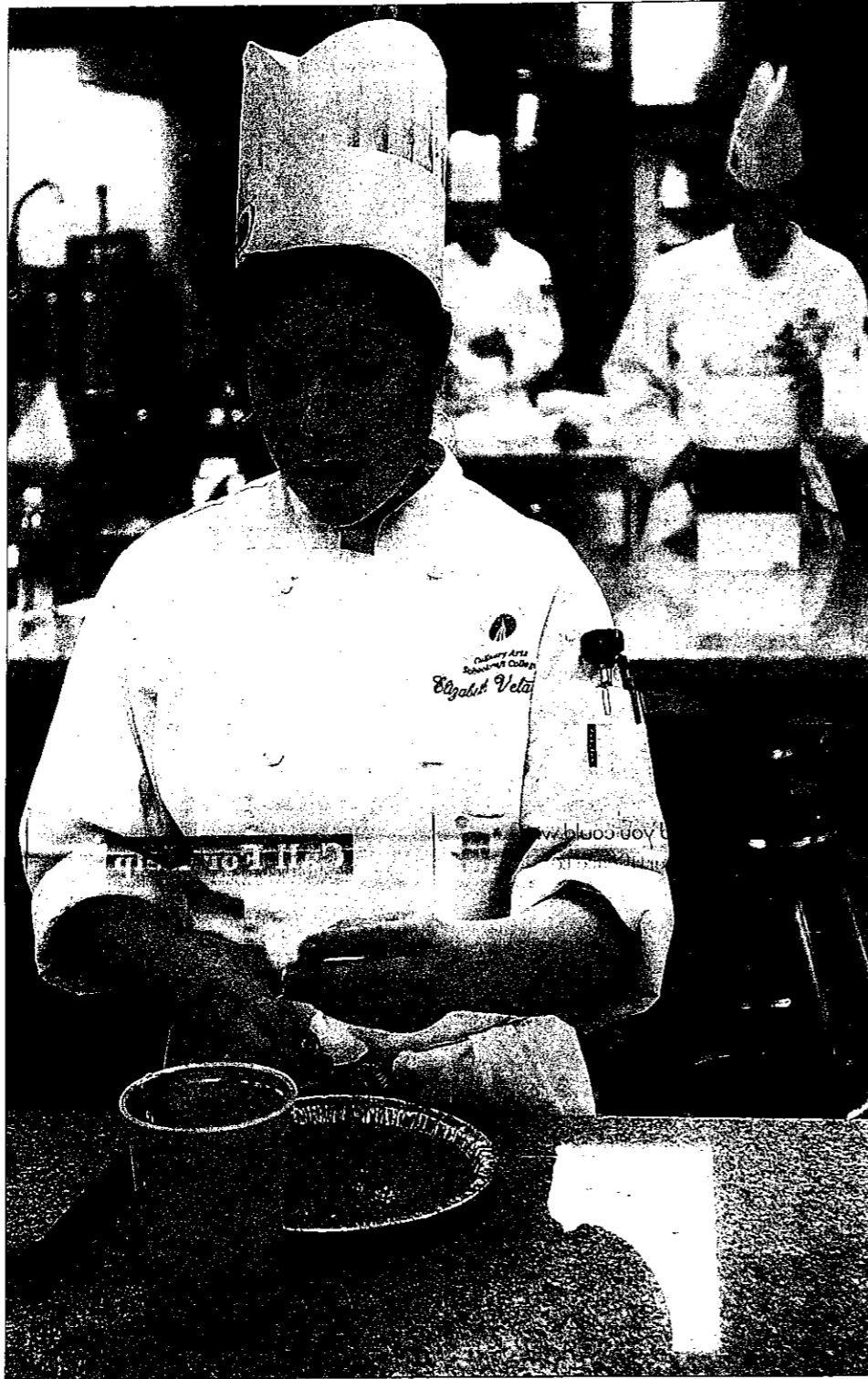
Schoolcraft Community College Culinary Arts Program student Kevin McGuire puts pork through a grinder to make a country sausage terrine.



Fruit tarts, flans and cheesecakes lie in a cooler ready for sale to the public at Schoolcraft College's American Harvest restaurant on a recent Thursday morning.



A Schoolcraft Community College Culinary Arts Program chef in training makes precise slices into a Bermuda onion during a Thursday morning class session.



Culinary Arts Program student Elizabeth Velasquez separates 15 egg whites to make chocolate creme brule.

## Schoolcraft College plans fund-raisers

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College's Culinary Arts Department in Livonia is not just known to local residents.

The nationally and internationally famous school has been featured in most of the top culinary magazines and even attracts students from overseas.

Established in 1964, the program can accommodate 220 students, with 30 enrolled in the school's separate baking and pastry program. Bruce Konowalow, a graduate of the Culinary Arts Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y., has served as director for five years.

The \$27 million, 87,000-square-foot VisTaTech building that houses the department was constructed in September 2003. American Harvest, the program's restaurant, offers a breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner plus the Main Street Cafe, a retail outlet.

"We have four Certified Master Chefs out of a faculty of six full-time

chefs. There are only about 70 master chefs in the whole country, so we have the highest percentage of any school in the nation," Konowalow said.

Students must take "An Introduction to Culinary Arts" and pass with at least an 84 average to be accepted into the program.

The program is two years, but the school also has a third-year Brigade Program for students who want more. This program is fashioned after the French brigade system in which there are stations in the kitchen. There could be a station where chefs make sauces, one where they prepare fish and another where they might grill meat.

"It's an entire 45-week program in which they operate our restaurant in the evenings. So, our dinner service is done by graduates now jumping up a level in sophistication and complexity," Konowalow said.

The program includes a trip to Paris as part of the curriculum. "This group is going to Paris in April, and we're actually doing a fund-raiser April 2 for that trip," Konowalow said.

The pre-sold dinner is planned for only 100 tickets. Each table will have six different Bordeaux. "Some tables will be \$500 a seat, some tables will be \$300 a seat, and some will be \$200 a seat, depending on the wine on the table," Konowalow said. The dinner will include six courses to match each wine.

On Saturday, April 23, the public is invited to a VisTa Gala, "The Art of Fine Dining," an evening of extraordinary dining as the chefs prepare unforgettable foods as patrons stroll through the department's six state-of-the-art kitchens.

This fund-raiser for the department will take place at 7 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center's DiPonio Room at 18600 Haggerty Road.

For more information or to make reservations for either of these events, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5008, or visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation).

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at [pfleming@td.homeconnect.net](mailto:pfleming@td.homeconnect.net).

### ENGAGEMENT



#### Tardella-Horning

Dan and Julie Tardella of Novi announce the engagement of their son, David Tardella to Leigh Horning, daughter of Chuck and Debbie Horning of Flushing.

The groom-elect is a 2000 graduate of Novi High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University. He is a student teacher at Meadowbrook Elementary School, Walled Lake.

The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Flushing High School and a 2004 graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is a student teacher at Westwood Elementary, Portland, Mich.

A June 2005 wedding is planned.

### OBITUARY

#### NICHOLAS (NICK) JAMES MAINELLA

Age 20, February 15, 2005. Born in Novi, January 12, 1986. Beloved son of Jan and Tony Mainella. Cherished brother of Carrie Mainella. Loving nephew of Jo Ann Mainella, Kathy (Hugh) Crawford, Nancy Cotter, and Barbara Cotter. Dear cousin of Douglas, Amy, Kelly, Alexis and Devin. Nick was a 2003 graduate of Novi High School. Visitation was held at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi. Funeral Liturgy was held Saturday at Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Pewer Rd., Farmington. Entombment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Memorial contributions to Novi Educational Foundation, 25345 Tatt, Novi MI 48374. Online sympathy message at [www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com](http://www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com)

#### OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.

\*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288 or contact your funeral home.

\*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

Watch for our upcoming St. Patrick's word search contest on March 10, in our classified section of HomeTown Newspapers Green Sheet.

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## Heating bills still slightly high

■ Cold winter raises prices, but they're down right now

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

To combat high winter heating bills, Helen Wilk of Novi has used the same method for 10 years.

She's on a budget plan with Consumers Energy, so monthly natural gas bills for her one-story condo stay a set rate from one July to the next.

"It's easier to budget," said Wilk, 68. "They charge me the same thing every month. Last year I didn't use all the money so they kind of lowered (costs) by \$6 or \$7 a month."

Rates are slightly less this month, but Consumers bills remain about \$10-15 higher than typical per month, according to spokeswoman Debra Dood.

"At the beginning of the heating season this year, we were saying natural gas prices were going to about 10 percent higher than last year," Dood said. "Gas prices have come down slightly this month."

per cubic foot, compared to 62 cents in January and a 2004-high 65.7 in December.

Jackson-based Consumers Energy buys natural gas in the United States and Canada, delivering it to 1.5 million homes in 44 Michigan counties yearlong at no profit. Customers also include 120,000 industrial and commercial facilities.

Dood said during the past three years, prices have increased nationally.

"That's a result of declining production and then increased demand of natural gas," Dood said.

"Michigan is one of the lower priced utilities. One of the things at Consumers that we're fortunate (with), we have over a dozen underground natural gas fields."

Gas is purchased at a slightly lower price in the summer and stored in 14 underground fields.

The 130 billion cubic feet is enough to last about half the winter, according to the company.

Spokesman Terry DeDoes said the drastic jump occurred around 2003, when prices averaging 37 per cubic foot cents spiked to 54-58 cents.

"Prices were pretty stable there for a long time, and then we started

building electric generation gas plants that burn natural gas to generate electricity," DeDoes said. "That put pressure on the demand."

Why the switch from coal? The fuel was cheaper, cleaner burning and quicker to turn on and off, DeDoes said.

For the rest of winter, both representatives recommend budgeting and conserving energy, from cleaning furnace filters often to turning down thermostats when not home.

A programmable thermostat is another device, Dood said.

"Because of the storage (facilities) in Michigan, we're running well below typical gas costs," DeDoes said. "I think our customers pay among the lowest 25 percent nationally for gas rates."

How much bill costs fluctuate the rest of the year will depend on the weather. But in the meantime, if heating costs are taxing finances, contact Consumers.

"The minute they get a bill they think they might have a problem paying, call us right away," Dood said. "It's very difficult to help someone once they receive a shut-off notice."

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelie@td.homeconnect.net](mailto:kkovelie@td.homeconnect.net).

### DETAILS

Contact Consumers Energy • (800) 418-2263 • [www.consumersenergy.com](http://www.consumersenergy.com)

Heat-up tips for home To keep your house warmer during the winter, Consumers Energy recommends:

- Caulking around windows and doors
- Installing storm windows
- Adding insulation to ceilings and walls
- Wrapping an insulation blanket around their water heater
- Installing a programmable thermostat

#### Natural gas costs

• January 2005	57.3¢
• February 2005	62.0¢
• December 2004	65.71¢
• November 2004	63.5¢
• October 2004	61.4¢
• September 2004	62.5¢
• August 2004	63.9¢
• July 2004	63.9¢
• June 2004	59.36¢
• May 2004	59.36¢
• April 2004	58.72¢
• March 2004	53.6¢
• February 2004	57.2¢
• January 2004	55.3¢
• December 2003	54.1¢
• November 2003	54.1¢

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# SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107. [kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net)

## Tackling computers one click at a time

By Kim Kovelle

The trio of ladies was greeted first with a typical note on their computer screens.

"If computer learners, I hope you're having fun today." Smiling, instructor Janice Howell asked the three seniors in the Novio Senior Center's beginner computer class, "Do you want to send your letter out with a key?"

"I just signed Betty Dragon, 'Not We're smarter than that.'" Seconds later, she, Margaret Deane and Fran Crowe were zipping through the "spell check" option on their Microsoft Word entries.

"A miracle," Dragon declared, grinning. "Maybe computers aren't evil after all." For about two hours, the students learned computer basics, from powering on their Compaq systems to setting up Yahoo e-mail accounts.

When maneuvering scroll bars and toolboxes got tough, Howell's easy-going guidance kept the mood light.

"The whole thing was to make it something enjoyable so that people would want to learn," Howell said. "Normally when you say 'computer is' to someone who is not knowledgeable, they're fearful. I just try to convince them to build up their confidence."

A senior herself, Howell became the center's "computer lady" last October.

She started out computerizing Pizza Hut delivery systems in the early 1980s.

"The minute I got on a computer and could see what it could do, I fell in love," the California native said. "I thought, 'This is so neat. Why would I ever not want to do everything I could on the



Betty Dragon laughs as she figures out some text editing problems as she and others learn computers at the Novio Senior Center.

computer?"

Now, self-taught Howell instills the same awe -- and prowess -- in other seniors.

For instance, her trick to the mouse is to first click once. If that doesn't work, double click. As students changed font sizes and colors, many "oh's" and "wow's" were shouted.

"I worked for 10 years... on an electric typewriter," she said. "Anything that had to be changed was really a long, involved

process. You either had to retype it or have a very good eraser and white-out. This is much easier."

The trio completes a four-session course today. But even last week, they were considering buying their own computers to avoid deals with computer-savvy husbands.

Howell, who also hosts intermediate classes, said she hopes to soon have an advanced class with a completion ceremony. Certificates for all levels are in the works.

Ultimately, she wants students to have fun and realize they're never too old to learn. Teacher proves it: she's earning a master's degree in human resources

through the Internet.

"They thank me for my patience," she said. "I like to hear them laugh. As soon as I hear 'Oh my gosh!' I know I have won over a student."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novio News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net).

Photos by JOHN HEIDER

### Computer classes for seniors

Master your PC with Janice Howell at the Novio Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.

• **Beginners:** Intro to computer and mouse; learn to e-mail and make greeting cards; practice time included. Four classes held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; next session begins March 1; cost \$15 per session.

• **Intermediate:** Explore the Internet, desktop and My Computer. Four classes held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m.; next session begins March 1; cost \$15 per session.

• **Refresher/Practice:** Held at the end of each complete session; cost \$5 each time.

• **Lab time:** Computer lab open for use; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays; cost \$1 an hour, minimum.

Learn more by calling the Novio Senior Center at (248) 347-0414



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Fran Crowe gets some pointers from computer instructor Janice Howell while learning to edit text at the Novio Senior Center; RIGHT: Betty Dragon laughs as she figures out some text editing problems as she and others learn computers at the Novio Senior Center.

### CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 8th, 2005 in the Novio Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.

Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Novio City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 14, 15 & 16, 2005. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only.

Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at [www.ci.novi.mi.us](http://www.ci.novi.mi.us).

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE  
Monday, March 14, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 - 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 16, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS  
CITY CLERK

### NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS SPRING 2005 STREET TREE PLANTING

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for SPRING 2005 STREET TREE PLANTING according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI  
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR  
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.  
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "SPRING 2005 STREET TREE PLANTING BID" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both, to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK  
PURCHASING DIRECTOR  
(248) 347-0448

Muscular Dystrophy Association  
Jerry Lewis, National Chairman  
1-800-572-1717  
[www.mdausa.org](http://www.mdausa.org)

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Novi Community School District is requesting bids for Novi High School Auditorium Seating. Requirements and specifications are available for the district office located at 25345 Taft Road, Novi, MI 48374.

A partner and chair of the health care department at Detroit-based Hontigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn, LLP, Griffith will take part in a symposium called "Billing the Uninsured at -Charitable Institutions."

He'll discuss class action lawsuits filed country-wide which argue the poor and uninsured pay more for health care than the insured.

Griffith to join panel

Gerald M. Griffith, attorney and Novi resident, will participate March 3-4 in an panel at the 11th Annual Health Law Institute in Troy.

Rockwell signs contracts

Wixom's Rockwell Medical Supply, LLC, announced Feb. 15 that it has signed five supply contracts with several U.S. hemodialysis providers.

The contracts are expected to supply dialysis concentrate to about 6,000 patients with chronic kidney failure in 80 clinics. Designed to strengthen business in South-Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions, expected annual revenue from the move is \$2.5 million.

Included in the deal are Independent Dialysis Foundation; Health Systems Management; Central Florida Kidney Centers, Inc.; Dialysis Clinics Inc.-Southeast Region; and Dialysis Corporation of America, Inc. Rockwell is located at 30142 Wixom Road in Wixom.

Autos more affordable

Buying an average-priced, new vehicle improved last October-December, according to Comerica Bank's Auto

Farmer keeps prescription plans

Farmer Jack recently announced it would continue to fill prescriptions for all medical drug plans covered by General Motors and United Auto Workers employees and retirees.

Offering the service for 35 years, Farmer Jack also helps seniors without prescription insurance save up to 40 percent on cash prescriptions. Pharmacies are open seven days per week.

continued on page 14A

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# BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 [pfleming@ht.horncomm.net](mailto:pfleming@ht.horncomm.net) Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 [kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.horncomm.net)

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rabbit hops to Twelve Oaks

To get an early start on Easter, "Bun E. Rabbit" will hop to Twelve Oaks Mall's Central Park Garden starting March 5.

Sponsored by Telecom Credit Union, Bun E. will be in the mall's lower level to visit with kids. Young ones can get pictures with their furry friend and receive a free gift, to boot.

Until March 26, Bun E. Rabbit can be found at Twelve Oaks from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday.

The mall will be closed Easter Sunday, March 27. For more information, visit [www.shoptwelveoaks.com](http://www.shoptwelveoaks.com).

Tsunami animals getting help

New Supplies "Plus," which has a Novi locale, is raising money for dogs, cats and other pets and farm animals strayed after the December tsunami in southern Asian and parts of Africa.

Donations are being accepted in cash register containers. All funds will go to the non-profit Best Friends Animal Society Tsunami Animal Relief Fund, which will distribute money to animal rescue groups working with affected countries.

Once tracked by teams of volunteer veterinarians, stray animals are spotted, vaccinated against diseases like rabies and treated with flea and tick control products.

Along with patrons, management and employees are contributing.

Novi's Pet Supplies "Plus" is located at 41660 W. Ten Mile Road. Call (248) 380-0007 for more information.

Veri-Tek starts up stock

Veri-Tek International Corp., based in Wixom, announced Feb. 15 that its initial public common stock will be offered at \$6 per share. In all, 2.5 million shares are available.

The company underwriter has an option to purchase 375,000 more shares to cover allotments. Managed solely by Anderson & Stradwick, the stock is available on the American Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "VCC."

Located at 50120 Pontiac Trail in Wixom, Veri-Tek designs, develops and builds specialty equipment for automotive and heavy equipment industries.

Urgent news for people who took CELEBREX, VIOXX or BEXTRA.

Many VIOXX and CELEBREX users suffered strokes, heart attacks, blood clots and even death. If you took BEXTRA you might also have been at risk for a serious cardiovascular health problem.

If you or a loved one had any of these problems, call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-AGLE for a free consultation. We practice law only in Arizona but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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### Winners

Steve & Rocky's Restaurant in Novi won first place in the 10th Annual Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza Feb. 8 at Mac & Ray's Banquet & Conference Center in Harrison Township. Nearly 600 guests enjoyed food from 15 Metro Detroit restaurants at the benefit for culinary students. From left: Anjelina Ivanova, hostess; Elizabeth Reese, manager; Rocky Rachawitz and Steve Allen. The Novi chefs winning dish was Pan Seared Sea Scallops Rockefeller with Pernod and Capers Sauce with Stone Ground Mustard Mashed Potatoes, paired with Sonoma Cueter wine.

Urgent news for people who took CELEBREX, VIOXX or BEXTRA. Many VIOXX and CELEBREX users suffered strokes, heart attacks, blood clots and even death. If you took BEXTRA you might also have been at risk for a serious cardiovascular health problem. Call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-AGLE for a free consultation.

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# Higher taxes pitched for insurance and physicians

By Kim Kovelie  
STAFF WRITER

Insurance companies and physicians may be taxed more by the time next year, if Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed budget is passed.

The up to 2.3 percent tax on doctors will provide Medicaid funding, state officials said, while a new, 2 percent insurance premium tax will put Michigan companies on par with the national average.

But critics are concerned that these costs may still be passed down to customers.

## WHAT'S PROPOSED

While the manufacturing segment is slated for a tax break in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's proposed 2006 budget, some areas are tapped for increase:

• **Insurance companies:** replacing a 1.07 single business tax with a 2 percent insurance premiums tax.

Pro: The state says this will bring the premium closer to the national standard.

Con: Insurance companies say costs will be passed onto policyholders.

• **Physicians:** taxes for those who provide Medicaid and Medicare work are proposed for as little as 1 percent or up to 2.3 percent. Also, a Medicaid will no longer be available to healthy 19- and 20-year-olds and those seeking chiropractic services.

Pro: The state says this will encourage more physicians to offer these services.

Con: Critics say cutting some Medicaid services will hurt patients financially.

For more information about the proposed 2006 budget, visit [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov).

have to be passed on to policyholders," Kuhnmauch said.

As proposed by the governor, the move is branded a "revenue-neutral" tax shift.

"It's not intended to help the budget or at least not the immediate budget," Schrage said. "It's intended to make us more competitive over the long run."

He said life insurance rates likely wouldn't be affected because they're priced nationally. The tax would go towards the state's general fund.

"We are open to working with the physicians on this matter," the budget member by Oct. 1.

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net).

budget office.

"This is just another one of the industries we've assessed," Bird said. "Now we're looking for revenue from this source...to maintain our critical health care services for our most vulnerable citizens."

With a 1 percent increase, the state reported, \$94 million in taxes could be gathered for Medicaid services. About \$30 million in returns from federal Medicaid revenue would cover provider increases, the state budget office reported.

A 2.3 percent hike would reimburse doctors at Medicare levels.

Sean Gebke, spokesman for St. John Health System's advocacy office, which includes Novi's Providence Hospital, said about 15 percent of patients system-wide receive such aid.

"We see a lot of emergency care provided," Gebke said. "We certainly support any program that would enable us to avoid additional reductions to the Medicaid program."

If passed, healthy 19- and 20-year-olds may no longer receive Medicaid coverage, nor chiropractic services.

That would keep \$2.2 million in the state's general fund, Bird said.

Kenneth Sopa Jr. of Northville's Main Street Family Chiropractic Center said the Michigan Chiropractic Society will combat the move, as in the past.

"We just finished getting it back from the previous budget," Sopa said. Some of his patients use the coverage to save money when they throw out their backs.

"It is a low volume but it's there and you've got to have it," Sopa said. "If they're going to knock this out, then what's next? Medicare?"

Would these changes mean an increase for patients across the board?

"We certainly hope not," Bird said. "I think one thing it will do is encourage improved access to health care services that will provide physicians with more of a reimbursement who see Medicaid patients."

"We are open to working with the physicians on this matter," the budget member by Oct. 1.

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net).

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

continued from 13A

**Affordability Index.**

At a total \$28,127, the purchase took about 20.6 weeks of median family income before taxes, the index reported. That's about 0.2 weeks more affordable than the third quarter of 2004. Overall, the price of such an auto edged up 1.8 percent the previous quarter, while median family income rose 2.6 percent.

### LOC expands

LOC Federal Credit Union recently announced the expansion of its field of membership to now include all of Livingston County and the Southwestern portion of Oakland County. LOC Federal had a multiple group charter serving various school district, employer sponsor groups, and Chamber of Commerce members with specific portions of Livingston and Oakland County. Now all persons who live, work, worship in, or attend school within the new community charter area are eligible to join LOC Federal.

LOC Federal Credit Union has been providing financial services to members and their families since 1950. Currently, offices are located in Farmington and Howell with 25 Service Center branches.

available to members throughout Southeastern Michigan.

"At LOC, we take pride in our ability to provide personalized service...and that will never change," said President/CEO Dennis DeWitt. "This expansion provides us with unlimited possibilities and will allow for ongoing growth and continued success," added DeWitt.

Additional information regarding LOC Federal Credit Union can be obtained at [www.locfederal.com](http://www.locfederal.com) or call 800-837-4LOC.

### Can reduced hours work?

Professionals and managers working less than 40 weekly hours still can keep careers on track and see salaries grow, according to a recent study by McGill University and Michigan State University.

The study found that nearly half of 87 participants working part-time still worked the lower load six years later. For success, the study found arrangements must include a flexible employee and employer sponsor groups, and Chamber of Commerce members with specific portions of Livingston and Oakland County.

Participants worked for U.S. and Canadian companies from financial services and manufacturing to telecommunications and consumer goods.

The study defined reduced

workload as working three or four days a week and being paid less accordingly. To read the entire study, visit [www.polsi.msu.edu/kossek/final.pdf](http://www.polsi.msu.edu/kossek/final.pdf).

### 'Alley' hosted governor

Automation Alley, Oakland County's regional technology consortium, recently hosted Gov. Jennifer Granholm for a special meeting in Troy on Michigan's economic future.

Initiatives in place to help advance regional and state business growth were discussed at the Feb. 14 gathering. Also present were Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Automation Alley Executive Director Ken Rogers and other county representatives.

### Auto production up

Automakers country-wide were expected to produce 270,850 vehicles last week, up 0.8 percent from the 268,796 cars and trucks built the week before, according to WardAuto.com. To date, yearly output totals about 1,710,224, down 0.6 percent from this time last year.

Compiled by Kim Kovelie

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# Do You Want to Honor a HomeTown Hero?

Your Observer & Eccentric, Mirror and HomeTown Newspapers, in conjunction with the United Way of Oakland County, are calling for nominations for the HomeTown Heroes™ Awards, which recognizes, encourages and rewards outstanding volunteers who have given selflessly of themselves to support non-profit organizations in Oakland County. Nominees and awardees will be recognized at the Sixth Annual HomeTown Heroes™ Luncheon that will take place on June 1, 2005 at Marriott at Centerpoint in Pontiac, Michigan.

NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ IF GROUP, CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATING CATEGORY: (Only one person nominated per category allowed)

\_\_\_ DIRECT SERVICE \_\_\_ YOUNG ADULT \_\_\_ SENIOR

\_\_\_ YOUTH \_\_\_ GOVERNANCE \_\_\_ FAITH-BASED \_\_\_ BUSINESS

NAME OF NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

(Most volunteer for an Oakland County non-profit organization)

SCHOOL ATTENDING (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS WORKS PER MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED: \_\_\_\_\_

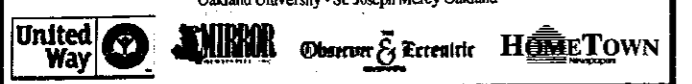
A type written essay on a separate sheet, up to one page (no less than 10 point font size). In the essay state the qualities that make this volunteer stand out from other volunteers and list any major accomplishments of the person's volunteer activities. Please give specific examples of how the nominee currently has helped someone, has made a difference for the non-profit organization and/or has had an impact on the community. Include a photo (no larger than 5" x 7") of the nominated person or group, or for Business nominees, include a photo of persons participating in the volunteer activity.

Entries must be received by Thursday, March 24, 2005.

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

For questions, further information, or more applications go to [www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero.html](http://www.unitedwayoakland.org/hero.html) or call 248-874-1601.

**HomeTown Heroes Planning Committee:**  
Assistance League of Southeastern Michigan • Junior League of Birmingham  
Lighthouse of Oakland County • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency  
Oakland University • St. Joseph Mercy Oakland



# HEALTH SCREENING & OPEN HOUSE

**FEBRUARY IS WOMEN'S HEART AWARENESS MONTH**

**BRING YOUR HEART AND YOUR FAMILY'S HEARTS TO OUR FREE HEALTH SCREENING!!!**

Date: February 26, 2005 Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will be providing the following health screening checks:

- ♥ Listening to your heart
- ♥ Blood pressure checks
- ♥ Blood sugar evaluations
- ♥ Reviewing the results with one of our physicians

Daniel M. Rosenberg, MD      Derek A. Einhorn, MD

Both of the physicians are board-certified internists and pediatricians, they have earned their medical degrees from Wayne State University School of Medicine. The physicians completed their residencies and are on staff at William Beaumont Hospital.

**OFFICE INFORMATION**  
42450 W. 12 MILE RD, SUITE 105,  
NOVI MICHIGAN, 48377  
**PHONE: (248) 374-0502**

# HEALTH

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

## Doctors to offer free health screening

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

February is remembered for Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. In observance of Women's Heart Awareness Month in February, two local doctors will host a free health screening this Saturday.

