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INSIDE

Dedicated

Frances Blackman at work at the Novi dry cleaner operation she's called home for the last three years. She's also celebrating her 84th birthday on Saturday.



— Page 18A

Council candidate

City of Novi Zoning Board of Appeals member Justin Fischer of Novi announced this week his intent to run for a seat on the Novi City Council in this November's election.

— Page 6A

SPORTS



Round one

A lot of Wildcats saw action Monday night against the Rocks of Salem, including Novi's Wiley Moss, right, who makes a block against Kyle Price.

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OBITUARIES

Anne V. Walker, 89
Ruby M. Stewart, 89
Walter D. Teppin, 82

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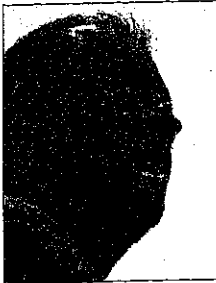
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Drug testing debate done

■ Parents make concerns known at third code of conduct meeting

By Ramez Khuri and Sam Eggleston
STAFF WRITERS



"Unless the committee tells me other wise, which they won't, we won't have random drug testing in this code of conduct revision. I don't anticipate this will be a policy in the foreseeable future. At least it's not going to be on the front burner, that's for sure."

Curt Ellis
Novi High School athletic director

The possibility of random drug testing at Novi High School has come to a close for now, but parents are voicing serious concerns about other proposed changes to the athletic code of conduct.

Over 100 emotional parents attended an informational meeting, conducted by Novi High School athletics director Curt Ellis last Thursday.

"I think the purpose of the

meeting was accomplished," said Brian Bartlett, whose son plays receiver on Novi High's varsity football team. "I do believe the most important thing is the random drug testing, which should be going under further scrutiny. I don't think the proposal was

ready — not only from a perspective of the drug testing itself, but what it costs taxpayers in the community."

Bartlett said that if the school is going to have a drug policy, it makes sense to copy other schools, like the Grand Blanc

School District, which has adjudicated this issue all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court.

"Otherwise, we're just looking at breaking ground," Bartlett said. "This community has broken ground before with lawsuits and it's expensive. Lawsuits do not

educate children and they do not stop drug abuse."

The Novi athletic department has carefully considered the parents' opinions and concerns. The result? Ellis said at the meeting

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Deputy chief retires after 30 years

■ Worked at Detroit Police Dept. before moving to Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Unlike many, Deputy Police Chief Al Rasmussen of the Novi Police Department, has known for many years what life had in store for him at retirement.

He told his wife, Pam, that once he'd put in his time, so to speak, that he would retire to her hometown in Arkansas.

That's exactly what he plans to do. "She came with me 34 years ago, so I said when I retired, it was up to her where we lived," he said. "I'm gonna do what I said I was gonna do."

Chief Doug Schaeffer's right-hand man retired Feb. 25 after 30 years with the Novi PD.

In an interview on his last day on the job, Rasmussen talked about how rewarding his career in law enforcement has been.

Born and raised in Detroit, he was a police officer for the Detroit

continued on page 3A



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Collage artists Edee Joppich looks at her creation "Fast Track" which is on display at Novi's Meadowbrook Art Center.

Art center offers an optimistic blend

■ Joppich's vibrant collages on display until March 30

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

Weather-worn chairs, frenzied Florentine streets and even an Italian gallery worker are springboards of color and life for artist Edee Joppich.

"There's always a theme to my collages, a reason for them to be there," she said. "Collage artists collect everything. You go

beyond the palette." Twenty of Joppich's creations are up for view and sale at Novi's Meadowbrook Art Center gallery until March 30. The West Bloomfield artist is part of a string of talent featured at the center since its gallery opened in 2003.

"We try to do a little bit of everything," manager Trish Preshat said. "I wouldn't say that Novi is a venue for artists. We thought there was a void and that's why we decided to open the gallery."

"There's a lot of talent here." Also accomplished in watercolor painting, Joppich said her artistry reflects her optimistic

outlook. A still-life collage created during Wayne State University graduate studies was her first taste of combining media.

"The excitement of having the freedom to put together diverse and beautiful materials, patterns and textures" was the appeal, Joppich said. "The challenge is to create a piece of art. I loved it and I've done it ever since."

Hand-made rice paper, chicken wire and packaging materials take on new form, blended with images and brush strokes. Photographs are integrated, too.

Take the chipped, pink and purple beach chairs she snapped at an artist's Lake Michigan

home in the Leelanau Peninsula. "I was just amazed with their condition," Joppich said. "I had intended to do a realistic watercolor." Instead, a card with the phrase "The Allure of Time" inspired a collage.

Traveling abroad with groups of students 13 times has brought plenty of inspiration.

In Lake Como, Italy, a gallery worker woman with black-painted nails became the basis for "Bellagio Beauty." A poster with handprints on an outdoor wall now is part of "Red Handed in Seville."

Florence, Italy is collaged in a

continued on page 3A

Gov. proposes eliminating \$500 middle school MEAP scholarship

■ Students, administrators react negatively

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has found a way to save the state of Michigan \$9 million. That's the good news. The bad news is how she proposes to go about doing it — by eliminating the middle school MEAP scholarship of \$500 start-

ing this school year.

About four years ago, then Gov. John Engler, suggested that students who passed their seventh or eighth grade MEAP test would be given an extra \$500 over the current \$2,500 Michigan Merit Award scholarship towards college when they successfully completed their high

J. Granholm

school test.

"My understanding is, (Granholm) is proposing to not stand behind that," Novi High School Assistant Principal Stephanie Schriener said. "Those kids who passed the test in seventh or eighth grade would not get that extra \$500, but they would get the current \$2,500 that's being awarded."

Liz Boyd, Granholm's press secretary, explained that the scholarship is something the state simply can't afford. She said that

continued on page 2A



Photo by Linda Wickert

My Fair Lady

Eliza Doolittle (Julie Landry) inspects the notebook of British aristocrat Henry Higgins (Joe Lo Giudice) in Novi Theatres' production of My Fair Lady, which opens tomorrow night. See the full story on page 7A

Granholtz proposes eliminating \$500 MEAP scholarship

continued from front page

It is a scholarship that has never been awarded to any student and there has been no official notification from the state about it. "This was not a promise this governor ever made," Boyd said of Granholtz. "We think it was irresponsible for the previous administration to make promises that they were not going to be in any position to keep. It was proposed in 1999 and the first students who took it were in 2000 and those students now are looking at high school graduation this year."

Nobody at Novi High School, Novi Middle School, or the Educational Services Building could give a clear answer as to how many Novi students the proposal would affect.

Boyd could not say what kind of communication those students received in 2000, but she did confirm that the expectation was that they would receive the extra \$500. "I don't think anyone in 2000 would have anticipated the type of budget crises that we have faced, but they should have because previous administration and the legislature continued to cut taxes, cut revenue and not correspondingly cut spending as well," Boyd said. "In the last two years we have reduced state spending by \$3 billion and we are proposing a budget that eliminates another \$775 million shortfall in the coming year."

Disappointment to students

Schirmer predicted that this news would not go over well with high school students because they were

school students for passing the MEAP exam was never "guaranteed."

"For the administration to suggest that this funding was not 'guaranteed' is a slap to every college-bound student, and their parents who are counting on this money," said DeRoche. "This money was promised, plain and simple."

"Since becoming speaker, nobody has spoken out about the need for state government to live within its means more than I. But we will not balance the state's books by breaking promises to students and parents. This sends a terrible signal to young people."

DeRoche said it is outrageous that the very first entrance these conscientious kids are having with state government is a broken promise.

"As leader of the House, I don't want to see this happen to these students and their parents. A promise made will be a promise kept - we are going to keep our word to these kids."

Student reactions

William (B.J.) Chaklos is Novi High School's senior class president. He said knowing that he could receive an extra \$500 towards college was a major part of his inspiration for doing well on the MEAP in middle school.

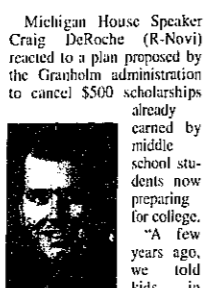
"Going into the test, I remember I was looking forward to receiving that \$500 that we were entitled," he said. "I don't think it's fair. It's like going back on a deal that was made."

Chaklos feels that the extra incentive benefits students because they tend to try harder, and in turn, more succeed. He also feels that if the extra money is taken away, it might hinder some students' chances to go to college.

"Some kids aren't as fortunate as others and they need all the money they can get," he said. "Granholtz is possibly limiting the chance for some to be able to go to school."

Novi High School freshman

DeRoche blasts governor



C. DeRoche

if they worked hard, studied hard and got good grades we would help them pay for college," said DeRoche. "I am shocked that the administration has proposed taking these scholarships away from hard-working students who are preparing their financing for college."

Administration officials have suggested that the \$500 scholarship awarded to middle

school students for passing the MEAP exam was never "guaranteed."

"For the administration to suggest that this funding was not 'guaranteed' is a slap to every college-bound student, and their parents who are counting on this money," said DeRoche. "This money was promised, plain and simple."

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"As leader of the House, I don't want to see this happen to these students and their parents. A promise made will be a promise kept - we are going to keep our word to these kids."

Lauren Eibel agreed with Chaklos. She feels that the extra motivation would allow for more students to do well on the MEAP and those who need the money would try harder.

"I think that the kids who are in seventh and eighth grade now are getting the short end of the stick," she said. "They're getting a worse deal than the kids who have already taken the test, so I feel that that's not fair to them."

"Granholtz should give the students who are coming up to seventh and eighth grade the same opportunities that other people had," she added.

Boyd was quick to add, however, that Granholtz is all about education. She pointed out that the govern-

ment has proposed in her budget \$300 million in additional funding for K-12 education in the state that will benefit every public school student in Michigan.

She also pointed out that Granholtz has proposed fully funding the high school merit scholarship of \$2,500, and she has proposed a new merit scholarship program that would ultimately give \$4,000 to students who complete two years of college or the equivalent in some type of technical training.

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 khuri@nvn.com.

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Drug testing debate done

continued from front page

There doesn't seem to be any difference between a very minor offense and a child who shows up intoxicated or under the influence at practice or on school grounds," Bodine said. "There is a significant difference there. I also am concerned about the fact that the school wants to be able to take action in athletics for things that happen off school grounds and are not part of school activity."

"I think that my responsibility as a parent to address those issues with my son if he does something that's inappropriate," Ellis said during an investigative situation, the first thing administrators do is ask students questions.

"We're trying to get to the bottom of things," he said. "I think there is a lot of focus on that issue and yet, really, from a procedural standpoint, it doesn't happen very often."

There was a lot of discussion during the meeting of specific students being inter-gated at the school, which were not related to athletics.

WHO IS TESTING?

Only four school districts in the state currently practice random drug testing. They are Clio, Grand Blanc, Lake Fenton and Huron.

All drug testing has to be random, said Ellis.

"From a legal standpoint it has to be done that way," he said. "You cannot legally select someone for testing because they appear to be using drugs or are suspected of using them."

The school's athletic department will make adjustments to the proposed changes and then schedule another meeting open to the public. The date and location will be posted on the district's Web site, www.novi.k12.mi.us/athletics/default.aspx.

Thursday's meeting at the high school auditorium was the second of its kind. At the Jan. 27 meeting, about 30 parents attended and many submitted questions to Ellis. Those questions were answered at the second meeting, which drew a much larger crowd, and the athletic director also took on new questions and discussed many portions of the proposed code.

June Bodine, whose son Mike plays football and track, has serious concerns with the investigation process and with the level of consequences.

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Deputy chief retires after 30 years

continued from front page

Police Department from 1970 until he joined the Novi force in August 1975.

"One of the biggest differences when I first came here was that working in Novi is the police cars were air-conditioned," he said. "When you're patrolling in the city in the summer, it's hot. Since I started in August, that was an immediate benefit."

His late father was a Detroit Police Officer, and his grandfather was an officer in Highland Park. He still has police memorabilia from the two.

"My dad had a great influence on me. He was always talking about how nice it was to go out and do the job, enforce the law and help people. That's why I joined the police department," he said.

Rasmussen left college, where he studied secondary education, and had a couple of part-time jobs. But as soon as he turned 21, he decided to join the force. He later earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Madonna University in Livonia and a master's degree in liberal studies and interdisciplinary technology from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

He worked patrol for nine years, and from 1984 through 1989 he was the first juvenile officer in the Novi Detective Bureau. He was promoted to sergeant and worked as night shift supervisor for about three years.

"One of the notable things during this time period was when Al created the Novi Youth Forum," Shaeffer said, which helps young people in the community. Next, he was promoted to lieutenant in 1991 in charge of the patrol division, then to captain and "second in command" in June 1992. The title was changed to deputy chief in 1994, and he became the person responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department under the guidance of Shaeffer.

He attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy, the Center for Excellence in Police Management and has received numerous letters of commendation and department awards.

"I'll miss the variety — there's always something different —



Novi Deputy Chief of Police Al Rasmussen, right, listens as Chief Doug Shaeffer gives a summary of Rasmussen's years on the force during his retirement ceremony last week. See promotions story on page 4A.

tenant in 1991 in charge of the patrol division, then to captain and "second in command" in June 1992. The title was changed to deputy chief in 1994, and he became the person responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department under the guidance of Shaeffer.

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"I'll miss the variety — there's always something different —

Art center offers an optimistic blend

continued from front page

tizzy of flashing lights and soft-purples called "Firenze Frency."

"There were well to wall tourists and everyone was rushing," Joppich recalled. "I was disappointed the pace was so fast. I worked out my feelings. It's busy and you're pulled in all different directions."

With 37 one-woman exhibitions to her name, Joppich teaches and, since 1980, has spent summers in Northport, Mich., at her Joppich's Bay Street Gallery. She's painted murals in public

COLLAGE KARMA

• What: Novi's Meadowbrook Art Center gallery now is featuring the collage art of West Bloomfield artist Edee Joppich. Works range \$450-900

• When: now through March 30; gallery is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

• Where: 41200 Ten Mile Road; north side of Ten Mile just east of Meadowbrook Road

• Contact: (248) 477-6620

spots, like Farmington Hills library.

The mother of five and grandmother of 13 for years also placed

"It's so interrelated that you're not aware immediately," she said. "You have to look at it with an open mind and enjoy the collage and the movement and the design."

"It's like friendship. You have to be around someone sometimes to get to appreciate them. My work invites a long, appreciation and friendship."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or by e-mail at kovelle@nvn.com.

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Rocky's just underwent a complete remodel both inside and out to ensure that they continue to be the local favorite. Not to be outdone by the décor changes, Chef's Rocky and Don spent weeks developing new menu offerings, including traditional **French Bouillabaisse**, **Grouper Sauté** with avocado tomato salsa and jalapeno cornbread, **Portobello Mushroom Ravioli**, **Bronzed Catfish** with tomato mustard coulis, spinach and omandouille, and a spectacular **Bourbon Barbecued Shrimp**, to name but a few.

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Photo by PAM FLEMING

Novi Fire Department members at the Feb. 24 promotions ceremony, from left: Dan Roy, captain; Ramon Alvarez, Fire Protection Officer II; Joseph Shelton, Fire Protection Officer II; Chief Art Lenaghan; Robert Stonik, captain; Brad McFaul, captain; and Tom Johnson, Fire Protection Officer II.

Novi Fire Department announces promotions

Supervisors to now work 24-hour shifts

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday -- Feb. 24, 2005 -- was definitely a "red letter day" for members of the Novi Fire Department as the staff celebrated several promotions.

These were the first promotions for full-time, career fire fighters in Novi in 10 years.

Fire Chief Art Lenaghan and City Manager Rick Helwig invited the public to join a celebration in council chambers in honor of the promotions. "This is a big change," Lenaghan said.

Brad McFaul and Robert Stonik were promoted to captain. Ramon Alvarez, Tom Johnson and Joseph Shelton were promoted to Fire Protection Officers II.

Dan Roy, already a captain, as one of the three supervisors, will have a 24-hour shift.

"Chief Lenaghan has given so much to this community, and one

of the most important things he's given us, in addition to his steady leadership and guiding hand, is a lot of patience," Helwig said.

He noted that Lenaghan knows what a stress-of-the-job fire department should be and how it should serve the public. "That means doing everything it can every second of the day, every week to protect lives and property," Helwig said.

Helwig said Lenaghan has been very patient with the progress of city life in this community. We are the first town where we are enhancing accountability and increasing service and protection of the public.

"This is a huge step forward," Helwig said.

"We are issuing in a new era of city life in this community. We are a major urban center, and it's providing proper fire protection one of the biggest challenges we've had," Helwig said.

The city made public safety a priority in the most recent budget. An agreement was reached with the Novi Professional Fire Fighters Union to implement 24-hour, full-time supervision in the department on Dec. 8, 2004.

The department will continue to provide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but will now have a captain supervising each of the three shifts. The city currently has 54 part-time, paid-on-call fire fighters and 28 full-time staff members.

"I admire these gentlemen so much for stepping forward to take this responsibility. It's a big task," Helwig said. "You're not alone, but the buck stops with you."

He told the new supervisors: "You are the first touchstone that we rely upon to make decisions, call in additional help, mutual aid if necessary. This is a huge turning point for our community."

Lenaghan said the comprehensive selection process includes a written examination, oral board, department evaluation and credit for seniority. Novi is part of two mutual aid groups for fire protection -- one in Oakland County and one in western Wayne County.

