

INSIDE



Signs for the times

Yard Art owner Susan Walsh's showroom displays a number of her company's signs that they produce for kids' events, lawns and other locations.

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Spring has sprung

Put your green thumb to good use, and learn how to make your home more beautiful. Turn to this week's Home & Garden section to discover easy-to-grow flowers and tricks that will make you a pro.



— Special Section

OBITUARIES

Arthur J. Valenti, 90

Larry K. Bailey, 58

Yoshie Yzquierdo, 70

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SPORTS

One down ...

For Novi senior Ryan Pritchard, breaking the school record in the discus was just a single moment on his way to his goals. Sure, he said it was nice, but he has his eyes set on a much bigger prize that waits at the end of his high school career.

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A FLOOD OF EMOTIONS



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi resident Jackie Pringle, with daughter Alexandria, 4, and others are concerned about a slated construction effort west of Village Oaks that may affect the flood plain and vegetation that runs through their backyards near Meadowbrook Rd. A housing development is planned for the area near the tree line seen at left.

Residents fight 10 planned homes

Flood plain tops concerns; proposal's fine, according to city

By Kim Kovelte
STAFF WRITER

Standing water, constantly humming sump pumps and pricey flood insurance have been Jackie Pringle's Novi realities for four years.

She joined dozens of neighbors last week to protest 10 homes proposed near her Willowbrook subdivision.

"Our property is in a flood plain right now," Pringle said. "I don't think we can risk losing any more absorbent land."

On April 13, Novi's planning commission voted 7-0 to table the topic. Wayne Wrobel was absent.

Pitched by Livonia-based Basney & Smith, the project would sit on part of 15 wooded acres east of Meadowbrook Road between Nine and Ten Mile roads.

Developer William Roskelly said his plan uses a strip of higher ground, preserving Village Wood Lake and denser woods.

"It's sort of perched up," Roskelly said. "(I) gave up two lots

so I would not encroach into that wetlands.

"The rest will remain open space."

Houses would range 2,200-2,800 square feet, Roskelly said, and cost around \$400,000 each.

Proposing to extend Village Lake Road, Roskelly said plans to stop the road short of Meadowbrook Road with a cul-de-sac would relieve traffic congestion.

City administration said except for two sidewalk waivers, the plan met requirements.

"Couldn't have asked for a better product," planner Tim Schmitt said.

Citizen concerns

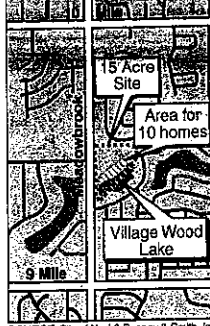
But in a public hearing, residents — many who've lived nearby for 25-plus years — disagreed. Sinkholes and collapsed family rooms due to soggy earth were common complaints.

"Part of my house shifted," said resident John Keller. "The water table there is very fragile. It holds our homes in place. I'm seriously concerned."

City engineer Ben Croy said soil tests are still needed to determine how wet the area is, but, on paper, "No impact whatsoever."

Squeezing out wildlife like deer, fox, possum and white hawk was

Proposed Village Wood Home Site



SOURCE: City of Novi & Basney & Smith, Inc.

another worry.

Others lamented possibly losing land on which to walk their pets.

"There's not any place else to that," said Garry Kidd, who takes the family dog out twice daily. "It's like a park for a lot of us."

Roskelly said he'd be willing to donate six or seven unused acres to the city of Novi, and that water impact won't be an issue.

"Under no way on God's earth could the building of these 10 houses cause any problems for those people," he said. "They're

upstream. I'm downstream."

Still, planning commissioners were cautious.

"Everything has been answered on a technical basis," commissioner John Avdoules said. "You don't know what's going to happen to other areas around it."

Chairwoman Lynn Kocan suggested tabling the issue.

"I can't believe there will be no impact," Kocan said. "Water has a mind of its own. Why spend another dime if its going to have significant impact and flood the residents?"

The new homes would cost about twice as much as smaller homes in nearby neighborhoods, based on city assessing records.

Surrounding subdivisions were platted from around 1954-1971.

"I think that's a pristine piece of land," Roskelly said. "I will be careful who is going to buy these houses if I build them one at a time."

To be approved, the plan must again go before the planning commission at an undetermined date.

For more information, call the city of Novi Planning Department at (248) 347-0475.

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

Twelve Oaks plans major update

■ Nordstrom's to open at mall; Marshall Field's set for expansion

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi is about to embark on a major update and the addition of a fifth department store at the shopping center at I-96 and Novi Road.

Representatives from The Taubman Company in Bloomfield Hills announced April 19 major renovation and expansion plans.

Plans include a 60,000-square-foot expansion of Marshall Field's, a two-level, 165,000-square-foot Nordstrom department store on the southeast corner of the mall and about 90,000 square feet of new store space at the mall.

Bruce Heckman, vice president

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Budget ready to go

■ Compared to last year, council moves quickly

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

What a difference a year makes. Last year, Novi City Council talks came to a stalemate, and an emergency meeting had to be scheduled when council members couldn't reach the five-vote majority needed to approve the proposed almost \$27 million budget.

This year, discussions started at 9 a.m. ended before noon on April

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School board candidates square off before May 3 vote



Photo by RAMEZ KHURI

The seven candidates running for two seats on the Novi School Board of Education are (left to right) Mario Fundarski, Lisa-Ann Smith, Ann Glubzinski, Dennis O'Connor, Katie Raeon, Dan Austin and (not pictured) Paul Flavin.

Candidate forum provides many different viewpoints

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Excellent schools. They're the reason many people decide to move to Novi.

With that in mind, approximately 50 people showed up to the Instructional Technology Center Forum last Wednesday night for a board of education candidates forum, sponsored by Interscholastic Council and the League of Women Voters, Oakland County.

Seven candidates running for

two seats on the school board this year include: Danford Austin, Mario Fundarski, Ann Harold Glubzinski, Paul Flavin, Dennis O'Connor, Katie Raeon and Lisa-Ann Smith.

Only six showed up for the forum; Flavin was absent due to personal reasons.

Incumbents John Balagna and John Streit are not running again.

Audience members submitted written questions to a moderator, and each candidate gave responses of one minute to start and 30 seconds near the end of the evening.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear the candidates' thoughts on issues that affect the school district, such as redistricting, full day kindergarten, the lottery system that chooses which student can take advantage of full day kindergarten, class size, corporate

Novi News endorsements will appear along with a special candidates' question-and-answer section in next week's edition.

advertisements on school property, the team concept of teaching at Novi Meadows Elementary School and Novi Middle School. Also discussed were which programs each candidate will fight to keep, and which they feel should be the first to go in case of another budget crunch; the changing demographics of the city and how it affects the district; the attendance policy and much more.

"I thought it was a very informative evening," said Diana Yarberry, a Village Oaks

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Kisses for the crowd

Novi senior Amanda McCracken blows a kiss to the audience during the prom fashion show last Thursday in the high school auditorium. McCracken was just one of many seniors who paraded prom dresses and tuxedos in the show. The show allowed students and parents alike to see the various styles of formal wear available for purchase for this year's prom, scheduled for May 14.



■ Candidate forum provides much valuable information

continued from front page

Elementary School parent who attended the forum. "The process was very effective and I think it was a very important tool for the citizens of Novi to have."

Two issues Yarbbery was watching closely involved the Deerfield Elementary School and if it should stay a magnet school, as it is now, or become a neighborhood school. And the athletic code of conduct at Novi High School, which deals with random drug testing.

"Those are two hot issues for this community as a whole right now," she said.

Lynn Paul, a Novi City Council member, was also in attendance. She said that some of the candidates seemed to really know what they were talking about in terms of the issues and some seemed to be very administratively astute.

"I do believe that the bullying and violence question was very important and one that we need to look at because we have to look at the character morals of our kids who are going out into society," Paul said.

"There is a lot of peer pressure, so how can we foster not having bullying and not having violence? Also, there were several candidates who said they would look to the teachers for answers because they're the ones who see it first hand and I think that's very important as well."

Paul would also like to see more school board members with kids currently in the school district so they can bring issues forward to the board that they see or hear about from their children.

For Balagna, the forum was a little tough to sit through because, as he explained it, "When you're going out, you don't agree with some of the things that are said because you were part of the decision making that made them. You feel like sometimes you're being criticized."

But he does believe the district will be in good hands when his term expires on June 30.

"I think there are some really dedicated people coming on and with the new superintendent and two new board members, the district is going to continue to grow and prosper like it currently has been doing," he said. "I liked some of the questions, but I thought there were some other questions that could have been asked that weren't, like maybe some more funding questions."

Balagna believes that the general population is unaware of how school funding works and how proposal A affects funding for school districts.

The school board election will be held on Tuesday, May 3 this year, about a month earlier than previous years. Those who were unable to attend the forum, can watch for it being re-broadcast on Novi Cable Channel 10. Check local listings for details, or call the district's Educational Services Building at (248) 349-1200 to find out when it will be on.

"I encourage everybody who didn't have a chance to attend the forum to view it on the local cable channel prior to May 3," said Bruce Bagdady, current school board vice president.

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

■ Nordstrom's to open at mall; Marshall Field's set for expansion

continued from front page

of development for Taubman, told members of city council about the project at the April 18 council meeting. This is Nordstrom's second store in Michigan, with the other store at Somerset Mall in Troy. Nordstrom's will be connected to the mall by the new stores in the mall.

"We have had the privilege of serving customers in Troy and the surrounding metropolitan Detroit area for almost 10 years," said Erik Nordstrom, executive vice president of full-line stores for Nordstrom. "A new store at Twelve Oaks Mall will allow us to more conveniently serve customers in the western communities of the greater Detroit area. We are thrilled to be building a brand new store there."

Heckman said Twelve Oaks Mall was always designed for expansion and to capture the right anchor store.

Construction will start in the spring of 2006 on the two stores with an opening in the fall of 2007. The mall will expand from about 1.2 to 1.5 million square feet. The project will bring more than 800 permanent jobs and 1,100 construction and design-oriented jobs to Novi, according to Taubman.

"You've made an old man very happy by bringing a Nordstrom's closer than Somerset Mall to me," Mayor Lou Cosvas told Heckman after the announcement. "You're an excellent corporate citizen, and we appreciate what you've done for the city."

"We mean it when we say it's been a great partnership," Heckman said.

Dan Jones, manager, Twelve Oaks, said having Nordstrom join the shopping center is a fantastic addition, and to be able to expand the Marshall Field's is another shot in the arm for the center. To be able to add square footage onto the mall as well is going to be great for the shopping center, Jones added.

Jones said the mall currently has about 180 stores; the additional store space will bring 25 to 30 new stores to the center. This will be one of the largest renovations at Marshall Field's in recent history and the first to follow the renovation of the State Street store in Chicago.

The three-level store, which opened in 1977, will undergo a complete renovation of the interior, including new flooring, improved lighting and fixtures, as well as a new ceiling system. The store exterior also will be updated with a more contemporary design.

"Following the renovation, guests will find more spacious departments, expanded merchandise assortments and several new brands to choose from," said Frank Guzzetta, Marshall Field's president and chief executive officer.

Marshall Field's plans to begin construction on the project next year and conclude in fall 2007. Once the remodeling is completed, the store will total almost 300,000 square feet.

Founded in 1901 as a shoe store in Seattle, Nordstrom has 151 stores in 27 states. The firm also operates 31 international face-to-face boutiques, most of which are in Europe.

Marshall Field's stores have a 150-year legacy. As a division of The May Department Stores Company, Marshall Field's operates 62 stores in eight states.

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.homecom.net.

Nativity of the Virgin Mary
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Holy Week & Pascha 2005 Services

Palm Sunday, April 24
9am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy,
7pm Matins (Bridgroom) Service

Holy Monday, April 25
7pm Matins (Bridgroom) Service

Holy Tuesday, April 26
7pm Matins (Bridgroom) Service

Holy Wednesday, April 27
10am Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30pm Holy Unction


Holy Thursday, April 28
6am Divine Liturgy, 6:30pm Holy Passion (12 Gospels) Service

Holy Friday, April 29
10am Royal Hours, 3pm Apokathelosis Service,
6:30pm Lamentation Service


Holy Saturday, April 30
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Ad Council

CITY OF NOVI - 2005-06 BUDGET

Compared to last year, council moves quickly

continued from front page

16, with council ready to move to the public hearing and formal adoption of the budget on May 9.

At 7 p.m. on May 2, council will have a special meeting to approve funding for the Meadowbrook Bridge project in the 2005-2006 budget.

The bridge on Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads has deteriorated to the point that traffic had to be halted recently.

Initially, council wanted to the annual budget to include \$600,000 worth of additional fire department improvements, \$70,000 to add a Fire Protection Officer and \$37,000 for a new senior van. The budget did not include funding on additional fire-fighter this year, because there were to be no new hires this year according to the recent fiscal analysis report.

Member Bob Gatt supported the purchase of a senior van, as its usage has increased dramatically.

Then, it was decided to include the fire department improvements, the senior van, but have only \$15,000 placed in the next budget for a Fire Protection Officer with the other \$15,000 going to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department software package.

The city is going to try to obtain a grant to help fund the Fire Protection Officer, but Member Laura Lorenzo would like to fund the position anyway in case the grant funding isn't awarded.