Daniel M. Rosenberg, M.D., and Derek A. Einhorn, M.D., will offer a health screening and open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at their Novi office at 42450 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Suite 105, on the north side of the street between Novi and Meadowbrook roads.

The screening will include:

- Listening to your heart
- Blood sugar evaluations
- Blood pressure check
- and a review of the results with one of the physicians.

Both physicians are board-certified internists and pediatricians with medical degrees from Wayne State University School of Medicine. The two completed their residencies and are on staff at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Einhorn explained that heart disease, including strokes, is the most common cause of death for women. Cancer used to be the most common cause of death in females, but as smoking became more popular with women, heart disease took the upper hand, he said.

"Even though smoking is now on the decline, heart disease is still the number one cause of death in women," Einhorn said.



Dr. Daniel Rosenberg, left, checks the heart of Karen Lyons as Rosenberg's partner Dr. Derek Einhorn watches.

"It's typically thought that men are at greater risk for heart disease. That is true, but sometimes women don't pay enough attention to their heart health. They're more concerned with breast cancer and other illnesses," he said.

Einhorn said the advantage of paying attention to your heart health as a woman is that are many reversible conditions that affect the heart, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.

"All of these conditions can be treated, and if so, will reduce the risk of heart disease," he said.

Diet and exercise are still important. "We stress lifestyle changes," Einhorn said.

"You can always reduce your risk factors. The earlier the better."

Heart disease in women does not always present itself as typically as in men, according to Einhorn. "A woman who has heart disease might have symptoms such as heartburn, jaw pain, shortness of breath and fatigue, rather than chest pain," he said.

"In some women, they have what we call atypical features. That's just one more reason to promote women's heart health and get them in to see their doctors," Einhorn said.

The screening will also include a questionnaire that will ask women questions to determine if they are at risk for heart disease.

By reviewing such a questionnaire, "We can tell you what percent risk you have of developing heart disease within the next 10 years," he said.

Einhorn noted that there is a lot of information available on how to prevent heart disease. Regular checkups with a doctor are recommended.

"People should not be scared to go to the doctor. There's nothing to be scared of. We're nice people," Einhorn said.

The Novi physician said heart

disease screening should really begin at age 30 for both men and women. Men are also welcome at Saturday's screening.

"The screening is being promoted for women, but we encourage them to bring their husbands, fathers, friends and neighbors," Einhorn said.

Appointments are not necessary for the Feb. 26 health screening. Call Dr. Rosenberg and Einhorn at (248) 374-0502.

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](mailto:pfleming@ht.homecomm.net).

## Memory can be improved

In the minds of many, a failing memory in our golden years is as inevitable as the need for a healthy stretch in the seventh inning of a baseball game. Memory loss is not an inevitable consequence of a long life. In fact, aging is only one of many factors that can weaken our ability to remember things; so can stress, depression, cardiovascular problems and a wide range of other physical and emotional factors.

However, no matter what our age, there are things each of us can do to help boost our powers of recall. If forgetfulness seems to be



Ernie Harwell

increasing, the following strategies may help.

- Consult your physician. Remember: Always get a professional medical opinion.
- Stay fit. Good nutrition, cardiovascular health and regular exercise help the heart pump blood, nutrients and oxygen to the brain.
- Know your prescriptions. Keep an eye on your reactions — and drug interactions — when taking new drugs or dosages. And check with your doctor. Tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, some heart medications, and even some cold remedies, can affect your memory.
- Get adequate rest. A sharp memory requires alertness.
- Seek new challenges. Learn a new language, or how to use a computer or simply read something new and stimulating.
- Most of all, remember to take care of your health before it's too late!

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Day Time Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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

Only one entry per person per week. 15 years or older.  
Ballot box stuffing will not be allowed. Partial ballots may be disqualified.

**BEST FOOD OUTLETS**

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- Best specialty coffee house \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for breakfast \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Sunday brunch \_\_\_\_\_
- Best deli \_\_\_\_\_
- Best fast food restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Best family restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for soup \_\_\_\_\_
- Best salad bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for burgers \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for hot dogs/coney's \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for subs \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for ice cream \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for desserts \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Italian restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Oriental restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Best Mexican restaurant \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for pizza \_\_\_\_\_
- Best wine selection (store) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best wine selection (restaurant) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best beer selection (store) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best beer selection (restaurant) \_\_\_\_\_
- Best place for romantic dinner \_\_\_\_\_
- Best after work meeting place \_\_\_\_\_
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**BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES**

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

**All Entries Must Be Received By March 7th**

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## Your Health — "KNOWLEDGE IS KEY IN ASSESSING RISK"

"People like to do things online," says Dr. Howard Terchelo, D.O. "They like to figure out their IQ's, find out how their marriage is, figure out what their personality is, as well as how healthy they are and what they have to worry about." Dr. Terchelo is a hematologist/oncologist at the Assarian Cancer Center at The Providence Cancer Institute in Novi.

Dr. Terchelo was discussing the new online Cancer Risk Assessment test recently launched by St. John Health System. This quick online test bases the assessment on the responses given by the participant. A variety of factors such as family history, environment and lifestyle all play a role in cancer risk. A confidential reply is then emailed back to the participant containing information about their potential risk factors along with prevention and treatment options.

The program is intended for individuals who are concerned about their health and want to get the best possible care, rather than people who are reluctant to be seen by a doctor, according to Dr. Terchelo. These are people that are proactive about their health and want to diagnose something early. He adds that when there is an early diagnosis it is easier to cure people.

As far as the online aspect, Dr. Terchelo believes that it is a trend that will definitely persist. "It shows that the hospital is trying to promote health and well-being and for many people there is a certain comfort level." He adds, "Some people really and truly love going online to research things. They are more comfortable getting their information online rather than by reading books or press releases."

Dr. Terchelo and his associates encourage their patients to go online. They try to refer them to informational sites that are certified, peer reviewed and endorsed by health care agencies. These sites provide the most up-to-date information.

"People worry a lot especially about breast cancer and colon

cancer. They worry about their genes," says Dr. Terchelo. If people have questions or concerns about their family history of cancer, he recommends visiting their primary care doctor. Their doctor can help them or refer them to a cancer specialist if necessary.

In a recent survey, Modern Healthcare Magazine ranked stjohnc.org ninth among U.S. hospitals in web site visits. To take the cancer risk assessment go to [www.realmedicine.org/concertest](http://www.realmedicine.org/concertest).

St. John Health Providence Cancer Institute includes the Michael and Rose Assarian Cancer Center in Novi. The Assarian Cancer Center goes beyond traditional cancer care in that it combines the best technology has to offer with programs that address the needs of the mind and spirit as well as the body.

Lori Taylor is the Program Coordinator for the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. She can be reached at (248) 465-5455.

## Annual Providence Health Foundation ball March 12

Caring and generosity are words synonymous with Lewis and Mary Campbell of Bloomfield Hills. Their commitment to caring and generosity will be recognized when they receive the Providence Order of Charity award at the annual Providence Health Foundation Friends' Ball, scheduled for March 12, 2005 at the Royal Park Hotel, 600 East University Drive, Rochester. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.

The Campbells have been constant, significant philanthropic supporters of Providence Hospital for the past several years. Through their personal and business donations, they have been the largest financial sponsors of the Friends' Ball. Mary Campbell has also worked on the Friends' Ball Steering Committee. In addition to Providence, the Campbells

have provided philanthropic support to many local organizations. Lewis Campbell is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Tetrax Inc., a global multi-industry company with market-leading brands and businesses serving the general aviation, aerospace and defense industry and commercial finance. Mary operates Graziella Ltd. in Birmingham, a specialty home shop featuring fine linens, china and crystal.

Proceeds from this event will help fund the purchase of a new state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging machine for Providence Hospital. Tickets for the event, which includes dinner, a silent auction and entertainment by renowned jazz musician Marcus Greigore, are still available by contacting the Providence Health Foundation at 248-849-5744.

The cost is \$225 a person. In addition to the Lewis family, Shukri David, M.D., chief of cardiology at Providence Hospital, and Martin Harris, M.D., chairman of emergency medicine at Providence, will be honored. They are the co-recipients of the Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award. The Caduceus Society at Providence Hospital is an organization of dedicated and concerned physicians who through their personal philanthropy are advancing the healing mission of Providence. Providence is a member of St. John Health - a growing network of community-based hospitals and health care services in Southeast Michigan and one of the largest employers in metro Detroit. St. John Health provides comprehensive prevention, primary care and advanced treatment programs.

## FIT FOR LIFE — "THE TRUTH CAN BE HARD TO FIND"

The holiday decorations are put away and stored, the Super Bowl has been played and faint hints of spring are appearing little by little. For many, this time of year brings visions of warmer weather and a smaller, slimmer, toned mid-section.

But before you purchase another super abdominal creation guaranteed to flatten and tone your waistline in a few minutes a day, or purchase that super pill guaranteed to melt the fat away without changing anything else in your life, or go see that cosmetic surgeon... read on. The following are time tested, science based tips to consider in your quest for that elusive reduced and toned mid-section. While these suggestions aren't glamorous or simple they are the truth and that can be hard to find these days.

1. Don't crunch yourself to death. Crunches are a movement where you raise your body slightly off the ground, (a partial sit up) and unless you live in a cave you have been exposed to hundreds of variations of the crunch guaranteed to give you that flat, toned abdominal area. There have been gadgets to help you do a so called "better" crunch - sitting, standing or lying down and everything in between. While a proper crunch can certainly tone, a paper crunch or a weighted, slimmer waist it is not the

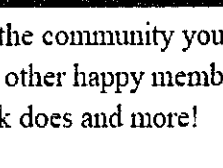
complete answer. Your abdominal muscles are like every other muscle in your body, and strengthening them is vital. While stronger abdominal muscles will help your overall posture and give you some flatter appearance and tightness, any kind of crunch with any kind of gadget or machine will have only a minimal affect on overall flattening and toning of the mid-section.

2. At least 70 percent of your results are in the food. That's right! The abdominal most people desire are found with a lower overall body fat percentage. A client can do thousands of every kind of crunch and fancy abdominal exercise from the latest fitness magazine daily and never achieve the appearance they desire. While their abdominals may be strong and toned they are covered by a layer of body fat and food intake largely decides one's body fat percentage.

3. Cardiovascular activity is the best activity for your goal. Cardiovascular activity involves raising your heart rate in a steady rhythmic fashion for about 20-30 minutes per session. Brisk walking, swimming, running, dancing all count. This activity burns calories which will aid in lowering your body fat percentage which will give you the mid-section you desire, not to mention a whole bunch of other health benefits. Keep your abdominals engaged, (hold your stomach in, pushing your belly button to your back as much as you can throughout the activity and throughout your day, e.g. in the car, sitting at the computer, etc.)

4. These are no shortcuts. Stop looking for the magic formula or machine, the bottom line is to include some key core (mid section) movements in your program, and lowering your body fat through a slight, consistent calorie deficit. If you want to... these suggestions are not popular or glamorous, but the truth seldom is. You can do it, start now and you will feel better in your swimsuit this summer.

Chris Klebba, a certified fitness trainer and public speaker, is the owner and operator of the *Water Wheel Health Club* in Northville. Call (248) 449-7634 or visit [www.waterwheel.com](http://www.waterwheel.com).



Chris Klebba

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# EDUCATION

## Scholarships fund focus of Walsh Gala

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Walsh College offers business education in the classroom daily, but on Saturday evening, March 12, Walsh is offering fine art appreciation in the ballroom at the Hotel Baroque in Novi.

The third annual Walsh Gala features fine wine, an art exhibit and strolling supper catered by Unique Restaurants. A VIP reception features a presentation on rare wines, led by renowned master sommelier Madeleine Trifon and sommelier Rick Rubel of Unique Restaurants. All funds raised will benefit the Walsh College Novi Student Scholarship and an art endowment.

Gala guests will be treated to a feast for the senses. The award winning works of Farmington photographer Monte Nagler will be displayed along with the still life paintings of Thomas Stiltz, known for his "Private Reserve" collection.

Nagler will discuss his photographs at the VIP reception and Bonnie Mansour, owner of Art Leaders Gallery in West Bloomfield, will represent Stiltz's work.

"People recognized that we're strictly a business school and this is an opportunity for us to break out of that mold and do something on the more cultural side," Jim Hubbard said, director of public and corporate relations for Walsh College. "You certainly don't come to Walsh College and take Art History or Culinary Arts."

The gala grand sponsor is Wealth Management Services. Wine for the event has been donated by several private collectors, including

College friend Bob Cummings. Event chairpersons are Walsh College alumnus David Potoski of Wealth Management Services and Mary Bartlett of MSW Group. Walsh College is an upper division school only, which means students must complete their freshman and sophomore years somewhere else. Students can then transfer to Walsh with a minimum of 60 hours and a maximum of 82.

"We're a private school, but non-profit, so we rely on contributions from alumni and donors to make scholarship funding available," Hubbard said. "All the money raised from the gala will go to fund scholarships."

According to Hubbard, Walsh College started as an accounting school in Detroit in 1922. At the time, the state continued to upgrade its qualifications for accountants and in order to be a certified public accountant, one had to be state certified. Walsh expanded to offer bachelors degrees and became accredited. Recently, the regulations have changed again and now students must have additional hours beyond a bachelors degree before they can be a certified public accountant.

"Ours is a five or six year program, including the first two years somewhere else, where you'll end up with a masters degree in accounting," Hubbard said. "In those years then, since the 1970s, we've expanded into three different bachelors degree programs and eight masters degree programs."

VIP tickets to the gala are \$150 and the reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 for general admission tickets, which are \$75 and \$40 for current Walsh students.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Monte Nagler is a noted writer, lecturer and teacher of photography. Not only does he write a nationally syndicated photography column, but he is also the author of two highly successful photography books: "How To Improve Your Photographic Vision" and "Statements of Light." Frequently, he is called upon to judge contests and to speak on photography topics on local radio and television shows. He is a recipient of the prestigious Artist in Residence Award from the Farmington Area Arts Commission. He is also a member of the esteemed Camera Craftsmen of America, one of 40 members worldwide and a member of the Fulfillment Talent Team. In addition to many awards and acknowledgments Nagler has received, the State of Michigan Senate and House have honored him for his contributions to fine art photography.