"I think this would help them take a leadership role in years to come," Paul said. "We have a group of people that we don't tap into."

Farmington Hills has a Mayor's Youth Council, a group of students appointed by the mayor that meets twice a month. The city does not have any young people, however, on its planning commission or Zoning Board of Appeals.

Students on boards and commissions in Farmington Hills are non-voting members who act more as a liaison between young people and city government.

"It's so the community can get an idea about how youths feel about what's going on with a particular board or commission," said Kathy Dornan, city clerk.

One of the problems Paul cited with high school students being a member of the Novi Planning Commission is that these meetings can run until 11:30 p.m. or later.

Packets prepared for planning commission members are not only complex but also often somewhat costly, with copies of building plans and legal documents enclosed.

Member Laura Lorenzo agreed, however, that high school students would benefit from being on a city board or commission.

"This would give students in a non-voting way the ability to see how government works. I think it's a good idea," she said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Landry liked the idea in theory, but also wondered about some of the logistics of placing high school students on a government body like the planning commission.

"I think we need to think about this. Do they get a packet? Is it the same member all year? Landry asked. "Planning commission has a big packet, and it's no lean task. How are they going to do that? I don't think this issue is as easy as

Should high schoolers serve the City of Novi?

Council looks at student representation

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City Council Member Lyne Paul suggested to fellow council members at Monday night's meeting that high school students be allowed to serve on city boards and commissions.

This is done in other communities, and Paul believes it would be a good way for Novi students to learn more about city government.

Paul recently helped third- and fifth-graders at Novi Woods Elementary on civics projects, including a mock city council meeting for the fifth-graders with the help of a local developer.

Members suggested that rather than join the Novi Planning Commission, which is fairly complex, that high school students be allowed to serve as non-voting members of such groups as the library board, parks and recreation commission, beautification and historical commission.

If approved, Novi would join Troy, Birmingham, Royal Oak and Farmington Hills in allowing residents under the age of 18 to serve on city boards and commissions.

"I think this would help them take a leadership role in years to come," Paul said. "We have a group of people that we don't tap into."

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Students on boards and commissions in Farmington Hills are non-voting members who act more as a liaison between young people and city government.

"It's so the community can get an idea about how youths feel about what's going on with a particular board or commission," said Kathy Dornan, city clerk.

One of the problems Paul cited with high school students being a member of the Novi Planning Commission is that these meetings can run until 11:30 p.m. or later.

Packets prepared for planning commission members are not only complex but also often somewhat costly, with copies of building plans and legal documents enclosed.

Member Laura Lorenzo agreed, however, that high school students would benefit from being on a city board or commission.

"This would give students in a non-voting way the ability to see how government works. I think it's a good idea," she said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Landry liked the idea in theory, but also wondered about some of the logistics of placing high school students on a government body like the planning commission.

"I think we need to think about this. Do they get a packet? Is it the same member all year? Landry asked. "Planning commission has a big packet, and it's no lean task. How are they going to do that? I don't think this issue is as easy as

it sounds."

Member Tom Nagy was open to the suggestion.

"I think it's a good idea, and it has been implemented in other cities. I think the concept is well thought out," Nagy said.

Member Kim Capello was somewhat skeptical about the idea.

"I think it's good to get our young people involved, but it's not easy to get high school students involved in complicated issues," he said.

Member Bob Galt believes the city should obtain the school board's blessing first. "I, too, think it's an idea we should explore. But, I think we should get the school board involved and get them to give a nod on this first," he said.

Mayor Lou Cordas thinks it would be more appropriate to have high school students serve on committees only.

"I think we need to talk to the Board of Education first. I don't want to add time and expense to planning commission meetings. I'm more apt to support students being on committees rather than on boards and commissions," Cordas said.

Paul said she would look into the issue further and bring more information for council to discuss at the next meeting on March 7.

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.

Fifth Third Bank robbed Wednesday morning

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi suffered yet another bank robbery this year when the Novi Police Department received a hold-up alarm from the Fifth Third Bank, 26222 Novi Road, at 9:05 a.m.

The suspect entered the bank, walked up to the teller, and produced a note demanding that the teller hand over money. The teller handed over an undetermined amount of currency, and the suspect fled on foot.

No weapons were involved or implied during the robbery.

The suspect was described as a Caucasian man between the ages of 20 and 30, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a thick build and weighing between 160 and 170 pounds.

The alleged robber was also described as having distinctive blue eyes and light facial hair. He was wearing a dark jacket, black gloves and a black knit cap.

The Novi Police Department is coordinating investigative efforts with the FBI.

Anyone with information about the robbery can contact Det. Mike Prough, Novi Police Department, at (248) 347-0540.

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.

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Three police officers move up the ladder

Molloy, Lindberg and Nelson receive promotions

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Three members of the Novi Police Department celebrated promotions recently, with their new positions effective March 1.

Formerly a lieutenant, David Molloy will be the new Deputy Chief of Police, replacing retiring Al Rasmussen.

Tom Lindberg, formerly a sergeant, has been promoted to lieutenant, replacing Molloy as head of the General Services Division.

Joyce Nelson, formerly a detective, has been promoted as the department's first female sergeant and will work the night shift, 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

David Molloy is the first police officer in his family. Molloy, a native of Saginaw, started in the patrol division in 1989, after graduating from Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

He worked in that capacity until 1992, when he was selected to work part-time in Detective Bureau investigations. Later that year, he was selected to work undercover with the Michigan

State Police Narcotics Enforcement Team, which he did for two years. He came back and was a Field Training Officer in patrol for a few months and was promoted to detective in 1994.

He investigated a lot of sex crimes and crimes against children and was promoted to patrol sergeant in 1997 and served as a watch commander. In 2001, he was transferred to first-line supervisor, Det. Sgt. in investigators unit 2003, when he was promoted to lieutenant and General Services Division commander.

"Chief Shaeffer has been a great role model and mentor for me, and I have an outstanding group of officers," referring to the multi-million-dollar drug money seizure in March 2004, which Novi will receive a good portion of in the months to come.

"The police department is not immune to the financial crisis that the state is in, so it's going to require us to make some very responsible and prudent decisions," he said.

He hopes to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy later this year.

"We have 98 of the best women and men in police work nationwide, which would probably rival most international law enforcement agencies. We're fortunate here in Novi to have the caliber of people that we have and the caliber of citizens. We have a very educated society, and that helps us a great deal when we partner with them. They're not only the eyes and ears of the community but also the brains of the communi-

ty," Molloy said.

He and wife, Lisa, and their two young sons, enjoy swimming out at a local health club. Molloy also likes reading, golf and spending time with his family.

Tom Lindberg, of Novi, just celebrated his 19th year with the department. He grew up on the east side of the Metro Detroit area and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in criminal justice and psychology.

Joining the Novi PD a few months later, he attended the police academy at Macomb Community College and started out as a patrol officer until 1994. In 1994, he became a member of the Narcotics Enforcement Team in Pontiac and did undercover narcotics investigations for a little over a year.

He came back to the road but was given many administrative assignments and was promoted to detective in 1998, where he was involved in Drug Abuse Resistance Education, crime prevention, and computer investigations on child predators and vice activity.

In 2001, he was promoted to sergeant and worked as a road supervisor working midnights and afternoons.

He said he became interested in police work when a neighbor had a son who was a Clawson police officer.

His wife, Jackie, used to work in the records department at the Farmington Hills Police

Department and now works at the Sports Club of Novi. They live in Novi and have two daughters.

He's currently back in school, earning a master's degree in management science.

"I like helping people and putting the bad guys in jail," he said.

Joyce Nelson has been a member of the department just over 10 years. She started as a patrol officer and prior to that worked in the records department of the Farmington Hills Police Department while attending Madonna University in Livonia. She worked patrol for seven years before being promoted to detective in 2002.

"I got into a very serious car accident in May 2002. I was hit by a bus," she said. "The bus won."

"I was driving to a training class, and a lady failed to stop for a stop sign, hit my car, then pushed me into the path of a bus going 40 mph," she said.

"I was fortunate. There was

Nelson is currently off duty because she just had her third child, Kara, born Feb. 4. She and Sgt. Nelson also have two sons, Evan, 6, and Alex, 5.

"It's going to be a great year. We won't be working together. We'll always be working opposite days, so that one person can be home taking care of the kids," she said. "We don't have to worry about day care, which is wonderful."

Although she's enjoying her new job, she's ready to tackle her new position.

"I'm very excited and can't wait to come back to work. I'm anxious to be back in uniform and really look forward to this opportunity. Novi PD is a great place to work. We have a well-trained, highly educated work force, and I am pleased to be a member of the Novi PD."

Deputy Chief David Molloy
Novi Police Department

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.

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COMMUNITY

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

ZBA member Fischer to run for council

Michigan State University student active in Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City of Novi Zoning Board of Appeals member Justin Fischer of Novi announced this week his intent to run for a seat on the Novi City Council in this November's election.

He also announced the launch of his campaign website, www.vote4fischer.com. "This is an exciting time for the

J. Fischer

city of Novi, but we have a lot of work ahead of us," Fischer said. "I will provide a voice of common sense and balance on council, while embracing a policy of open government."

Fischer believes the major issues facing the city are roads, potential reductions in state revenue sharing and development in the city.

"I will work with fellow council members to ensure tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently, and to continue a strategy of 'win-win'

development within the city," he said.

Fischer also cited concern about the character of the city as something he intended to tackle.

"I would like to implement a Citizens Advisory Council as well as a Mayor's Youth Council. As we approach build-out, we must work to keep all citizens engaged in the civic process and our community," he said.

Active in the community, Fischer enjoys participating in the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry department softball leagues. He also has donated his time to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), aiding low-income families with their tax returns, as well as Relay For Life and the Alzheimer's Memory Walk.

This May, Fischer will graduate from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in finance.

In 2004, Fischer spent the spring semester working in Washington, D.C., for Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton) in a university academic program. During his time in Washington, D.C., he would continue to Novi to serve as the Zoning Board of Appeals alternate member.

Fischer has also worked for State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) during his tenure at Michigan State University.

Fischer is a lifelong resident of Novi and a 2001 graduate of Novi High School.

More information about Fischer is available at www.vote4fischer.com.

Decision tabled on new Lakeshore Park fence

City council wants to look at different designs

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

black, vinyl chain link fence. Members bantered about the idea of putting up a more decorative aluminum fence, similar to ones used to enclose swimming pools, which would cost \$39,000 to \$45,000.

"This is our premier park. This is our beach. I would like to see different styles suggested, as well as a rendering of the fence and surrounding landscaping," Member Kim Capello said.

Laura Lorenzo wondered how much more a more decorative fence might cost, as well as if such a fence would present a safety concern if young children tried to stick their head, arms or legs through such a fence.

The fence suggested, estimated at \$33,000 to \$37,000, would be a

Recreation and Forestry, said that no head or body entrapment could occur with a more decorative fence.

Auler said Lakeshore Park opens Memorial Day weekend, and it would be good if the fence could be installed by then.

Member Toni Nagy asked Auler if more information about alternative types of fences could be presented to council at the March 7 meeting.

"Novi is not broke. I would like to see our premier park look like it should," said Member Bob Glat.

During the past three years, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has made several improvements to Lakeshore Park, including a new play structure, pathways and parking spaces,

removal of a basketball court, repair of the day camp building, mountain bike trail improvements and enhancements to the park entryway.

This spring, park maintenance staff will construct and install a new park entry booth and mount permanent trail signage along the mountain bike trails.

The department staff wants to replace the fence there now with a six- to eight-foot tall fence along the perimeter of the park and public beach.

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.

OBITUARIES



WALTER D. TOUPIN

Age 82, a former Upper Peninsula native of Marquette, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, February 26, 2005, at his home in Novi after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, ELIZABETH (Dorochee), a daughter ANN OBERTS of Northville, twin sons, DR. JOHN (Ruth) TOUPIN of Farmington Hills and a sister MARILYN SOTAERT of Marquette, Michigan. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren and 7 nephews. The Edward Korovin Funeral Home of Royal Oak, Michigan, is in charge of funeral arrangements. Cremation will be followed by a MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL on Friday, March 11th at 11:00AM in the CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY on Meadowbrook Road (between 10 Mile & Grand River) Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Marquette, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christian Services, The "Homeless Fund Project" of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375

ANNE V. WALKER

Age 89, Feb. 21, 2005. Beloved wife of Vincent F. Loving mother of Sharon (James) Rose, V. Robert (Anne) and Sheila (Dor) grandmother of James W. Rose, Shannon (Matthew) Rose-Hamann, Ryan Rose, and Robert J. Walker. Anne began her career as a registered nurse in Arkansas and Texas where she met her future husband Vincent, who was stationed at Camp Fannin prior to serving abroad during World War II. They married in 1946 and moved to Detroit where she raised their children, instilling in them a love of learning and reading that is still cherished. She loved her life with volunteer work for her church, St. Scholastica and later, Holy Family, and part-time nursing for family, neighbors and many friends. She loved to sew and knit, and many benefited from her talent. Anne resumed her nursing career at Grace Northwest Hospital in Detroit from 1953-1981. A memorial Mass will be held Feb. 22, at St. Thomas More Church in Boynton Beach, Florida. Memorials may be sent to Hospice of Palm Beach County, 2515 S. Secrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33485.

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.

Musical springs to life with talent and 'a little bit of luck'

Novi Theatres' My Fair Lady opens tomorrow

By Kim Kovelte
STAFF WRITER

MY FAIR LADY

• What: Opening tomorrow, Novi Theatres present "My Fair Lady," the Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner musical about two British aristocrats who take the challenge of polishing up the act — and diction — of a Cockney-accented flower girl in Edwardian England.

• Where: Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, east of Tappan Road.

• When: 7:30 p.m. March 4, 5, and 11; 2 p.m. March 6, 12 and 13.

• Cost: Tickets are \$17 each; discounts are available for groups of 25 or more.

Stars lined up

Lerner & Loewe's classic also presented a fortunate opportunity for some.

Fed up with Higgins' demanding, Docteur-like outbursts on him. It's only then, as he sings, that he realizes, "I've grown accustomed to her face."

Joe Lu Giudice, the seasoned Sterling Heights actor who plays Higgins, had almost grown accustomed to not landing the part.

"This is a role that I've been after for almost 10 years," he said. "It son of snapped into place this time. All the stars lined up."

"I had just come off of Annie Sullivan in 'Miracle Worker' (which) was Irish," she said. "Cockney was new and different. Now it feels natural."

Docteur turns to Higgins and Colonel Pickens to improve her diction. Landry turned to costume designer Peggy Schwarzkow — to lend a hand.

Docteur, as cast and crew, the 43 thespians have at least three costumes each.

"We always begin by pulling... what we 'have here,'" Schwarzkow said. "It's just been the mixing and matching."

Old wedding gowns, a reworked Shakespeare dress and even gray curtains were transformed to suit the gritty streets by Covent Garden and the dazzling halls of Buckingham Palace.

In late January, with sets and lines coming together, a choreographer backed out.

As "luck" had it, 30-year veteran Elaine Buck of Novi's Performing Arts Academy stepped in.

"It was a lot of quick study and a lot of hours put in with the cast," Buck said. "It's a phenomenal cast. They really welcomed me with open arms."

Kim Kovelte is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or kovelte@ht.homecomm.net.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Food distribution

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) will be distributing free food, through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), in Oakland County during March. All people who are income eligible and not registered may do so at the site by bringing social security cards, household income and photo I.D. Local distribution points and dates are listed below:

- Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons
• Tuesday, March 8
• 12:30 p.m.
- For income eligibility requirements or additional information, call OLHSA's Community and Family Services Department at Pontiac at (248) 269-2686 or 1-800-482-9250.

Spring into laughter

The Second City-Detroit has announced registration for spring 2005 Training Center classes.

Students enrolled in the spring semester will learn improv, music, acting and writing from one of 15 instructors, including members of the newly announced mainstage cast.

Registration for interested students is being held through March 4. Spring Training Center classes are back in session March 12 and run for eight weeks.

Participants can enroll for classes in person or by calling (248) 348-4448.

Novi man part of Daytona 500

Novi native Ryan Stee, an Honor Guard member, was asked to represent the Air Force at the Daytona 500 Feb. 20. Ryan graduated from Novi High School in 2004 and is a freshman at Embury Riddle.

Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. He is on a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship and made the Honor Guard this year.

After the time trials, the organizers of the 500 asked the unit to try out for a pre-race slot in the Daytona 500. The unit secured a spot after the Saturday tryout and was present for the singing of "America the Beautiful" by Vanessa Williams.

Even though Ryan was approximately 30 feet from Williams, he never saw her. They cannot break their attention.

Four years in the Drum line with the Novi marching band was helpful in securing a spot in the honor guard. After the pre-race show he was able to watch the race on the infield, close to the pit area.

Breakfast with the Bunny!

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

Saturday, March 19 from 10:11-30 am. 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

Miracles of Motion will take teams 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 weekly experiments, while the Mad Scientist prepares to unveil their special "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 nurture 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 any of these events, call (248) 347-0400.

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Novi car buff's '69 Roadrunner coming to Autorama

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The 53rd Murray's Discount Auto Stores Detroit Autorama 2005 his this weekend, March 4-6, at Cobo Conference & Exhibition Center.

One highlight of this year's show will be Novi resident Joe Trotta's 1969 black Plymouth Roadrunner, which will be at the DaimlerChrysler display.

Billed as "America's Greatest Hot Rod Show," this super buffed, turbo charged Detroit tradition features the hottest hot rods, custom cars and 1950s classics in the country.