The council also agreed to fund irrigation of ball fields at Power Park behind city hall and remaining fields at Community Sports Park on Eight Mile Road west of Beck Road.

Mayor Lou Cordas suggested putting \$500,000 towards city retirees unfunded health insurance benefits.

Many members talked about the priority of funding public safety costs - police, fire, roads, water and sewer - in the city budget.

"Public safety is number one for all seven of us," said Member Bob Gatt. "Everything else is fluff."

Council also wants to fund the \$500,000 Beck Road rehabilitation project. Members discussed widening Beck Road to three, four or five lanes. But the idea of having five lanes was discouraged because of the cost to purchase property associated with the project. Residents in nearby subdivisions would also not approve such a plan, according to Mayor Lou Cordas.

Lorenzo presented an amendment to the budget policy which she called a fiscal pledge to taxpayers. The pledge states that council spend above the adopted budget only for emergencies. These emergencies would include essential capital purchases, cash flow, uncontrollable budget shortfalls, union contract obligations, judgment suit obligations, grant matches and unfunded retiree health care accrued liability.

Following the annual audit, any unfunded funds above the 14 percent rainy day funds would be applied to the Hazardous Waste Roll-back, enhancement of the neighborhood road contract or to unfunded retiree health care accrued liability. This is a stated goal, not a requirement, however, members noted.

Council also agreed to use the \$268,000 which was to go toward a 1 percent increase in the rainy day funds and apply this to the city's unfunded retiree health care accrued liability.

Members also plan to add 20 percent to the percentage the city already contributes to the retiree health care fund, according to Kathy Smith-Roy, finance director. The group did not fund cost-of-living increases for city retirees, however, in the 2005-2006 budget.

"I greatly appreciate the cooperation and spirit of communication of city council this time around. It was fantastic. And, thank you to all the city staff for all the hard work that you have done in the original proposal and the follow-up to council's concern," Cordas said.

"I'm very proud to be part of this group, and I think this was an extremely civil and productive two sessions."

Early talks focused on public safety and needs of seniors

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Challenging financial times are nothing new to Novi City Manager Rick Helwig. But, he's been down that road before and believes Novi can survive the storm.

"These are very uncertain times for the state of Michigan," Helwig said at the start of budget talks April 9.

"The news is very negative every day, very depressing. But, as a veteran of the Great Lakes State, this is really nothing new. It doesn't scare me, it doesn't frighten me. We've gone through two similar periods like this — the early 1980s and the early 1990s," he said.

"We've got resiliency, we've got infrastructure, and we've got skills and natural resources that can carry us through anything. But, we need to be smart about it. Although Novi may be blessed, this is an upcoming year for saving, for wise investments in the basics," he said.

"We've got resiliency, we've got infrastructure, and we've got skills and natural resources that can carry us through anything. But, we need to be smart about it. Although Novi may be blessed, this is an upcoming year for saving, for wise investments in the basics," he said.

Key areas in the proposed almost \$27 million budget are public safety; roads; city services; parks, recreation and forestry; fiscal management; the environment; and growth management and development.

Kathy Smith-Roy noted that the primary source of revenue to the city is property tax at about \$14 million, then state shared revenue at almost \$4 million.

"The number one city expense is public safety. Council Member Toni Nagy wanted to see the addition of one additional police officer and one more full-time firefighter. She also thought that it was important

to have pagers replaced for firefighters. Nagy believes the city should review health care costs, and that retirees should not receive a cost-of-living increase, since they have received a 73 percent increase since the program's inception.

She believes computer improvements are important, and that conferences and seminars for city staff should be only the most important ones.

Member Lynn Paul said she made a commitment when elected to focus on public safety, roads and parks and recreation. Paul wanted to add an additional police officer and a firefighter. She did not support giving retirees a cost-of-living increase.

Member Bob Gatt, who worked for the city for more than 30 years, said he believes the only real reason government exists is public safety and that police, fire and public works are the most important areas of the budget.

"I will not support personnel increases coming out of the forfeiture funds, however," he said, because the city will have to come up with the money for these positions after the funds are gone.

"We have to take care of the

fire department and their needs right now," he said. Gatt wanted a full-time senior center coordinator and better transportation for seniors. He also believes health care and employee benefits need to be addressed. A retired Novi policeman, Gatt said promises were made but not kept on retirees' cost-of-living increases.

Member Kim Capello also wanted to add a police officer and firefighter in the building department. He also wanted retirees and city employees to receive a 2 percent cost-of-living increase.

Craig Klaver, chief operating officer, said there are already two part-time people at the senior center that equate to one full-time person, so a full-time coordinator (or the center isn't really needed).

Mayor Lou Cordas suggested that the city set aside \$500,000 from surplus funds for retirees' health insurance benefits. He also supported the addition of one police officer, a firefighter and improvements to the fire department.

Member Toni Nagy did not support the purchase of a new senior transportation van or a cost-of-living increase for city

"Although Novi may be blessed, this is an upcoming year for saving, for wise investments in the basics."

Rick Helwig City of Novi manager

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.homecom.net.

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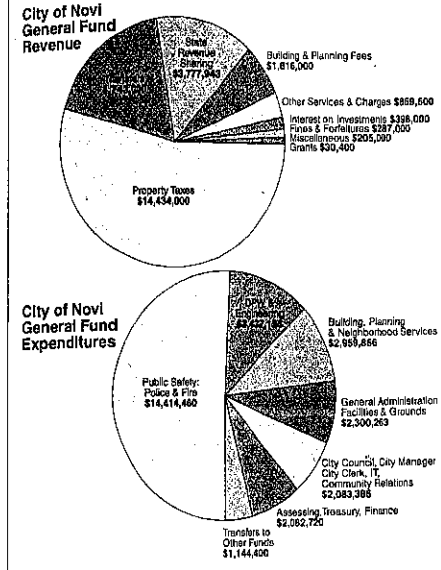
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CITY OF NOVI - 2005-06 BUDGET



Retired senior center director speaks out

■ Crawford sees mature citizens as a great resource

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

She may be retired, but former Novi Senior Center coordinator Kathy Crawford is still an advocate for Novi's aging population.

Now 63 and a senior herself, Crawford addressed members of the city council April 16 to encourage them to look at Novi's seniors as a community resource and not forget them when it comes to the budget.

The city is spending \$37,000 in the 2005-2006 budget for a new van to provide transportation to seniors. Crawford also noted that the current senior center only accom-

modates 128 people when 200 people live at the complex. Finally, she reminded council members that people age 55 and over work as volunteers in the community, and thus are a valuable resource.

"There's no sign on Meadowbrook Commons identifying it as a senior center," she said. Crawford also noted that the current senior center only accom-

modates 128 people when 200 people live at the complex. Finally, she reminded council members that people age 55 and over work as volunteers in the community, and thus are a valuable resource.

"There's no sign on Meadowbrook Commons identifying it as a senior center," she said. Crawford also noted that the current senior center only accom-

"The senior population in Novi is enormous, and it's rapidly escalating. We are in need of services in order to stay in our Novi homes..."

Kathy Crawford Retired senior center coordinator

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.homecom.net.

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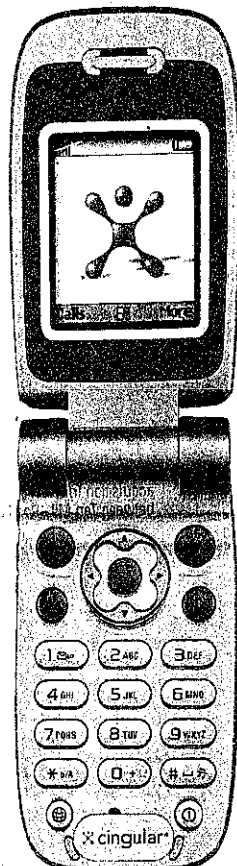
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CITY OF NOVI - 2005-06 BUDGET

The following is a breakdown of highlights from the City of Novi's proposed budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

- Property Tax Millage Rate of 10.5416 is the same as the last five years.
- "Rainy Day" Reserves increase by 1 percent to a total of 15 percent of annual General Fund expenditures.
- No new positions are added to the General Fund in 2005-2006. General Fund total number of personnel reduced by one.
- Reirement of Chief Operating Officer and consolidation of the position results in an annual General Fund savings presently costed at \$149,781.

Upgrade City Information Technology

- \$445,000 (General Fund)
- Integrated financial management system (\$410,000)
- Software for online registration in Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (\$35,000)

Upgrade City Fleet of Vehicles

- \$447,000 (General Fund)
- Building Department
- Replace 4 vehicles - \$84,000
- Department of Public Works
- Replace 2 vehicles - \$49,000
- Replacement Street Sweeper - \$170,000
- New Patchmobile - \$68,000
- Neighborhood Services
- Replace 1 vehicle - \$21,000
- Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department
- Replace 2 vehicles - \$55,000

Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds (Police Department)

- Defer action until actual dollars received.

Capital Improvements Program Highlights

- Roads
- In addition to annual \$1,580,000 Neighborhood Repaving allocation, an additional \$760,000 for neighborhood concrete streets reconstruction:
- Arcadia (Remainder)
- Venation Court
- Center Street (To asphalt from concrete)
- Novi Road "Link" (Ten Mile Road to Grand River Avenue,

including overpass over CSX railroad tracks - RCOO Property Acquisition in 2005).

- Sidewalks
- Eleven Mile Road (\$325,000)
- a) East of Beck Road to Abbey Drive
- b) West of Beck Road to Novi Middle School

Others

- Fire Department Vehicle Exhaust System - All Stations (\$70,000)
- Fire Station #1 Improvements (\$65,000)
- Department of Public Works Vector Pad Clean-Out Station (\$50,000)
- Parks, Recreation and Forestry
- a) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements (\$80,000)
- b) Irrigate remaining ball fields at Community Sports Park (\$32,000)
- c) Irrigate ball fields at Power Park (\$62,000)

Key Results Targeted

- Public Safety
- Implement maintenance program for Fire Department facilities with vehicle exhaust system at all stations and various improvements at Fire Station #1. (First Quarter)
- Devise new recruitment programs for the position of Paid-on-Call Firefighters. (Ongoing)
- Obtain City Council direction for use of drug asset forfeiture funds as soon as possible after funds are received. (To be determined)

Roads

- Support the Road Commission for Oakland County in the completion of the Novi Road and Ten Mile Road intersection improvements. (First Quarter)
- Complete sidewalk on south side of Eleven Mile Road between Abbey Drive and Beck Road and on the north side, west of Beck Road connecting to the Middle School. (First Quarter)
- Completion of Ten Mile Road/Hampton Hill traffic signalization. (First Quarter)
- Completion of Novi Road/Post Office traffic signalization. (First Quarter)
- Complete Eleven Mile Road

BUDGET TIMELINE

- May 9 - Public hearing on budget, 7 p.m., council chambers. City council adopts annual operations budget and tax levy. (Charter requires adoption no later than the third Monday in May.)
- June 1 - Staff proposes and city council reviews and approves year-end budget revisions, if needed.
- June 24 - Staff produces adopted budget and Capital Improvements Program overview and distributes to city council, departments and public.
- July 1 - Fiscal year 2005-2006 begins.

- rehabilitation between Town Center Drive and Meadowbrook Road, including culvert replacement. (First Quarter)
- Completion of Nine Mile Road resurfacing (all asphalt) east of Novi Road to Meadowbrook road, includes Roettl Drive industrial road. (First Quarter)
- Complete replacement of Meadowbrook Road Bridge. (First Quarter)
- Completion of 2005 annual neighborhood repaving improvements on time and within budget. (Second Quarter)
- Complete Beck Road asphalt paving rehabilitation between Nine Mile Road and Eight Mile Road. (Second Quarter)
- Support the Michigan Department of Transportation in the last phase of construction of the new Beck Road/96 interchange. (Second Quarter)
- Completion of Meadowbrook Road repaving between Grand River Avenue and Cherry Hill Road, including new traffic signal at Cherry Hill Road. (Second Quarter)
- Continue to advocate for inclusion of the Wixom Road/96 Interchange project in the State of Michigan 2005-2009 Five year Transportation Program. (Ongoing)
- Support Road Commission for Oakland County in 2005 design completion and land acquisition for Novi Road "Link" between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue including

new grade separation bridge over CSX tracks. (Second Quarter of 2007-2008)

City Services

- Acquire replacement Street Sweeper and new Patchmobile. (First Quarter)
- Acquire fleet replacement vehicles as follows: four vehicles for the Building Department, one for Neighborhood Services, and two for the Department of Public Works. (First Quarter)
- Continue mosquito control program throughout the city twice per year. (First and Fourth Quarters)
- Construct vector pad clean-out station at Public Works facility. (Second Quarter)
- Design and construct work main on Beck Road south of Grand River Avenue. (Second Quarter)
- Design and construct Nine Mile Road water main extension from Kensington Road to Roberts Road. (Second Quarter)
- Design and construct Larry's District Sanitary Relief Sewer. (Fourth Quarter)

- Parks, Recreation & Forestry
- Acquire two replacement vehicles for Parks, Recreation

- and Forestry. (First Quarter)
- Work with developer to ensure Singh Trail is completed in 2005 and money allocated for maintenance. (Second Quarter)
- Complete Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements. (Second Quarter)
- Complete Community Sports Park irrigation work at remaining ball fields. (Second Quarter)
- Complete Power Park irrigation work at all ball fields. (Second Quarter)
- Implement software for on-line registration in Parks, Recreation and Forestry. (Third Quarter)
- Continue to counteract the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer with the removal of dead trees and stumps and completion of the annual tree replacement program. (Ongoing)

- Fiscal Management
- Maintain the current City property tax millage rate of 10.5416. (First Quarter)
- Absorb abolished position and consolidation of Chief Operating Officer duties. (First Quarter)
- Complete annual update of assumptions and actual information in Fiscal Analysis. (Second Quarter)

- Maintain Novi's minimum recommended General Fund cash reserve of 8-12% of General Fund expenditures. The reserve for fiscal year 2005-2006 is 15%. (Fourth Quarter)
- Continue to research various health care options and cost reduction measures available to the City. (Ongoing)
- Continue to work with various union representatives in an effort to share information on rising health care costs and the necessity to implement employee cost-sharing programs. (Ongoing)
- Implement initial modules of Integrated Financial Management System. (Third Quarter of 2006-2007)

- Environment
- Completion of Village Oaks Lake Dredging. (Second Quarter)
- Implement Storm Water Management Master Plan. (Ongoing)

- Growth Management and Development
- Continue to implement new Master Plan for Land Use. (Ongoing)

Source: City of Novi

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COMMUNITY

Fam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105; pfleming@thomascomm.net

Drive on to match Walker library grant

■ 'Momentum Event' slated for April 30

By Pam Fleming

While looking for a way to contribute to the Novi Public Library building fund, some friends created the Momentum Event for April 30.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., attendees at the Novi community event will be invited to help fund the library building fund. The event is a fundraiser for the library building fund. The event is a fundraiser for the library building fund.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER

Novi Public Library's head of youth services Margi Karp-Opperer, helps Josh Herdovitz, 5, "get into a good book" during a recent visit as he tries on a costume of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." The library plans an informational and fundraising event on April 30 which will highlight its services to the community.