By the age of 5, Thomas Stiltz was drawing his favorite cartoon characters and by age 12, he was attending art classes at the Delaware Art Museum. He sold his first painting while still in high school. He attended the University of Delaware and discovered photography, ceramics and steel sculpture. For most of his professional life, Stiltz has worked as an art director, photographer and painter. A strong sense of composition and picture space, naturally lead him to create striking paintings.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Call (248) 823-1204 for more details.

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

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Lindsay Cortis  
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## Join the American Cancer Society Relay For Life!

Your American Cancer Society is rallying the community of Walled Lake to participate in its annual Relay For Life, the Society's signature event. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a team-based fundraising event, is a unique, empowering and fun way to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Join us at the kickoff to find out how you can put together a team of your own!

**Walled Lake Community Education Building**  
Wednesday, March 16, 2005  
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Call 248.557.5353 to learn more.

**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
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## Read then Recycle this Newspaper

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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.

## 'Singing schoolteachers' suited many eras

Fiddling with the stereo buttons, Belinda Fenby cued up her late husband. Gene Fenby's voice, polished and polite as that of any master of ceremonies, set stage for the *Largo of Jaramon* from the Barber of Seville, commonly called Figaro — with a twist.

"Course, we can't sing in Italian, so we borrowed a new title, a new set of lyrics, and the tune now becomes a tribute to fat women. It's called the Bigga da Figga."

A playful grin audible, he added, "We make no dedications tonight."

Seconds later, the barbershop-quartet's parody danced across the counter, filling Belinda's small Novi kitchen. It became a different scene, years ago.

"They have the most fantastic sense of pitch," she murmured. "They were so good. You could record them live and they didn't make mistakes."

Played off a homemade CD, the track captured the talent and whimsy of what was a premier vocal and instrumental group peaking in the area during the 1950s-70s: the Fenby-Carr Quintet.

Now nearly 70, Belinda was once the group's female vocalist — and sixth element.

"That was the era of old standard songs," she said. "We were perfect for our time. We would definitely not be in the top 40 today."

The tale traces to the late 1930s when Gene, a gifted pianist and trombonist, met a trumpet-playing tenor named Milt Aptekar.

Destined to be found co-leaders, the duo was drawn together by the dual passions that would later earn Fenby-Carr its "Singing Schoolteachers" nickname.

Both Detroit high school teachers sang with the thriving Detroit Schoolmen's Chorus, work connections with the Gail & Rice talent-brokery agency also were a common note.

Blowing the horn from age 9, Milt's high school group, Milt-Bernie and the Varsity Syncopators, had flared a bit in college. In his new role as a new gig.

"Gene needed a trumpet player and I was available," said Milt, now 89. "It worked out with the schoolmen's chorus there were two other men... that also played a part."

Soon, Maori Lav handled sax and clarinet, Art Wilson took bass and Jim Lamfelli swung the drums. Milt dropped and tweaked his last name for the band's title — just as it'd be easier to remember.

Quick at sight-reading and scoring music, the quintet delivered popular songs, from show tunes to ballads. When appearing on WWJ-TV's 1955 "Stump Up" program, they played on demand.

"Many of these were things that were done at the time and we adapted them to our group," Milt said. "They all pitched in. Somebody came up with the idea of singing songs out of the parts."

Practicing by day, Fenby-Carr by night played joints like Detroit's London Clubhouse and entertained at auto executives' wine-and-dine events. Working two to four gigs a week, they often took only 20-minute breaks in three-hour sets packed with fine-honed routines.

A petite blonde with an adaptable alto voice, Belinda donned floor-sweeping gowns, which her sensuous mother helped her alter.

Always, the men were matching suits.

"They'd call them their uniforms," Belinda recalled. Sometimes, they'd switch to safari or pirate attire, depending on the show. In a pinch, Milt's wife Anne often stitched up six clown costumes.

A list of names they backed over the decades includes Bob Hope, Ed Sullivan, Dinah Shore, Annette Funicello, Jimmy Dean, Count Basie and dozens more. Extra instrumentalists were easily added as needed.

When Chevrolet launched a new car, the group crammed in tiny planes for a whirlwind five-star tour.

But love of family and ties to teaching kept them close to home. Belinda, who'd known Gene for a year and was his student at Redford High School, said her husband had offers to play from California to New York.

Instead, with his wife and four children, he settled in Novi across the street from what were then schools, practicing piano into wee hours. Milt, whose Detroit home once was a rehearsal mecca, followed a similar beat.

True, the hand provided income. But, even after others died or moved away, the two best friends still played country clubs, weddings and bar mitzvahs until Gene's death last May.

"We were able to do what we set out to do and that was have an entertaining quartet," Milt said. "It was something that we enjoyed doing. We had a long association."

Now leading a senior vocal group, he occasionally blows his trumpet at Waldwood retirement community home.

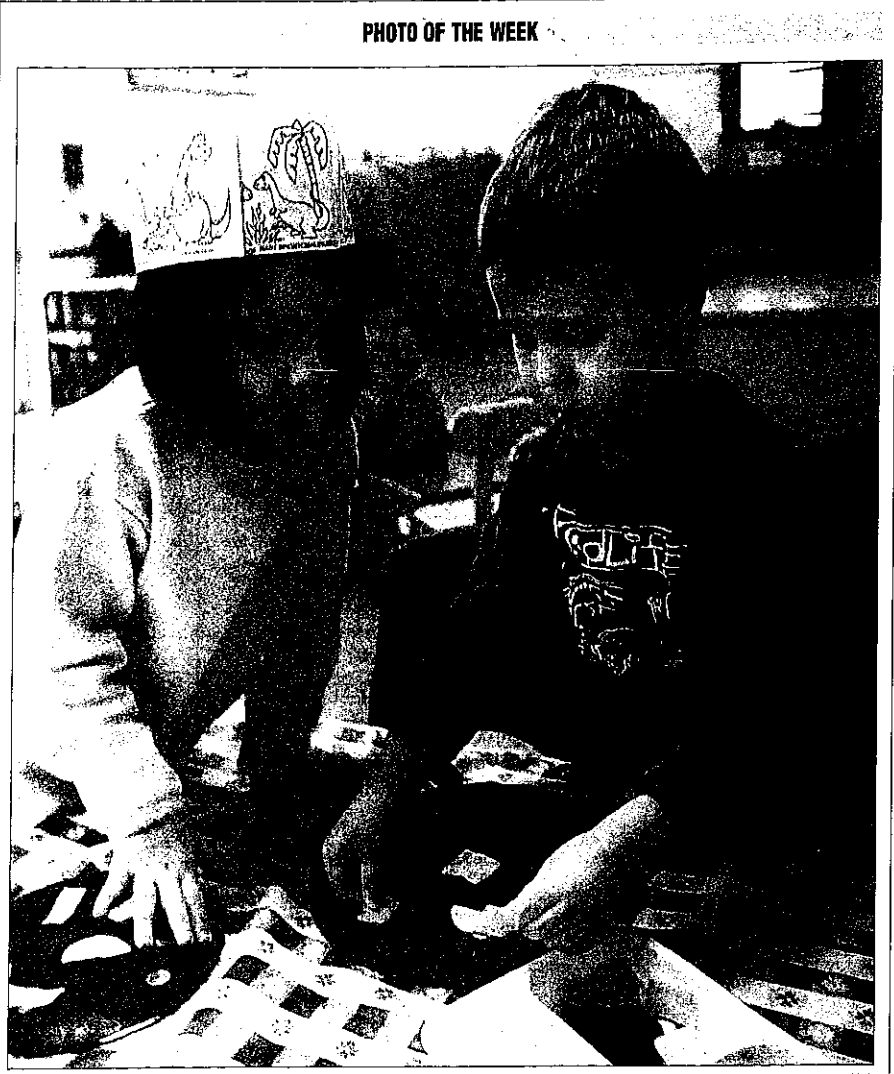
For Belinda, the yellowed music charts, neatly kept dresses, photos and surviving recordings embody an era — and a talented husband — she won't forget.

"He was remarkable," said Belinda. "You couldn't help but recognize this was something special."

Kim Kovellev is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kovellev@homecomm.net.

# OPINION

novinews.com



**Bakin' buddies**  
Lexi Trapp, left, and Ben Wallis work on making "pizzas" during some free play time at the Novi Co-op Preschool on a recent Monday morning.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## LETTERS

### Concern over testing

I am writing to express my concern with the proposed random drug testing policy in the revised Novi Athletics Code of Conduct. While I think it's safe to say we all support drug-free athletics, drug-free schools and for that matter, a drug-free society, the proposed athletic code is just plain wrong for several reasons:

- **Parental involvement:** Why aren't the parents involved early in the process? Novi Schools make such a big deal about partnering with the parents yet in the proposed code, parents are involved only after the fact. Why does the school district permit children to be pulled out of class and questioned as to what gossip may be going around about who consumed alcohol or was at a function where alcohol was served. This is happening today yet nobody within the school district is standing up to say this is wrong. I fear how much worse the situation will be if this policy is implemented.
- **Due process:** While not a lawyer, there obviously are due process constitutional issues with the proposed policy. How can one person essentially be the judge, jury and executioner? The moment this policy is implemented, I personally will involve the American Civil Liberties Union to rectify these constitutional wrongs.
- **Why not everybody?** If drug/alcohol abuse is such the concern, why aren't all students who participate in extracurricular activities subject to random drug testing? For that matter, why aren't all students? Extending the logic to its conclusion, why aren't teachers, administrators and even school board members subject to random drug testing?
- **Disciplinary punishments:** Why such draconian punishment? Surely for a first offense, there can be "reasonable" consequences. The comparison might be a person who goes five miles over the speed limit isn't given five years in prison for a first offense.
- **Funding:** With virtually all school districts

### LANSING CONNECTION

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**Strict Discipline Academies**

In 1999, the Legislature approved a law requiring schools to expel students for a particular offense, such as possessing a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone, committing criminal sexual conduct on school grounds, or physically assaulting a school employee. Also approved in 1999 was a provision creating strict discipline academies, a form of public school academy, with enrollment limited to certain students, including students who have been expelled.

School boards have the option to either suspend or expel a student for certain other offenses. Many boards choose to suspend, rather than expel, making those students ineligible for enrollment in a strict discipline academy.

The original law did not go far enough. To correct this ineffectuality, the Senate has approved a bill to expand enrollment at strict discipline academies to suspended students.

**Town Hall Meetings**

As I reported last week, in the coming months, I will conduct a series of town hall meetings across the 15th Senate District to gain your input regarding the priorities of

state government. I want to hear from you what specific programs you would rate as top priorities for a thriving economy, whether education, health care, transportation, public safety, etc.

The first forum is coming up soon:

Monday, Feb. 28  
Milford Township Office  
1100 Atlantic St.  
Milford, MI 48381  
Meeting Room

Each meeting will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. I hope you take this opportunity to attend and share your thoughts and ideas so that I can be an effective voice in Lansing on your behalf.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at: snccassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

State Senator Nancy Cassis, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake; as well as the Villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake; and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

**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. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition.

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

**E-mail:** cstoney@homecomm.net **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832

# OTHER OPINIONS

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

## Wish Rep. John Stewart well

The new chairman of the higher education subcommittee of the House Appropriations is one of the most powerful and consequential committees in the state legislature, is Rep. John Stewart, R-Plymouth. He's an interesting study — part evangelist, part hopeful Boy Scout, part calculating politician.

And he's got one of the toughest jobs in the state. In case you hadn't noticed, state support for our colleges and universities — not to mention the absolute core of any plausible economic strategy for Michigan — has fallen for the past three straight years.

We now spend more to stockpile felons in the state's prisons than we do in educating our bright young people for high-paying productive jobs. And with our elected representatives united only in being — to a person — too timid to tackle our state's \$1 billion-plus chronic structural deficit, higher education appropriations — "anaps," to use the Lansing term — has become one of the most highly charged subjects in the Capitol.

Stewart is a real rarity these days: He's an unapologetic Republican moderate who admires former governors George Romney and Bill Milliken. ("We cannot let our party lose touch with the vast majority of solid, sensible people in the middle," he says.)

He's an unabashed defender of our colleges and universities. ("Our great universities are the jet fuel for Michigan's economic takeoff, and we simply cannot afford to let them run empty.")

And he believes that today's partisan poisonous atmosphere in Lansing will do nobody — least of all the citizens of Michigan — any good. ("We've got to find a way for the sensible center to work jointly together to get the public's business done.")

Not that he's all Boy Scout and no politician. "I want to reclaim the territory of higher education for the Republican Party. It's a core part of our values," he says. He recognizes that some day he and other Republicans will have to cut a deal with Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

But he wonders aloud about the governor's "magnificent hyperbole" in talking about how important it is to double the number of college graduates in Michigan in a decade even as she is presiding over the greatest slide in support for higher education in modern times. There are a few Democrats, frankly, who have been wondering the same thing.

Dazzlingly handsome at 55 and possessed of a fine bartitone (he sings in Plymouth First Presbyterian Church, where he's been a member for 21 years), Stewart has a bachelors degree from Eastern Michigan University, a masters from Wayne State and a JD from what then was the Detroit College of Law.

He's practiced law in Plymouth for 25 years and has been an active Kiwanian. He served as a Plymouth Township Trustee for four years before being elected to the legislature in 2000. His smart and capable wife, Beth, is the Director of the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Stewart's interest in education runs deep in his blood. Counting his mother (a Vanderveen from Holland, Michigan) and his aunts and uncles, he has seven relatives, each of whom taught for more than 40 years in Michigan public schools. His uncles were superintendents in, respectively, South Lyon, Rochester and Massillon.

All in all, he's what we used to know as a salt of the earth, Main Street Republican. Problem is Stewart's party has moved hard rightward in recent years. "Are you a tough, mean SOB enough to deal with your caucus?" I asked him. "No, but I can be hard-core if my values are unshakable," he replied.

Stewart is nothing if not ambitious in his new committee assignment, undertaken with the explicit support of new House Speaker Craig DeRoche, of Novi. As part of the appropriations process, he has scheduled a set of hearings on the role of higher education in Michigan.

The star-studded lineup for March 23 alone is impressive: University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon, Wayne State University President Irvin Reid, and former Senate higher ed appropriations chair and now Congressman Joe Schwarz. ("These hearings should be a seminar for my colleagues about how vital our great universities are to the future of the state," he enthuses.)