The annual winter ritual brings the most devout gearheads and just plain curious folks, with more than 1,000 exhibits of chopped, channelled, dumped and decked hot rods, custom cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles from the past and present.

Last year, more than 165,000 attended the three-day event. Autorama is produced by Championship Auto Shows, Inc., and is sponsored by the Michigan Hot Rod Association.

Like many classics, Trotta's Roadrunner has quite a story.

"The car's actually been in two books and a calendar," Trotta said. The beauty is "Miss May" in the 2005 Mopar Muscle Calendar and is featured in two books published in the last three months.

"One is a history of Chrysler muscle cars and the other is a book on six-pack engines," Trotta said. Trotta, who has worked as the

AUTORAMA DETAILS

Friday, March 4, Noon to 10:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Admission at the gate is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children age 6 to 12. Advance tickets at \$13 for adults and \$4 for children age 6 to 12 are available at all Murray's Discount Auto Stores. For more information, call (248) 373-1700.



Joe Trotta's 1969 Plymouth is just one of many cars that local buffs will be displaying at this weekend's Autorama.

sales and marketing human resources manager for DaimlerChrysler for six years, has been with the company about 30 years. He has been the proud owner of the Roadrunner for four years and became interested in obtaining the vehicle about six years ago.

"I knew the gentleman from Windsor who owned it, and I knew that he had sold it. I was looking for a new muscle car to buy and wanted a lift-off-hood car. When I found it in the Hemmings car catalog, sure enough, it was the same car," he said.

While talking to the man selling the Roadrunner, Trotta learned they had a mutual friend in Novi.

"I bought the car sight unseen, and it was transported from Memphis," he said.

Trotta said in mid 1969, Chrysler produced a new engine called the 440 six-pack. The company launched this engine in two cars -- the Plymouth Roadrunner and the Dodge Super B. Only a little over 1,400 units of each car were built.

"The Plymouth was just a bare bones car -- a big engine, no hubcaps and a lift-off hood," Trotta

said. His black beauty has been to many shows, including the local Concourse D'Elegance.

"We think that there were only 12 black ones made. And less than half of those are in existence," he said.

Trotta still drives the car, which he says has a long history.

"I had it at Milan Dragway two years ago. It ran a quarter mile at 12.7 seconds at 107 mph," he said.

Not had for an almost 40-year-old car.

"This car started its life as a drag car out West and found its way to Denver, California, Minneapolis, Windsor, Memphis and now Detroit," Trotta said. He has documentation that it did 11-second quarter miles in 2002.

"It's a unique car -- very low production and is touted as being one of the best street racers in the late '60s and early '70s. It has a lot

of heritage to it and a big scoop on the hood. Most people look at it and don't know what it is," Trotta said. The Roadrunner was restored in 1991. "It probably looks as good or better today than the day it was restored," he noted.

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

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50's Fest fun begins tomorrow

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

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

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 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.

Dr. Ramesh Mohindra, M.D.

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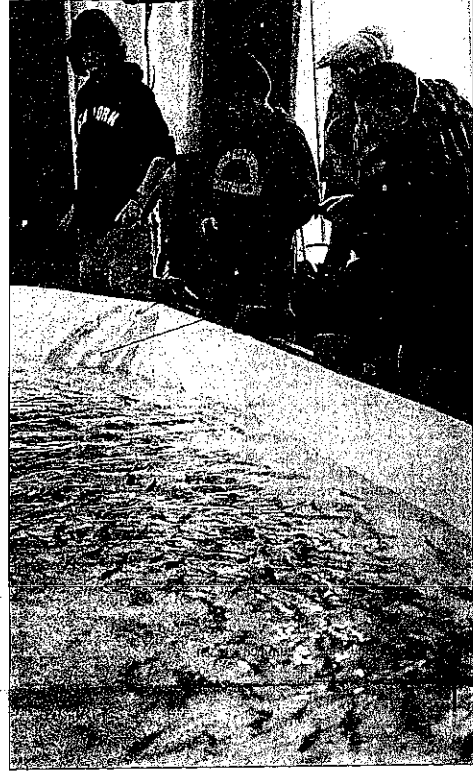


Jim Miller, of "Willow Winds" outdoor and historical craftsmanship skills, demonstrates how he prepares an animal skin for tanning by scraping it with an axe during.



Sales representatives David Stover, left, and Mark Davis bid their time by playing cards in the "Jumping Jack" portable trailer-tent they were hawking at last week's Outdoorama.

Photos by John Heider



Novi's Gander Mountain provided attendees of last week's MUCC Outdoorama at the Expo Center the opportunity to catch trout at their indoor pond.

OUTDOORAMA 2005



Ann Arborite Josh Moody, 15, tries his archery skills at the Lenawee County Conservation League's booth at last week's MUCC Outdoorama at the Novi Expo Center. Participants got eight arrows to shoot at balloons for \$3.



John Booy of the Michigan Hawking Club holds "Sadie" a redtail hawk at Outdoorama. The club was on hand to explain and demonstrate its activities to visitors.

HEALTH

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

Flu season not over yet

Experts say another few weeks left

By Aileen Wingblad
STAFF WRITER

While the local area has so far dodged any major outbreaks of the influenza virus, medical professionals are cautioning that we're in the midst of an extended flu season and the risk of infection isn't over yet — but there's still opportunity to guard against it.

"Flu season has usually run its course by the first or second week of February, but we probably have another several weeks to go," said Deborah Bennett, D.O., who chairs the Family Practice Department at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and has an office in Novi. And though it's ideal to administer the vaccine 6 to 8 weeks before an outbreak is expected, Bennett said, getting vaccinated now can still help this season.

"It's not too late. We probably have about six weeks to the tail end," she said. "The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is saying that those who want the flu vaccine are encouraged to get it — it not only can prevent serious consequences, but also secondary bacterial infections that can come later."

Infectious flu vaccine is available in limited supply from area physicians as well as the Oakland County Health Division, which will distribute the shots on a first-come, first-served basis at its offices in Walled Lake, Pontiac and Southfield. Flu Mist, made from a live virus and administered like a nasal spray, is also available for healthy people age 5-49. Anyone interested in the vaccine should contact their doctor or the health division to confirm current supplies.

Bennett noted that not only is this year's flu season longer compared to last year's, she's also

CUT THE RISK

- Tips to help stop the flu from spreading:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others.
 - Stay home when you are sick. This prevents others from catching your illness and speeds your recovery.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
 - Exercise daily, eat healthy food, drink water and get plenty of sleep.
 - If you cough, cough into a tissue. If you sneeze, sneeze into your sleeve.
 - Wash hands frequently.

Source: Oakland County Health Division

seen in her office an estimated 10 percent increase in the number of patients suffering from the virus. Whether that's due to the overall shortage of flu vaccine for this flu season — or strains of the flu not covered by the vaccine — won't be known until after the flu season is over, however.

"It's difficult to tell until after the fact," she said. "As the season draws to a close, the county health division will try to culture or grow strains of reported cases. Those statistics will determine which hit us the hardest, and then we will be able to tell if we missed our mark with the administered vaccine — or didn't have enough of it."

People who've opted out of the flu vaccine and suspect they've been infected are urged to see their physician as soon as possible, she added. Ignoring symptoms can lead to serious, and sometimes deadly, complications such as pneumonia or dehydration,

or can worsen existing medical conditions like congestive heart failure, diabetes and asthma. The elderly, the very young and people with weakened immune systems are particularly at risk.

If symptoms are identified early on, they can be reduced with antiviral medication. Antivirals must be administered within a day or two of exposure to be effective, however, so it's important to get an appointment right away. Marybeth Lepczyk, a nurse practitioner with Huron Valley-Sinai's Krieger Geriatric Center, said people should also be aware that flu symptoms in the elderly can be different from the general population. Look for increased irritability, decreased appetite or difficulty with walking, she said. Often the clues are subtle — but it's important to be aware of them and get medical attention as soon as possible.

"For older people, they can sometimes have more vague symptoms, such as being tired a lot," Lepczyk said. "Or they have joint pain, but they think it's their arthritis or other pain that they are used to having — but it is really a symptom of the flu."

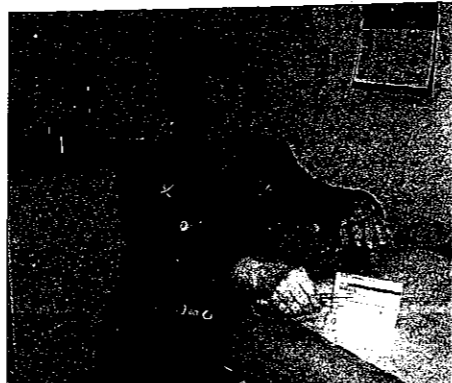
Ralph Kontry, D.O., emergency room physician at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, said he's noted a moderate increase in the number of flu cases this year. Along with the elderly and younger children, Kontry said, school-age children also have high rates of infection, putting everyone who comes in contact with them at risk, as well. Bennett agrees, and urges parents to keep their kids home from school when they are sick.

"If every kid who was ill (with the flu) stayed home, even for one day, it would make a big difference in it spreading," Bennett said. "There are rules about sending kids with fevers to school, and parents really need to follow the rules — but some people just give them a dose of Advil and send them anyway." Proper hygiene is important, too, she said. Along with a box of tissues, Bennett

advocates having a box baby wipes — to cut germs — in every classroom.

Kontry added that once people have recovered from the flu, related problems can still crop up. Things to watch out for include a cough with yellow or green mucus, increased fever or shortness of breath, a sore throat that doesn't improve in three days or any new or severe symptoms. Should any of these occur, or if the flu lasts more than 10 days, people should see their doctor, Kontry said.

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



Deborah Bennett, D.O., shows some of the medications available to prevent — or combat — the flu, including vaccines and antiviral drugs.

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FAITH

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

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. 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.

Also, the church will be presenting a jazz vespers service with Michael Zaporoski and Future Visions on Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

• Pianist Michael Zaporoski brings vital energy, music steeped in the jazz tradition, and African-influenced rhythms to the jazz scene with his trio.

• **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.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is holding a Detroit Lutheran Singers Concert on Sunday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m. Pre-sold tickets are \$5. Tickets at the door will be \$10 (seniors and students are \$7).

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

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Chicago, and CBC stations out of Toronto and Montreal. (Both CD's will be available at the event.) Below are some photos of the group.

Everyone is invited and there is no cost for this event. This program is part of the on-going Fine Arts series at Faith Community. A free will offering will be taken.

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 hour with 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 assistant priest.

Worship Service of Compliment is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and Rite 12A (ages 14 and up) programs 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 40700 W. Ten Mile (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-holycross.com.

• **Meadowbrook Church** March 6 and 13, worship and Church School are at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 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.

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The service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life or that of someone they hold dear. It is a service of hope.

The first service will be taking place on Monday, March 7. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Rd. (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

• **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: 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, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 7, 14, 21, 28, 4, 11, 18, 25, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5, 12, 19, 26, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5, 12, 19, 26.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is holding a Detroit Lutheran Singers Concert on Sunday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m. Pre-sold tickets are \$5. Tickets at the door will be \$10 (seniors and students are \$7).

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Jazz vespers show this Saturday

Faith Community Presbyterian Church, at 44400 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, will be presenting a jazz vespers service with Michael Zaporoski and Future Visions on Saturday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Pianist Michael Zaporoski brings vital energy, music steeped in the jazz tradition, and African-influenced rhythms to the jazz scene with his trio, Future Visions. Longtime pianist for the late saxophone legend Sam Sanders, Zaporoski continues the traditions of Sanders' group, Visions.

During his tenure with Sanders, Zaporoski was assistant artistic director of the Detroit Jazz Center, which Sanders and his wife, Dr. Viola Vaughn, established in the West African country of Senegal. Introduction to the music of West Africa influenced Zaporoski, and through this experience he developed a unique style of music that directly incorporates the African musical experience with jazz traditions indigenous to America.

The group consists of: Michael Zaporoski on piano, Andrew Lloyd on the bass, and Karen Tomalis on the drums.

The group currently has two CD's out on the market, "Raising the American Standard," and "Insight." Both have been featured on NPR in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Chicago, and

CBC stations out of Toronto and Montreal. (Both CD's will be available at the event.) Below are some photos of the group.

Everyone is invited and there is no cost for this event. This program is part of the on-going Fine Arts series at Faith Community. A free will offering will be taken.



Future Visions performs Saturday at Faith Community Presbyterian.

Zaporoski on the piano, Andrew Lloyd on the bass, and Karen Tomalis on the drums.

The group currently has two CD's out on the market, "Raising the American Standard," and "Insight." Both have been featured on NPR in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Chicago, and

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get pictured

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

Reserve your space by April 8th
contact your sales representative for more information

South Lyon	248-437-2011
Northville Record	248-349-1700
Novi News	248-349-1700
Milford Times	248-685-1507
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	517-548-7060

Home & Garden

Home & Garden
Everyone enjoys this special section that is filled with all kinds of gardening and improvement ideas.

Space Reservation Deadline:
Monday, April 4, 2005
Copy Deadline:
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
Publication Date:
Thursday, April 21, 2005

Milford Times South Lyon Herald Northville Record Novi News Circulation 26,000+	Livingston Livingston County Daily Press & Argus Circulation 19,000+
--	---

HomeTown
Newspapers

Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!

EAST	
Milford Times	248-685-1507
South Lyon Herald	248-437-2011
Northville Record	248-349-1700
Novi News	248-349-1700
WEST	
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus	517-548-7060

Make Your Classified Ad STAND OUT with Photos!

Now available, you can add photos to your classified ads to show what you are selling, in addition to ad copy. Ads will appear whenever you want them to run, under the classification you choose.

The cost for the photo will be \$16.00 for the first day and \$8.00 per day for each additional day, plus the cost of the ad copy based on number of lines used.

For March Only:
All classified photos will be half price for the month of March.

Call 1-888-999-1288 to place your ad today!

Excludes Business/Commercial Ads
Deadline for Thursday's publication is Monday at 12 noon
Deadline for Sunday's publication is Tuesday at 12 noon

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES

A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

Join the American Cancer Society Relay For Life!

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
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Call 248.557.5353 to learn more.

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

Whomp 93524

BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Minke helped with merger

Novi resident and attorney Doug Minke recently helped negotiate a merger agreement between Aurora Energy, Ltd. and Calence Resources Corporation, two companies involved in oil investments.

D. Minke

Minke works at Detroit-based Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dripps, P.C. He assisted attorney Linder with the merger.

Under the agreement's terms, each holder of Aurora's common stock will receive two shares of Calence common stock. Both companies also private equity financing; for Aurora, it's about \$12.6 million, and for Calence, nearly \$9.8 million.

Curves to host food drive

Several local Curves, the 30-minute fitness and weight loss center chain, will be joining Curves International, Inc. for a seventh annual "Curves Food Drive."

Through efforts of centers in Novi, Weston and Walled Lake locations, collectors will benefit the Hospitality House food bank in Walled Lake. Last year, the food drive collected a total of more than 4,000 tons of food for communities.

These will join Curves the week of March 7 may bring a bag of groceries and have the normal service fee waived. Anyone may drop off non-perishable food items at Curves Monday-Friday during business hours during the month of March.

For more hours and details, call Novi's Curves, 24281 Novi Road at (248) 912-0077; Weston's Curves, 1545 Weston Road at (248) 668-8282; or Walled Lake's Curves, 1138 East West Maple Road, at (248) 668-9552.

Weinstein seeks diamond winner

Weinstein Jewelers of Novi recently gave away a diamond, and it's looking for its winner to step forward.

At a Feb. 17 Highland Women's Club meeting, store owner Gary Weinstein spoke led a discussion on diamonds and the 13 attendees a package with either a diamond or cubic zirconium. One lucky lady received a quarter-carat diamond worth \$680 — but she must stop by Weinstein at 41991 Grand River Ave. to have the stone examined.

"Somebody out there is running around with a little baggie in their purse worth \$700," Weinstein said. "Somebody's got good odds. I'll tell you that."

Call Weinstein Jewelers at (248) 347-0303.

BRT certified to serve CYA

Novi's BRT, Inc. recently announced it is enhancing a partnership with CYA Technologies, Inc.

Previously CYA's referral partner, BRT now is a certified provider for the Trumbull, Conn.-based company. Together, the companies provide services to

EMC Documentum, which in turn develops information management solutions for businesses. BRT is an innovative systems and technology integration firm that delivers Web-based business solutions to manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and other industries. It is located at 40399 Grand River Ave., Ste. 120.

Rockwell reports results

Rockwell Medical Technologies, based in Wixom, recently announced its 2004 results for the quarter ended in October-December. Per share, earnings increased by \$12 each over the same span in 2003. Revenues for the quarter were a record \$4.78 million, the company reported, and sales revenue increased 15.4 percent over the same time year prior. Iron product development also was up.

Rockwell is seeking FDA approval for a proprietary drug product containing Ferric Pyrophosphate, a method to treat anemia in kidney dialysis patients.

The company also announced that it has added a manufacturing and distribution operation in Hedges, S.C., its third regional production facility. It should be fully operational in the end of March, Rockwell said.

Rockwell is located at 30142 South Wixom Road.

Life Time Fitness to open

Commerce Township's Life Time Fitness Center is set to open tomorrow, March 4. Festivities will span 7-9 p.m. At 109,000 square feet, the center offers 24-hour, seven-day-a-week access. Featured is state

CITY HOSTS SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXPO

All small business owners and those thinking about starting a small business are invited to attend a Small Business Administration Expo from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, March 16 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi. According to the Small Business Administration, more than 90 percent of Michigan businesses fall into the "small business" category, with maximum size standards varying by industry.