The primary reason for the progress on the capital campaign, we have some new partnerships.

"The main focus is to let people know how they can help in a variety of ways."

Terry Margolis
Library director

OBITUARIES

ARTHUR J. VALENTI
Nearly 90, April 15, 2005. Beloved husband of the late Virginia. Dear son of Jack (Martha) Valenti. Extra loving Grandpa of Jack Brasher of the late Andrew, Joseph, Lillian, Brian, Albert, Virginia, Roberto, and Jean. Obituary at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 4155 Grand River, Novi, 248-349-1800. Wednesday 5-9pm and Thursday 1-9pm with Scripture Service 7pm. Funeral Services at Holy Family Church, 2455 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, Friday, 10:30am. Memorial donations may be made to The Memorial and Honor Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942. Online condolences: www.obitsonline.com/novifunhome.com

YOSHIE YZQUIERO
April 11, 2005 Age 70. Beloved wife of Ernest. Loving mother of Mary (Thomas) Eagle, and Eugene (Kevin) (Kathryn). Dear sister of Gertrude and Dolores. Dear sister of William T. Yzquierdo. Visitation was Tuesday, 2:30-9pm with prayers at 7:30. Donations may be made to the Cancer Center of Novi or Holy Family Catholic Church.

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 am, for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. *Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

LARRY KIRT BAILEY

Born March 28, 1946, died March 12, 2005. He lived much of his life in Novi. He is survived by his wife, Tom Bailey and sister-in-law, Judy Bailey, of Howell, MI; sister, Jackie Bailey, Southville and brother-in-law, Derek Somerville at Wolverine Lake, MI; brother, Bill Bailey and sister-in-law, Lisa Shaver Lambert of Atlanta, GA; 5 nieces and nephews, and 5 great nieces and nephews.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New laws for this election
The May 3 election will follow the new laws controlling elections, including a ban on absentee voting by mail and increasing voter turnout.

Main Street appointees
With Richard Gail's recent resignation, the Novi Planning Commission chose Lowell Sprague to take his place on the Main Street committee.

Maning rights policy approved
Novi City Council approved a maning rights policy for the city's parks and recreation facilities in a unanimous 7-0 vote April 18.

For Novu achievers
Two residents and an employee at Novi's Fox Run were named to the Fox Run Achievement Award.

Bank gets preliminary nod
Last week, a National City Bank edged closer to arriving in northwestern Novi, just east of Jimmie's Ranch.

Aladdin will renovate
With Novi Planning Commission approval, Aladdin Heating and Cooling's building

For more information, contact the Novi Park Foundation at (888) 281-1199, e-mail: Novi.Park.Foundation@novipark.com

Providence wins sidewalk waiver
Providence Hospital was awarded a waiver for a variance requiring safety paths along the tunnel collector street frontage for the Novi site at the April 8 city council meeting.

Public invited to watch history in the making
The public is invited to watch history in the making starting the morning of April 22, when workers



Sharing 4-H club members brought animals to visit with the Whitehall residents. Novi 4-H members Pallavi Vadapalli, Kristin and Reanna Lorey shown sharing their pets.

Celebrate Arbor Day
The annual Arbor Day celebration from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 23 at Community Sports Park is an opportunity for you to learn about trees, plant and make trees, receive information about tree care, give back to your community and celebrate being a Tree City USA award recipient.

Public invited to watch history in the making
The public is invited to watch history in the making starting the morning of April 22, when workers

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BUSINESS

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tower to close three facilities

Novi's Tower Automotive, which filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February, announced April 15 that it soon will close three facilities and cut back on a fourth. Tower said the closings, part of a restructuring plan, will impact 200 employees. The plant to be closed by June 30 includes the facility in Brighton, Mich., Bowling Green, Ky., and the plant in Hickory, N.C. The plant in Hickory will be sold to a local Granite Carbide.

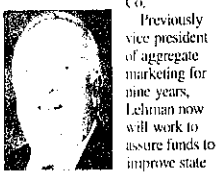
The company said the reductions are aimed to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Tower reported it expects to receive a "stronger" commitment from the court.

Tower is headquartered at 27175 Highway Road. For more information, visit www.towerauto.com.

"Edw." promotes Lehman

Richard A. Lehman, recently received two awards from the Michigan Association of Realtors (MAR) for his work in promoting the state's real estate industry.

Previously vice president of aggregate marketing for nine years, Lehman now will work to assure funds to improve state roads and bridges.



R. Lehman

Lehman also is a member of the newly created Michigan Infrastructure Transportation Association and a chair on Nov's with his wife and two children.

DeMaria earns 'Pyramid'

The M.I. Building Company, Inc., which has a Novi office, recently won the Washington Convention Association's 2005 Best Showroom Award. The award is presented to the Michigan University and Design Inc. by the award's 2005. The award is presented to the Michigan University and Design Inc. by the award's 2005.

Buell Hall student dormitory

In three months, the dormitory was upgraded and modernized. Located between I-75 and Dixie Highway, Emagine Holly will feature 2,450, digital sound, wall-to-wall screens and high-back rocking seats. The theater will be the company's fourth. In the Fountain Walk shopping center, Emagine Novi's address is 44425 W. 12 Mile Road.

Pappas, Korbut move up

Novi's Fanning/Hovey Associates, Inc. announced two appointments April 7. Senior project manager and designer Theo Pappas was promoted to principal. With 25 years experience, the Brighton resident joined the office in 1999 and belongs to numerous organizations.

Also, Kirt Korbut was hired as the company's Michigan marketing manager and will lead strategic market planning, research, public relations and business development.

An architectural and engineering firm focused on educational and commercial facilities, Fanning/Hovey is located at 28001 Cabot Drive, Ste. 100.

REMAX gets kudos

REMAX 100, which includes a Novi locale, recently received two awards from REMAX's regional annual awards banquet. The "100" network was cited for total sales volume and commission. Also, Crystal Hawley was honored as top broker/owner of the year. Novi's REMAX 100 is located at 39500 Orchard Hill Place, Ste. 130.

Borders gets classical

To highlight Classical Music Month, Borders Books and Music stores, including one in Novi, will offer various product discounts. Through Sunday, about 300 titles are priced \$4.99-\$9.99, with all classical music compact discs and DVDs 10 percent off retail.

Borders is located in the Novi Town Center at 43075 Crescent Blvd.

Emagine expanding

After opening a Canton movie theater last year, Novi's Emagine Entertainment, Inc. now plans a 14-screen megaplex for Holly Township. Slated to open early this winter, the 55,000 square foot theater will

Novi's Theatres to announce other orders for testing and manufacturing equipment

Automation Alley Export Center will access to events featuring Chinese trade delegations, companies, industry officials and political and educational representatives. Automation Alley is located in Troy.

'Alley' reaches out

Automation Alley, southeast Michigan's technology business network, recently took strides to support both the region. With the Detroit Regional Focus: HOPE and others, the Alley April 11-14, the company toured its RapidPro System, designed to improve integrating automotive sensors and actuators. A compact, modular design will cost less money and time, the company said.

dSPACE is headquartered at 28700 Cabot Drive, Ste. 1100.

Rockwell secures \$6.5 million

In Wixom, Rockwell Medical Technologies, Inc. announced April 13 that it secured \$6.5 million in business with a new customer. With \$640,000 of the order filled this year, the company expects the rest to be completed by June.

BrassCraft promotes Koehn

Novi's BrassCraft Manufacturing Company announced this month that it promoted Gregg Koehn to manufacturing engineering director. Previously a manager of that division, Koehn now will oversee equipment purchasing and tooling specifications, implement "best practices" and assist plants with improvement plans, among other duties.

With BrassCraft since 1988, Koehn has held a variety of positions.

A manufacturer of water supplies and plumbing products, BrassCraft is located at 39600 Orchard Hill Place.

Vari-Tek gets \$2 million order

Wixom's Vari-Tek International, Corp. said April 11 that it received a \$2 million order for its automotive drive shaft assembly cell. Placed by Korean automotive supplier Hyolin Industrial Co. Ltd., the items are expected to ship in December. The company said this is its second order from a Korean supplier in nine months. Based at 50120 Pontiac Trail, Vari-Tek said it expects to soon

dSPACE offers new system

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Blue Cross to six numbers

Social security numbers will be eliminated from more than 4 million identification cards for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, the groups announced.

In order to comply with new laws aimed at reducing identity theft, new cards with randomly assigned contact numbers are expected to be in place by year's end.

Members will be encouraged to destroy old cards once new ones are received, the groups said, with about 400,000 new cards being sent out monthly. For details, visit www.bcbssm.com.

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"I learned from my father what the entrepreneurial spirit is all about: perseverance and passion."

Susan Walsh
Yard Art owner

Yard Art creating signs for the times

Novi business helps capture and display kids' big events

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, Susan Walsh towed plywood, a tennis racket, stencils and paint to the family's Northville garage. Her goal: create 15 personalized yard signs for her daughter's varsity team.

By chance, Walsh also found graphic artist AnnaMaria Sala, a friend of her brother.

"She was so excited about it," Sala said. "I thought, 'Why not?' She's just incredible to work for. She and I think exactly alike."

Soon, the duo had more than 30 designs, from canvas art and signing boards to baby announcements and smaller "lot art."

"It's a great learning experience," Walsh said. "I love to come to work every day."

Handling finances at her parents' Detroit tool and die business for years offered early lessons.

"My mother was extremely kind and compassionate," she said. "I learned from my father what the entrepreneurial spirit is

YARD ART

- What: Novi business offers yard signs, wall hangers, canvas signs and more to commemorate children's special activities and occasions.
- Costs: yard art: \$39.95; wall art: \$29.95
- Who: founder Susan Walsh, a Northville resident, with help from several family members and friends
- Where: 22797 Heslip Drive, north of Nine Mile Road and east of Novi Road
- Contact: www.yardartsigns.com, (248) 735-1983

*Note: cost for one item; discounts with larger orders.

Learn in hand, the former financier picked out design software, digital printer, computerized wood cutting machine and sturdy ground stakes.

Walsh's Novi business, Yard Art, creates colorful lawn and wall signs, customized with names, school colors and more. Created in a 2,400-square foot plant, signs honor events from basketball to ballet to birthdays, Walsh said — and, if constantly outdoors, last up to two years.

The two-year-old company is getting attention from parenting and cheer leading magazines to Ladies who Launch, a national networking and resource group that featured Walsh last month. "It was surprising in the following days how much the girls liked the signs and how much the parents liked them," Walsh said. "I just sensed a positive feeling."

Today, Walsh's Novi business, Yard Art, creates colorful lawn and wall signs, customized with names, school colors and more. Created in a 2,400-square foot plant, signs honor events from basketball to ballet to birthdays, Walsh said — and, if constantly outdoors, last up to two years.

Members will be encouraged to destroy old cards once new ones are received, the groups said, with about 400,000 new cards being sent out monthly. For details, visit www.bcbssm.com.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Walsh's first baby sparked six months of research. Her plate was full, she said, but her kids were older and her husband supportive.

"After I decided not to do it, the feeling wouldn't go away," she said.



Yard Art owner Susan Walsh stands in her Novi showroom displaying a number of examples of her company's signs that they produce for lawns and other locations. Walsh does a lot of business with parents of local high school students.

child and to see their face and how happy they are," she said. "It just comes through."

"To be in something creative is like a breath of fresh air 10 times over. It is invigorating."