Interestingly, Stewart says he gets his complex personality from his religious persuasions. He started out as a Methodist, which he thinks gave him his social conscience and his evangelical tendencies. But when he married Beth, he became a Presbyterian and took on the church's orientation toward flinty intellectual honesty.

Personally, I think he'll also need the grit and devilousness of a Jesuit and the patience of a Buddhist in order to survive the glibly supercharged atmosphere of Lansing during appropriations time. But I sure admire his instincts, and wish him well in his task. As should we all.

Phil Power is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column via phone at (248) 952-2647 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON: ALLERGY & ASTHMA**

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

**CROSS REACTIVITY**

Cross-reactivity occurs when the immune system confuses a protein or chemical composition for an allergen and triggers an adverse reaction. These episodes often occur with foods or plants from the same family. If a person is allergic to ragweed, for example, a similar plant may also trigger reactions. People with pollen allergies may react to cross-reactive foods when the hypersensitive immune system cannot distinguish between the pollen proteins and food proteins. Someone allergic to cedar pollen may also suffer reactions to almonds, apples, celery, cherries or peaches. Grass pollen sufferers may experience allergic symptoms from melons, oranges, tomatoes or watermelon. And those allergic to ragweed pollen may be sensitive to bananas, honey, chamomile tea, or sunflower seeds.

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**LET'S TALK**

*Jewelry*

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

**OUT OF THE CLEAR BLUE**

When emerald is your sister, you had better be able to stand up to the high expectations set by your high-profile family member. Along with emerald, aquamarine is a member of the beryl family. The lovely blue-green berylstone for March is eye-catching in its own right. Its name stems from the fact that its color, which ranges from pale sky blue to deep blue-green, seems to be called from the depths of the ocean. It has even been called "The Sailors Stone" with the thought that it could protect sailors. It is not at all unusual to find aquamarines, which evoke the shimmering image of pure water, that are free of inclusions to the naked eye.

The important thing to keep in mind and aquamarine and emeralds of all types, is that one should choose a true professional.

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by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S. Orthodontic Specialist

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# Board approves long-range plan

## First critical issue is funding

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

In the world of long-range planning, there is always one constant. Dialogue about the critical issue of funding hardly ever changes.

Funding, which is the first issue on the Novi Community School District's new long-range plan, has a challenge statement that states: "When inadequate, unstable funding occurs, the result is an unbalanced budget, which limits the ability to maintain or expand educational opportunities for students."

The district's goal is to combat that, is to develop adequate and stable funding sources that result in the ability to maintain and expand excellent educational opportunities for all students. That goal, according to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, hasn't changed in at least 30 years.

"If we had a long-range plan 10 years from now, the number one issue would be funding," he said. "It was funding 10 years ago. I've done this for 30 years and every year it's the same and the dialogue is always the same."

The Novi Community School District's long-range Planning Committee presented its recommendations to the board of education on Jan. 20. The board approved it on Feb. 3.

The next step in the process is for administration to come up with strategies to figure out how to address the whole plan with time-lines. The priority strategy is to collaborate with, and involve the community in an aggressive campaign to influence lawmakers to fully fund public education and to allow local school districts to increase local funding.

In the particular case of funding, one of those strategies has already happened. A letter writing campaign took place on the night of Feb. 7 in the form of a task force.

Parents and administrators met that night to educate the public about the way Michigan public school education is funded. Presentations were made and information packets were distributed to participants so they can be forwarded to other interested parties.

"From my standpoint, I'm asking the state to re-examine the purpose of state government," Koster said. "That's tough, but they have to do it. What is it that government must provide, rather than what is wanted?"

Koster said that public

Education is a need and always has been, but it's also costly. Two areas of school expenditures that the state could assist local districts with, according to Koster, are health insurance and retirement costs.

"I'm imploring the legislature that it have the political courage to adopt a state-wide health insurance structure that would offer school employees adequate health insurance coverage," Koster said. "It's already been proven that a state wide system saves millions of dollars. Political courage is also essential in adopting new guidelines for public school employer retirement benefits."

Currently, a school employee is eligible for full benefits after being invested for only 10 years. Koster believes that changing these guidelines to match industry standards would save additional millions of dollars.

The administrators' secondary strategy is to collaborate with and involve the community in an aggressive campaign to influence lawmakers to procure funding above and beyond the annual budget for enhancement of projects and educational programs.

Other considerations include seeking alternative sources for funding through effective use of volunteers, business and community relations, district fundraising, public relations and grant/proposal writing.

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



Courtesy photo

## Celebrating young authors

Jenifer Smith's a.m. kindergarten class had their second Author's Celebration recently. The students shared their published stories in the author's circle and then toasted a job well done. The students work on writing stories by continuing to update their drafts until they have the best final story. Then the stories are read to the class and are published in one big book and shared with their parents.

## SCHOOL BRIEFS

### Preschool registration begins

Preschool registration for Novi residents is currently under way. Registration for non-residents begins Tuesday, March 1.

After these start dates, parents may register their children between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Child Care Services Office, 25345 Taft Road in the ITC between Novi Meadows 5 and 6 Grade Houses.

Novi Community Education Preschool offers traditional half-day preschool and an all day preschool program. Children must be age 3, 4, or 5 by Dec. 1, 2005, and must be fully toilet trained. A registration packet and more information is available on the school district's Web site, [www.novischools.org](http://www.novischools.org). Parents can also call (248) 449-1713.

### Code of Conduct forum

A public forum to discuss the revision of the Athletic Code of Conduct, which includes random drug testing, has been scheduled

for tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. at Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall B. The topic will be to answer submitted and new questions.

### Board meeting location change

The scheduled March 3, Novi Community School District board of education meeting will take place at Novi High School instead of at the Educational Services Building.

### ACT test date

Colleges-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 9, the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is March 4. Late registration postmark deadline is March 18 (an additional fee is required for late registration).

The ACT Assessment now contains an optional writing test. Some colleges will require writing scores from students entering college in the fall of 2006. Students should check the admis-

sions requirements of colleges they are considering before deciding whether to register for the ACT with or without the writing test. The cost is \$28 with-out and \$42 with the writing test.

Students can receive registration information from their high school guidance counselors or they can register on ACT's Web site at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The Web site also features test tips, practice tests, and a database for students to find out if a prospective college requires a writing score.

ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the nation, including all Ivy League schools. Scores are used, along with a student's high school GPA, high school courses taken, extracurricular activities and other information to help determine if a student is academically ready for college-level coursework.

ACT encourages eleventh graders to examine their ACT scores for academic weaknesses and take more challenging courses or receive extra help to grow stronger in important academic

areas. The ACT Assessment includes four tests: English, reading, math, and science. Students who opt to take the writing test will add 30 minutes to the 3-hour normal testing time.

### Yusko in conference

Lindsay Yusko of Novi was selected to participate in the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. on Feb. 15-Feb. 20. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Yusko will be one of approximately 400 outstanding scholars from around the country at the conference.

The theme of NYLC is The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today. Throughout six days, Yusko will interact with the three branches of government, the news media and the international community.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri



Courtesy photo

## Celebrating the number 100

Above: For 100s Day, students at Parkview Elementary School showed off necklaces of made up of 100 items. Some of the activities they did included: Reading books about 100s day, singing a 100s day song, counting to 100, lining up 100 objects to see which objects made the longest line and playing a math dice game in which the winner was the first person to roll to 100. Students also wrote stories about being 100 years old which had to include them as a 100 year old character, a setting, a problem and a solution.

Below: Novi Woods kindergartners celebrated their 100th day of school on Feb. 4. The festivities offered the students many opportunities to count to 100. Here, these girls are showing off their bead necklaces with 100 beads (10 of each color). Pictured from left to right are Mary Whitfield, Emily Kailey and Maggie Warner.



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## ON CAMPUS

Julie Wineka of Novi has been named to the Dean's List in the College of Education from Western Michigan University for the fall 2004 semester.

Kristen Sorock, from Novi, has been named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio.

Stephanie McNeelance of Novi was named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Wixom resident, Allison Connelly, was named to the Academic Honor Roll for fall 2004 semester at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind.

Daniel Patrus, of Wixom, was among the graduates of Northwood University during recent commencement exercises.

Novi residents, Kameela Abdul Watab, Catherine A. Agacinski, Maria Marcella Angeline, Nicole Carroll Bard, Christopher Biederman, Jennifer Biederman, Courtney Ann Brennan,

Mark Jason Budd, Justin Ross Byrd, Hubert Yee-Kwan Chan, Kimberly Rae Coleman, Sabrina Curston, Ryan John Currie, Matthew John Douglas, John Arvid Fredrickson, Aida Girna, Heather Nicole Glander, Laura Claire Goodwin, Andrea Angela Graves, Roger Thomas Hammonds, Todd Cameron Hirschfeld, Kelly Lynn Hope, Chungyi Ison, Loreta Anne Housenorth, Jennifer Lauren Kish, Phuong Thi Le, Vanessa A. Liff, Valerie Liebhe, Andrew Edward Livermore, Brendan John Ludwig, Nuzhat H. Malik, Marina V. Marynenko, Jonathan T. Masiari, Evan Thomas McAlpine, Beth Ann Murphy, Nicholas John Nyzowyj, Kathleen Louise O'Connell, Meghan Marie O'Connor, Joan Sy Oneyza, Lindsay Marie Pahl, David P. Parr, Alyson Jean Payman, Edwin Joseph Sincoworth, Linda Marie Slepetski, Kathleen Ann Smith, Vicki Lynn Searly, Ravan Marie Sprattling, Anna Marie Swift, Marius Valer Trif, Ross Jack Wagner, Richard John Wiedersheim, Jennifer Young Oak Yoon and Justin Aric Zydzinski, were

named to the fall 2004 semester Dean's List at Schoolcraft College.

Alexander Burch, of Novi; and Kevin Dillon and Jen-Lay JnMarie of Wixom, were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Kettering University.

Novi residents, Chase Chandler, Scott Kortlandt, Jennifer M. Najjar, Jacob Ray, and Lindsay Ziegin-Netter were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Albion College.

Jamie Waranowicz of Novi was named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Denison University.

Novi residents, Leslie Bateman, Ginalise Bissi, Natalie Coste, Jeffrey Dadds, Matthew Gisi, Michael Geobel, Marcus Hawkins, Jason Marchioni, Rebecca Miller, Kerry Morrison, Matthew Polecyn, Michelle Quenneville, Rebekah Rauhen, Christopher Schleuder, Brittany Smith and Julie Wineka were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Western Michigan University.

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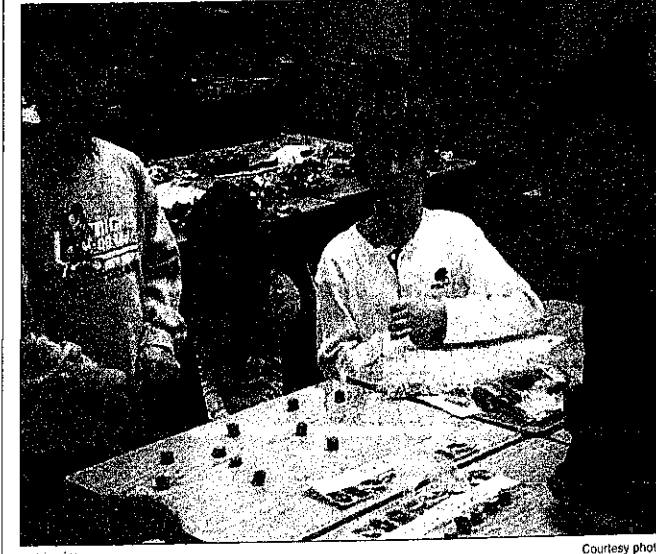
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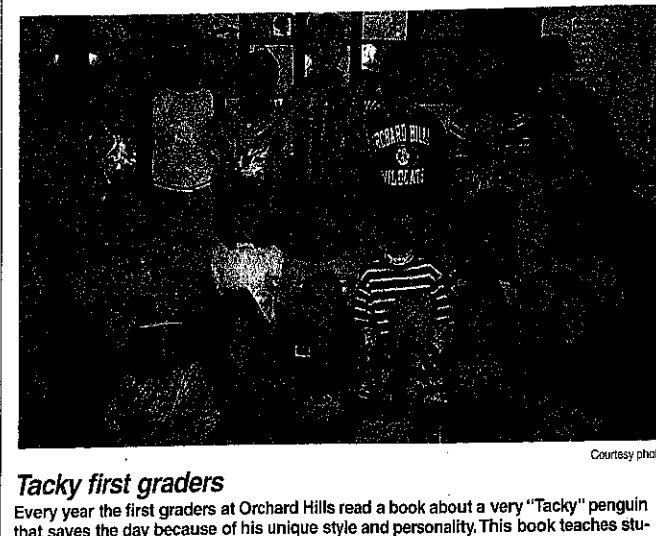
**Chinese New Year**  
After parading with their Chinese dragons, first graders from Darlene Grabowski's class stopped to show off their artistry as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Pictured (bottom, left to right): Alison Jamrog, Amanda Willoughby and Matt Ross. Pictured at top, (left to right): Molly McDonald, Joey Carr, Tyler Murray, Ashley Moore and Katelyn Spencer.



**You sure that's a dollar?**  
Orchard Hills' first graders Ryan Watha, Thomas Bertus and Anthony Nguyen celebrate the 100th Day of School by separating 100 pennies into 10 stacks of 10 coins. All three boys are in Kim Deinek's class.



**Ain't no party like a Novi Woods party!**  
Although it was a cold, snowy day in February, Novi Woods fourth graders eagerly donned summer attire to set the mood for their Hawaiian luau. The luau was part of the school's celebration of the different geographic areas of the United States. Pictured here are Alinley McNamee and Arantxa Garcia-Escobar.



**Tacky first graders**  
Every year the first graders at Orchard Hills read a book about a very "Tacky" penguin that saves the day because of his unique style and personality. This book teaches students that they shouldn't "judge a book by its cover" and that it's good to be unique. Going along with this lesson, the entire first grade has one day that is "Tacky Day" followed by "Elegant Day." As the names imply, the kids come to school dressed very tacky and the next day in their "Sunday Best." Here, Kim Deinek's class shows off their "Tacky" side including mismatched socks and shoes, bright colored streaks in their hair and crazy combinations of clothing.