Hosted by the City of Novi, the complimentary event will feature representatives from a variety of organizations offering information on valuable resources, including loan guarantees, streamlined financing programs, and more.

Organizations represented will include:

- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) — The SBA offers guarantee loan programs, government contracting programs, counseling and training to assist small businesses. The goal of the Michigan District Office is to create an environ-

ment within Michigan where small business can grow and prosper. Last fiscal year, the Michigan District Office guaranteed 2,050 loans worth more than \$469 million. The loans ranged from \$5,000 to \$2,000,000.

• SCORE Services — SCORE is a nationwide organization of active and retired business men and women who volunteer their services to assist small businesses on a variety of business topics.

• Small Business and Technology Development Center Services — The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center network is a partnership program of Sedman College of Business at Grand Valley State University, the Small Business Administration and regional and local hosts. The regional host that provides services for Oakland County is Eastern Michigan University.

• Walsh Family Business Center — The Walsh Family Business Center serves as a catalyst for business growth in southeast Michigan and provides educational services and a unique set of business resources geared specifically for those who own and manage family businesses. Through a comprehensive learning community including educational forums and seminars, networking and Web-based resources, Walsh College and the four business sponsors offer their advanced experience and proven track records in counseling and supporting a multitude of family business scenarios, from investment and estate planning, to business succession and tax issues.

The Walsh Family Business Center sponsors are Serdejan Kann Seyferth and Salucci, Standard Federal Bank, Seymour Gill Financial and Raymond & Prokop.

Following the program, attendees will have the opportunity to visit one-on-one with representatives from all organizations, as well as network with other businesses in attendance.

Novi residents, Allison Barstman, Lauren Brundau, Ashley Brodfuehrer, Britany Brodfuehrer, Lindsey Cronof, Christopher Davis, Danielle Dudek, Marissa Gazley, Jeremy Goodman, Jennifer Harris, Steven Houran, Sarah Murray, Brandon Newman, Stephanie Sokolo and Lindsey Zentil were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Western Michigan University.

Novi residents, Laura Baum and Jennifer Bouck were among the graduates at Central Michigan University during Dec. 2004 commencement exercises.

Matthew Lewis and Angelo Meyers, of Novi, were named to the Dean's List for the January

Swedish joined his post in January 2005, and on Feb. 18 resigned from his previous position with the board of directors at St. Louis-based RehabCare Group, Inc.

Joseph R. Swodish recently was named CEO of Trinity Health, a multi-hospital system that has its corporate offices in Novi.

Trinity Health is located at 27870 Cabot Drive in Novi.

Compiled by Kim Kovelle

THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

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Hey...Novi

It's Time to Pick Your PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop... Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service... This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll.

Join in on the Balloting!

BEST FOOD OUTLETS

- Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels
- 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/cones
- 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
- Best sports bar
- Best place for dancing

BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES

- Best beauty salon
- Best bank
- Best consignment store
- 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

For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To An Award-Winning Restaurant

EDUCATION

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

Frog Force 503 preparing for regional competition



Novi High School Robotics Team member Eric Hepler watches as their Frog Force 503 machine goes through its paces in the laboratory at MagnaTech in Livonia.

Robotics team eager to get back to nationals

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Though Frog Force 503, Novi High School's robotics team, didn't make it to national competitions last year, the kids are not discouraged. In fact, the team has come back this season with a renewed attitude and a drive that hopes will not only propel it to national competitions in Atlanta, but to win it all as well.

Since the FIRST Robotics kickoff event on January 8, where all teams competing received their task at hand for the new season, students at Novi High have been hard at work trying to come up with the best robot they possibly can.

Their efforts produced a final product, which was shipped to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti on Feb. 22, in preparation for next week's regional competition on Thursday, March 10 through Saturday, March 12.

Team members are excited to see how they did on the field and each robot must stack tasks, which are basically hollow pyramids, onto rows.

Teams get points for stacking towers and by clearing rows. There are other ways points can be earned as well.

"The robots start out in the end zone of the field and if you reach

the other end zone within the two minute time frame, you get points for that," Apova Rastogi said, Frog Force 503's marketing team leader. "On the four corners on the field there are vision targets and the robot will work on autonomous mode, trying to gain points by tracking infrared lights as well."

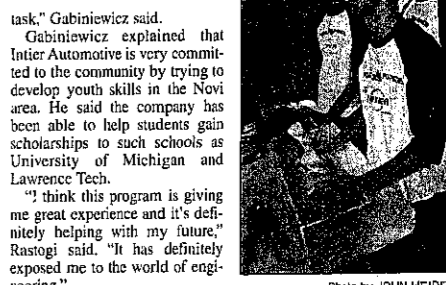
Each year of competition, Frog Force 503 is divided into smaller groups, with each group doing a different job. This year, 41 students are on the team. They make up:

- The drive train group
- The chassis group
- The game specific one group
- The game specific two group
- The wing nomic program control group
- The central CAD group
- The strategy group
- The advanced engineering group
- The pit cart and trailer group
- The marketing group
- The Web site group.

"We take the problem at hand and we try to demonstrate globally how a business would approach the situation," Joe Gabinetz said, general manager at Inter Automotive Testing, who sponsors Frog Force 503. "We are given constraints of time, we are given constraints of funding and we also have technical constraints and obstacles to overcome."

With that knowledge, the team breaks up into separate different units, as any business would. It goes through an overall process of coming up with a concept.

"Once we have the concept and it's agreed upon, our strategy committee breaks us up into separate groups and assigns each



Novi High School students Mike Decello, Jeremy Hilliard, and Eric Hepler, right, work on their "Frog Force 503" robot at MagnaTech in Livonia last Monday morning.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.195 PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 28, "SIGNS" OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE RELATING TO NONCOMMERCIAL MESSAGE SIGNS (ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS).**

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.196 PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 28, "SIGNS" OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE RELATING TO NONCOMMERCIAL MESSAGE SIGNS (ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS).**

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

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 8:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 8th, 2005 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and concurring 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 Novi 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 if you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 11, 2005. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or www.ci.novi.mi.us. NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.

Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 16, 2005. Petitions will not be considered when submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition (available at the Assessing Department), along with any supporting information.

All agents protesting values on property other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.

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.

BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE

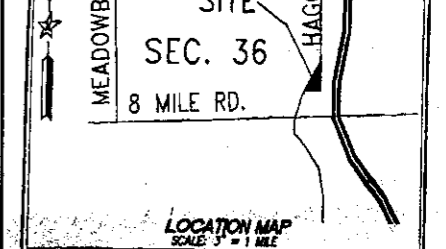
Monday, March 14, 2005 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 15, 2005 - 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16, 2005 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 5, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **HAGGERTY CAR WASH SITE PLAN NUMBER 04-55, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF HAGGERTY ROAD, NORTH OF EIGHT MILE IN THE ES, FREEWAY SERVICE DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately .48 acres.**



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 9, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

ON CAMPUS

Novi residents, Allison Barstman, Lauren Brundau, Ashley Brodfuehrer, Britany Brodfuehrer, Lindsey Cronof, Christopher Davis, Danielle Dudek, Marissa Gazley, Jeremy Goodman, Jennifer Harris, Steven Houran, Sarah Murray, Brandon Newman, Stephanie Sokolo and Lindsey Zentil were named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Western Michigan University.

Novi residents, Laura Baum and Jennifer Bouck were among the graduates at Central Michigan University during Dec. 2004 commencement exercises.

Matthew Lewis and Angelo Meyers, of Novi, were named to the Dean's List for the January

2005 session at the University of Northwestern Ohio.

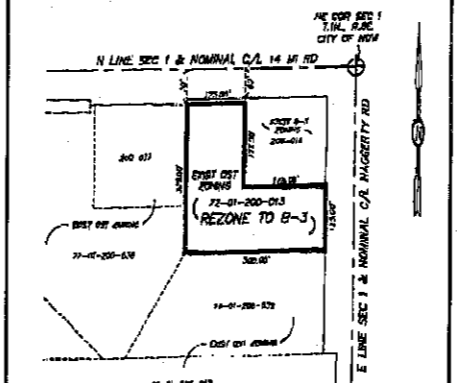
Novi residents, Jacob Feinelt and Jennifer Tucker, were among the December 2004 graduates at Northern Michigan University during commencement exercises.

Cecile Greer of Novi has been named to the Dean's List for fall 2004 semester at Bowling Green State University.

Novi residents, Kathleen Ales, Rachel Fields, Craig Hearn, Nicholas Szalagy, Jamie Vandomendet, Daniel Vecino, Michaela Wask, and Heather White were named to the fall 2004 semester Dean's List at Grand Valley State University.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.647 FOR POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, EAST OF WILSON ROAD AND SOUTH AVENUE, FROM LOCAL GENERAL INDUSTRIAL AND R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RT (TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL). The subject property is 37.750 acres.**



To rezone a part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 1, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being parcel 22-01-200-013 more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point distant West, 235.00 feet and S00°03'30"E, 60.00 feet from the Northwest corner of Section 1; thence S00°03'30"E, 175.00 feet; thence East 175.00 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of Haggerty Road; thence S00°03'30"E, 125.00 feet along said W. stery right-of-way line; thence West, 300.00 feet; thence N00°03'30"W, 300.00 feet; thence East, 125.00 feet to the point of beginning. Excepting that part lying Northerly of a line described as beginning at a point distant N87°24'03"E, 2.225 feet along the North line of Section 1 (normal C/L of Fourteen Mile Road) and S02°35'30"E 70.00 feet from the North 1/4 corner, thence N87°24'03"E, 550.00 feet to the point of ending. Containing 1.33 acres.

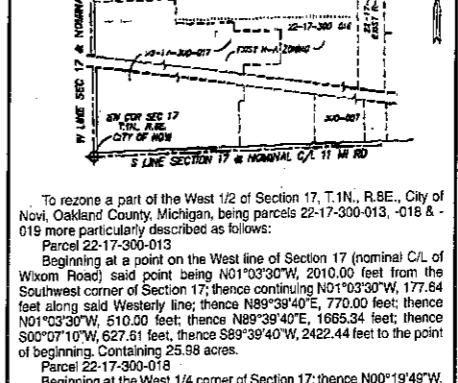
FROM: OST OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY
TO: B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
ORDINANCE NO. 18.647
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 646
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
LOU CSORDAS, MAYOR
MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CLERK

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday March 23, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.647 FOR POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 17, EAST OF WILSON ROAD AND SOUTH AVENUE, FROM LOCAL GENERAL INDUSTRIAL AND R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO RT (TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL). The subject property is 37.750 acres.**



To rezone a part of the West 1/2 of Section 17, T.1N., R.8E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, being parcels 22-17-300-013, -016 & -019 more particularly described as follows:

Parcel 22-17-300-013
Beginning at a point on the West line of Section 17 (normal C/L of Wilson Road) said point being N01°03'30"W, 2010.00 feet from the Southwest corner of Section 17; thence continuing N01°03'30"W, 177.64 feet along said Westerly line; thence N89°34'40"E, 770.00 feet; thence N01°03'30"W, 610.00 feet; thence N89°34'40"E, 1655.24 feet; thence S00°07'07"W, 627.81 feet; thence S89°39'40"W, 2422.44 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 25.98 acres.

Parcel 22-17-300-016
Beginning at the West 1/4 corner of Section 17; thence N00°19'40"W, 156.00 feet along the West line of Section 17 (normal C/L of Wilson Road); thence S89°34'38"E, 475.23 feet; thence S00°19'14"E, 275.02 feet; thence N89°34'38"W, 475.20 feet to a point on the West line of Section 17 (normal C/L of Wilson Road); thence N00°19'14"W, 118.02 feet along said West line to the point of beginning. Containing 3.00 acres.

Parcel 22-17-300-019
Beginning at a point on the West line of Section 17 (normal C/L of Wilson Road) said point being S00°19'14"E, 119.02 feet from the West 1/4 corner of Section 17; thence S89°34'38"E, 475.20 feet; thence N00°19'14"W, 275.02 feet; thence S89°34'38"E, 294.77 feet; thence S00°19'40"E, 686.00 feet; thence N89°34'40"E, 770.00 feet to a point on the West line of Section 17 (normal C/L of Wilson Road); thence N00°19'14"W, 390.98 feet along said West line to the point of beginning. Containing 6.77 acres.

FROM: B-3 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
TO: R-1 ONE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
RT TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
ORDINANCE NO. 18.647
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT NO. 647
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN
ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
LOU CSORDAS, MAYOR
MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CLERK

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

OPINION

novi@homecomm.net

Novi News

Part of HomeTown Communications Network™

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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.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Powerful pile

Mildred Pivoz of the Southfield Career Center, packs away some of the many donated suits, dresses and last week's Threads of Power function at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. A Novi Chamber of Commerce event, Threads of Power gathers and provides business suits for women beginning or re-entering the professional world.

Chamber established a worthy tradition

It's a tough world out there. Jobs are scarce and many are fighting for survival. Having the right tools — like proper business clothing — is essential to success.

Far too often, men and women who are entering or re-entering the workforce do not have a wardrobe that lets them compete with others. Thankfully, there are organizations out there that are dedicated to evening the playing field. Through the generous donations of many who are able to help with suits, ties, slacks, dresses, pant suits, etc. — free of charge — to folks who are embarking on a career.

Last Friday, the Novi Chamber of Commerce held its sixth annual Threads of Power, an event that this year gathered clothing for four of those organizations — Schoolcraft College Career Center, Open Door Career Center, Southfield Career Center and the Clothes Closet at Holy Family Church.

For those of you who don't think Novi has such a need, think again. According to Mildred Pivoz of the Southfield Career Center, 475 people from Novi received help last year.

In a her brief testimonial at Friday's breakfast, Lori O'Brady, a director of the Women's Resource Center, told a room packed with business men and women what it's like.

"When I was at the end of my rope, I thought I had only two options: I could be a kid and hang on or hang myself. Because of all of you, I now know that I can also open some curtains or ring some bells.

O'Brady looked splendid in an entirely donated outfit.

"I could never have projected the image of a confident, driven woman looking like the rag-suit I'd been reduced to... I was made to feel valuable. There is a powerful affirmation in realizing that someone believes that you are worth investing in."

Thankfully, the Chamber and the sponsors of this event (Providence Hospital, Bob Sellers Pontiac-GMC, Doris of Traverse City, Republic Bank, Real Estate One, FedEx, Klinka's, TelComm Credit Union and Direct Buy) truly do believe.

"This is thought of as an affluent area," said Peggy Hayes, executive director of the Chamber, "but we're all just one illness away from bankruptcy."

If you need help, or want to help others, call the Chamber at (248) 349-3743 for more information.

Novi Library speakers on a pre-Motown mission

Working late on Tuesdays putting this newspaper together, combined with the wide assortment of events that an editor needs to attend, it usually takes nights that are unique for me to give up another night at home.

Jazz usually does the trick, however.

Live shows are the main culprit, but last Thursday the Novi Public Library hosted a seminar that was custom made for a dihard bebopper like myself.

Authors Lars Bjorn and Jim Gallert were on hand for an hour-long discussion about the subject of their book, "Before Motown," which chronicles music in Detroit from 1920 to 1960. It is a feast for the eyes, with rare photos, advertisements, maps plotting the city's club scene and the most thorough research imaginable on this subject.

Both these bespectacled gentlemen were independently interviewing old Detroit musicians when they ran into each other in the 1980s. After realizing that they both shared similar interests (each belongs to the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors, a group that's probably not busting in at the seams with members), they decided to collaborate. It's obvious that it's been a labor of love for each.

Gallert, vice president of the Jazz Alliance of Michigan, is a veteran jazz broadcaster and writer.

Bjorn (the self-proclaimed "worst drummer in a small town in Sweden") has penned numerous articles on the subject and is a professor of sociology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The two published the 250-page compilation in 2001 (University of Michigan Press) and were on their first book tour in Pennsylvania last 9/11. "Things have picked up since then," said Bjorn, who noted that they gave another seminar just that same morning at the Detroit Public Library.

I picked up my copy of their book at the Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival two years ago. Ironically, the day after their local seminar, it was announced that Ford was pulling its sponsorship out of the ailing festival, which for 25 years has been the largest free jazz festival in North America.

Jazz in Detroit is struggling to survive. But it wasn't always like that, as the two authors pointed out. The popularity of the genre mirrored that of the automobile, and it reached its climax locally in the 1950s.

Detroit was a draw for its music, but also for its job market. Blacks did not work on the assembly lines until 1942 after they made a mass exodus from the south to work in the factories of the Motor City.

"Get a job up there at Mr. Ford's place, stop these caless days," moaned Blind Blake in his "Detroit Bound Blues," the first tune that Gallert played on a

boombox for the library gathering.

He and his partner both tapped their feet and bobbed their heads to the raw acoustic blues. Behind them, on a large screen, slides of Detroit musicians — the boogie woogie pianist Big Maceo, Leroy Smith, McKinney's Cotton Pickers, Thad Jones, Sippie Wallace, Tommy Flanagan, Yusuf Latif — and historic venues, most of which are no longer standing — the Koppin Theater, the Bluebird Inn, and the northeast portion of Woodward and Grand known as Paradise Alley ("a place for whites to go slumming," said Bjorn).