Her two younger sisters soon caught the bug. Patrice Ambrose sells Yard Art near her Ohio home — and buys for her three children.

"The best part about this is when I get to deliver a sign to a

instance, proceeds from teacher's apple designs will benefit the non-profit TeachersCount organization.

Other partnerships also are in the works, Walsh said, and team discounts and by-request custom designs will remain staples.

From her Ladies who Launch feature, she's heard from women also aiming to start on their own.

"You try to find something that you can incorporate into your life," Walsh said. "I want to sell these signs to everyone. I love making these signs."

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

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Communicating through art

Autistic student's talent lets her shine

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

For Wendy Martin, it took a while, but she finally figured out a way to get through to young Becky Hulverson, one of her fourth grade students at Village Oaks Elementary School.

Martin, a special education teacher, has been teaching Hulverson, an autistic child, ever since kindergarten. At first, she described her as an angry child who didn't communicate, would tantrum, and was a miserable little girl.

But in the five years that the two have known each other, all of that has changed. Hulverson is now, in Martin's words, a "bright, funny, lively, enthusiastic, wonderful child." Why the change? Because Martin found the secret to getting through to her student: Her artwork.

"Becky has really blossomed," Martin said. "I think a lot of the strategies that we've used over the years have helped bring her out of her shell."

It was Hulverson who sparked Martin's interest in autism and made her pursue an autistic impaired endorsement. She already had a mentally impaired endorsement, but now, she is Novi's only teacher with an autistic impaired one.

Starting early on, Hulverson used art as a way to communicate. When she was in kindergarten and first grade, Martin couldn't get her to sit down for one-on-one work and she couldn't get anything out of her until she started to use drawing one day to get through. The idea worked.

"I wanted her to have an interest and interact with me," Martin said. "It really blossomed from there. I have stacks of Becky's drawings and her parents have more stacks. I knew she would draw on her own and so I thought I better use what she likes or I'm not going to be able to get into her head."

Martin uses a method of visual scheduling in her classroom. One

part of her students' day is to do one-on-one work with her at a table, where she works on their goals and objectives.

"So talented Hulverson has gotten in her artwork, that her mother, Ellen, recently submitted one of her pieces, called "African Safari," to the Very Special Arts display in the Westland, Mich. It was chosen and is now on display for the public to see for one year.

"The VSA has never really displayed anything by younger kids before, but this year they wanted to showcase more elementary kids work," Ellen Hulverson said.

"It's a traveling art show that represents all kinds of people with special needs."

The piece was juried in the VSA "Cool Views" art show. It depicts a sunset with shadows of different safari animals.

Ellen Hulverson explained that autistic people must do things to calm themselves down. Autistic kids do different things, but through art, was always the way to get her daughter to focus. If she was upset about something, or if things were too chaotic in her life, she would start to draw and would calm down.

"She goes through tears of paper," Ellen Hulverson said. "I'm not talking about a little bit of drawing here. And when she draws, it's kind of like a cartoon artist. She's very quick. She has the whole thing in her head and then she puts it down on paper."

Ellen believes that her daughter's talent could eventually lead to employment later on in life because even in her young age, she can already draw on a computer and do some design work.

"I'm going to be sad and cry when she goes out to Meadows because she's been such a big part of my teaching career at Novi," she said. "But it's good for her to have a new teacher and it's time for her to go on to bigger and better things. I really anticipate a smooth transition."

For more information on VSA or to find out where to view Becky's or someone else's work, visit www.vsamichigan.org.

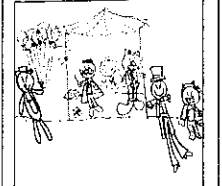
Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.



Novi Village Oaks teacher Wendy Martin plays card game "go fish" with student Becky Hulverson, who has been recognized for her artistic abilities.

AUTISM KITS

Oakland Schools put together an autism kit, which is available for anybody in the community to use. It contains a lot of useful information about autism, from early childhood to adulthood. It also has a packet of information for parents of autistic kids. For more information on viewing the kit, contact the Novi Community School District at (248) 449-1200.



One of Becky Hulverson's creations.

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Helping a miracle

Novi Woods third grader volunteers as a "buddy" in Miracle Baseball League

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Helping people out is nothing new for Rachel Hanson, a third grade student at Novi Woods Elementary School. That's why it's no surprise to her parents that she has taken it upon herself to be a "buddy" at the Miracle Baseball League in Southfield.

During spring and summer, the ping of a bat, and kids laughing and running can be heard at every baseball and softball field in the area. But the Miracle League is a bit out of the ordinary because all the athletes are either physically or mentally challenged.

Each needs a buddy to help them hit and field a ball and run around the bases. That's where Hanson comes into the picture.

"Rachel started out being a buddy for her brother," Michael Lyn Hanson said, his mother. "There were some other kids who didn't have buddies and there was this little girl named Hope, who is in a wheel chair. They just hit it off and she started buddying her. They play games twice a week during the season and Rachel is always there."

Rachel and her brother Zachary are twins. He attends Village Oaks Elementary School in the special education program. When Michael Lyn and her husband, Dennis received word about the Miracle League through a flyer, they both thought it was a good idea to sign their son up. Little did they know that their daughter would want to be involved as well.

"It's exciting to see Rachel want to help other kids," Dennis Hanson said. "She always wants to help us with anything she can. That's just the way she is."

A whole season has passed so far and Rachel has been doing such a good job at being a buddy that Wal-Mart, a major sponsor of the league, has taken notice. The company has decided to put her picture up on billboards throughout their stores very soon.

"It's something to do," Rachel Hanson said. "The kids need buddies and I enjoy being one. (The kids) have never played baseball before and buddies teach them how to play. I help them bat, I take them to bases and it makes me happy to be on billboards."

Stephen Peck is president/executive director of the Miracle League of Michigan. He first got



Novi Woods student Rachel Hanson (standing) is Hope Sovran's buddy at the Miracle Baseball League in Southfield. Sovran has spina bifida.

involved in the project when he happened to see a video that Bryant Gumbel and HBO did about a Miracle League in Atlanta.

"That's what got me interested in this project," Peck said. "I went out and found the 'Miracle' city of Southfield gave us the land and we built it there. The field is all synthetic rubber, which is what makes it so special. The children with disabilities, whether they be in a walker or chair, can get around easily on it."

Peck said that there is even a level of protection over all concrete at the field, which is soon to

be named "Wal-Mart Field," so the kids don't have to deal with dirt or grass that can stop them from moving in their wheelchairs. The field is located near I-696 and Evergreen Road at the Southfield Municipal Complex.

For information on the Miracle League or volunteering, please visit www.miracleleague.org or call (248) 506-4604.

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

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April 23.....9 am - 5 pm
April 24.....10 am - 4 pm

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1007 Grand River Avenue • Brighton • (810) 225-8900
- or -
OR BY TELEPHONE AT:
THE GREATER BRIGHTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

District developing new English Language Learner program

AYP REPORT CARD CRITERIA

The adequate yearly progress report cards that each school in the district receives once a year from the federal government is based on the following criteria:

- English Language Learners
- Special Education students
- Students who require free and reduced lunches
- Students who fit these ethnic categories:
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native: Original peoples of North America, who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliations
 - Asian or Pacific Islander: Far east, Southeast Asia, Indian sub-continent, Pacific Islands, China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippine Islands, Samoa (Native Hawaiian)
 - Black, not Hispanic: Black racial groups of Africa
 - Hispanic: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South America, Spanish culture
 - White, not Hispanic: Original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or Middle East. Includes Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan
 - Multi racial: Mixed racial/ethnic origins

Charge is fifth critical issue of district's Long Range Plan

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

With Novi's population increasing at a dramatic rate each year, the demographics of the Novi Community School District is changing right along as well.

And with that change, teachers and administrators alike must adjust to growing needs of students who hail from all around the world.

According to Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services, in 1995, white majority students made up almost 92 percent of the district's total population. The other eight percent of students were primarily Japanese born. 10 years later, however, the white majority is now down to 75 percent.

"That means that in 10 years, we have gone from one out of 10 students to one out of four coming to us as from a non-white ethnic background," Davis said. "This has been marked as well, by a slowly increasing need for support to assist our foreign-born students with the basics of the English language and our school culture as they enter our schools."

The fifth critical issue in the school district's long range plan deals with "English language learners." It states that the district is lacking a clearly defined and fully implemented ELL program. The issue's goal statement is to develop and implement one, to insure that all ELL students will be successful.

As the district plans for the next five years, it has become clear that the focus on the academic success of these foreign-born students will have an impact on the district's ability to maintain a high level of student academic achievement as it strives to meet the mandates of the Michigan government's No Child Left Behind mandate and the federal government's Adequate Yearly Progress mandate.

According to Jane Hesse, the

district's director of K-12 curriculum and assessment, there are a few steps that have to be taken.

The first step includes enrolling students, who do not know the English language, into a community education courses with their parents, which will not require that they accumulate grades. They can be shown what their new high school is going to look like, what their schedule will be like and information about what a block semester is like if the student is in high school.

Once a particular student learns basic English words, he or she can start taking certain classes, which would be step two.

"Parents and students usually want to get into classes so they can hear more language when they first get here," Hesse said. "But the downfall to that is, they would be starting to accumulate grades and we want to be sure that they're not accruing poor grades."

Questions that must be answered as the district develops its English Language Learner program are: "How do we grade these children when they're just beginning to learn English, and do we have some kind of system to modify their instruction, but also how we measure them?"

"There is absolutely no point in them receiving poor grades, just because they can't speak English," Hesse said. "If you think of any student who is struggling for any reason, the point is that we want to be sure that the student continues to learn and continues to be motivated to learn."

Understanding the differences among cultures, and embracing their contributions to our educational environment will enrich our schools further," Davis said. "We live in a global culture now, and by focusing on the ELL critical issue, we will more formally acknowledge the benefits that these students bring to our doors."

Last year, Novi applied for new funds under a state program, "Title III," which provides for students with limited English learning abilities.

The district has used this money to begin to address the needs of its ELL students through the incorporation of materials and learning support in its elementary schools and through the process of identification and intake through community education. The district is also developing additional plans to focus resources on this area, particularly at the K-4 level, where learning to read is paramount to the ongoing success of any student.

"Understanding the differences among cultures, and embracing their contributions to our educational environment will enrich our schools further," Davis said. "We live in a global culture now, and by focusing on the ELL critical issue, we will more formally acknowledge the benefits that these students bring to our doors."

WHERE THEY'RE FROM

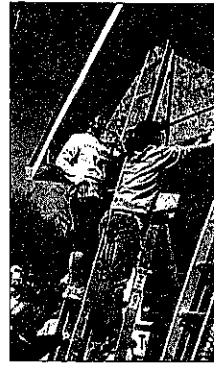
- The Novi Community School District has students who were born in many countries, including:
- Albania
 - Australia
 - Bangladesh
 - Brazil
 - China
 - Fiji
 - Gaza Strip
 - Hungary
 - Iraq
 - Kazakhstan
 - Mexico
 - Nigeria
 - Philippines
 - Romania
 - Spain
 - Turkey
 - Vietnam
 - Argentina
 - Bahrain
 - Bolivia
 - Canada
 - Czech Republic
 - Gabon
 - Germany
 - India
 - Japan
 - Korea
 - Norway
 - Paraguay
 - Poland
 - Russia
 - Taiwan
 - United Kingdom

WHAT THEY SPEAK

- There are 23 different languages spoken as "primary" in the homes of students in the Novi Community School District.
- Albania
 - Arabic
 - Armenian
 - Chaldean
 - Chinese
 - French
 - German
 - Gujarati
 - Indian
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Mandarin
 - Marathi
 - Norwegian
 - Persian
 - Portuguese
 - Russian
 - Somali
 - Spanish
 - Tagalog
 - Tamil
 - Telugu
 - Vietnamese

Students, staff build futures with Habitat for Humanity

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPECIAL WRITER



To the casual observer driving on a small street off Woodward on a sunny Saturday in April, the construction of a house in a cozy Pontiac neighborhood would not have warranted a second glance.

Had the observer looked closer, however, he would have noticed that the people who were carrying heavy wall frames, clearing dead trees and glass from the yard, and applying vinyl siding to the house were not seasoned construction workers, but teenagers and teachers hoping to make a difference in the lives of a single mother and her five children.

On April 9, 28 students and eight adults from Novi High School worked together to build a house in partnership with the Oakland County division of Habitat for Humanity. This non-profit organization sells houses at a reduced cost to low-income families with the help of donated labor and materials. To pay for materials, participants collect pledges. The students from Novi High School raised over \$5,000 for the cause.

Novi High School became involved with Habitat for Humanity when an interested student informed Barbara Clift, the high school volunteer coordinator, of the service opportunity. A preliminary informational meeting in January was attended by over 70 students.

"I was very surprised at the turnout and the interest," Clift said. "We were told that it was the biggest response, most participants from any high school."

Seniors Neil Kocan and Emily Rice, although undertaking differ-

encing Western Michigan University, she read a Habitat for Humanity advertisement in her church newspaper and decided to participate, helping to build houses in Kentucky during Spring Break.

Describing the nature of the work, she said, "It's a good thing for people to get involved in, even if they've never done construction-type work, because there's always something that everyone can do." Worden, along with a colleague, cleaned the yard by sorting and bagging trash.