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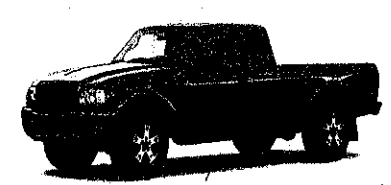
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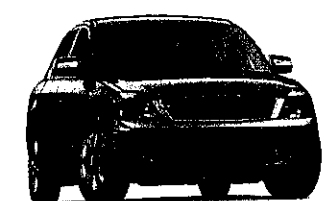
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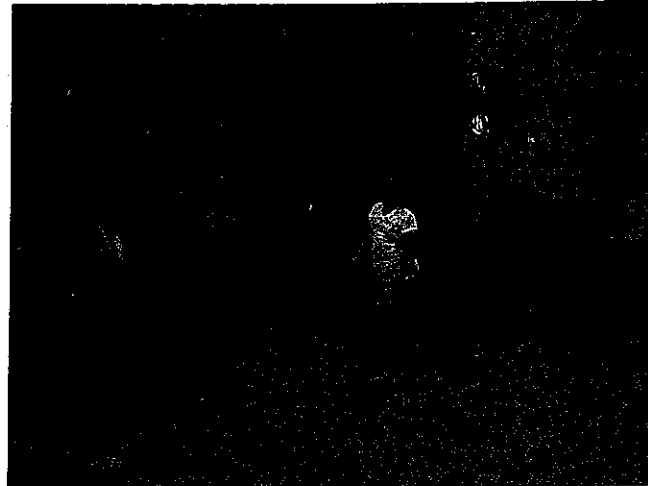
See Dealer for Service Department hours.



Courtesy photo

**Tsunami relief from Parkview**

Second grade students at Parkview Elementary School did their part to help victims of the Tsunami disaster last week. Pictured are Mitchell Lang, Michael Ho, Zachary Righetti, Owen Winship and Ryan Katulski.



Courtesy photo

**Jump rope and hoops for heart**

During the week of Feb. 7, Parkview Elementary School students participated in jump rope and basketball stations during physical education classes. In conjunction with the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Parkview promotes physical fitness through the Jump Rope for Heart Program and Hoops for Heart, which also benefits the American Heart Association. Money raised by Parkview students helps fund potentially life-saving research for heart and blood vessel diseases. It also supports the development of educational materials such as "Heart Power!" which teaches the importance of heart health and staying fit. Parkview is joining in the fight against the nation's number one killer: Cardiovascular disease and stroke. In 2004, students at Parkview raised over \$8,000 for the American Heart Association and they hope to raise that much again this year. Pictured here doing a long jump rope are fourth graders Katelyn Starr, Chandlyr Sallsbury and Jacquelyn Gardner.



Courtesy photo

**98, 99, 100!**

As Deerfield Elementary School celebrates 100s Day, students Robin Xiong and Amisha Datta dig up 10 Sets of 10 Objects.

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**One smart cookie**

Ryan Pritchard, a Novi senior, will showcase his talents on the football field for Princeton next fall. The Wildcat gragger will also show just how untrue it is when people think you have to be dumb to be a good jock. — Page 4B



**A whole new season**

The post-season is like the start of a new year for some teams. Bad records, and good ones, are wiped away. Everyone is 0-0. — Page 3B



**Regional Marketplace**

Each week, hundreds of smiling faces of all ages pass through the doors at Center Stage Dance Company in Northville where they have the opportunity to express their love and passion for dance. — Page 6B

**SPORTS**



Nick Mainella

**Mainella missed by all**

It's often I spend time going over memories of athletes I've covered throughout my career. Almost always they are happy memories, full of incredible moments and amazing feats.

It's with a heavy heart I relive memories of one of the first athletes I met when arriving at the Novi News. The memories are happy, yes, but the reason I relive them isn't.

Nick Mainella, a 20-year-old Novi graduate, was found dead last Tuesday in his East Lansing home after an apparent accidental overdose of prescription drugs. It was an unexpected end to a promising life.

He was following his father's footsteps, studying construction management at Michigan State University. He was a sophomore.

The kind words spoken about him at his funeral weren't brought out for a special occasion — they were the kind of words always spoken about him. He had that effect on people.

"He had some great character about him," said Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey, who coached Nick for two years. "The glass was always half full to him. That's how he approached everything."

Nick's friends, family, former teammates and classmates gathered for a final farewell. Stories of him were told, memories were shared and tears were shed.

"He was a special guy and was like a son to me," said Dave Ray, who coached Nick for several years in Colts and junior varsity football. "He was the type of guy, through his deeds and the way he carried himself, that paid it forward. He didn't have to pay anyone back because everything he did was putting other people first. "When he left us, he left a lot of great memories. He's still with us in our hearts."

**A team player**

The number of people Nick had touched was apparent at his funeral. The estimated number of those in attendance was over 800. The funeral procession was over 100 cars. Doug Ray, a friend of Nick's since kindergarten, noticed someone he hadn't seen since second grade.

"People came from all over the country," said Dave Ray, Doug's father.

Nick was described as "a we man, not a me man" by Ray. It's a statement that would most likely be backed up by everyone who knew him.

Bobby Duncan, who made the trip from Florida to attend Nick's funeral, talked about the 2002 football season. Nick was a starter on the offensive line, Duncan was the second-string player behind him. Every time Nick came off the field, he made sure Duncan was ready and knew what his responsibilities were if and when he got in.

Duncan did get in. During the Lake Orion game, which Novi was expected to lose, Nick went down with a knee injury. His back-up was ready.

"The trainers went out and were giving me looks like they

continued on 4B

**CHAMPIONS!**



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Amanda Toffoli and Sara Bielski (14) share a hug following Novi victory Monday night. Julie Fisette, in pink, joins them.

**Wildcats volleyball wins first-ever KVC title**

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

After 12 years of coaching, Novi volleyball coach Julie Fisette can breathe easy. She and her team are Kensington Valley Conference champs.

"I don't want to wait another 12 years," Fisette said following her team's win over Milford in five games. The victory assured Novi a piece of the KVC title, but a win Thursday night over Howell will secure the title. It's the first league championship in the history of

Novi volleyball.

"We don't want to share," Fisette continued. "This is something we want all to ourselves."

The Novi Wildcats made their thirst for the conference crown evident when they played host to the Mavericks Monday night for senior night. The showdown between the teams, which were tied for first in the league, was as intense and spectacular as anyone could have guessed it would be.

"I'm so happy for this team," said junior Jenna Kuhn. "We've

worked so hard for this. I'm most happy for the seniors. They really deserve this moment."

**The long road**

It wasn't an easy trip to the title for the Wildcats. After topping Milford through the first two games, 25-18, 25-23, they found themselves slipping as the Mavericks took the next two games, 25-17, 25-14.

In the fourth game, despite a tremendous Milford lead, the Wildcats proved too stubborn to

be put down quickly. Instead, they fought back, scoring seven points to Milford's three to end the game.

"When we started scoring those points in the fourth game, I thought the momentum was changing to our favor," said Fisette. "I'm sure glad it did."

Heading into the fifth and final game of the night, the Wildcats didn't seem strained or worried.

They were prepared. They were ready.

The odds, as it were, counted in their favor heading into a fifth game.

"We haven't lost a fifth game all year," said Fisette. "I wasn't worried. I just told the girls to go out, score the first two points and we'd celebrate from there."

And celebrate they did. The Wildcat faithful roared in the stands with every Wildcat point. When the yells died down and the ball came to a rest on the hardwood floor, Novi stood victorious. It was the first win ever on a senior night for the volleyball program.

**Wildcats roar**

The moment the final point hit the floor, the Wildcats erupted. Fans poured from the stands, surrounding their volleyball champions and screamed in victory through the small Novi gym.

"It was amazing to play in front of so many people," said Kuhn. "Volleyball isn't supposed to have this many fans. I'm sure glad we have them though."

While the majority of the Wildcats spikers were jumping for joy following the match, there was one who limped away

**Seniors focus on team**

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

There's no "I" in team.

Few squads are able to personify that statement as well as the Novi Wildcats varsity volleyball team.

Players hardly talk of themselves and how well they've done. Instead, they point to the girl next to them, patting them on the back and congratulating them for a job well done.

"I think we are a very close team," said senior Amanda Toffoli. "We have a lot of support from each other. It's been a great season. I don't think we could have asked for a better one."

For six seniors, there was doubt to just how their final season would play out. Toffoli, Sarah Schmitt, Sara Bielski, Liz Clark, Becky Reichel and Nicole Barndt knew they had lost a lot of talent from the year before — the district championship season which marked the first in the history of Novi High School.

**Is it possible?**

The question at the beginning of the year was would they be able to recover? The answer is yes.



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Nicole Barndt (5) is joined by her fellow Wildcats as she celebrates the team's first-ever KVC title.

Continued on 4B

continued on 4B

# Grapplers claim district crown

Novi's varsity wrestling team traveled to Walled Lake Western Saturday, ready to take part in the Individual District tournament with a trip to the Regional tournament on the line.

Five Wildcats finished in the top four of their respective weight classes which placed them into the regional tournament next week. The group was led by Senior Bharat Saran, who claimed the 119-pound championship.

For the second week in a row, Saran had to beat the No. 1 seed to advance to finals. This time around, he came out on top when he pinned Andrew Burdick of Milford with 25 seconds to go in the match.

Bharat is the fourth in the Saran family to claim an individual district championship, and this will be his first trip to the regional tournament.

Senior Jason Sierra earned a trip to the regional tournament for the second year in a row by taking third place. Sierra, wrestling at 135 pounds, lost in the semi-final round but came back to win two matches, including a 5-3 decision over Jamal Leggs of Walled Lake Central to finish third.

"It was great to win the district," said Alex Baum, a senior grappler. "We don't have any really big names on the team and we were still able to win it. It took a lot of team work. It was awesome."

Sophomore Al Vellathottam will be making his first trip to the regional tournament after taking third place in the 103 pound weight class. Like Sierra, Vellathottam fell in the semi-final round before avenging last week's loss to Jason Rhodes of Milford 5-2.

"There are some great wrestlers on this team," said senior Matt Perelli. "We may not have the kind of wrestler that is going to get undisciplined during a season, but I think we have a couple of wrestlers that are definitely good enough to go to states."

A pair of juniors rounded out the medalist for the Wildcats. Both John Favorite (160) and Dan Sprys (155) will be wrestling for the first time at the regional tournament after each finished fourth. Favorite fell to JJ Rhorer of Milford in the consolation final, while Sprys fell to Larry Crockett of Farmington.

"We just never quit," said Baum. "I know it's going to be a lot different than what everyone thinks. We're going to be more of a challenge than Hartland."

Also picking up wins throughout the day for the Wildcats were Dan Mathoney (112), Nick Lichonorec (119), Alex Baum



The Novi Wildcats varsity wrestling team earned a victory in the team district wrestling tournament last week to secure a berth into the regional. They posed together following the meet, letting everyone know just who was number one.

(140) and Matt Crawford (152). The Wildcats drew the North Farmington Raiders in one semi-final match, while Northville wrestled in Farmington in the other. Novi made short work of the Raiders by taking a 66-13 victory.

The 'Cats won 11 of the 14 matches by either pin or forfeit. Picking up pins were Al Vellathottam (103), Nick Lichonorec (119), Alex Baum (140), Matt Perelli (145), John Favorite (160), Justin Cameron (171), Derek McClelland (189), and Dan Sprys (215).

Winning their matches by forfeit were Dan Mathoney (112), Bharat Saran (125), and Jason Sierra (135).

The victory placed the grapplers in the finals where they locked up against the Farmington Raiders. This time around the match was a bit closer, but the Wildcats still cruised to a 44-24 victory, claiming the district crown.

Picking up victories in the

finals were Sierra, Baum, Matt Crawford, Favorite, Cameron, Vellathottam, Mathoney, Lichonorec, and Riley Lokar.

The Wildcats will continue the post-season Saturday with the Individual District tournament, and then next Wednesday with the Team Regional tournament.

**'Cat cagers upset**  
The Wildcats, who aren't used to losing a lead and definitely aren't used to giving up more than 45 points in a game, found themselves on the wrong end of the score-

board when the dust settled at Brighton last week would be a bit of an understatement.

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## SPORTS SHORTS

### Knights looking for players

The Dearborn Heights Knights (12 & under) travel baseball team will be scheduling tryouts for the 2005 baseball season. The Knights are the PeeWee Reese (11 year old) champions for the NorthWest Suburban League. On their schedule will be the CoopersTown Decans Park tournament located near the Baseball Hall of Fame. For further information, contact Rich Grucz at 1-(810) 949-9834.

### Coaching positions available

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is currently looking for a head girls track and field coach at Walled Lake Western High School. The district is also looking for a head boys varsity soccer coach for Walled Lake Northern. Inquiries should be directed to David Yarbrough, Athletics Director for the school district. For more information, call the athletics office at (248) 956-2074.

### Registration underway

Registration for Northville Baseball Softball Association (NBSA) is currently underway. Families can register on the NBSA Website at www.NBSAonline.org. Players that sign up prior to March 1 will receive an early sign-up discount.

### New volleyball club in Novi

Club Extreme is looking for 6th, 7th and 8th Grade girls interested in participating in a new club team. Club Extreme's mission is to provide an opportunity for the girls to participate in a challenging yet rewarding environment. Tryouts will be held in March. All interested Parents may contact Peter Lau at (734) 632-5694 or (248) 219-8639.

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# A WHOLE NEW SEASON



A Wildcat guard eyes the floor and looks to make a pass during Novi's home game against South Lyon.



Mark Moore drives to the basket against South Lyon.

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

As the regular season comes to a close for the Novi Wildcats and Northville Mustangs basketball teams, a new season is about to begin.

The post-season is like the start of a new year for some teams. Bad records, and good ones, are wiped away. Everyone is 0-0.

The difference between the new season and the old? One loss and a team goes home for good.

"Everyone is 0-0 right now," said

Novi coach Pat Schluter. "Everyone is starting over, they're fresh. The team's are motivated and everyone is looking to come after everyone else. There are no easy games in the district."