Most of the 40-plus people in attendance were old enough to remember many of the images, nodding their heads and smiling as memories came back. "The Graystone Ballroom," said one elderly man. "I used to dance there!"

The big band craze that erupted in the 1920s was the direct result of the blues and society bands — black musicians playing light classics, waltzes and ragtime for white audiences. Although close dancing was taboo in Detroit in the teens, the city soon was supporting 10 major ballrooms. The leading proponent was pianist Ben Goldkette, who bought the Detroit Athletic Club and put together a white band which at one time boasted the Dorsey brothers (Tommy and Jimmy) as well as the legendary cornetist Bix Beiderbecke.

By 1940, all the major ideas had been developed for the next evolution of jazz — bebop. It was in Detroit that Dizzy Gillespie (who along with Charlie Parker, pioneered the movement) was first presented as the main act. The city boasted numerous top-name musicians, many who left the city to explore the Big

Apple. Others, like pianist Willie Anderson ("Detroit's best kept secret," said Bjorn) stuck around and made a living. Anderson died in 1971 at the age of 47, but the playing of "The Man I Love" reveals that this mostly-unheard of musician was just another in a long list of greats that Detroit produced and keeps producing — James Carter, Rodney Whitaker, Regina Carter, Karen Riggins, Kenny Garrett... It's almost like an assembly line of creativity.

As the move from big bands and big venues to small bands and small venues killed the ballrooms, television likewise dealt a heavy blow to the club scene. But one — the Flame Show Bar — would play a significant role in the history of music. It was there that Berry Gordy, an aspiring songwriter, backed the talent that would eventually form the plucky band for all the Motown label's hits — the Funk Brothers.

Everyone knows the hits of Motown. Everyone knows that the automobile's roots were planted in Detroit. What most people don't know is the rich jazz tradition the city offered in that 40-year, pre-Motown era. Educating folks is what Bjorn and Gallert are all about.

In their research, they have come across obscure and fantastic recordings by Detroit musicians which they are currently compiling for a CD to be released on the Uptown label in August. A large live bash will be held at Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit. Looks like one more night away from home.

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

Column



Cal Stone

FROM THE MAYOR

Fox Run — It's nothing but a party

When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now, do do do do do...

I recently had the opportunity to visit Fox Run, Novi's community within a community.

I was there with Sheryl Walsh (City of Novi community relations manager) to tape her monthly cable show, Update Novi. Mike McCormick, Fox Run executive director, allowed us to tape her show at his facility, and the setting was elegant.

Fox Run is a division of Erickson Retirement Communities and is located on Thirteen Mile west of M-5. It will change your impression of "retirement home," that's for sure. This is a vibrant community of folks who are enjoying living in Novi. At birdout, I believe there will be 1,200 dwelling units, and that only begins to describe Fox Run.

Sure, you can choose from 26 floor plans ranging from a one-bedroom apartment to a 1,400-square-foot penthouse. That's a good starting point. Now add on the fact that you have access to an on-site, full-service bank, a dentist office, medical doctors, a grocery

store, a fantastic health club, an enclosed swimming pool, a billiard room and much more. You can look outside at our crummy winter weather and just stay inside with your friends.

And boy, do you have a lot of friends! You must be 62 years young to move into Fox Run (Mike told me that I didn't look old enough), and you better be ready to party. I have been fortunate enough to attend their annual Gala and their tailgate party. Tailgate party? I'll say! They had a huge tent, food all over the place, the Michigan State Cheerleaders, Sparty the mascot and the University of Michigan Marching Band. Not your typical tailgate party.



Lou Coordas

Will you still be sending me a valentine, birthday greetings, bottle of wine?

and the students — love it. There are even scholarship opportunities, funded by the residents. For these young people, it is a joy to watch the interaction. Clearly, this is a win-win scenario.

The dedication of the staff under Mike's leadership is extraordinary. They seem to truly love their job. But the most intriguing thing about Fox Run is the residents. They are having a great time, judging by the smiles on their faces. Everyone takes the time to smile and say hello. They have units upon their doors and enjoy each other's company. They dine with their friends, participate in billiard leagues, work out together and don't even need to leave the facility if they don't want to.

Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 62?

I can't wait until I am 62! Sheryl's Update Novi will air on Novi's channel 13 the month of March. When you see Mike and his true professional enthusiasm, I think you will agree — Fox Run is a great place to be. And Fox Run is in a great city.

Lou Coordas is the mayor of the City of Novi. He can be reached at (248) 347-0460.

LANSING CONNECTION

Finance Committee Hears Testimony on Michigan's Economy

The Senate Finance Committee, which I chair, met last week and heard testimony regarding the state's economy from Gary Wolfgram, president of the Hillsdale Policy Group and Mansson Professor of political economy at Hillsdale College. Hillsdale Policy Group specializes in taxation and public policy analysis.

Professor Wolfgram testified that Michigan is one of only two states, according to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, which has lost jobs in the past 12 months. In that period, Michigan lost 45,000 jobs.

He also said that there is a direct link between taxes and economic growth. According to his testimony, businesses and individuals make decisions on the margin. He used this example to explain: Suppose that taxes are only 5 percent of the cost of producing goods and services and that the only other cost is labor, making up 95 percent. Suppose also that the cost of labor is the same in Michigan and Indiana, but that tax costs are 20 percent higher in Michigan. Then, a business will choose to locate in Indiana, since its costs are cheaper there.

He cited several studies showing that state and local taxes have a negative effect on state economic growth, as well as an adverse effect on the location of foreign investment. Furthermore, research shows that Michigan ranks 50th in its corporate income tax rate, and has the fourth highest taxes on business.



Nancy Cassis

Professor Wolfgram recommended the Senate Finance Committee look at ways to lower Michigan's tax burden on producing goods and services, cutting research that tax revenue through the increase in economic activity.

It is likely that once the governor's tax restructuring proposal is complete, that it will come before the Finance Committee. The committee will give the proposal a prompt, thorough and fair hearing.

Rotary International — A Century of Community Service

I had the pleasure last week of recognizing the largest volunteer organization in the world on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. In that century of service, Rotary has promoted international understanding, and this year, is on the verge of reaching its goal to wipe out polio.

In our communities, Rotarians have worked to address pressing issues such as literacy, at-risk children and violence. Rotary has supported programs for our youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges, and vocational and career development.

All of that, because Rotarians strive each day to embody the spirit of their motto: "Service Above Self."

Rotary has a significant presence across the 15th District. Congratulations to all Rotarians on reaching this milestone. I am confident Rotary will continue to make a

positive impact in our communities.

Initiative Ends Health Care Penalty

As Chair of the House Tax Policy Committee, almost five years ago, I spearheaded legislation to eliminate the so-called health benefit penalty. Initiated a package of bills that cut the penalty in half by 2007 which was signed into law last year.

Continuing this trend, the House last week approved a measure to end permanently and immediately the rest of the states employer health benefit under the Single Business Tax.

We have recognized in this state that if we want to encourage employers to provide health benefits for their employees, taxing them on the cost of those benefits does not make sense. Ending the tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits will allow businesses to, instead of sending money to the state, spend the money they save on providing health care for employees.

The proposal will be looked at as part of a total tax reform package we will be working on this winter and spring.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at: scassis@senate.mi.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 White Lake; and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Weston.

OTHER OPINIONS

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

Two efforts offer hope for future of state's economy

Michigan is having trouble working out a sensible business strategy. There are lots of reasons, some good, some bad.

Start with the bad: The governor's a Democrat and the Legislature is Republican; both are more than fairly interested in short-term partisan advantage.

Nor does the infighting stop there. As I understand it, the tone of discourse during the meetings between Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche and Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkenia involves language you wouldn't want to appear in a family newspaper. Worse, relations between DeRoche and Sikkenia vary between frosty and frigid. If these folks can't get along like sensible adults, where does that leave the state?

The Legislature started by treating Granholm's proposals as DOA, but then (oops) figured out that to just keep on saying "No" risked being called obstructionist. So maybe they're re-thinking. On top of it all is the sad state budget, which will need something like \$376 million in cuts to bring this year's spending plan into balance. This is mostly the result of our chronic structural budget deficit, which the Lansing politicians are too timid to tackle.

But the biggest obstacle might be called the "five by the sword, die by the sword" problem. For decades, Michigan made a great living off the high-pay, low-skill manufacturing jobs provided by the auto industry. But over the past few years a combination of outsourcing, offshoring and productivity gains has resulted in an accelerating hemorrhage of these jobs. It's as though the foundation for our entire economic hope is being disassembled, cinder block by cinder block.

Worse, the "one big industry" habit of mind is deeply entrenched. For too much conversation in Lansing rotates around the fantasy of one great big economic silver bullet that will bail us out of trouble. Will it be life sciences? Might it be home care services? Could it be agile manufacturing? Nah.

Most likely it will wind up with an unpredictable mix of things where Michigan has a comparative advantage. And the process is very likely to take place piecemeal and by fits and starts.

Which is why it's instructive to look at two locally based efforts that offer some hope for the future. First is Automation Alley, originally proposed by Brooks Patterson of Oakland County.

In 2001, the Alley affiliated with the Great Lakes Industrial Marketing Association (GLIMA), marrying the high-tech business community and an interactive and technical labor force. In 2003, Automation Alley created the Technology Center, which leverages business, education, government and money to help entrepreneurs bring new technologies to market quicker and more efficiently. Just last year, the Alley started a new headquarters in Troy.

The Alley's current annual budget is around \$2 million, mostly raised from dues from member companies and some state assistance. Tom Anderson, the capable and thoughtful director of the Tech Center, says that he's trying to start a quarterly forum to bring together entrepreneurs and investment professionals.

to make more visible the good business investment opportunities available in Southeastern Michigan. He's also working on tripling the Alley's \$1.4 million seed fund.

Over in Ann Arbor, some local business leaders are looking up with the University of Michigan to try to do something similar. With a working title of "Ann Arbor Tech Central," the group is shaking the bushes to put together a \$1 million-plus annual budget.

Contra to the undertaking is active involvement by the University of Michigan, which under President Mary Sue Coleman's regime has at last realized it needs to get its hands dirty exploring its terrific research capability and helping get businesses launched.

A University insider put the case sensibly to me last week: "We've got to look on this just like a venture capital firm looks at a start-up. It's a long-term proposition. You've got to keep at it. You'll make some mistakes. But you have to keep working on it until it works."

Right on. In the case of Automation Alley, it's taken seven years of hard work to make a functioning organization capable of building Southeastern Michigan's existing strengths in automobile-related high tech.

In the case of Ann Arbor Tech Central, the right people are coming to the right conclusion at the right time. Similar organizations are bubbling up in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids.

In all cases, it's hard-driving local folks who are leading the charge, not the politicians in Lansing. Sure, they need support from the state, in two major ways: A) Money. Keeping out of the way. And fortunately the local folks are not all hung up with partisanship, ego or chronic structural budget deficits. Perhaps Lansing can learn something from the Livestock of this state. Let's hope so.

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 either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Michigan's biggest problem is as simple as black and white

Lon Johnson, a young political organizer who has worked for Democratic candidates across the country, thinks there is something troublingly unique about the culture in Michigan.

"I've never seen any place where everything was so divided along racial lines," he said, adding that sooner or later, nearly every statewide issue was affected, if not decided, by some aspect of the racial divide.

That, he believes, may be Michigan's biggest challenge — greater than the trade wars from a manufacturing to an intellectual skills-based economy; greater than the state budget problem or the education crisis.

"We are asking the kids to be ready for a world economy. Yet too often, they don't even know each other's cultures that are just separated by a few miles," Johnson said, as his rat terrier puppy, Jack Johnson, named for the great black heavyweight champion, yipped furiously in the background.

His views are worth considering because of his own background. Now 33, Johnson grew up largely in working-class, blue-collar Detroit suburbs before moving to Arizona for college. Afterwards, he bounced around the country, working for former Vice-President Al Gore in Washington and finally returning to his home state to successfully run a tough campaign for U.S. Rep. John Dingell in 2002. Now, he's decided to stay put, opening an office in Royal Oak.

And he worries about the future of a state that was once seen as a national trend-setter. He knows that, thanks to the global economy, today's school kids will emerge into a world in which "they will be working with Asian, South American, African and European cultures."

How will they compete? And can Michigan ever bridge the racial divide? Global competition is something that has been endlessly chattered about in Michigan ever since

Japanese cars began to sell in the 1970s.

Yet race has become the elephant in the living room that nobody wants to face. Every February, during Black History month, newspapers and schoolteachers trot out stories of black pioneers, including even a sanitized Malcolm X. Yet serious political discussion dips around the racial issue.

Nobody is willing to tackle the continuing problem of race. For white politicians in general and for white Democrats in particular, criticizing the shortcomings of black politicians is seen as potential political suicide. Though everyone knows, for example, that one famous longtime black officeholder is other's cultures that are just separated by a few miles," Johnson said, as his rat terrier puppy, Jack Johnson, named for the great black heavyweight champion, yipped furiously in the background.

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Yet there is no willingness on the part of Michigan to tackle the elephant that is Detroit. Nobody is willing to help the city economically or fight to reform a city charter that rewards inefficiency and prevents accountability.

That is largely due to the racial divide. Experts know that Detroit's decline is rooted, not in race, but in the fact that the city could not annex surrounding territory. Starting when the expressways were built in the 1950s, people and businesses left for greener pastures, with cheaper land and less taxes. That meant the city had to begin a vicious circle of raising taxes and cutting services to those left.

Today, only those who can't afford to escape remain. Whites pretend the city's condition is the fault of shiftless blacks. Blacks blame racism. What's needed is metropolitan government. But that would cost whites money and cost blacks political power. And neither side is willing to sacrifice for the greater good.

Incredibly perhaps, Lon Johnson sees hope. He thinks people in each generation are becoming more comfortable with diversity. "It all starts by exposure — in schools, work, social activities and churches," he says.

Yet he pauses. "In too many cities within the Detroit metro area, meaningful exposure to races and cultures other than our own is difficult because of segregation. Like it or not, Detroit is the most segregated city in the nation.

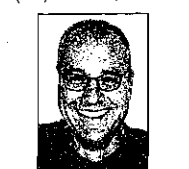
Someday, perhaps, Michigan will overcome. But if it doesn't soon, the state seriously risks becoming an economic backwater. Once, we were home to the Motor City and the Arsenal of Democracy. Today, we instead seem to be evolving into sort of a Mississippi with ice storms. And if that happens, it will be no one's fault but our own.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at lesberry@homecomm.net.

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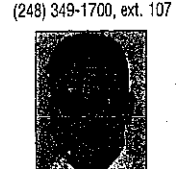
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Rollin' with Novi Woods
Novi Woods students, staff and their families escaped the cold weather and enjoyed a roller skating party on a recent Tuesday night. Pictured here are students Louisa Zheng, Lauren Matson, Hannah Burgol, Kendall Kramer, teacher Roberts Lazar, Claire Reynolds, Marko Salic and Elizabeth Wiegand.



Meadows teacher, grandmother raise funds for Russian orphans

■ Ultimate goal to raise a post-orphanage program

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

After about seven months of encountering absolutely no progress in the battle to adopt three Russian orphans, Novi Meadows sixth grade teacher Jody Payne still hasn't given up hope.

For six weeks during last July and August, Payne left the comfortable confines of the Novi Community School District and made his way to Sosnovaya Children's Home, in the Leningrad region of Russia, to spread his love and teachings to orphaned children.

He felt so much in love with the kids, that when he came back home, he decided to try to adopt three of them to raise as his own. The orphanage, however, is in such a rural area, and combined with the fact that he's a single man, Payne has had no luck finding any adoption agencies willing to help him adopt the children.

So Payne has now shifted his attention to plan B. Instead of trying to help just three of the children, he has decided to help all the kids in that orphanage by raising money. He got in touch with another former volunteer at the same orphanage, by the name of Jacque Higgins-Rosebrook, a grandmother from the state of Washington, who volunteered in the summer of 2003. She then, she has not a chance

of Sosnovaya Street, named after the street where the orphanage is located. "The two decided to combine their efforts."

"I've talked to her about what I'd like to do to help these kids," Payne said. "She said that's exactly the kinds of things that she's been doing for the last couple years, so we decided to work together."

Rosebrook runs a very small charity with a small budget. She has a lot of ideas of things that she would like to do, but hasn't been able to accomplish a lot of them because of a lack of funding. She told Payne that she'd be happy to allow him to have people donate directly to the funds. He'll be in control of the funds that he's able to bring in and that way it will all be tax exempt.

Payne created his own Web site, www.gocities.com/jodypayne, where anyone can donate money. He said that he basically tells people about the orphanage, about the kids and about his experience last summer. It talks about the fact that he's raising money and what it's for. "It's through word of mouth now," Payne said. "People can do credit card donations right online through the network and checks can be sent directly to the charity."

Payne sent a personal e-mail to some of his friends and asked them to please send some personal e-mails to people that they know to tell them about the Web site.

"It has definitely snowballed," he said. "I've gotten a very good response to it. I really found that everybody who's gone to the Web site is really affected by it. Teachers are especially affected, because,

obviously they have a lot of love for kids and total strangers have been going out of their way to help as well."

Payne is personally trying to raise \$20,000. He would like to focus on helping the kids that are still in the orphanage, as opposed to ones who have been emancipated, because these are the ones he knows from his visit. He would like to purchase new mattresses and plastic bed covers, new dishes, silverware and cups so that there would be enough for every child. Also, Payne and Rosebrook have found two women who are willing to teach sewing and art. He plans on purchasing art and sewing supplies for them, some books and school supplies.