Special recipients of a house must go through a rigorous approval process. According to guidelines published by Habitat for Humanity, families must be deemed able to repay a 20-year mortgage that is financed by a no-interest loan. Adults must participate in classes to learn about budgeting and mortgages and spend 250 hours building houses.

For Rice, working with the future homeowner was a rewarding experience. "She was amazed at how many of us showed up and she was extremely grateful. It struck a note deep inside of me. It was the best part."

Although this house was the first built by Novi students, it was certainly not the last.

"We want to make this an annual spring project for Novi High School," Clift said. "My main goal in this school is to create more opportunities to volunteer so that students continue to put National Honor Society requirements, past high school. I want to get students hooked on volunteering for the rest of their lives."

Courtney Ratkowiak is a junior at Novi High School.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

PLANS event

PLANS Novi Student Talent Show: Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Instructional Technology Center Forum. The evening will benefit Teams Aiding the Cancer Community (TACC). All acts are welcome and need to be three minutes or less. Audience members are asked to bring a toy or other donations to benefit TACC. For more information, contact Lee Linton (248) 305-9043.

State band festival

Novi High School is hosting the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association State Band Festival for both middle and high schools. Groups from area middle and high schools will be performing on Friday, April 22 from 2 — 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 from 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. On April 22, the Novi High School Symphony Band will perform at 6:20 p.m. and the Wind Ensemble will perform at 9:20 p.m. On April 29, the Novi Middle School seventh grade band will perform at 3:30 p.m. Performances take place in the Furst Auditorium and admission is free. Concessions are also available.



Courtesy photo

Spring fever

With the warm spring weather, the children in Darlene Grabowski's class were able to share their published stories outside in the school courtyard. Author, first Grader Molly McDonald, tells part of the story with her title (All About What Girls Like). Her friend, first Grader Madison Whittaker, clarifies the rest with the words on her shirt (Princess).

Read then Recycle this Newspaper

101 THINGS to do in Summer

Space Reservation Deadline: April 25, 2005
Copy Deadline: April 26, 2005
Publication Date: May 26, 2005

Milford Times
248-685-1507

Northville Record Novi News
248-349-1700

South Lyon Herald
248-437-2011

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2002 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4 V6, all power, CD, leather, low miles, certified up to 75,000 mile warranty \$14,995	2003 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS ULTIMATE V6, all power, CD, leather, low miles, certified up to 75,000 mile warranty \$16,998	2002 WINDSTAR LX SPORT V6, power pedals, all power, CD, certified up to 75,000 mile warranty, low miles \$13,995	2000 MERCURY VILLAGER V6, auto, all power, 15000 miles \$7,995
--	--	--	--

Please ask for Joe or Rebecca

248.474.1234 39300 W. 10 Mile Rd • Farmington Hills (Corner of Haggerty & 10 Mile)
*Plus sales tax, title, transfer & doc. fees

Celebrate Cancer Survivorship!



Join the Relay For Life!

Your American Cancer Society is rallying the Novi, Northville, Commerce Township and Walled Lake communities to participate in the 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.

Calling all cancer survivors!

If you or someone you know has battled cancer, please join your community and walk in the Cancer Survivor's Victory Lap! Hundreds of cancer survivors from throughout Novi, Northville Commerce Township and Walled Lake will join thousands of community members to celebrate their cancer survivorship. Cancer survivors will kick off the Relay For Life by taking a celebratory lap around the track together. Dinner will also be provided for

Come and join us at one of the following events!!

- | | |
|---|--|
| Novi - Northville Relay For Life
Ford Field
Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 15, 2005
10 a.m. - 10 a.m. | Walled Lake - Commerce Township Relay For Life
Walled Lake Middle School
Saturday, June 4 - Sunday, June 5, 2005
10 a.m. - 10 a.m. |
|---|--|

Call 248.557.5353 for more information.



NOVI NEWS



get pictured

Gentlemen in Business coming in June!

LIVINGSTON COUNTY DAILY PRESS & ARGUS 517-548-7060	Milford Times 248-685-1507
Northville Record Novi News 248-349-1700	South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011

Home & Garden II

Everyone enjoys this special section that is filled with all sorts of gardening and improvement ideas.

Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, May 9, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Publication Date: Thursday, May 26, 2005

Contact your sales representative to reserve your space!

LIVINGSTON COUNTY DAILY PRESS & ARGUS 517-548-7060	Milford Times 248-685-1507
Northville Record Novi News 248-349-1700	South Lyon Herald 248-437-2011

YESTERDAY & TODAY

THE **BEATLES** COMPLETE TRIBUTE

www.officialyesterdayandtodaysite.com

Sunday May 1st • Doors Open 4pm
Showtime 6pm • All Ages Show
Tickets \$10.00 • Kids under 12 Free

Witness the amazing career of the Beatles in one evening from the clean cut suited liverpool lads to the long haired rock-n-roll legends they became. Re-live the magic and memories of those carefree times in an evening with Yesterday and Today the complete tribute to the Beatles.

Yesterday and Today is an all ages friendly environment...bring the family, for all to witness, the very special music and history to the worlds most renowned group.

Booking info: Rembrant Entertainment • 313.529.5893

5th BALLROOM 25750 Novi Rd, Novi MI 248.735.4011



What time is it? Novi Woods students were treated to an assembly entitled "It's Book Time with Ronald McDonald!" last Tuesday...

A teachable moment

Lyn Fischer's first grade class at Parkview Elementary School found two baby turtles and kept them for one week to learn about them...



DeOnnellas, Bernatch Feliciano-Siemens watch the Sliders with the baby turtles in front of them...

ON CAMPUS

The following Novi residents, Julie Blyk, Ashley Bradford...

Kiss-DeBiasi, Bethany Kille, Heather Kline, Elizabeth Kossik...

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

- Pilates on the Ball Dates: Now - June 13 Time: 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Location: Village Oaks Gym... Focus on Glutes & Abs Dates: Now - June 13 Time: 8:15 - 9 p.m. Location: Parkview Gym... Resistance Training Dates: Now - June 13 Time: 7-8 p.m. Location: Deerfield Gym... Tai Chi Dates: Now - June 7 Time: 7-8 p.m. Location: Orchard Hills Gym... Fusion Fitness RX Dates: Now - June 13 Time: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Location: Parkview Gym...

Novi Middle School Fourth Marking Period Honor Roll

Seventh Grade

Timothy Karais, Alexander Karas, Marina Vuja, Deanna Wagner, Kristin Kilger, Yong Tai Kim...

Eighth Grade

Kerry Abel, Nicholas Abraham, Erik Appelbacher, Michael Ajpadi, Elizabeth Andrews...

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Tony Angelo Current Construction Company is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a temporary concrete batch plant...

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-012

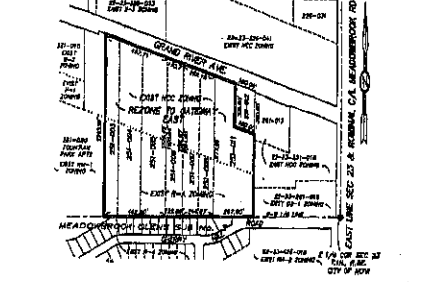
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Pita Cafe is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow outdoor patio seating from April 29, 2005 through September 30, 2005...

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC NOTICE GREENWAYS/PATHWAYS STUDY

The City of Novi hereby announces a public input meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center...

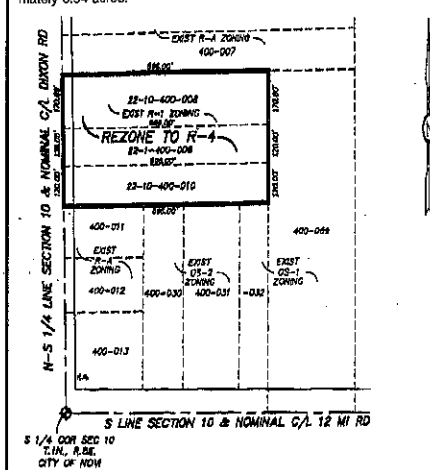
CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center...



CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center...



TO THE QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED ELECTORS OF the City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, in the City of Novi from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following Polling Locations:

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ELECTION MAY 3, 2005

Table with columns: PRECINCT, LOCATION, ADDRESS. Lists 17 polling locations including Meadbrook Church, Village Oaks Elementary School, and various churches.

Parcel 22-23-251-007 & -008 Beginning at a point on the East-West 1/4 line of Section 23 and the North line of Meadowbrook Glens Sub. No. 3...

GREAT LAKES DERMATOLOGY. MICHAEL R. COHEN, D.O. Board Certified Dermatologist. Specializing in Diseases of the Skin, Hair & Nails.

Begin Your New Healthcare Career Today! Schoolcraft College is offering Medical Training in PHYSICAL THERAPY AIDE / DENTAL ASSISTANT.

SPOTLIGHT: ALLERGY & ASTHMA. Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.C., C.C.R.I. Allergies and asthma are prevalent in homes across the United States...

SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S. Orthodontic Specialist. A MORE ATTRACTIVE SMILE.

Michigan Classic Ballet Company presents Seasons of Spring April 30, 2005 1pm & 5pm. Featuring 'The Cinderella Ballet' and Mixed Repertoire.

Good Neighbor. GREAT RATES. SAVINGS ACCOUNTS: \$0-\$49,999 1.50% APY; \$50,000+ 2.53% APY. MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS: \$0-\$99 0.00% APY; \$100-\$999 1.50% APY...

GRAND OPENING. Join Us For The Grand Opening of Jim & Prudy Vannier's Northville Gallery. Friday & Saturday April 22 & 23 1-8pm.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LOWELL SPRAGUE SECRETARY (4-21-05 NN 207557)

HEALTH

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

Illness doesn't slow down teen

Fund-raising campaign brings in about \$8,000

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's been about six months since Brian Jones last suffered a major vomit attack. In that time, he, along with family and friends, have worked very hard to raise funds and awareness to help fight his rare disease.

Jones, a senior at Novi High School, is suffering from Eosinophilic Esophagitis, a rare digestive disorder with no known cure.

An organization was formed called "E-Extreme Awareness," which hosted a bowl-a-thon last month to raise money for research in hopes of finding a cure, and to raise awareness of the illness through C.A.R.E.D., a non-profit organization created solely for this purpose.

About \$8,000 was raised with the event and by selling blue wristbands at \$2 a piece, which read "Cured" and display a hand.

"Our fund raising was phenomenal," Jones said. "We had 18 bowlers at the bowl-a-thon, which raised about \$2,000 alone and the wristbands were a huge hit at Novi High. Kids were requesting them and we sold out pretty quickly."

All money raised is sent to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. The group is working with the C.U.R.E.D. organization because it guaranteed that 100 percent of money raised would go directly to that hospital.

The fund-raiser was held at Novi Bowl and was advertised throughout Novi High School starting in December. Diane Busard, Jones' mother, said the plan was to have high school students do the bowling. That's exactly how it worked out, as many kids were adamant about helping their friend and classmate.

Busard said that outside her family, A.J. Gubinski, one of Jones' classmates, has been one of the most assiduous workers in the fund-raising effort by sending out letters and contacting friends and relatives on his own time.

"This is something that is very important for me to do," Gubinski said. "Just being a friend of Brian, I wanted to help out and the responsiveness of teachers in the school has been great too. They really are helping us out by allowing us to come in and do presentations during class."

Jones originally approached Gubinski in October with news of his illness. Not knowing much about it at the time, Gubinski educated himself by listening to his friend and reading about the disease. At that point, he became one of the founding members of "E-Extreme Awareness."

As for Jones, he is feeling great and couldn't be happier about it. He'll be playing tennis this spring and played indoor soccer all winter with friends.

Busard explained that though her son's illness is not in remission, it is under control through medication.

"That's a big difference," she said. "He's still taking four medications and still has pain, but it's being managed by medication and diet change. He's doing great, but he is free and clear of this disease." No. He could have another episode any time.

Jones is allergic to many aspects of the outside environment, so if he gets through October without having another episode, he'll know



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School senior Brian Jones is suffering from Eosinophilic Esophagitis, a rare digestive disorder with no known cure.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi resident Brian Jones held an eosinophilic esophagitis fundraising bowl-a-thon and received communications from people around the nation about his rare disease.

that the medications are doing their job correctly.

Though the bowl-a-thon was a success, it was only the beginning of more fund-raising activities to come.

"Our tennis coach is planning something called 'Tennis Under the Lights' for next spring," said Sarah Jones, Brian's sister and a junior at Novi High. "We'll play at the high school starting sometime at night and we'll go through till morning."

Unlike the bowling event, any-

EOSINOPHILS

Eosinophils are white blood cells that are not normally found in the esophagus. With the Eosinophilic Esophagitis disease, eosinophils grow rapidly because they sense a threat from a food or environmental allergen source. But in doing so, they cause inflammation and damage to the gastrointestinal system.

Brian Jones' symptoms include chest pain, nausea and excessive vomiting. He has missed a significant amount of school and it has taken a team of doctors to help get this disease somewhat under control. Treatment involves trying to identify and remove the root cause triggering the eosinophils. This trial-and-error search varies from patient to patient, ranging from eliminating specific foods from their diet, to identifying environmental allergens.

Several medications are required to reduce the multiple symptoms, with steroids being the most effective.