And Schluter would know. He and his Wildcats are the favorites with their 16-2 record heading into the final week of the regular season. Novi is also three-time defending district champions.

The Wildcats won't have to wait long to take the court Monday. They are playing Salem in the first game of the tournament at 5:30 p.m.

Northville will then play Canton at 7 p.m. All district games are at Northville High School.

Plymouth has a bye and will wait for the winner of the Northville game for a Wednesday showdown at 7 p.m. The winner of the Novi contest will play a scrappy South Lyon squad at 5:30 p.m. the same day. The finals are scheduled for Friday at 7 p.m.

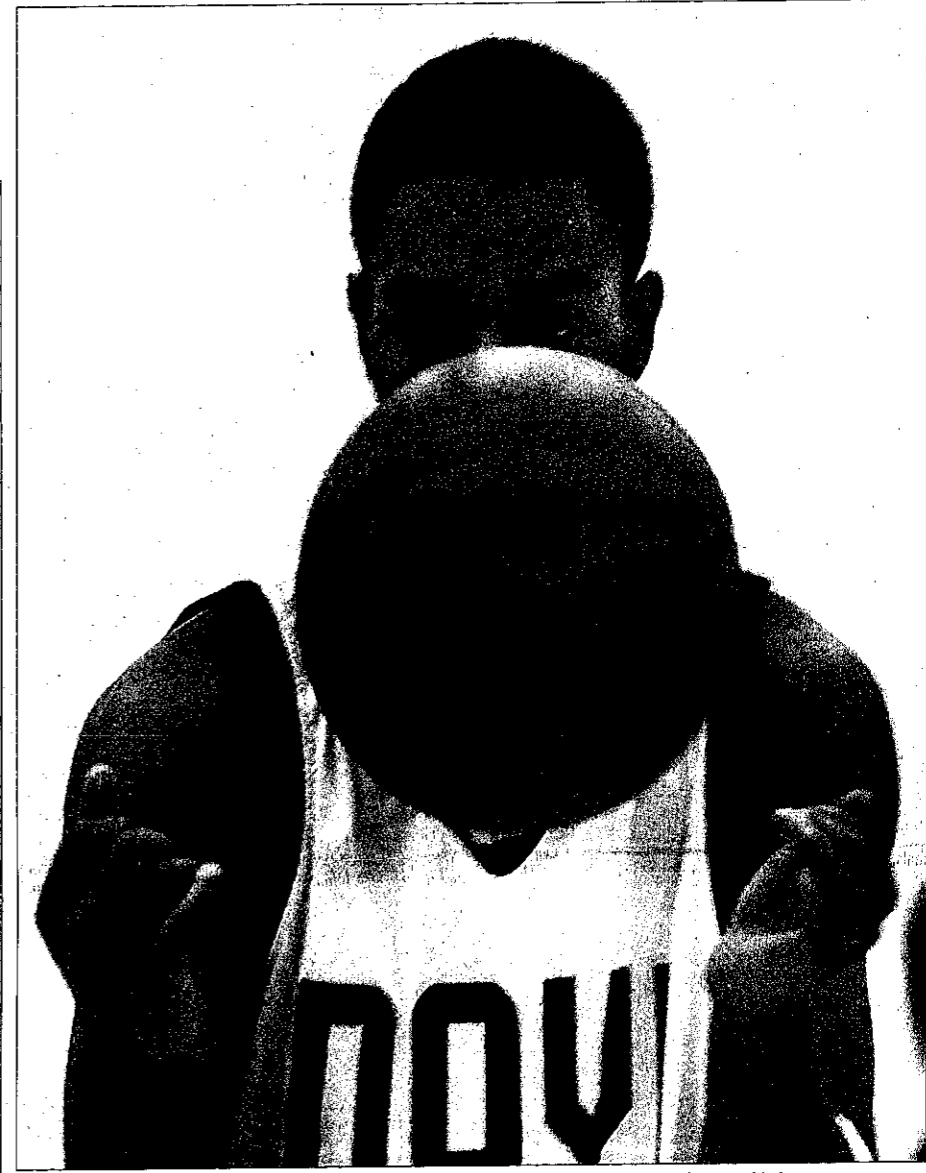
Canton is one of the favorites as well, having already beaten every team in the tournament sans South Lyon. Novi has only lost to the Chiefs out of the field of competi-

tors.

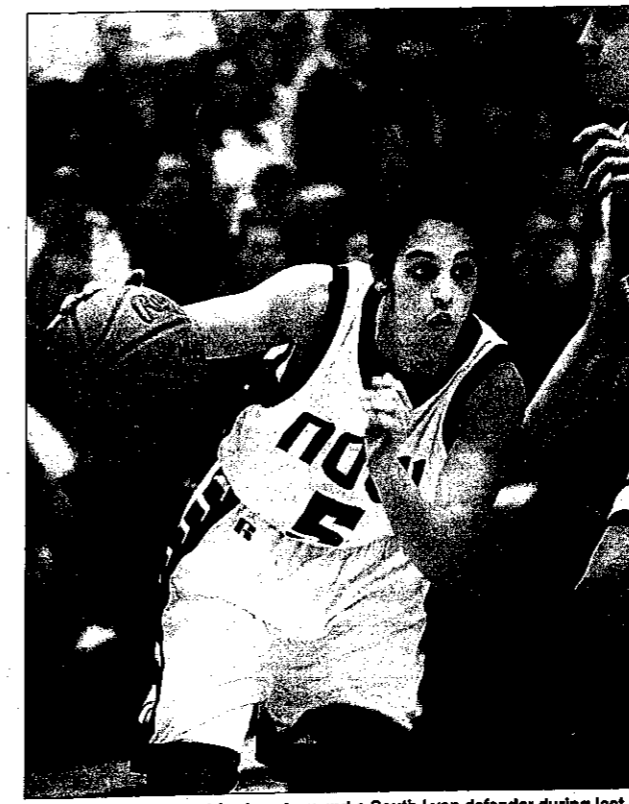
But, past performances mean nothing in the new season. Even Salem, sitting with a 1-18 record right now, will be looking to make their season last just a little longer with a district victory.

"Every team in the tournament has a chance of winning it," Schluter said. "No matter which team you end up playing, you know it's going to be a good game."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@bt.homecom.net.



Wildcat Anthony Harbin twirls the ball in the air before attempting a freethrow during last week's home game against South Lyon.



Novi's Jamie Pustover tries to get around a South Lyon defender during last Friday night's game at Novi.

## Photos by JOHN HEIDER



A Wildcat finds his passing lane blocked by a South Lyon Lion.

# Pritchard heading to Princeton for football

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Ryan Pritchard has always been able to combine athletics with academics. He has proven it time and time again, carrying nearly a 4.0 throughout his entire high school career and earning Academic All-State honors his senior season. Pritchard is about to prove it again after earning admittance into Princeton, where he'll also play football. "They told me I'll probably long snap for them," the senior center said. "It's my job to lose."

Even without football as an option, Pritchard said he was considering a school out of state. "I was looking at some schools in Texas," he noted. "I figured since I was going off to college, I might as well totally cut the cord." But he won't be able to sever it completely. His parents are already talking about watching his younger brother, Joseph, play junior varsity football at Novi before going out. The senior has plenty on his plate when it comes to his remaining time in high school though. As a state qualifier who finished ninth in the state in the discus last year, Pritchard's track season is full of high expectations — maybe even a school record. "The record is 157 (feet) and I threw 156 and a half last year," he said. "Hopefully I can get it this year." Ivy League. All-State. School record? When it comes to Pritchard, the question shouldn't be why, but why not.



Novi High School senior Ryan Pritchard will be heading off to Princeton University in the fall with his hands full of football but mostly academics.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

# 'Cats, Mustangs facing tough hockey regional

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

One thing is for certain: when the puck hits the ice next week in the MHSAA regional tournament, there's going to be plenty of great hockey being played. The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats hockey teams find themselves skidding into one of the toughest regional they have played. Last year's participants Ypsilanti Lincoln and Waterford Keener have been replaced by Plymouth Brother Rice and Walled Lake Central. Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western and Livonia Franklin all make an appearance as well. "The addition of Brother Rice made it that much tougher," said Brad O'Neill, Northville's hockey coach. "Every team has a chance at winning this region. It's one and done right now." One loss and a team goes home. It's a new season with a lot of incentive. No one wants to be sitting in the stands watching the team that beat them advance. "Everyone is looking at Brother Rice as Goliath right now," said Novi coach Dan Phelps. His Wildcats are slated to round "You've got to beat the best if you want to be the best. We'd rather bring them on right now."



Photos by SAM EGGLESTON

ABOVE: The Novi volleyball seniors join coach Julie Fisetto for dinner. Fisetto had the girls driven in a limo to the restaurant. The seniors are, from left to right: Liz Clark, Sarah Schmitt, Becky Reichel, Nicole Barnard and Amanda Toffoli. BELOW: Fans crowd the Novi sidelines and cheer following Novi's first-ever KVC title victory.

# Novi takes home first-ever KVC title

continued from 1B

"We had such good team chemistry last year," said Bielski. "We all kind of thought about how we'd be able to top that season. We've just been pulling things together and everything has been going smoothly. It's been a lot of fun and a great senior year."



# Seniors focus on team

continued from 1B

Senior Nicole Barnard had taken a head injury after diving for the ball in game three. She continued through the rest of the contest, but the wear and tear was evident. "She has a concussion," her mother, Val, said following the game. "I'm not sure if it's serious or not, but she's been out of the gym since then." They wheeled her out of the gym on a gurney and headed for the emergency room and the supervision of a doctor. "She'll be okay," said Fisetto. "Hopefully by Thursday she'll be back in the gym."

# Mainella missed by all

continued from 1B

helped put it all in the proper perspective. I just can't say enough about that." "We always come in as the underdogs," said Reichel. "Since we always graduate a lot of seniors, they never think that we have a lot of talent coming back." And experience too. This year's seniors have all played together since seventh grade. They know what it takes to win, even if that means a drawn out, tooth-and-nail fight. "It's very easy for us to work together and to be successful with each other," said Clark. "We know each other's strengths and we know each other's weaknesses." Which is exactly why the seniors have proven to be such invaluable leaders to Novi's squad this year. There is a freshman, three sophomores and six juniors who have learned from them each step of the way this year. The seniors don't deny the fact that they were wary of having such a diverse group, but they've managed to make everything work the way it's supposed to. "Starting out it was a little different," said Toffoli. "We were just a bunch of people who had never played together. We knew we all had very good individual talent and once we put it all together and were all on the court together it ended up not being that hard to play good."

# Always the underdogs

The key to going the distance is support. The Wildcats, and not just the seniors, make a habit out of picking up a player who just made a mistake. They help them recover, urge them to stay aggressive and keep their head up. "I really helps having a team like that," said Clark. "That's what they are there for. They support you, tell you what to do and help you play your best."

# The end is near

Heading into the post-season means a few things for a volleyball team: It's time for them to be at the height of their game, they have to be ready to play against the best teams they've faced all year and the end is just getting started. "We definitely got the toughest draw," said Reichel. "I think if we can beat Central and Northern then we're going to win it. It will be a long day and a tough day, but I think we can win it again this year."

# Winning with style

The Wildcats know how to earn a victory. They come onto the court, focus all of their attention on the opponent facing them from the other side of the net and they get to work. Sure, sometimes it takes a little longer than it should, but a win is a win.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Sarah Schmitt outlines strategy.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

# CALENDAR

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

## EVENTS

**Experimental Art Exhibit**  
DATES: now through March 30  
TIME: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: The Meadowbrook Art Center, 41200 West Ten Mile Road.  
DETAILS: The work of International Society of Experimental Artists' Edge Joppich is being exhibited. This is a compilation of dreamlike, abstract collages.  
CONTACT: For more information, call (248) 477-6620.

**Novi City Council Meeting**  
DATE: Monday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

**Novi School Board Meeting**  
DATE: Thursday, March 3  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Rd., Novi  
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

**Novi Planning Commission Meeting**  
DATE: Wednesdays, March 9 and 23  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

**Threads of Power**  
DATE: Friday, Feb. 25  
TIME: 8:10-10 a.m.  
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi  
DETAILS: A group of business men and women affiliated with the Novi Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to support and assist others striving to enter the workforce. Donations of gently-used business attire will go to several organizations through this sixth annual event. Cost is \$15.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

**Second Annual Sock Hop**  
DATE: Friday, March 4  
TIME: 7-11 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center's McKenzie Room, 43700 Expo Center Drive (I-96 and Novi Road)  
DETAILS: Break out the school clothes, poodle skirts and bobble socks for this Michigan 50's Fashion Fund-raiser, sponsored by Novi Expo Center and Love Imports. Don't miss Sherman Arnold's tribute to Elvis and contests for best costume, dancing and Hula-Hoop. Full cash bar at 50's prices, sliders, hot dogs and pop. Cost is \$10 for adults; free for children 12 years and under. Reservations are required.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-1950 or www.michiganfiftiesfestival.com

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Moms Club of Novi**  
DATE: meetings first Thursday of each month  
TIME: 10 a.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center  
DETAILS: The MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support) is a non-profit support group, specifically aimed at meeting the needs of mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, including those who work out of their homes, as well as those who work part-time.  
CONTACT: dinaallman@seglobal.net

**Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples**  
DATES: second Thursdays  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Which's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.  
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.  
CONTACT: For more information, call Jackie at (248) 437-5496.

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

## BUSINESS

**Business Referrals**  
DATE: every Wednesday  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.  
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referrals. Various classifications open and eager to try your qualified business leads.  
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

## CLASSES

**Novi Community Education Seminars**  
DATES: Monday, Feb. 28  
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Room 202, Novi Middle School, Eleven Mile Road and Wixom Roads  
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center will sponsor two seminars on the Market Outlook of 2005 and Investing Strategies featuring Rick Bloom, of Bloom Asset Management. There is a \$17 fee and reservations are required.  
CONTACT: Call Joyce Robb at (248) 449-1206.

**Estate Planning Seminar**  
DATE: Monday, March 7  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 205, located at Eleven Mile and Wixom roads.  
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center is sponsoring a seminar on the Basics of Estate Planning featuring Ken Bloom, of Bloom Asset Management. There is a \$17 fee for Novi residents and reservations are required.  
CONTACT: Joyce Robb at (248) 449-1206.