Rosebrook's goal is to create a post-orphanage program and she has actually found a woman who's willing to run it. With this program, the kids can go to this woman and she would help them find educational opportunities, job training opportunities and help them find a safe place to live after they are emancipated from the orphanage. "She will be somebody to turn to when they need help," Payne said. "Most of us, when we got done with high school, we still had our parents to rely on and help direct us. By having that person there, who can help them find these things, we think that the kids would be more likely to continue in education. They do have opportunities, but they have to take advantage of them and find them."

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 210, or by e-mail at khuri@n.now.com.net.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Preschool registration begins

Preschool registration for Novi residents and non-residents is currently under way.

Parents may register their children between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Child Care Services Office, 25345 Taji Road (in the TTC 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.novivillage2.net. Parents can also call (248) 449-1713.

Fannon in leadership conference

Steven Fannon of Novi was selected to participate in the National Young Leaders

Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 1-6. NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Fannon 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, Fannon will interact with a



S. Fannon

variety of personnel who operate within the three branches of government, the new media and the international community.

Board meeting location change

The Novi Community School District board of education meeting will take place at Novi High School instead of at the Educational Services Building, tonight at 7:30 p.m.

ACT test date

College-bound high school students can take the ACT Assessment on April 9, the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is tomorrow. 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 admissions requirements of colleges they are considering before deciding whether to register for the ACT with or without the writing test. The cost is \$28 without 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. 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

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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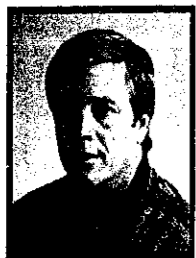
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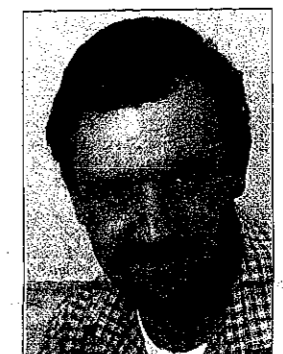
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SENIORS

Kim Kovelleville, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Keeping busy is 'beautiful' for this lifelong workingwoman

Country Cleaner's clerk turns 84 this Saturday

By Kim Kovelleville
STAFF WRITER

With a friendly smile, open ear and quick hand, Frances Blackman helps customers dropping off their laundry at Novi's Country Cleaners.

She knows most by name and keeps notes on the number of items they bring. When business is slow, she sweeps floors and packages clothes.

And, this Saturday, the dedicated clerk celebrates her 84th birthday.

"I have worked so much all my life that I can't get it out of my blood," Blackman said. "Beautiful. Beautiful. Enjoyed every minute of it."

Born in Birmingham, Ala. in 1921, Blackman babysat her brothers, sisters and stepsiblings as a young girl. She cared for neighbors in need, like nearby elderly woman.

"I would go up there and help her in the kitchen with the cooking, clean the kitchen," Blackman recalled. Fingers were calloused tending to an icehouse and woodstove.

When she arrived in Detroit at age 17, work continued. Blackman's uncle paid her two crisp dollar bills to watch over her grandmother for a week.

"I'd taken that and I got an ad in the paper," she said. "This lady that called me up was a nurse. Her mother was confined to bed." As caretaker, Blackman earned \$2.50 a week.

A different position then offered lodging and \$8 a week to tidy up after pinocle parties.

Her dream was to become a nurse, but college funds weren't available. So, after graduating from Miller High School in 1940, she said, "I worked and I worked



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Frances Blackman at work at the Novi dry cleaner operation she's called home for the last three years.

and I worked."

At Cunningham's Drug Store, she rang up deli sandwiches. The elevator at Detroit's Wurlitzer organ factory ran smoothly with Blackman's help. Her first experience with dry-cleaning was at Uptown Cleaners, and Hudson's Dearborn warehouse later offered a union job.

Care-taking passions she put to

work at Calvary Baptist Church in Detroit, where she still serves as a volunteer nurse.

Married twice, Blackman said her first husband's alcohol problems ended wedlock in five years. The next union, to a Baptist deacon, lasted just as long — but this time, a heart condition she hadn't known about took his life.

"I wanted children so bad,"

Blackman said, but she didn't wed again. "Had enough surprises."

Working as a Sunday school teacher at Calvary over the years helped fill that void. Students later sent thank you notes and told her about college, marriage and families.

There are countless nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. It was a niece who encouraged Blackman to move to Farmington Hills recently.

Immediately, she found work at a Mai-Kai Cleaners for four years.

Managers there recommended Blackman to Country Cleaners Manager Darlena Whitehair about three years ago. A new clerk was needed.

"When Frances came in, I thought, 'No, this lady's not still working,'" said Whitehair. "She's been a dream. She's always straightening or doing something."

"All the customers love her. She greets them. She's polite with them. She's a sweetheart."

Blackman drives her red car to Novi four days a week. She works four hours each time.

"The customers are so nice," she said. "They talk to you about (their) experiences."

At home, she listens to Ella Fitzgerald records and reads. "I love mysteries and history. I haven't gotten to old to learn."

Blackman calls herself a "low-key person." She'll mark her 84th birthday quietly, likely with her co-workers.

Whitehair hopes Blackman stays as long as she can. How long?

"Until they kick me out," smiled Blackman. "I want to help the children so they wouldn't have it the way I had it."

"I thank God for every day of my life."

Kim Kovelleville 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.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 3/4

8:45 a.m. Panera Bread
9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch
noon Clogging
12:30 p.m. Bingo
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge

Monday 3/7

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
11:30 a.m. Goodie Lady
noon Lunch & *12:30 p.m. Pinocle
1-3 p.m. Healing Touch
*6:30 p.m. Clogging

Tuesday 3/8

9 a.m. Panera Bread
9 a.m. Line Dance
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Focus Hope and TPAB Distribution
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1-2:30 p.m. Computer - Intermediate
7 p.m. Camera Club presents a slide show on "The Love Boat" to China

Wednesday 3/9

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Massage
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11 a.m. Blood Pressure and TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging*
1:30-3 p.m. Sing-a-Long with George and Caroline
Greektown Casino Trip

Thursday 3/10

9 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income taxes - by appointment only
10-11:30 a.m. Computer - Beginner
noon Lunch
12:15 Bridge*
1 p.m. Spelling Bee at Northville Senior Center
1-2 p.m. Line Dance
1:30-3 p.m. Book discussion

Activities designated with an "*" will be held at the Novi Civic Center. The Senior Center is located at 25075 Meadowbrook.

SENIORS SPELL

- **What:** A first annual Senior Spelling Bee will include savvy spellers from Novi, Wixom, Northville, South Lyon, Milford and Highland Township
- **When:** Thursday, March 10: registration, 11-11:30 a.m.; lunch*, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; spelling rounds begin 1-2 p.m.; coffee break 2-2:15 p.m.; spelling rounds continue from 2:15 until finished
- **Where:** Northville Community Senior Center, 303 W. Main St.
- **Join:** Call the Novi Senior Center at (248) 347-0414

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Keeping Novi cheerful

There has never been any doubt about who can get the fans out of their seats the quickest — the cheerleaders, of course. The competitive cheer team, under the guidance of Emily Parker, is ready to go on a run for the state finals when they compete in the regional tournament Saturday at Southgate Anderson High School.

— Page 3B and 4B



Scores and highlights

Novi never quits trying to secure victory, as they proved all last week. Scoreboard gives all the details about Novi athletics.

— Page 2B



Regional Marketplace

The practitioners at Main Street Family Medicine have been providing exceptional quality in medical care treating newborns to geriatrics in downtown Northville and additionally at Green Oak Family Medicine located just west of South Lyon. The family practice is accepting new patients at both locations.

— Page 6B

SPORTS

1-B NOVI NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

Thursday, March 2, 2005

Bowlers capture regional

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was one small step for Novi, but one giant leap for a growing high school sport.

The Novi Wildcats boys bowling team, coached by John Osborne, won their regional tournament last week with an impressive showing. The next step? To the state finals, of course.

"I think as the season started the expectations were very high," said Osborne. "We had all but one bowler back and we thought we could do well."

And why not? The team finished second in the region last year to earn a berth to the finals. This year the hopes were just as high.

During the regular season, both the boys and the girls — who are also coached by Osborne — found themselves taking a few losses along the way.

"There were some speed bumps," Osborne noted. "We lost a few competitions and didn't respond well to a couple of things."

The girls team showed marked improvement from the year prior though, gaining several more wins before ending their year with a 12th-place finish in the field of 19 regional teams.

Participating on the girls team this year was Mandy Hawley, Jennifer Rudolph, Katie Kohls, Christine Skouber, Cathleen Garbacik, Laura Lynch, Michelle Buelow, Stephanie Crocker, Danielle Schumaker and Alex Dinsner.

"They bowled well," Osborne said. "They did better (at the regional) than they did during the year with their scoring. They were over their average every game. Seeing that kind of improvement at the end of the year is always good."

The boys, however, will move on to continue their season. Tomorrow and Saturday they will compete in the Class A state finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights. The bowling center is located at 17 Mile Road and VanDyke.

They earned the berth with some impressive bowling at the regional tournament, where they finished first out of 19 teams in participation. The Wildcats scored 4265 total points — over 100 points ahead of Taylor Kennedy, which took second place.

"We had some big games in there," said Osborne. "It was a good day for us. We had some individuals have nice games, which helped us."

Osborne said there are 16 teams in the finals and Novi will be paired up against another team in a bracket format. The winner of the head-to-head match-up will move on and the loser goes home.

Pairings were not available at press time, but can be seen at www.mhsaa.com.

"There are some teams in the finals with great scoring," said Osborne. "They are shooting a little better than us right now, but it all depends on which team is on."

Novi will bring seven bowlers to the finals with five being able to compete. Derek Smith, Dan DePoilo, Evan Danielson, Mike Martinez, Steve Hamilton, Alex Hamilton and Nick McMasters will make the trek to Sterling Heights tomorrow and Saturday.

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

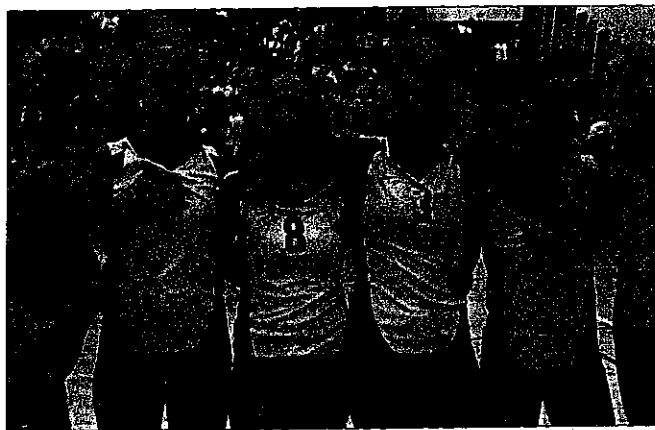


Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

The Novi Wildcats were all smiles when they earned a district title last week. From left to right: seniors Nicole Barndt, Sarah Schmitt, Liz Clark, Amanda Toffoli, Sara Bielski and junior Megan Miller.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

As though anyone needed proof the Novi Wildcats volleyball team is on fire as of late, the school reacted to their presence at a 3 p.m. practice Monday.

Fire alarms sounded and the squad, coached by Julie Fisetle, had to exit practice and the

building until the situation was handled.

The cause? No doubt the way the Wildcats have been playing. Not only did they secure a share of the KVC title for the first time in the program's history last week, but the Novi spikers earned just the second district tournament title in school history.

"It's such a great feeling," said

senior captain Nicole Barndt. "We've worked so hard this season. This has just been amazing."

District champions

The Wildcats went into their first game expecting to be in close contention with the Walled Lake, Central Vikings — a

THEY DID IT AGAIN!

Wildcats win district volleyball title, get ready for regional

favorite to make the district final game. Novi pounded through them in just three games. The Wildcats did the same thing to North Farmington in the next game to advance to the final.

"We knew (Walled Lake) Northern was going to be tough," said senior Sara Bielski. "We just came together and played our game."

And when Novi does that, Fisetle thinks her squad is nearly unbeatable.

"If we play our A-game, we always have a great chance of winning," she said, her voice nearly gone from the yelling and celebrating at the district tournament.

Continued on 3B

KVC title old hat for cagers

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Winning the Kensington Valley Conference this year seemed like destiny for the Novi Wildcats basketball team.

The squad, coached by Pat Schluter, fell in just their second game of the year to Canton before going on a 13-game winning streak through the KVC. By the time the title was up for grabs, the Wildcats had put themselves in a position to win it.

The only thing standing in their way was rival Milford.

"It didn't matter," said Schluter. "We came out hungry. We were up 18-2 in the first quarter. You could tell they wanted it and they put it to Milford right away. They played awesome."

The 48-33 win over the Mavericks came on the heels of two disappointing losses for Novi. The first to Brighton and the second — and surprising — one coming against Hartland.

"I think that kind of hurt our confidence a little," said Schluter. "Against Hartland we just played horrible. (Anthony) Harbin shot just 3-for-13 and (Mark) Moore was 0-12."

But even in the darkness of a loss against Hartland, with the final tally being just 40-35, there was a silver lining.

"Our two top guys didn't play well at all, but we still almost won," said Schluter.

How? Why? Teamwork, as it has been for the past three years, is the answer. No Wildcat is selfish under Schluter's command. No one looks to keep the ball more than they score. Everyone knows their role.

"The kids have bought into it," he said. "That's half the battle right there."

Andy why not? Schluter has built a powerhouse program in the halls of Novi High School. He has a record of 59-10 this year and the past two. He has three-straight district tournament titles, three-straight KVC titles and a host of individual awards given to himself and his kids.

The message is clear — Schluter and his gang play to win.

Salem no match for Novi

By Matt Simich
SPECIAL WRITER

There was little that could be done for the Salem Rocks following their run-in with the Novi Wildcats Monday night.

When the smoke cleared and the dust settled following a first-round district game, Novi stood victorious, 57-37.

"We knew that they couldn't handle pressure well," said Novi coach Pat Schluter. "So we wanted to trap them early on and try to get the early lead."

The Wildcats jumped out to a comfortable lead thanks to some impressive play from the likes of Mark Moore, who scored 10 points, and Anthony Harbin, who added eight.

"I didn't think we were going to come out as strong as we did," said Anthony Harbin. "Hopefully we can work that hard on Wednesday and Friday as well."

The Wildcats were led in scoring by Sean White, who added 11 points to Novi's total on the night. Todd Janer notched eight points while A.W. Stanek scored six in the victory.

"I think our record says it all," he said. "Winning 20 games in a season is pretty good, considering how many teams manage to do it. To do it three years in a row? That's pretty impressive."

Times have definitely changed from when Schluter first signed on at Novi. When he first took over the program he never thought he'd hold a district title in his hands. His team's focused on other things besides winning. The feeling of holding a trophy in his hands and the expectations of winning titles may have changed for Schluter, but his team's focus still resembles that from so many years ago.

"Sometimes it's not all about winning," he said. "Sometimes it's more about believing and letting the kids have fun."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A lot of Wildcats saw action Monday night against the Rocks of Salem including Novi's Wiley Moss, right, who makes a block against Kyle Price.

By the numbers

2 District titles ever won in Novi volleyball history.

3 Kensington Valley Conference titles in a row for Novi basketball.

2 Number of Novi wrestlers competing in the state finals.

3 Straight district tournament titles Novi basketball has won.

3 Times Novi hockey has gone to the state semifinals in the program's seven years.

59-10 Basketball record over the past three years. They are 10-3 in post-season play.

1 Match lost by Novi volleyball when going into the fifth and final game.

Wildcats can't get puck past Rice

The Novi Wildcats hockey team just couldn't find the weakness in Brother Rice's goalie Monday night.

The Warriors skated away with a 6-1 victory over Novi, knocking the Wildcats out of playoff contention with the loss.

Despite Brother Rice having 29 shots on goal compared to Novi's 24, the Wildcats just couldn't seem to get the puck past the Warrior goalie, Justin Rucendo. Novi's goalie, stopped 23 shots on the night.

Brother Rice got on the board early in the contest, scoring the first goal of the game at 5:52 in the first period of play before adding their lead with a goal in the second period for a 2-0 advantage. The Warriors added a third tally with just a minute remaining in the second stanza.

Brother Rice added two more goals for a 5-0 lead before the Wildcats were finally able to break onto the scoreboard. Tom Caverilla took assistance from Jon Hamblin and Steve Rousseau and fired the puck past the Warrior goalie to cut the Brother Rice lead to 5-1.

Unfortunately, it was all the scoring Novi could muster as Brother Rice went on to add a final score for the 6-1 final.

Two headed to state finals

Wildcat grapplers Bharat Saran, a senior, and junior John Favorite made the most of their opportunities Saturday and earned a trip to the individual state finals tournament held at the Palace of Auburn Hills next weekend.

After claiming the district title last week, Saran, wrestling at 119 pounds, continued to roll at the regional meet. He won his first two matches of the day to earn a spot in the finals for the second straight week. Unfortunately, he ran into Vinnie Colonna of Ulica in the finals and was defeated and Saran's first trip to the state finals.

Favorite, wrestling at 160 pounds, will also be making his first trip to the state finals. In the consolation semi-finals he came back from an early deficit to earn an overtime victory, and a trip to the Palace. He finished the day fourth after falling to Tony Tronti of Cousino in the final round.

Also wrestling at the regional tournament, but failing to qualify was senior Jason Sierra (135), junior Dan Sprey (215), and sophomore AJ Vellathottam (103).

Sierra was eliminated in the consolation semi-finals when he lost a heart-breaker, 2-1, to Mike

Morfit of Walled Lake Western. Like Sierra, Vellathottam fell in the consolation semi-finals as well. He battled through a severe arm injury, but was defeated by Jon Thomas of Troy.

Sprey was eliminated in the second round when he fell to Jeff Mann of Waterford Kettering.

The individual state finals will be held at the Palace of Auburn Hills Thursday March 10-12.

Cheer all fired up

The Novi Wildcats cheerleading team is making themselves a bit of a rivalry at the regional scene for this weekend's tournament.

The squad, coached by Emily Parker, will have to finish first or second in order to advance to the state finals when they compete in the regional tournament at Southgate Anderson High School this Saturday.

"Other tough teams in the region include Southgate Anderson. Last year's regional champion, Allen Park, the team Novi beat by one-half of a point in the state last year, and Bedford," said Parker.

The Wildcats are well aware of how tough it can be to escape the region, so to prepare they've made a point to taking on Allen Park twice in just the span of a week.

Through Novi failed to beat their foes in either match-up, the Wildcats are feeling confident heading into the final competition between the two teams.

In their first match between each other, at the Laker Invitational, Allen Park barely scraped past the Wildcats by 30.5 points. Their second meeting was even closer when Allen Park edged Novi at the Wyandotte Invitational by just three points.

"Allen Park wants to get us back because of how we beat them last year," said lone cheerleader senior Amanda Smith. "If we can do our best, we should be able to beat them. We're going to have to be nearly flawless though."

Also recording a strong performance was Jenna Ramsey, who took first on the vault, fourth on the bars and third with her floor exercise while Julie Fischer collected second in the vault, sixth on the bars, third with her floor routine and fifth overall.

Rachel Denigan also had a nice day, finishing third on the beam and second with her floor routine in Division II competition. She was awarded first-place for her average score on the beam this year for Division II in the Western Division.

Also recording a strong performance was Jenna Ramsey, who took first on the vault, fourth on the bars and third with her floor exercise while Julie Fischer collected second in the vault, sixth on the bars, third with her floor routine and fifth overall.

Sarah Ilkhani-Pour collected a fifth-place finish on the bars while Jackie Giacette finished seventh on the vault and Jessica Giancy was 10th on the beam.

The team scored 232 total points for the fourth-place finish. Taking first was Brighton with 553 while South Lyon took second with 398 and Hartland-Howell in diving was Albany.

Novi was led by Brighton with 553 while South Lyon took second with 398 and Hartland-Howell in diving was Albany.



Novi headcoach Dan Phelps talks to one of his players during the Wildcats' home game against Milford in late February. BELOW: Wildcat Mike Berger brings the puck up ice against Milford in last week's home game at the Novi Ice Arena.



Novi forward Shammus Finnerty cycles the puck to the right of Milford's goal during last week's home game at Novi Ice Arena.

Novi did indeed bring its A-game to the table, beating Northern in five games, 25-15, 14-25, 25-23, 11-25 and 15-11.

Leading the way in serving aces was senior captain Sarah Schmitt, who had five along with 18 kills

and 33 assists. Jenna Kuhn, a junior, had four aces and 32 kills while Barni had four aces and 17 kills.

Also enjoying an impressive day was Megan Miller, a junior, who collected 29 kills and 13 solo blocks along with 12 assisted blocks.

"I'm so proud of this team," said Fissette. "This is a goal-reaching, record-breaking team. It's been fun so far, now we just have to keep it going."

That will require another moment of a record-setting season for the Wildcats. Never in the history of the program has the team won a regional game.

"That, said Barni, might change. "We'll do whatever it takes to stay fired up and ready. If that means I have to jump up and down 45 times or scream until I lose my voice, I'm willing to do it. The entire team is."

The Wildcats have a task ahead of them in the form of Troy Athens. The two teams will meet in the first round of regional play at 5 p.m. tomorrow at West Bloomfield High School.

Smith said the key to winning in the regional is playing as a team. Barni agreed, adding it also takes plenty of mental preparation and support.

"We can't get down on each other if someone messes up," she said. "We have to get going again and get the next point."

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Volleyball
The Novi junior varsity volleyball team defeated Milford in three straight games, 27-25, 25-19 and 25-17. Top players were Julie Schramm, serving up 10 points, Lauren Parly with five kills, Stephanie "Pie" Janssens with three kills and Rachel Kovacsinski with five digs.

The junior varsity team also defeated South Lyon and lost to Hartland. Their KVC record is 4-9 and their overall record is 16-14-6.

Basketball
Last Friday, the junior varsity Wildcats hosted league-leading South Lyon and fell in a hard-fought contest, 56-49.

Huge offensive runs were the name of the game in the first half as South Lyon jumped to a 16-0 lead to start. But the Wildcats battled back with their own 13-0 run to get back into the game.

Both teams exchanged the lead throughout the second half but the Wildcats, who held a one-point lead with a minute to play, could not maintain their mental composure as the Lions outscored the 'Cats 8-0 in the last minute of play.

Leading the way for the Wildcats were Adam Chandler (13 points), Caleb Dean (seven points, six rebounds), Mike Brown (six points, six rebounds) and John Brown (five points, four rebounds).

The junior varsity Wildcats bounced back from their defeat to South Lyon last Friday by defeating the Hartland Eagles in a total team effort, 50-34, as 12 of the 14 active Wildcats scored. Novi jumped on the Eagles from the start, building a 16-point lead by half. In the second half, all of the Wildcats played significant time, maintaining their effort and lead.

Mark Heard had an outstanding game as he poured in a team leading nine points. Caleb Dean added eight points, eight rebounds and two blocks. Other key contributors to the Wildcats win were: Danny Pilgrim (five points), Mike Longo (five points), Trevor Borsak (five points), and Nick Pagano (four points, seven rebounds).

The JV Wildcats are 9-10 overall and 8-5 in the KVC.

The freshman Wildcats traveled to Hartland recently and were hoping to build on the momentum they had after playing two very good games.

However, right from the start of the game they missed the intensity they had from the previous two games and fell to the Eagles, 36-30.

The game was close the entire way with the largest lead being only eight points. Hartland held the lead after the first quarter, 8-7, and maintained their advantage through the second quarter of play and headed into the half with a 15-14 lead.

During the third, the Eagles started off quickly, jumping out to a 21-14 lead. Novi answered right back, tying game at 23, but couldn't hold on as Hartland finished on another 6-0 run to finish the quarter with a 29-23 advantage. Novi couldn't cut the lead through the fourth and found themselves losing to the Eagles.

Novi was led by Nick Bentley, who had five points along with Shaun Rydzewski, Graham Smith added four points.

The freshman 'Cats ended their season on a high note when they took a trip to Milford and won, 48-39.

Milford held Novi scoreless for the first 5:30 of the game until they hit a free throw to make it 9-1. Novi closed the quarter very strong, scoring seven straight to end the quarter

and the fourth both teams continued to play hard and Novi was able to maintain their lead and ended up with a 48-39 final.

Novi was led by Collin Crandell. Taking first was Brighton with 553 while South Lyon took second with 398 and Hartland-Howell in diving was Albany.

The freshmen finished 10-10 overall and 7-7 in KVC.

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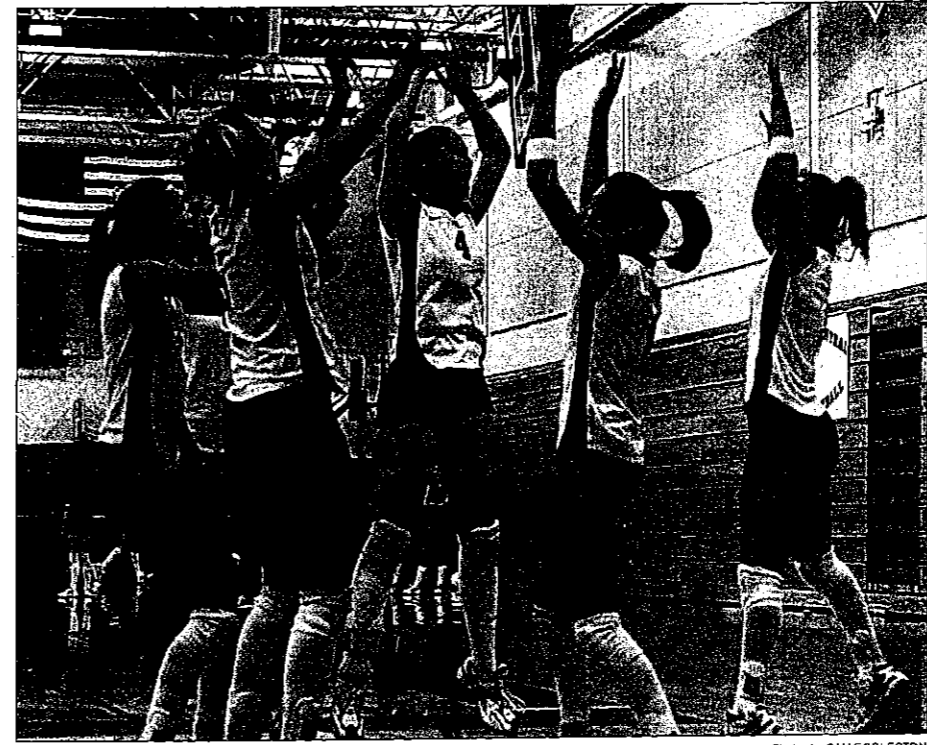
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The Novi Wildcats volleyball team celebrates a point scored against Wiled Lake Central in the district tourney; BELOW RIGHT: Jenna Kuhn dives for a ball against Walled Lake in the district tourney.

'Cats heading to regional tourney

continued from 1B

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Nicole Barni goes up for a spike against Walled Lake.

Regional title?
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Lone senior looks ahead

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's safe to say cheerleading isn't for the airheads or faint of heart — just ask senior Amanda Smith.

The Wildcat cheerleader gets balanced in the air and then spins and drops to the waiting arms of her teammates. The drop alone is enough to turn any athlete face pale.

Smith doesn't even hesitate before doing the stunt. She's used to it, but the thought of not being caught still crosses her mind now and again.

"I just hope they catch me," she said.

Smith is the lone senior on her competitive cheer team. When she started as a freshman there were around 15 others on her class. Natural selection weeded them out. Some focused on academics, some on other sports and some just didn't want the hassle of being in an extracurricular.

Smith stayed. Cheerleading means more to her than spending a little extra time at the mall.

"Competitive cheer has really changed me," she said. "When I first started in high school I was really shy. Cheerleading has made me more outgoing and now that I'm a captain I feel I can speak my mind more. It's become a part of me. I love cheerleading."

The senior hopes to continue cheer at the next level too. She will be attending Michigan State University next year, where she hopes to study marketing, and expects to be a part of the Spartans' competitive cheer program.

She said Novi's advanced style will help her reach that goal.

"It has really helped me with my tumbling and stunting ability," Smith said.

Smith's cheerleading will also help her pay for her education. She was just recently named the recipient of the Competitive Cheer Coaches Association of Michigan scholarship, which she had to write an essay for and submit along with a recommendation from her coach, Emily Parker.

The scholarship is awarded to recipients with superior leadership, extracurricular involvement and academic achievement.

Smith doesn't lack in any of the categories. She's a captain of the team, involved in both sideline and competitive cheer and she's a member of the National Honor Society with a 3.8 grade-point average.

Smith and her fellow cheerleaders will be making the trek to the regional tournament this weekend at Southgate Anderson High School. They have to finish first or second to advance to the state finals.

"We're going to have to be basically flawless," she said of her team's routines. "The judges are pretty strict at a regional competition."

The teams to beat? Southgate Anderson, Allen Park and

Temperance Bedford. Last year Novi made it to the state finals. This year they'll have to impress the judges again.

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The 16th player

If there was only one life lesson taught by the Novi Wildcats volleyball team this year, it's never giving up can sure pay off.

Personifying that lesson is none other than junior Audrey Smith.

She's a peppy athlete. Smiling most of the time and quick to cheer her team on to victory. The funny thing was, the Novi volleyball team wasn't officially "her" team until a couple of weeks ago.

Smith was cut from the program following tryouts. Coach Julie Fissette demands a lot from her athletes starting from the first day and Smith just didn't have the right tools at the time.

Some athletic would have called it quits, thrown their arms up in despair and cried on their mother's shoulder.

Smith made a phone call. "It was hard being cut and I could have taken it one of two ways," she said. "I could have gone about it where I quit the

ing," said Smith. "I never seen it coming. They pulled it out before the game and I ended up changing their before the first game. It was really exciting."

Even more exciting was the fact Smith got to play in two games of the tournament. Sitting in the stands were her parents, who were told of the surprise prior to the tournament.

"The girls could have been tough on me if they had wanted to," she said. "I wasn't a part of the team. I didn't have a jersey, but they are so nice they always made me feel like I did. There was never a day I regretted working with this team, it has always been worth it."

When the district tournament rolled around, Smith was back on the bench, wearing a green T-shirt with a black 16 on the sleeve. She wasn't playing, but that didn't make her any less a part of the team.

"It has been so much fun," she said. "I don't think there has ever been a single day that I wanted it any other way. I don't know how it would be if I didn't call Julie and ask her if I could still be with the team. It has been so much fun that I haven't looked back since then."

Smith knows the morale of the story and she hopes everyone who wants something bad enough learns from her experience.

"How bad do they want it?" Smith asked. "That's what they



ABOVE: Audrey Smith jumps for joy with her team prior to the district tournament; INSET: Smith wearing jersey #16.

have to ask themselves. If they want it bad enough, then there's nothing holding them back."

Come tomorrow, when the Wildcats go in search of the school's first-ever regional volleyball victory, Smith will be on the bench and cheering her team on.

That's right, it's "her" team. "This has been such an amazing opportunity for me," she

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

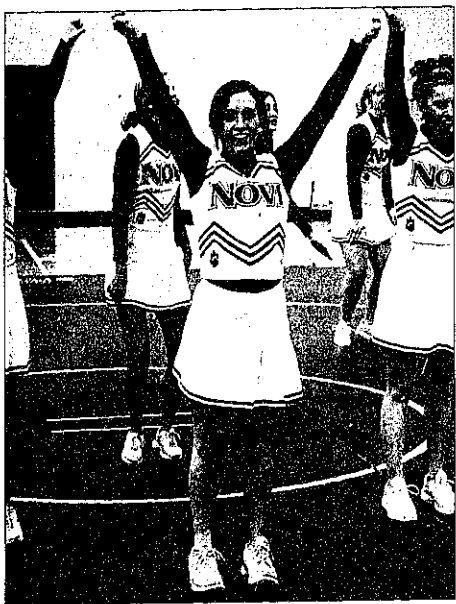
MAN OF THE HOUSE
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PRODIGY WEST RIVER SHOWCASE DEARBORN SHOWCASE WESTLAND STAR FAIRLANE
STAR GRAYDOT STAR GREAT LAKES STAR JOHN R STAR ROCHESTER
STAR SOUTHPLELD STAR TAYLOR IN COMMERCIAL THROUGH 14 UPON PALMADUM 12
NO PASSES ON DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

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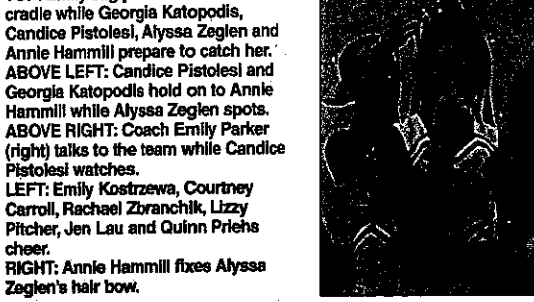
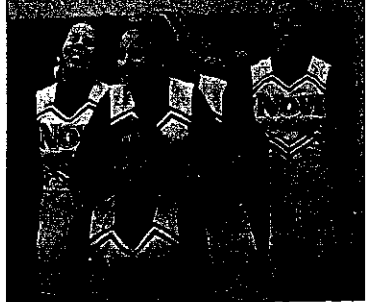
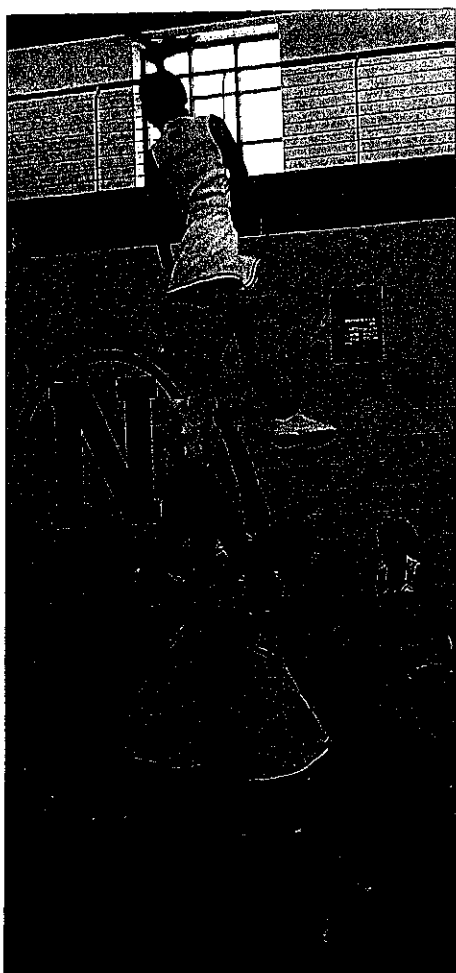
LEFT: Andrea Blome, Annie Hammill, Rachael Zbranchik, Quinn Priehs, Jen Lau, Natalie Shada and Emily Kostzawa carry mats with their teammates; MIDDLE: Alyssa Zeglen listens to her coach after practice; RIGHT: The Novi cheerleaders take a moment to listen to instruction from their coach during practice last Thursday.

CHEERFUL DEMEANOR



Photos by SAM EGLESTON

TOP: Amanda Smith, Courtney Carroll, Catherine Plasencia, Lizzy Pitcher and Tori Roney perform their round one cheer.
ABOVE: Courtney Carroll listens as her coach speaks to the team following practice last Thursday.
BELOW: Jen Lau performs a single twist cradle while Courtney Carroll and Megan Corwin prepare to catch her with Andrea Blome spotting the stunt. Rachael Zbranchik (right) begins her tumbling pass.



TOP: Emily Jill performs a double twist cradle while Georgia Katopodis, Candice Pistolesi, Alyssa Zeglen and Annie Hammill prepare to catch her.
ABOVE LEFT: Candice Pistolesi and Georgia Katopodis hold on to Annie Hammill while Alyssa Zeglen spots.
ABOVE RIGHT: Coach Emily Parker (right) talks to the team while Candice Pistolesi watches.
LEFT: Emily Kostzawa, Courtney Carroll, Rachael Zbranchik, Lizzy Pitcher, Jen Lau and Quinn Priehs cheer.
RIGHT: Annie Hammill fixes Alyssa Zeglen's hair bow.

CALENDAR

Call Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@nl.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.

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 colors, poodle skirts and hobbie socks for this Michigan 50's Festival fund-raiser, sponsored by Novi Expo Center and Leona 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.
CONTACT: (248) 349-1950 or www.michigan50sfestival.com

"My Fair Lady"

DATE: March 4-6 and 11-13
TIME: Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m.
DETAILS: Novi Theatres production. Directed by Linda Wickert. Music direction by Sheri Sanson. A misogynistic and snobbish phonetics professor agrees to a wager that he can take a low-class flower girl and make her presentable in high society. Featuring such hit songs as "The Rain in Spain," "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?" and "I Could Have Danced All Night."
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Winter Bug Hunt

DATE: Saturday, March 5
TIME: 2-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Lyon Oaks Nature Center in Lyon Oaks County Park on Pontiac Trail between Wixom and Old Planks roads.
DETAILS: Join the Lyon Oaks Nature Center staff as they search for insects that appear in winter for various reasons. Cost is \$1 per person.
CONTACT: Call (248) 437-7345 to register.

Great American Train Show

DATES: March 5-6
TIMES: Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Expo Center
DETAILS: Largest traveling show in the country. Admission is \$7; free for children 12 and under. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (702) 252-0334

Better Business Bowling Tournament

DATE: Sunday, March 6
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wonderland Lanes, 8265 Richardson Road, Commerce Twp.
DETAILS: Sponsored by the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, this annual event raises scholarship funds for high school seniors graduating in the Lakes area. Cost is \$80 per team.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2826.

Women's History Month

DATE: Tuesday, March 8
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Public Library, 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: March is Women's History Month. The Northville-Novi Branch of AAUW will present a reenactment of three distinguished historic American women. Jeanette Barret, Betsy Ford and Gail Conard are members of the AAUW branch in Toledo, Ohio. Through their portrayals of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, painter Georgia O'Keefe and First Lady/poet/diplomat Eleanor Roosevelt, one will better understand the importance of these women in our history. This event is open to the public.
CONTACT: Call (248) 449-7602 for more information.

Successful Retirement Planning

DATE: Monday, March 14
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, Room 208 (Eleven Mile and Wixom roads)
DETAILS: Novi Community Education Center will sponsor a seminar on Retirement featuring Jeff Land, of Bloom Asset Management. The seminar is open to the public. There is a \$17 fee.

Wine Tasting

DATE: Friday, March 11

TIME: 7-9 p.m.

LOCATION: Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Merchants Fine Wine will bring delightful wines & cheeses from Spain and the Mediterranean, complemented by a wonderful selection of breads, assorted crackers and fruits. Must pre-register by March 9. Cost is \$28 per person; ages 21 and older.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2850

Lyon Oaks Bark Park Saturdays

DATES: March 12 and April 9
TIME: 9-11 a.m.
DETAILS: Caribou staff will treat park guests to free coffee while exercising your dog. The Nature Center will also be open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays.
CONTACT: Sue Wells, chief of recreation, at (248) 858-4634.

Easter Egg Hunt

DATE: Sunday, March 20
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Gilbert Willis Park, Wixom
DETAILS: Bring your kids out to find their eggs in the park and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$3; no pre-registration required; for ages 2-10 years.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2850

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, March 7 and 21
TIME: 7 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

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, March 8, 22; April 12, 26; May 10, 24; June 14, 28; July 12, 26; August 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. (Wed.) 9, 22; Dec. 13 and (Tues.) 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT:

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

BUSINESS

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

CLASSES

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-Saint Joseph Hospital, Commerce.
CONTACT: For more information or to register, call 1-800-806-2229.

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

and reservations are required.

CONTACT: Joyce Robb at (248) 449-1206.

Providence Center for the Hearing Arts' "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes sponsored by the Providence Center for the Hearing Arts. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Dr. (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

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: dinaltan@bc-global.net

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: second Thursdays
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch'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) 549-5496.

Women's Prayer Support

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

Providence Alternatives to Hysterectomy Seminar

DATE: Thursday, March 3
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Hospital and Medical Center, Novi.
DETAILS: There are new surgical techniques for treating a variety of problems that may help women avoid a hysterectomy. This seminar is part of the monthly Providence Hospital Women's Health Series. It will feature Alan Newman, M.D., Providence Hospital obstetrician/gynecologist. There is no charge for the event.
CONTACT: For more information or to register, call 1-800-806-2229.

Oakland County Health Division Flu Shots

DATE: ongoing until supplies are depleted.
LOCATION: Pontiac Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. (north of Elizabeth Lake Rd.) in the Oakland County complex, building 346.
HOURS: Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Flu shots are available only to high-risk priority groups. Cost is \$7. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed

preparation, labor and delivery,

care of the newborn baby, breast-feeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe and caring for them when they're 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 Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays of the month.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room.
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mornings
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi.
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

HEALTH

Pilates at the Park

DATE/TIME: Mondays 7-8 a.m., now through March 14 (Conference Room C); Mondays 4:15-5:15 p.m., now through March 14 (Conference Room B); Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 p.m., now through March 15 (Conference Room C)
LOCATION: Providence Park (southwest corner of Rock Road and Grand River Avenue), Novi
DETAILS: Rehabilitation Services will be offering Pilates mat training classes, an effective form of exercise to strengthen, stretch and streamline one's body with minimum stress on joints. The cost for the program is \$120. Due to limited class size, it's recommended to register early.
CONTACT: (248) 465-4416

Oakland Physical Therapy Classes

DATES: Wednesdays, March 9, Thursday, March 10, Friday, March 11, 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 B124.
CONTACT: RSVP by calling (248) 3880-3550.

Reading Buddies

DATE: Wednesday, March 9
TIME: 4:30-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Our drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older children (grades 5-12) with younger children (kindergarten-grade 4) to improve the younger child's reading skills and encourage a love of reading. Contact a Youth & Teen Services Librarian for details.

High School Literature Club

DATE: Wednesday, March 9
TIME: 7-8 p.m.
HIGH school writers and readers are invited to share their own writing or a favorite piece by another author, and participate in a group story-writing project. No registration.

Internet Practice Lab for Seniors

DATE: Thursday, March 10
TIME: 10:30-1:30 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

to cover the cost. Bring photo identification; proof of Oakland residency is required.

CONTACT: Flu vaccine hotline, (800) 434-3358

ONGOING

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

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

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.

EXPO CENTER

The Novi Expo Center is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-5600 for more information.

Michigan Green Industry Association Trade Show & 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.landscapexpo.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.michgolfshow.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.nbia.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 tubs/spas, and outdoor entertaining. This is the best place to turn your backyard space into your outdoor living place. 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
DETAILS: Fourth annual expo dedicated to men.
CONTACT: www.wmf.com

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Part V: Small business and technology experts

Small- and medium-sized companies need e-commerce solutions that will allow them to do one or more of the following: increase revenue, reduce cost, and increase efficiency.

That means that they need a site that is well designed with the latest technology, at the lowest cost possible, and with search engine optimization and other Internet marketing and consulting services that will provide the company a robust e-commerce presence. They also need an online presence that can integrate with their backend databases so as to create process efficiency.

A good technology solutions provider should offer solutions that range from basic Web development, to advanced database integration, e-commerce, Internet telephone and multi-media broadcasting. Their staff should have the capability to handling search engine optimization and other consulting services. They should provide consultation services and should be just as available as your lawyer or your accountant.

They should provide traffic reports with their hosting services and thus allow businesses to use this information to enhance their e-commerce strategy. These traffic reports provide information like how many visitors the site has, which page is most visited, which pages are the least visited, which search engines are driving the most traffic to the site, etc. Using this information, businesses can understand buyer behavior and take necessary action to correct deficiencies in their Web presence.

For example, let's take a site that is seeing 10,000 hits a month but not generating a single sale from a Web site customer. That means that the site is not aesthetically pleasing, it lacks interactivity or it lacks functionality that would allow the client to make a sale. Research has shown that more than 60 percent of consumers state that they won't visit a Web site that is poorly designed, even if the site features a favorite brand or product.

Or let's take a site that shows no traffic or a dramatic drop in traffic. Well, the first one is easy to understand; the site probably just needs to be optimized.

To understand search engine optimization in brief, do the following: Go to Yahoo or Google and do a search on "jewelry + Novi + Michigan" or "dentist + Farmington Hills + Michigan" and see what the results show. Most of the results will be of directory listings and not of specific jewelry stores or dentist offices. That is because those sites that do belong to the jewelers and dentists out there don't have any search engine optimization and thus they fail to show up when a customer looks for them. But more about search engines in a subsequent article.

So what does all this mean to you as a small business owner?

Most people will tell me that they have a brother who designs Web sites; or their brothers' wife's sister-in-law "does" Web sites; or that they plan to go to Yahoo and get a Web site in 10 minutes; or that their tenant is going to create a "free" Web site for them. I usually have little to say to these folks because how can I explain to them the difference between my company's solutions and their relatives' solutions without sounding like I'm making a sales pitch?

However, I do advise them that nothing in life is free! A free item that cannot be used in any way is as useless as a rock picked up from the sidewalk. Similarly a free Web site is just as useful. It will typically take months to create, will have poor design, will lack functionality, and will generate NO traffic. Trust me, I know - I have many clients who have paid me for correcting their free sites or have come to me after their FREE sites failed to launch even after waiting six months for it.

As a small business owner, your site is the best marketing tool you have. It should be seen as an investment and not as an expense. A properly designed site will provide measurable results. Although it may cost more upfront, there are many benefits of having a professionally designed Web site.

Nipa Shah is a Novi-based 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@wsi-coolwebresults.com or (248) 470-6299.

ADVERTORIAL



Photo by Duane Ramsey

The practitioners gather to discuss their approach to shoulder pain while office manager Kelly Coleman offers them a patient's perspective. From left, Dr. Bloch, Dr. Postula-Stein, and Becky Thompson, FNP.

Main Street & Green Oak Family Medicine

A New Experience in Medical Care

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

The practitioners at Main Street Family Medicine have been providing exceptional quality in medical care treating newborns to geriatrics in downtown Northville and additionally at Green Oak Family Medicine located just west of South Lyon. The family practice is accepting new patients at both locations.

The original practice was founded more than 30 years ago by Lawrence Zager, D.O. and another doctor, Lyle Fettig, D.O. In 1997, Dr. Zager and his partner moved the practice to its present location at 215 East Main Street in downtown Northville.

Today, Nathan Bloch, D.O., and Jason Postula-Stein, M.D., operate the growing family medical practice. They are supported by Dr. Zager, Becky Thompson, FNP, (a family nurse practitioner), and a cordial administrative and clinical staff, directed by office manager, Kelly Coleman.

"We strive to combine the art of healing with a deep sense of caring, compassion, humility and kindness," said Dr. Postula-Stein. "Establishing a strong doctor-patient relationship is essential."

The physicians spend sufficient time with each patient to get to know them as individuals; their beliefs, stressors, social

environment, career and life decisions so they can treat the "whole person." Being sensitive to each patient's needs and apprehensions, the practitioners listen to their patients and talk to them in a language they can understand.

With an allopathic (MD), osteopathic (DO) and family nurse practitioner (FNP) on staff, the group of professionals practice traditional medicine with a holistic approach that emphasizes preventative care, said Dr. Bloch.

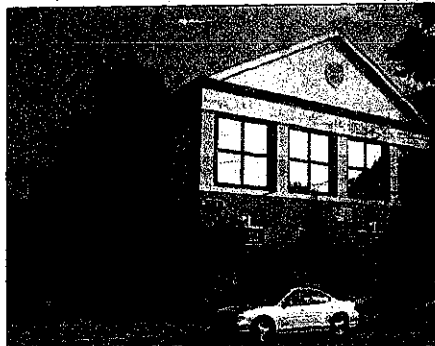
"We encourage patients to develop attitudes and lifestyles that do not just fight illness but help prevent it," said Thompson.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and other medical associations have adopted guidelines for helping to prevent disease and illness. Thompson said the medical staff educates patients about those guidelines and promote medically supported lifestyle modifications that may include dietary changes, additions of herbal or mineral supplements, prescription medicine, exercise and healthy living.

"We strive to be on the cutting edge of modern medicine while we focus our efforts on taking care of the 'whole you' instead of just your specific symptoms or illness," said Dr. Bloch.

"Education is a high priority for our health care providers."

The physicians maintain close affiliations with St. Joseph Mercy in Ann Arbor, Providence, DMC-Huron Valley and Botsford General Hospitals. Doctors Bloch and Postula-Stein are actively involved in training medical students,



Above, Main Street Family Medicine on East Main Street in Downtown Northville.

Green Oak Family Medicine is located on Ten Mile Road near Rushton Road just west of South Lyon.

interns and residents and Thompson precepts nurse practitioner students, while keeping current on the latest medical advancements.

Dr. Bloch is an associate clinical professor with Michigan State University and Thompson maintains adjunct faculty status with the University of Michigan and is the director of development with the Ann Arbor chapter of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners.

All providers at Main Street Family Medicine and Green Oak Family Medicine are licensed and certified to practice family medicine and have years of experience in providing exceptional care to pediatric, adolescent and geriatric patients.

"We serve all members of the

family from infants to seniors and can provide most needed treatments and therapies onsite," said Dr. Zager.

The onsite testing provides convenience and comfort for the patients and helps expedite their medical care. The staff is able to perform hearing and eye screens, lung and heart evaluations, special nerve and laboratory testing and many other auxiliary tests.

The 215 East Main Street Building in Northville not only houses Main Street Family Medicine but is also home to podiatry, ophthalmology, and physical therapy practices. This combination of professionals in one location provides excellent communications with the ability to expedite care and convenience for the patients.

DETAILS
Main Street Family Medicine 215 East Main Street downtown Northville (248) 348-1131 Hours: Monday and Thursday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon
Green Oak Family Medicine 12660 Ten Mile Road west of South Lyon (248) 587-2273 Hours: Monday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

After practicing in Northville for many years, Dr. Bloch opened Green Oak Family Medicine in September of 2003. His aim was to serve the practice's broadening base of patients and to allow his friend, mentor and colleague, Dr. Zager, an opportunity to practice closer to home.

Instead of retiring, it afforded Dr. Zager the opportunity to continue practicing "grassroots medicine" at the Green Oak location which serves patients from the surrounding communities in Oakland, Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

New patients are encouraged to call to make an appointment for an initial consultation with a doctor at Main Street or Green Oak Family Medicine.

Main Street Family Medicine
248-348-1131
215 EAST MAIN ST., NORTHVILLE

Green Oak Family Medicine
248-587-2273
12660 TEN MILE, SOUTH LYON

Family Medicine

Comprehensive Medical Care

- ◆ ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR THE RELIEF OF KNEE & SHOULDER PAIN
- ◆ TREATMENTS FOR SUN DAMAGED SKIN, MOLES, WARTS, AND INFECTIONS
- ◆ EMERGENCY LACERATION REPAIRS
- ◆ INGROWN TOE NAIL TREATMENTS
- ◆ PEDIATRIC & GERIATRIC MEDICINE
- ◆ SPORTS MEDICINE
- ◆ OSTEOPATHIC BACK ADJUSTMENTS

Insurances Accepted

• Aetna • Blue Cross • Care Choices • Cigna • DMC Care • HAP • Medicare • MCARE • PHCS • PPOM • United Health Care

Call if your insurance isn't listed! *Call for details!

Nathan J. Bloch, D.O., Lawrence Zager, D.O., Jason Postula-Stein, M.D., Becky Thompson, F.N.P.

Diabetes • High Cholesterol • Thyroid Disease
 Heartburn • Arthritis • Skin Infections • Anxiety
 Asthma & Breathing Disorders • Hemorrhoids
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 Depression • Abdominal Pain • Sleep Problems
 Carpal Tunnel Syndrome • Low Back Pain...