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

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 05-100.34

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 05-100.34, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 28, "SIGNS," OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO NONCOMMERCIAL MESSAGE SIGNS (ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS). THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2005. THE ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2005. A COMPLETE COPY OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE AND INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD, DURING THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M., PREVAILING LOCAL TIME.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (4-21-05 NN 206861)

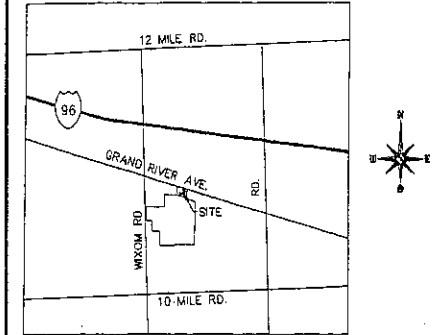
CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CLERK'S OFFICE WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCANNING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005. THE TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED AT 10:00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005 AT THE NOVI CIVIC CENTER, CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 45175 WEST TEN MILE ROAD, NOVI, MI. THIS TEST IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE NOVI CIVIC CENTER'S OFFICE AT 248-347-0456.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK (4-21-05 NN 206860)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF NOVI WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE NOVI CIVIC CENTER, 45175 W. TEN MILE ROAD, NOVI, MI TO CONSIDER CITIZENS BANK, SITE PLAN NUMBER 04-5A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WELLSLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17, NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND WINDOM ROAD IN THE PROMENADE B-3, GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS 1.24 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, Nov, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 27, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY (4-21-05 NN 207559)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ELECTION MAY 3, 2005 NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

TO THE QUALIFIED AND REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF NOVI - Oakland County, Michigan, notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005, in the City of Novi from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following Polling Locations:

PRECINCT	LOCATION	ADDRESS
1	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
2	Meadowbrook Congregational Church	21355 Meadowbrook Road
3	Village Oaks Elementary School	23333 Willowbrook Road
4	Novi United Methodist Church	41671 Ten Mile Road
5	Orchard Hills Elementary School	41900 Quince
6	Holy Family Catholic Church	24505 Meadowbrook Road
7	Holy Family Catholic Church	24505 Meadowbrook Road
8	Meadowbrook Elementary School	29200 Meadowbrook Road
9	Portsmouth Apartments Clubhouse	31170 Wellington Drive
10	Hickory Woods Elementary School	30655 Novi Road
11	Faith Community Presbyterian Church	44400 West Ten Mile Road
12	Novi Meadows School/ ITC Bldg.	26299 Taft Road
13	St. James Catholic Church	46325 West Ten Mile Road
14	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
15	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road
16	Thorton Creek Elementary School	46180 West Nine Mile Road
17	Novi Civic Center	45175 West Ten Mile Road

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING LOCAL CANDIDATES THAT MAY BE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

NORTHVILLE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BOARD OF EDUCATION: VOTE FOR ONE-FOUR YEAR TERM Judith A. Handley

SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT - TRUSTEES AT-LARGE: VOTE FOR TWO - SIX YEAR TERM Gregory J. Stempfen Patricia L. Watson

VOTE FOR ONE - FOUR YEAR TERM Philip N. Gascard

All polling places are handicap accessible. Braille and audio versions of voting instructions are available at the polling places. Absentee Ballots are available at the Office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. The deadline for receiving applications for ballots to be mailed is 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 30, 2005. Persons qualified to vote by Absentee Ballot may obtain a ballot in person until 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2005. A ballot obtained on May 2, 2005 must be voted in the City Clerk's Office. The City Clerk's Office will be open for the purpose of absentee voting on Saturday, April 30, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 407 kkovelle@ht.homcom.net

Good times, hard work mark Payton's life

Turning 90, Novi resident has farm roots

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Beets, cotton and "potaters." Growing up in Kentucky mountains, Zena Payton farmed them all. "We just didn't have to go to the store to buy nothing," she said. "I worked 11 hours a day. We just had good times."

Quick to turn tales in southern drawl, the Novi resident turns 90 tomorrow.

In blue sweat suit and pearl necklace, Payton sat outside the tiny summer cabin that's been home since 1958.

Over the years, it's housed up to 16 kinfolk.

"We just had to work with anything and do everything you could to make a living," she said. "We shared everything, honey."

In early days near the "Lickin' River," Payton and her siblings considered the woods and dug up ginseng and lady slipper roots for homemade medicines.

Smokehouses and a big apple farm were tended, too.

It was a 14-mile walk to the nearest post office, she recalled, and stone avalanches often buried roads.

"We'd have to dig our roads out," Payton said, "but we made it. We had bushels of fun."

When she, husband Gratis and kids moved to Michigan in 1940, hard work followed.

After raising sugar beets in Bad Axe, Gratis found butcher work in Walled Lake. Eleven children in tow, the Paytons moved again.

Warm quilts were stitched from feed sacks. Beans and potatoes were cooked by the pound.

Then, one wintery Monday, fire claimed the family's home.

"Never got a thing out of it," Payton said. "Nothing but my children. Thank God I got them all out."

With family help, they rebuilt, and most memories are happy.

When the "old man" wasn't working, Sundays were spent at the Walled Lake amusement park.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Zena Payton talks about some of her 90 years of life outside her north Novi home. Payton has lived near Walled Lake since 1942.

Kim Kovelle 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.homcom.net.

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Pictures may be picked up after the page runs on May 30th, on send self-addressed stamped envelope and the sheet return it to you.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS ORDINANCE WEED CUTTING

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for ORDINANCE WEED CUTTING according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 4:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

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

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "ORDINANCE WEED CUTTING BID" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

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

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446
(4-21-05 NN 207470)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS DEBRIS REMOVAL

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for DEBRIS REMOVAL according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

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

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

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

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FAITH

Ramez Khuri, staff writer. (248) 349-1700, ext. 110. rkhuri@tt.com

Sharing God led her from shy to shining

Allison Rousseau
SPECIAL WRITER

Let's talk about one of your greatest fears. You break into a sweat, and your heart beats wildly at the mere thought of it. You know it can't kill you, and everyone has to face it at some point. Still, like the majority of the population, you rank it among the top 10 most frightening things, placing it in the same category as death.



S. Minke

Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that one petite, joy-filled woman makes a habit of starting this fear in the face. Perhaps you will be shocked to find that she does it with a heart overflowing with inner light that finds outward expression in her glowing smile and kind eyes. Who is this woman, and what does she do?

She is Shari Minke, and she is a public speaker. Even as a child, Minke had a distinctive air about her. Born in Ferndale, Mich., on Nov. 11, 1956, Minke's birthday is a holiday: Veteran's Day. "I remember in elementary school that we had a moment of silence to honor the veterans that gave their lives. I always thought it was great that on my birthday they had a moment of silence," she said.

It wasn't until her senior year in high school that Minke caught a glimpse of her self in speaking. "I was told and my last year because I was putting off that dreaded required class of speech for as long as I could," she said. "However, when I got up to do my first presentation, the students who were usually yawning and bored were captured by the dramatic story I was reading. At the close of my speech, the whole class burst into applause." Even then, Minke proclaims that she never saw herself as a speaker down the road.

Minke's passion for speaking was not ignited into a ministry until 1987. Searching for ways to deal with challenging circumstances in her life, Minke asked God to give her a story to illustrate the truth she was discovering. She was part of a Bible study, and the leader asked her to share the story God had given her with the class. This provided Minke with the con-

fidence she needed to then share this same story for Sunday morning services.

Minke then followed the advice of her pastor's wife who encouraged her to attend a "Speak up with Confidence" seminar. She calls these seminars "the best teaching tools I could have received in learning how to develop the gift of speaking."

She benefited so much from the class that, after she gave her presentation in fulfillment of the program requirement, she caught the attention of the director, Carol Kent, who gave her personal guidance. "Spending time in Carol's home and hearing her words of affirmation were key in motivating me to use the gift that had been hidden within me," Minke explains.

Now a speaker working in conjunction with Carol Kent's "Speak up with Confidence" ministry, Minke addresses a wide range of topics, including prayer, blended families, radical obedience, and many more. Using original comedy characters like "Freda Talk," "Taco Legins" and "Nona Lee Crochety," she uses humor to appeal to her various audiences at retreats, luncheons, senior citizen events, and homeless shelters.

Minke's story shows the development of a timid girl into a bold woman of faith. Yet more amazing than her speaking skills is her living testimony to the importance of obedience. She confesses, "I would guess that every time I spoke for the first seven or more years that I had to take inhaled! But I continued to teach and speak out of obedience to God, trusting that God was bigger than my fears. I will have to say that God

has never let me down." And so, one question remains: how does she face this fear-inducing act of public speaking? Simple: She prays. "I pray that I will be a 'Song-catcher.' Just as a little girl, a teacher makes a room sparkle with the sunlight reflecting from it, I pray that the Son of God will shine through me when I speak, so that people will not see me but only Jesus through me."

Keep shining the light, Shari Minke.

Allison Rousseau, a senior at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, met Shari Minke in February during a Christian course, Discipleship Walk, at Camp Mack.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to a Women's Bible study tonight at 7:30 p.m. Please call the church for more information. Our Senior High youth group will be teaching to Pittsburgh on Tomorrow Project, work will include cleaning and reconstruction of damaged homes. The church invites you to worship at 9 and 11:30 a.m. each Sunday. Sunday School is offered at both services for children of all ages, preschool through 12th grade. The Men's Group meeting will be held on tonight at 6:30 p.m. The Vice President of Operations of the Cleaners Organization will be speaking. This Sunday, April 27, the children will be receiving their first Communion along with the adult members. Artist Ed King will be

presenting his gift of several original oil paintings at 12:30 p.m. that day. Harpist Christa Grix and the Jazz Trio will be performing on Sunday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available and are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$5 for children under 12. The church is located at 4140 W. Ten Mile Road in Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345. Year week ends on Monday.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:30 p.m. Come and share your lunch 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. Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge and Rev. John W. Henry II is assistant priest. Worship Service of Compline is held at 8:30 p.m. Rise 13 ages (11-14) and J2A groups (14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 40700 W. Ten Mile Road between Meadowbrook and Hagerly roads, Novi. Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-

holycross.com

Meadowbrook Congregational Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757 for more information.

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

St. James Catholic Church is located at 46325 Ten Mile

Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

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

The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Tall Road), Northville. Phone: (248) 349-1144.

St. John Lutheran Church

offers a Spanish speaking mass once a month. 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.

The Church of the Holy Family is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and Ten Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

St. John Lutheran Church

continued on back page

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Fox Run seniors explore 'The Da Vinci Code' book

Lecture part of new continuous learning center

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

After listening to Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon at Fox Run on Monday, Willa Lahti was eager to take another look at a decorative dish she owns.

It depicts Leonardo Da Vinci's The Last Supper, one of the works called into question by Dan Brown's best-selling book, The Da Vinci Code.

She wondered: Does John the Beloved really look like a female — perhaps Mary Magdalene?

As part of the senior community's new continuous learning center, Rigdon offered insight in a lecture dubbed "Deciphering The Da Vinci Code."

"It's almost a cottage industry now to publish books against The Da Vinci Code," Rigdon said. "I'm a church historian, so this is in my backyard."

Dozens of seniors gathered to learn more about the fact and fiction of the novel.

Charlotte Dashner, 80, said she was intrigued by the book's history and setting.

"I was interested in this little bit of a challenge to the Catholic Church," she said.

A professor at Detroit's Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Rigdon said his lectures on the 2003 novel have drawn thousands of Brown fans and critics alike.

Rigdon told seniors he first found the book passing through an airport.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon, president of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary and professor of church history, talks to an assembly of Fox Run residents last Monday on the historical accuracy and relevance of the novel "The Da Vinci Code".



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Fox Run resident Youssef "Joe" Wassef asks a question of Dr. V. Bruce Rigdon regarding Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" book during a Monday morning lecture at the Novi senior community.

"Needless to say, I got very little sleep that night," he laughed. But six reads later, he noted historic inaccuracies and facts.

"My list of mistakes... was far longer," Rigdon said. "There's an awfully lot that's defective."

For instance, he said, early paganism is depicted as relatively uniform, when it actually varied among villages. Also, the plot-pivotal Priory of Sion — supposedly Christ's holy bloodline — is most likely a hoax, Rigdon said.

At root, he said, is Brown's use of non-scholarly books. But Rigdon said he's grateful for the book's sparking renewed interest in church history.

Sitting with husband Joseph, Barbara Maniscalco penned neat notes during the lecture.

She aims to now read not only Brown's book, but some of his sources, too.

"I thought he was a fascinating speaker," she said. "I've been wanting to read it."

Phyllis Praski, 74, said she knew from the start that the book was half fact and half fiction.

Also an owner of one of the 25 million copies sold, Olive Bryce, 86 read the novel on friends' suggestions.

"I liked his style," she said. "He always wrote so that you almost thought it was true."

And she, too, plans to take look more closely at Da Vinci's work.

Originated with the help of 11 seniors, Fox Run's learning center hosted its first speaker in February. Marie DiCostanza, director of resident life, said the program, open to the public, is gaining popularity.

"People loved it, people asked for more," she said. "There's endless possibilities. You're never too old to learn."

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

"I was interested in this little bit of a challenge to the Catholic Church."

Charlotte Dashner
Fox Run resident

CHURCH CALENDAR

continued from page 24

is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 988-0604 or (248) 474-8521 for more information.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** new member orientation class will be held on Sunday, April 24 from 2-4:30 p.m. Nursery care will be provided, if necessary. The Novi United Methodist Church Men will be sponsoring a yard sale on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The event will also include a bake sale by the United Methodist Women.

The church is located at 41671 W. Ten Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

• **The First Presbyterian Church of Northville** phone number is (248) 349-0911.

• **Church of the Holy Cross'** Outreach Committee presents its

first annual Mother's Day Tea. Experience chic fashions presented by Smart Chicks, a Novi clothing consignment shop, while nibbling on fresh fruit and scrumptious desserts. Relax with a steaming cup of coffee, hot tea, or try a refreshing glass of ice cold punch.

Surround yourself with family, old friends and new friends. Share an afternoon of pampering with a neighbor. Come and smell the roses. We'll even capture the memory of your special moment, immortalized in a keepsake picture frame. Raffle tickets will be available. Purchase a chance to win one or all of the following items:

- A gift certificate for Smart Chicks Consignment
- A handmade music box
- A one of a kind necklace
- A floral arrangement.

The event is for mothers, grandmothers, children and non-moms as well. It will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. Ten Mile Road (between Meadowbrook & Haggerty roads).

Tickets are \$12 a piece, but

children 3 and under get in free. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$13 a piece. Make checks payable to Church of the Holy Cross and note Mothers Day Tea on the checks. Mail checks to Church of the Holy Cross no later than Monday, May 7.

Funds raised will support Church of the Holy Cross Outreach Missions, including Crossroads Soup Kitchen and Detroit Area Haiti Mission. Visit www.churchoftheholycross.com for more information.

• **Crosspointe Meadows Church** meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m. The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery available. The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2700 or visit www.crosspointe-meadows.org.

Compiled by Rameez Khuri

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Know Your Limit, Play Within It! 1-800-235-2565 Ontario Problem Gambling HelpLine. Must be 19 years of age. Casino Windsor reserves the right to change these promotions without prior notice. Please not gamble on Alcohol, Tobacco or Lottery. Responsible Gaming is encouraged. ©2005 Casino Windsor Inc. All rights reserved. ©2005 Caesars Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved. ©2005 Caesars Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved. For more information at the Players' Place™, visit www.playersplace.com. Best sign at the Players' Place™. Best sign at the Players' Place™. Best sign at the Players' Place™.



High flying Wildcats

The Novi Wildcats girls and boys track and field teams had a "field" day when they took on Pinckney last week. See some shots of the high school athletes in action. — Page 4B



Making a come back

The Novi Wildcats baseball team didn't start things off as well as they would have hoped when they lost to Northville in the opening week of competition. They've bounced back though, beating Fenton in a hard-fought contest. — Page 2B



Regional Marketplace

A lot has changed since Brien Worrell (right, with his father, Stan) cut his first lawn at the age of twelve. But hard work and determination are still part of the day-to-day business at Brien's Services, Inc. The neighbor's yard work he tended as a young boy has grown into a lifelong career in landscaping. His company, now a full-service business, embraces all aspects of landscaping from installation to ongoing maintenance. — Page 6B

SPORTS

Thursday, April 21, 2005

www.hometownlife.com

B1 Novi News

Quick Hits

Looking for a good coach

The Northville Mustangs football team recently announced an opening for a new head coach.

Those interested should contact Athletics Director Bryan Masi via email at masibr@northville.k12.mi.us.

The former coach, Clint Alexander, has accepted a job in Orange, Virginia at Woodberry Forest School.

Perhaps John Osborne wants to try his hand at 30 years of coaching at Northville High? Or maybe Tab Kellepourey could try and craft his offensive magic with the Mustangs to see if he could bring them to the playoffs as many times as he has brought Novi? Nah, we didn't think so either.

'Tis the season

For basketball camps, that is. The Novi boys and girls basketball teams will each be hosting clinics this June and July through Novi Community Education. Both have plenty to offer under the guidance of Pat Schluter, the boys varsity head coach, and Bill Kelp, the girls varsity head coach.

Cost for the camps are \$126 and will be coached by the respective coaches as well as members of the girls and boys varsity basketball teams. Check back next week for more information on all of the camps or contact Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206 for more information.

Watch what you ask for

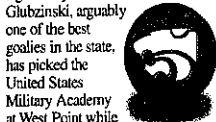
Dan St. Clair is doing well at the Air Force Academy, for anyone who may be wondering about the Novi High School graduate and former discus record holder.

The cadet used to hold the discus record at Novi High until just recently when Ryan Pritchard snapped it by over 10 feet. Last year, when St. Clair visited the area and helped Pritchard out for a spell, he said he wanted the Wildcat to break his record.

Maybe fewer graduates will mention they want those who follow in their footsteps to break the records they've set?

Next level Wildcats

Two more Wildcats have decided where they'll be playing come college next year. A.J. Glubzinski, arguably one of the best goalies in the state, has picked the United States Military Academy at West Point while Alyssa Wagner, a softball pitcher, will play at Madonna.



Prom fashion

It looked like an athletic convention gone to the black ties and evening wear when the Novi prom fashion show took to the runway last week. Not only were plenty of athletes strutting their stuff on the catwalk in tuxedos and dresses, but also in the seats cheering their friends on and admiring some nice threads.

Some notable athletes were Emily Holt, who looked stellar in a multi-color dress, and Marcie Fink, who was stunning in a black dress. B.J. Chaklos not only strutted his stuff in an ivory tux, but he gave the audience a quick dance for their viewing pleasure while Jarrell Woods didn't need to say anything or do anything to look simply dapper in his traditional tux with red vest.

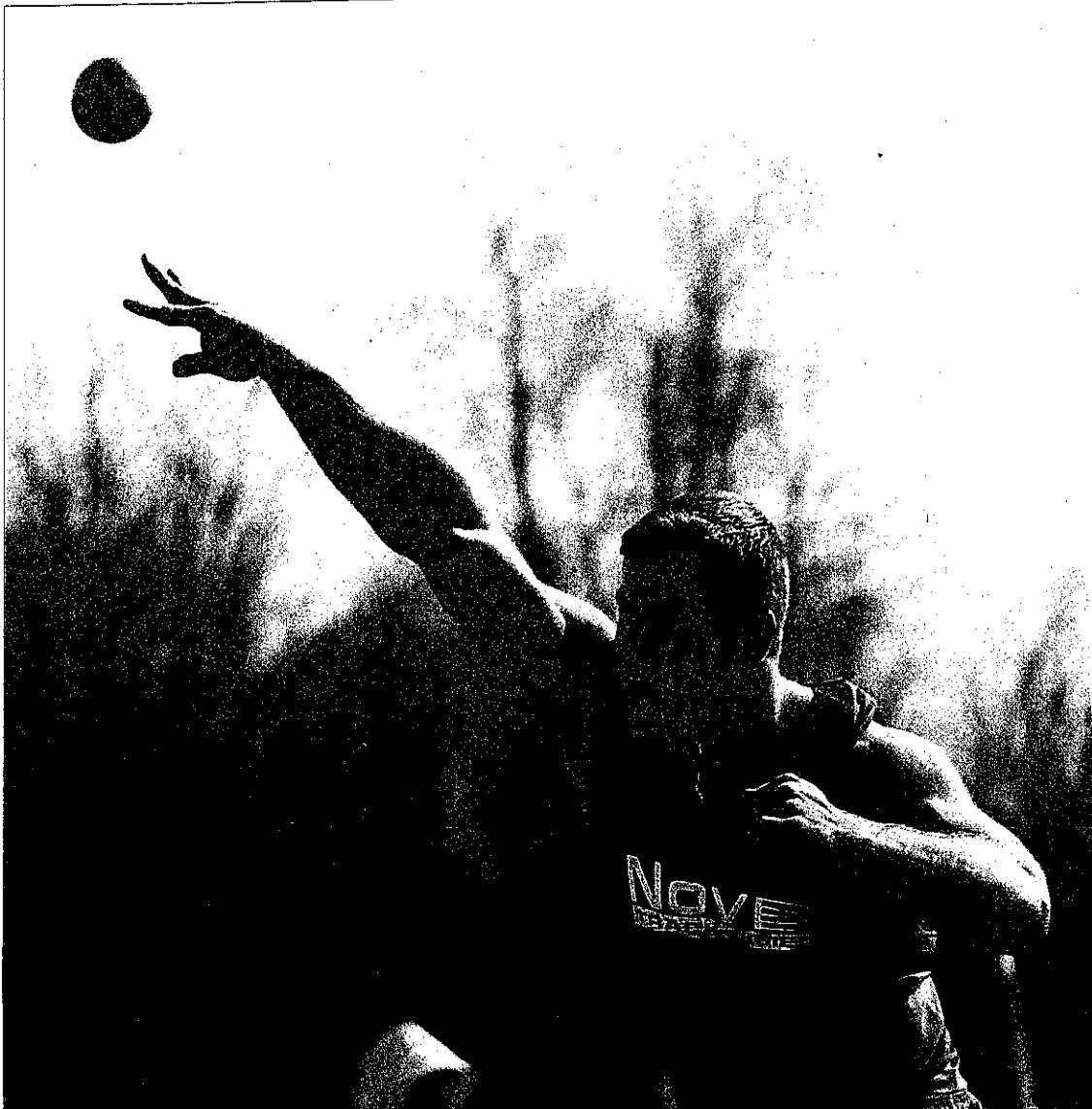


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Wildcat Ryan Pritchard throw the shotput for the distance of 48 feet during a competition last week against Pinckney. Pritchard took first place in the event with a throw of 49'9".

RECORD SETTER

Novi senior Ryan Pritchard sets school record in discus, eyes state title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

For Novi senior Ryan Pritchard, breaking the school record in the discus was just a single moment on his way to his goals.

Sure, he said it was nice, but he has his eyes set on a much bigger prize that waits at the end of his high school career.

"I want to win the state championship," he said. "Breaking the school record was something I wanted to do but didn't want to talk about. It was definitely there though. It was one of the goals."

The senior thrower, who also competes in the shotput and took first in that event as well against Pinckney last week, broke the record with a throw of 168-feet-11-inches. The old mark was over 10 feet shorter and was held by Dan "Air" St. Clair, who currently throws discus for the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Pritchard's record-breaking performance indicates graduated Novi Wildcats better watch what they hope for.

"Dan came back to help me out during my sophomore and junior years," Pritchard said. "He told me he wanted me to break his record, but you never

know if guys really mean that or not."

St. Clair doesn't have a choice any longer. He asked for it and Pritchard was more than happy to oblige.

The bulky senior, however, never came out for track looking to set records or go to the state finals as he did last year. Instead, he came "out" looking to quash some boredom.

"I didn't come out my freshman year but I did my sophomore year because I didn't want to be bored," he said. "I would practice about five minutes a day and lift weights the rest of the time."

It wasn't until last year Pritchard decided to take it more seriously. He did well too, earning a berth to the state finals and finishing in the top-10. The winning throw last year was just 161 feet but Pritchard isn't about to count his state championships before he wins them.

Instead, he's looking to go a lot deeper than he's already gone.

"Right now my goal is 170," he said. "There are some really good kids across the state that I'm going to have to beat if I want to win. I think 175 feet is going to win it."

Pritchard, who will be playing football at Princeton University in the fall, said he can't worry about how well other throwers are going to do though. Discus, much like many other events in track and field, requires an athlete to concentrate on their own abilities and not someone else's.

"I can only worry about myself," he said. "That's the thing about throwing. I can do the best I can, but

I'll never know what the other person is going to throw."

The senior said it isn't all strength and conditioning getting the discus to break records for him. It takes a lot of good coaching too.

Besides head coach Robert Smith, who had Pritchard and the throwers committed to off-season workouts during the winter, the Wildcat has benefited from the volunteer work of Sean McGucken.

"He's amazing," said Pritchard. "He graduated from Michigan State and is applying for jobs right now but he's setting up his interviews around meet days and everything."

"He comes in every day to work with me. He puts in tons of hours, even on the weekend. Without him I would not be this close. He's been awesome."

The coaching is far from over though. McGucken and Smith are currently working with the record holder in technique and form.

For Pritchard, it kind of feels like he's a famous athlete right now.

"I feel like Tiger Woods," he said. "After he won the Masters they started tinkering with his swing. I break the record and now they're working on my technique. They tell me it's going to pay off in the long run and I trust them."

Technique, coaching and strength are what Pritchard will use to try and reach his goal of a state title at the state finals, but even he knows he can't win it at anytime.

"I've got to get past the regional first," he said. "Then I'll worry about the state championship."

By the numbers	377	9-0	2-3	4	23	5-3	2
	New tournament-low team score for Novi golf, a school record.	Goals for and against the Novi soccer team the last two games.	Novi softball record thus far into the season, including two split doubleheaders.	Goals scored by senior lacrosse standout Jeff Pollicchio against East Grand Rapids.	Total runs scored in Novi's 13-10 win over Fenton on the baseball diamond last week.	Novi tennis' score over both Saline and Northville in recent matches.	The number of years it has been since the Novi boys track team lost a home meet.

CALENDAR

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

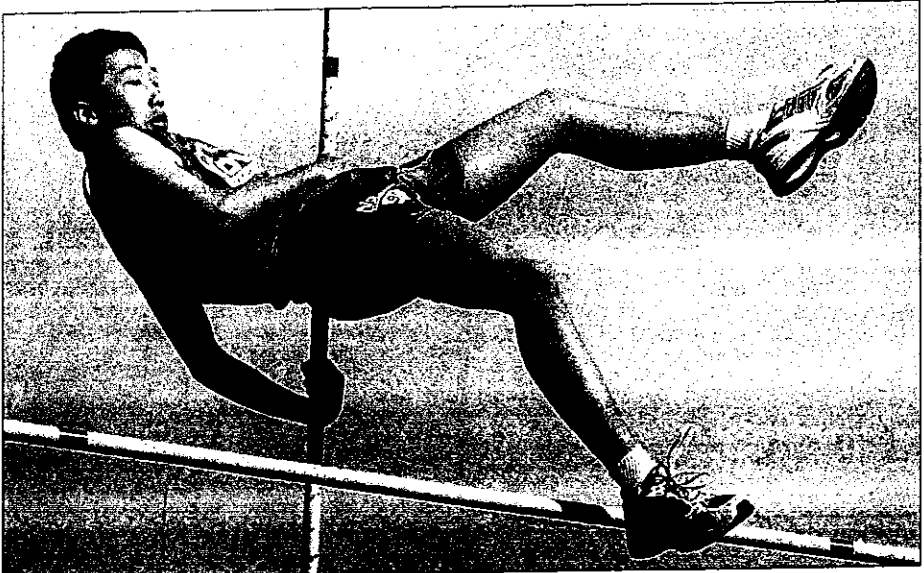


LEFT: Wildcat Christina Lis competes in the longjump during a recent home meet against the Pinckney Pirates; RIGHT: Wildcat Chris Alberty clears a hurdle on his way to winning the 110 meter race during a home meet against the Pinckney Pirates.

Leaping, sprinting and winning



ABOVELEFT: A Wildcat competes in a relay race during a recent home meet against the Pinckney Pirates; ABOVE RIGHT: Nov1's John Brown throws the shotput during a home meet in April against Pinckney. Brown placed second in the competition after teammate Ryan Pritchard; BELOW LEFT: Wildcat polevaulter Henry He clears the bar during a home meet against the Pinckney Pirates; BELOW RIGHT: Wildcat Emily Reid clears a hurdle in the 110 meter race. Reid came in second place.



Photos
by
JOHN HEIDER

EVENTS

Car Maintenance Inspections

DATE: Saturday, April 23
TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Auto Parts, 43131 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: This is a free inspection to promote national car care month. Dan's Auto Repair, Tommy's Tires, Novi Police and Fire Departments are also participating.
CONTACT: (248) 349-2800

Novi Fourth Graders Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 26
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Bonaventure Skating Center, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: This event is intended for the fourth graders in Novi to meet kids from the other schools and potentially some of the staff from Novi Meadows. There will be games and prizes as well as socializing and making new friends before they start fifth grade.
CONTACT: Karen Kotcher, (248) 449-3079

Maybury Wild Flower Walk

DATE: Wednesday, April 27
TIME: 11 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile Road entrance (west of Beck Road)
DETAILS: No charge, other than park admission. Sponsored by Friends of Maybury State Park and led by naturalist Selena Brown.
CONTACT: George McCarthy, (248) 347-0899, or Jerry Mitten, (248) 348-2395

Casino Bus Trip to Benefit Breast Cancer 3-Day

DATE: Sunday, May 1
TIME: 2-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Casino Windsor
DETAILS: Leave from Eddie Edgar Arena/Ford Field in Livonia, south of Plymouth Road and East of Meridian Road. Arrive by 2 p.m. Will return at about 9 p.m. A \$20 donation includes \$15 in coin and two-way transportation, including all tolls to Casino Windsor. All passengers must have both a birth certificate or passport and a photo ID. Donations will help two Novi residents raise money to walk 60 miles in three days, July 15-17, in support of the Breast Cancer 3-Day and National Philanthropic Trust. Donations will help fund research to find a cure for breast cancer as patient-related programs. Contributions will be greatly appreciated.
CONTACT: For additional information, call Kim, (248) 444-2882, or Audrey, (248) 426-6549.

Novi Chorales Spring Concert

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School, Forest Auditorium, 10 Mile and Taft roads.
DETAILS: Cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children. Purchase tickets at Novi Civic Center or at the Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons.
CONTACT: www.novi-chorales.org

Church of the Holy Cross Mothers' Day Tea and Fashion Show

DATE: Saturday, May 7
TIME: 1:00-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (one half mile east of Meadowbrook)
DETAILS: Tickets are available at Holy Cross, 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday-Friday.
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175

Chamber of Commerce Casino Night Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday, May 14
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Lucky's in Fountain Walk
DETAILS: This is the only fundraiser that supports the Novi Chamber of Commerce.
CONTACT: For more information, contact the chamber at (248)349-3743

2nd Annual Antique/Classic Car Show

DATE: Sunday, May 15
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School (29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of Thirteen Mile Road)
DETAILS: Crosspointe Meadows Church partners with the Ford and Mercury Restorer's Club to bring an afternoon that would delight any car enthusiast

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m.,

CLASSES

Teens Read and More

DATE: Saturday, April 23
TIME: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Read To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, and then watch the movie with us. We'll have a short discussion following the movie.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

High School Literature Club

DATE: Tuesday, April 26
TIME: 7-8 p.m.
DETAILS: High school writers and readers are invited to share their own writing, hear the work of others, and talk about anything and everything literary. No registration.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Buying and Selling on eBay

DATE: Thursday, April 28
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Richard Truxall takes you through the ins and outs of saving money using eBay, including evaluating the person or company that you're buying from and offering some ideas on bidding strategies. We'll also discuss the basics needed to get you started selling your own items through eBay. Call the library to register.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Blackthorn Concert

DATE: Friday, May 6
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 49000 W. 11 Mile Road
DETAILS: The Friends of the Novi Public Library present the Detroit-area band Blackthorn in concert. Tickets are \$15, and can be purchased in person or by calling the library.
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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 Road (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.
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

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Providence Center for the Healing Arts - Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
TIME: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Creative Arts Studio, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Artist May Teevens instructs. Class will include drawing, pastels, watercolor, and mixed media. There is a \$5 materials fee. Drop-in or register.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

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HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m.,

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, April 21, 2005

NFIB UPDATE

Boardwalk or Park Place? This Monopoly Is No Game

Although technology has elevated game playing to new heights, there's still no substitute for traditional board games such as the longtime favorite, Monopoly, where friends and families match their wits, knowing they can achieve millionaire status or wind up penniless simply by tossing the dice.

But in the contest for government contracts, the nation's small businesses face a monopoly that is no game. Rather, it is a government agency that not only blocks many of their attempts to compete, but uses its unfair advantage to ensure that small firms have little chance of winning.

Perhaps those small businesses that want to compete would find the lopsided challenge more acceptable if they were going up against businesses more capable and better qualified to meet the specifications of the work. If they were compelled to go toe-to-toe against large companies with long histories of successfully fulfilling such contracts, losing a bid would be seen as the result of strong competition.

But many small firms are denied opportunities to provide

the government with products and services at reasonable costs by an agency that was initially created to help rehabilitate federal prisoners.

Federal Prison Industries, which exists within the oxymoronic category of a "government-owned corporation," is a massive government outfit posing as a business under the innocent name Unicor. It monopolizes a huge share of government contracts, offering a host of goods and services that would be the envy of most Fortune 500 businesses.

This official arm of the government also exempts itself from regulatory mandates that legitimate businesses must accept, and Unicor is allowed to pay its labor force of prisoner-workers a sub-minimum wage of \$1.23 an hour or less.

Unlike small firms, Unicor doesn't even have to pay to expand its facilities when it grabs more government business; it just enlarges its prison work space with federal dollars and then hauls in excess production equipment from other federal agencies at no cost. When it does find itself in need of cash, Unicor simply goes to the U.S. Treasury and exercises its authority to borrow up to \$20 million at rates far below those available to even the largest commercial enterprise. No wonder small-business owners see Unicor as a deterrent to entrepreneurship and a violation of basic fairness.

But the dice may have begun rolling in favor of small business. According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, last month the U.S. Small Business Administration's Federal Contracting Office took Unicor down a notch, telling the Environmental Protection Agency the company was not qualified to work on a computer recycling project because Unicor can only bid on small-business contracts supplying items, not services. EPA was forced to cancel the contract.

Unicor had already taken a hit in December when Congress banned the government company from using its preferential status to block small businesses from bidding on certain government contracts. The actions of Congress and the SBA don't mark the end of the Unicor monopoly, but small-business owners are pleased that they have at least passed "go."

Jack Faris is president of NFIB, the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals.

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ADVERTORIAL



Courtesy photo

Now is the time to start planning your landscaping needs for this summer, and Brien's Services is there to help.

Brien's Services

A lot has changed since Brien Worrell cut his first lawn at the age of twelve. But hard work and determination are still part of the day-to-day business at Brien's Services, Inc. The neighbor's yard work he tended as a young boy has grown into a life-long career in landscaping. His company, now a full-service business, embraces all aspects of landscaping from installation to ongoing maintenance.

"What we believe in and what we do is design, install, maintain and reconstruct existing landscaping. Because we are full service, we can do the job start to finish. All services are performed in-house by certified and trained personnel," said Worrell. "Providing any and all landscape services from one location makes it convenient for our customers to maintain an attractive yard. They just need to make one call," he explains.

"When we're done with your hydro seeding, you don't have to call someone else to fertilize. We can design a program to keep it looking good. It's all about installation, construction and maintenance," said Worrell.

Today Brien's Services employs 45 at its 5,000 square foot facility in Milford Township. It is a family business, with Brien as president; his father, Stanley, as vice-president and his mother, Karen, who is also very active in the company.

Ready in red

It's not hard to recognize them - you've seen the red trucks. You might say the colorful vehicles are Brien's trademark, with Crimson, his Dalmatian, as his sidekick. Building trust and reliability with his clients is also a trademark of the company. As with any service business that relies on referrals and return business, customer satisfaction

is critical. It's no different at Brien's. A satisfied customer is the goal of each and every job.

Michelle Sadler of Milford has been a satisfied customer for over twenty years. She has looked to Brien's for a wide variety of services from lawn care to sprinklers to Christmas décor and says "they are pretty much perfectionists. As it states on their contract, they do everything that they say they will do." "They make sure you're happy and if there are any problems, they correct them," she said.

She appreciates the fact that they're reliable. "They don't leave you hanging. It's done in the time frame they say that it will be. If inclement weather forces a delay, they always promptly notify you."

There are several obvious benefits to using a lawn/landscape service. One is the free time it gives customers, allowing them to spend their time on other activities. Barren yards in new construction can have a more lush and lived-in look, and a landscape re-design can give a totally new look to an existing home.

"Some people simply don't have the time, and some just want a more professional look," adds Worrell. "Choosy customers will find the detailed professional look to their lawn that they desire when they choose our service."

If you're thinking of spring-cleaning, don't forget your yard!

Now that spring is in the air, it's time to get your lawn and gardens back into shape. It's an exciting time of year for Brien's, which is gearing up for the summer season. They can take yard work off your hands, so all you have to do is sit back and enjoy



Courtesy photo

Stan and Brien Worrell operate a full-service landscaping business.

the scenery. Spring is also a good time for planting because it allows plants to establish growth before the warm summer months.

Brien's can start your landscape off on the right foot with a number of services from gutter cleaning, spring yard clean up, fertilizing, sod installation, tree planting, cutting and pruning, flower installation, perennial and annuals, summer or fall bulbs. They'll advise on the appropriate time for seasonal plantings. This is the time of the year to plant trees and shrubs because the survival rate for new plantings is the best.

It's also the perfect time to hydro seed and Brien's is now accepting contracts for lawn care, cutting, and fertilizing. They also install new sprinkler systems as well as perform sprinkler start-ups on existing systems.

It's a great time to install low voltage lighting so it will be in place for summer entertaining. Certified and trained personnel

will install them based upon the customer's desire. Demos are available so that customers can experience firsthand the beauty and ambience they add to the landscape.

Switching gears

Although spring is here and winter snow seems well behind us, Brien's continues to service its customers throughout all of the seasons. In the winter, snow removal and salting are additional ways Brien's meets the full-service needs of its customers. Another convenient service they provide is putting up and taking down holiday décor.

Giving back to the community

If the Worrell name sounds familiar - it should. Worrell has been active in the community in various ways, but he especially enjoys participating in youth sports as past vice president and commissioner for Milford

Mustangs football and current president of Milford Youth Baseball and Softball Association. He also participates in the many local events such as Milford Memories, the Ice Festival and Car Show.

"I do feel it's important to give back to the community," he said. "My business and my home are in the township. We're not going anywhere. We are a part of this community."


He also appreciates being voted the #1 landscaper two years in a row by the HomeTown News survey.

"It's really appreciated because it's giving us recognition for the high level of service that we constantly strive to achieve with our customers," said Worrell.

Brien's serves commercial and residential sites in Southwest Oakland County and is located at 4964 Technical Drive in Milford.

Contact them at (248) 685-7276, or visit their website at www.briensservices.com.

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