**Breast Cancer Support Group**  
DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month  
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.  
TIME: 10:15-11:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: There is no need to register.  
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

**Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes**  
DATE: ongoing series.  
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple Rd., Walled Lake.  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by public health nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breast-feeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.  
CONTACT: (248) 858-4003, or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003

**Adoption Playgroup**  
DATE: first and third Fridays of the month  
TIME: 10 a.m.  
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue).  
DETAILS: A nonprofit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation.  
CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

## NOVI EXPO CENTER EVENTS

**Outdoorama**  
DATES: Feb. 23-28  
TIMES: Wed., 2-9 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, noon-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center  
DETAILS: Outdoorama is a family show with something for everyone who enjoys the outdoors. Get the latest in hunting and fishing gear, boats, RV's and guided trips with nearly 300 exhibitors. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children; \$20 for family pass. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (517) 371-1041 or www.mace.org

**Michigan Green Industry Association Tradeshow & Convention**  
DATES: March 2-3  
TIMES: Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
DETAILS: Annual Landscaping Trade Show. Come out and see the latest Products and Technology. Stay on top of your business. Admission is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Free parking.  
CONTACT: (248) 646-4992 or www.landscape.org

**The Michigan Golf Show**  
DATES: March 11-13  
TIMES: Friday, 4-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
DETAILS: Over 500 local, national and world wide resorts, retailers and specialty exhibitors occupy over seven acres. Admission is \$8; parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (248) 348-6942 or www.nichingangolfshow.com

**Spring Boating Show**  
DATES: March 17-20  
TIMES: Thursday and Friday, 2-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
DETAILS: Display of 2005 boats and trailers, accessories, gifts and services. Admission is \$8; free for children 12 and under. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (734) 261-0123 or www.mbia.org

**Backyard Pool & Spa Show**  
DATES: April 1-3  
TIMES: Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
DETAILS: Detroit's only show for home relaxation focusing on swimming pools, hot tub/spas, and outdoor entertaining. This is the best place to turn your backyard space into your outdoor living space. Admission is \$7; \$3 for children ages 6-14; free for children under age 6. Parking is \$5.  
CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 or www.showspan.com

**Motor City Men's Expo**  
DATE: Saturday, April 2  
TIME: 10:30-5:00 p.m.  
CONTACT: www.wrlf.com

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DATE: every Wednesday  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.  
TIME: 7-8:30 p.m.  
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## LIBRARY LINES

**Novi Public Library Hours**  
LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road  
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.  
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

**Help Match the Walker Million**  
DETAILS: With A Million Books going up on the walls, there are more books than usual these days at the library. By purchasing one of the paper signs in the shape of a book for \$1, you can help the library match the \$1 million Walker challenge grant. The book signs may be purchased at any service desk in the library.

**Story Times**  
DETAILS: Winter 2 Story Times are now underway. Brochures listing the days and times of each drop-in Story Time session are available in the library.

**PageTurners**  
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 26  
TIME: 11-11:45 a.m.  
DETAILS: We will discuss features of Halls Woodfield by Patricia Reilly Giff, have snacks, play a game, and booktalk some new titles. For grades 5-6. No registration.

**Teens Read & More!**  
DATE: Saturday, Feb. 26  
TIME: 11-11:45 a.m.  
DETAILS: Join us as we discuss iFIGHT #116 Is Down! by Caroline Cooney. For grades 7-9. No registration.

**Reading Buddies**  
DATE: Wednesday, March 2  
TIME: 4:30-5:00 p.m.  
DETAILS: Our drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older children (grades 5-12) with younger children (kindergarten-4) to improve their younger child's reading skills and encourage a love of reading. Contact a Youth & Teen Services Librarian for details.

**Mastering the Mouse for Seniors**  
DATE: Thursday, March 3  
TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: During this hands-on class, we will use a self-guided online tutorial to learn and practice the basic functions of using a mouse. Call the library to register.

**Introduction to the Internet for Seniors**  
DATE: Wednesday, March 9  
TIME: 1-3 p.m.  
DETAILS: Discover how the Internet works, practice using a web browser, and learn about using search engines to find information. The class includes interactive discussion and hands-on practice. Call the library to register.

**Internet Practice Lab for Seniors**  
DATE: Thursday, March 10  
TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
DETAILS: Join us for an opportunity to practice any of the skills you've learned in our Internet classes, with librarians to assist you and answer any computer-related questions. Note: There is no set agenda for this class; you may come and go as you please during the session. Call the library to register.

**Accessing Databases from the NPL Home Page**  
DATE: Thursday, March 10  
TIME: 7-9 p.m.  
DETAILS: This lecture introduces our online databases, provides searching tips, and identifies those databases that you can use via your home or office computer. Call the library to register.

## ON GOING

**SWOCC Studio Tours**  
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington.  
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close-and-personal look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations, such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.  
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

**Oakland Physical Therapy classes**  
DATES: Wednesdays, March 9, Throwing mechanics and injury prevention; April 6, Fit for golf; and May 11, The latest advances in exercise for low back pain.  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Providence Park Medical Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Suite 124.  
CONTACT: RSPV by calling (248) 3880-3550.

**Providence Alternatives to Hysterectomy Seminar**  
DATE: Thursday, March 3  
TIME: 7 p.m.  
LOCATION: Providence Hospital and Medical Center, Novi.

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Send your calendar items to  
Cal Stone, editor, Novi News,  
104 W. Main, Northville, MI  
48167; fax to (248) 349-9832;  
or e-mail to  
cstone@ht.homecomm.net.



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, February 24, 2005

## Part 4: Small business and technology

### IBM et.al...

Everyone recognizes that the e-commerce industry represents a multi-billion dollar industry. Recent studies show that by 2010, e-commerce sales will account for over \$319 billion.

Most large companies like IBM, Microsoft, and others, recognize this and spend millions on advertising their solutions. Their intent is to create awareness in the marketplace and generate interest from people like you and I.

But if you plan on calling IBM or Microsoft or any one of those large corporations out there, let me give you some friendly advice. A company that large focuses on large clients. Their consultants, bill at rates upwards of \$1000 per day, their proprietary software costs thousands of dollars, and their solutions are large-scale solutions geared towards large companies. Once you compute the numbers, you will find that their e-commerce solutions will range in cost from \$25,000 to \$50,000 or higher.

Large technology companies service those companies that have no problem paying big dollars for the 'name' or the perceived 'quality' that the big name brings. They don't offer small-scale solutions to the small- and medium-sized companies like yours and mine.

These large companies generally have great technical and business knowledge and can create robust e-commerce solutions. However, their clients typically have to purchase proprietary software. Anytime you purchase proprietary software, you are committing to custom-built applications that are expensive to maintain and difficult to administer. And, these custom solutions will come with a large monthly maintenance bill.

Companies like IBM also focus only on the technology, as that is what they are good at. Therefore they typically will not host the site nor will they provide traffic generation expertise and services. Large companies that invest with companies like IBM typically find out that the solutions that they bought have limited flexibility. When new technology emerges, guess what, you are going to spend even more money to upgrade your solution to the latest and greatest software.

In summary, companies like IBM can offer better solutions than the basement developer or the small boutique, or the ISP's, but they typically do not offer value added products and services that can be offered by a small business expert solution center like WSL.

Next we will look at the fifth and last category in the e-commerce industry, "Small Business Technology Experts."

*Nipa Shah is a local e-commerce solutions provider who specializes in providing affordable solutions for small and medium sized companies. She can be reached via e-mail at nshah@wsicoolwebresults.com or via phone at (248) 470-6299.*

**Large technology companies service those companies that have no problem paying big dollars for the 'name' or the perceived 'quality' that the big name brings.**

**Send us your business news:**

Novi News  
104 W. Main  
Northville, MI 48167

fax: (248) 349-9832  
cstone@ht.homecomm.net

ADVERTORIAL



Photos courtesy of Anderson Studios, Brighton

Center Stage students perform in its production of "Oliver" on May 1, 2004 include standing from left are Jen Cyr, Samantha Hicks and Jessie Stadnika; kneeling in front from left are Allie Shapiro, Kathleen Egan, Katherine Reaume and Courtney Siracusa; standing back from left are Marissa Skinner, Jaclyn Conti, Meredith Njus, Alyssa Wainoe and Jenna Boyd.

## Center Stage Dance

■ Passion for dancing expressed in Northville

By Duane Ramsey  
SPECIAL WRITER

Each week, hundreds of smiling faces of all ages pass through the doors at Center Stage Dance Company in Northville where they have the opportunity to express their love and passion for dance.

"We are a non-competitive studio dedicated to teaching the art of dance for the purpose of physical, emotional and mental development, and for the sheer joy of movement to music," said Lisa Shapiro, director of Center Stage Dance.

Dancing since she was five years old, Shapiro taught high school dance programs before deciding to invest in an existing dance studio in Walled Lake in 1988. She moved the studio to Northville in 1992.

Shapiro is comfortable with the growth of the studio, its faculty and staff as it has allowed them to share their passion for dance with so many young people. The studio is in its 17th year of dance instruction and 13th year in Northville.

Center Stage Dance offers programs in ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical and pointe for children ages six and older. The rhythm program is a combination of ballet and tap for beginning students from age three to six.

"We offer many opportunities to share our joy of dance through our annual recitals, sea-

sonal tours and special events," said Shapiro. "We provide as many performance opportunities for students as possible because it helps them to build confidence and self-esteem."

One of the favorite performances is the fairy tale ballet with full costumes and staging, which is produced each spring by the in-house ballet company at Center Stage. This year's presentation of "The Little Mermaid," will be performed at 1:30 p.m. April 30 at Northville High School. Tickets are available at the studio, by mail and at the door.

In addition to the annual recitals each June, Center Stage Dance also conducts Christmas holiday and spring tours with performances at nursing homes, senior residential centers and children's facilities, such as the Hawthorne Center for Children, and St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home for abused and neglected children. The students also perform at many special events in Northville and surrounding communities.

"It's important for children to learn to give to others that need it," Shapiro said.

Center Stage Dance will celebrate National Dance Week April 22-May 1 by offering free dance classes for children and adults on April 22. It also will conduct a teacher exchange April 28 with the Zone Dance Center in Southfield.

The primary dance season begins in September and runs through June, culminating with its annual recitals. Enrollment for those programs is accepted through January.

As a community partner with the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, dance classes and programs for adults



From left, Center Stage students Jaclyn Sheidy, Liz Rembacki and Katie Mues perform to a Beatles hit in the June recital in 2004.

and children are offered seasonally at Center Stage. Those classes include 10-12 week sessions in the fall and winter, eight weeks in the spring and open classes in July and August.

A variety of summer dance programs and camps are offered in July and August. A traditional summer program for ages three and older meets once a week for eight weeks. Summer class include ballet, jazz and hip-hop for ages 5-7, 8-11 and 12 and older, rhythm for ages 3-6 and adult classes in ballet, tap and jazz/hip hop.

Dance camps at Center Stage for campers age six and older present full and half-day programs for the summer of 2005. Each five-day session offers daily ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and lyrical techniques with pre-pointe and pointe for advanced students. Campers will have the oppor-

tunity to create scenery, view syllabus-related videos, participate in technique-oriented games, and other supervised group activities. Each Friday evening, a showcase is presented for families and friends to see what their dancers have been achieving.

Three summer sessions will be held July 25-29, Aug. 1-5 and Aug. 8-12 for three different age groups including minis for ages 6-9, juniors age 9-12 and teens ages 12 and older. Campers are assessed on the Monday of each session for assignment to appropriate performance groups.

Fantasy camps of 3-day sessions in July and August for boys and girls ages 4-8 feature fun themes including Princesses & Pirates from July 12-14, Cowboys & Cowgirls Aug. 16-18, and Circus Aug. 23-25. A video dance workshop will

**DETAILS**  
Center Stage Dance Company  
43334 West Seven Mile Road  
Suite 250, Northville  
Research Center  
(248) 380-1666  
e-mail: CSDC5678@aol.com  
www.dancingcenterstage.com

be held August 6 and 7 offering dancers the chance to participate in the creation of a dance video that they help produce and perform in.

Registration for the summer camps and programs is available at Center Stage or through Northville Parks & Recreation.

"If you want to dance with us, we'll make sure you enjoy it," said Becky Hicks, assistant director who has worked at Center Stage for 16 years.

The entire staff "grew up dancing at the studio," said Shapiro, who travels to New York regularly to attend classes. She and her staff work hard to stay well-educated in the latest dance techniques.

The senior faculty includes Erin Hesse, Heather Rose, Samantha Drouillard and Shauna Wainoe. The junior faculty and apprentices are comprised of high school students who are participating in programs at the studio.

Jackie Drouillard serves as office manager and Darcy Mikels as assistant office manager at Center Stage Dance Company.

Center Stage is scheduled to open its newly developed Web Site, www.dancingcenterstage.com, by the end of February.

**DON'T MISS OUR BALLET COMPANY PERFORMANCE**

of **THE LITTLE MERMAID** 2005

Celebrate National Dance Week  
**FREE CLASSES!**  
April 22, 30 & 7 pm  
Call for details

**CENTER STAGE DANCE COMPANY**

43334 W. SEVEN MILE ROAD  
SUITE 250  
NORTHVILLE RESEARCH CENTER  
248.380.1666  
csdc5678@aol.com

**Saturday, April 30, 2005 1:30 PM**  
At Northville High School

TICKETS \$7  
ADVANCE PURCHASE AT THE STUDIO

**NEW THIS YEAR! FANTASY CAMPS FOR 4-8 YEAR OLDS**  
Princesses & Pirates • Cowboys & Cowgirls • Circus, Circus

**JOIN US FOR SUMMER DANCE CAMP**

- Full and half-day programs for ages 6 and up
- 5 techniques taught daily
- Team-building activities, related crafts & more!
- Showcase for family & friends

**REGISTER NOW!**  
Session 1: July 25-29  
Session 2: Aug. 1-5  
Session 3: Aug. 8-12

NEW! Video Dance Workshop Sat. & Sun. Aug. 6-7

BALLET • POINTE • LYRICAL • TAP • JAZZ • HIP HOP • RHYTHM (3-6 YEAR OLDS) • BOYS • ADULTS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES