



Novi News



Your hometown newspaper celebrating its 50th year serving Novi and the Lakes area

Thursday, June 30, 2005

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50c

Volume 50 Number 5

Novi, Michigan

Look inside for your
GREEN SHEET
Classifieds

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INSIDE

Gentlemen in Business

The section features profiles on some of our well-known business owners in the area.



— Special Section

Library's the hot spot

With so many camps and programs happening all over town, it might be a little tough trying to decide which to look into, but the Novi Public Library wants to make that an easier decision through a series of programs and events each day.

— Page 6A

City's financially stable

Rick Helwig, city manager, said last week that Novi, unlike most Michigan municipalities, is still growing and as a result is still financially stable.

— 7A

SPORTS

East beats West

When it came right down to it, winning or losing didn't seem like that big of a deal. Instead, those who played in June 21's East-West All-Star Baseball Game at Milford High School simply wanted to enjoy their last experience as high school ballplayers.

— 1B

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CONTACT US

Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

Classifieds: 888-999-1288
Newsroom: 248-349-1700
Fax: 248-349-9832
Home Delivery: 888-840-4809



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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Jim Petersen, left, with American Legion Post 19, Ray Garcia, right also with 19 and its Commander, and Anthony Lolli, finance officer with Post 76, bring a flag down to half-staff at the Novi Police Department.

Fly it high on the 4th

■ But when to lower Old Glory? A few locals consider commonplace 'half-staff' proclamations

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to flying Old Glory at half-staff, Rosemarie Denton has eagle eyes. The Novi resident said she's stopped to chat with local business managers who didn't lower flags when government suggested it. "Most people were very nice when it was brought to their attention," Denton said. "With a

war going on and after 9-11, I would think we would all pay a little more attention." Though frequent state and federal proclamations typically apply to government buildings, many private companies also join in the symbolic display. Whether it's military personnel killed in action or national holiday, keeping track can be tricky. With Novi's municipal buildings, city manager Rick Helwig said he gets the scoop from Michigan Municipal League e-mails. "We try to follow the federal protocol," Helwig said. "A lot of times we'll get the notice just the day before it's to go into effect." When Pope John Paul II died, for instance, President George W. Bush ordered flags on public buildings and grounds to mid-pole from April 2-8.

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Tempers flare over floodplain

■ Novi to write grant for Village Wood Lake parcel; city council audience angered Monday when consultant funding not approved

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The Fourth of July holiday may not be until Monday, but there were plenty of fireworks at this week's special city council meeting on the Village Wood Lake project in southeast Novi. Mayor Lou Csordas even had police escort one resident out of council chambers for his outburst. The verbal assaults occurred when council did not approve tax dollars for an outside consulting firm to write a grant application to keep about 15 acres east of Meadowbrook and south of 10 Mile roads as open space. "These are the taxpayers of Novi

talking to you, and you don't hear them," shouted another resident. Citizens were angered when council members voted to not pay for consultants McKenna & Associates of Northville to prepare a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. If the grant is awarded, the fund would pay for 75 percent of the property, with the remaining 25 percent being paid for by either the city, residents who want to keep the land as open space or have the developer, William Roskelly of Basney & Smith in Livonia and his partners, donate the land.

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Novi residents join thousands in rally for public education

■ Lansing event organized to promote more adequate funding

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

At least eight Novi residents joined approximately 1,000 others from all over Michigan, as they trekked to Lansing on June 21. The group of teachers, administrators, parents and students seeks more adequate funding for public education. An organization called the K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future organized the Rally to help promote Senate Bill 246 and House Bill 4582, both of which

propose that adequate and regular funds go to Michigan public schools. Those from Novi who attended were Dan Austin, who just won a seat on the school district's board of education; Lisa-Ann Smith, who organized Novi's rally; her daughter Elizabeth, who's a student; Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services; school board president, John Streit; school board member Carol Elfring, parent Katie Racon; and Mary Bower, a retired principal from Huron Valley Schools, whose son attends Novi Schools. Smith, who recently ran for a

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Movies, speakers, games and more!

■ Teen center offers young people things to do during long summer days

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

About 75 Novi teens are currently enjoying what the Novi Youth Assistance Summer Teen Center has to offer and supervisor, Matt Topper, is looking for more. The teen center is a summer program that runs six weeks, Monday through Thursday from 12-5:30 p.m. at Novi Middle School. It is intended for kids between the ages of 11-14. "It's video games, field trips, basketball, movies, board games and anything else you can think of," Topper said. "A lot of these

kids would be sitting at home flipping through the channels, but instead they get to meet new kids. We're trying to reach the kids in Novi and tell them there's a place they can go instead of hanging out at the mall or getting into trouble, or riding their bikes on 10 Mile Road or something." This marks Topper's seventh year running the teen center and his eighth working at it. He attended it himself when he was in middle school and believes it is one of the best things kids can take part in during the summer. "We have kids playing basketball and a lot of them might not be doing that at all," he said. "They might be sitting at home. We even pull kids who are playing video games a lot and take them outside." This year's teen center runs through Thursday, July 28. There is a registration fee of \$100 for all six weeks, which equals out to about less than \$5 a day, something Topper says is a bargain because kids get to play free video games. Field trips are paid for separately and range in price anywhere

from \$5-\$25. The most expensive one is to the Henry Ford in Dearborn and to see "Batman Begins" at the IMAX Theater. Video games are updated each year, but new this year are computers that link up so kids can play games together. Some new field trips include: a ropes course, Pump-It-Up, the Imagine movie theater, glow in the dark putt putt and the Henry Ford. The teen center's video games were rented from Alpha Amusement for \$3,000, but Providence Hospital donated \$6,000 to run the whole program. "We used to be funded by United Way, but now it's Providence," Topper said. "We also make money at an event called the Novi Bowl-A-Thon, which is also run by the Novi Youth Assistance. Enrollment is down to 75 kids this year, whereas last year there were over 200, Topper said. "We would like to get more kids out. They can register up until the last day if they want. We'll knock the price

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

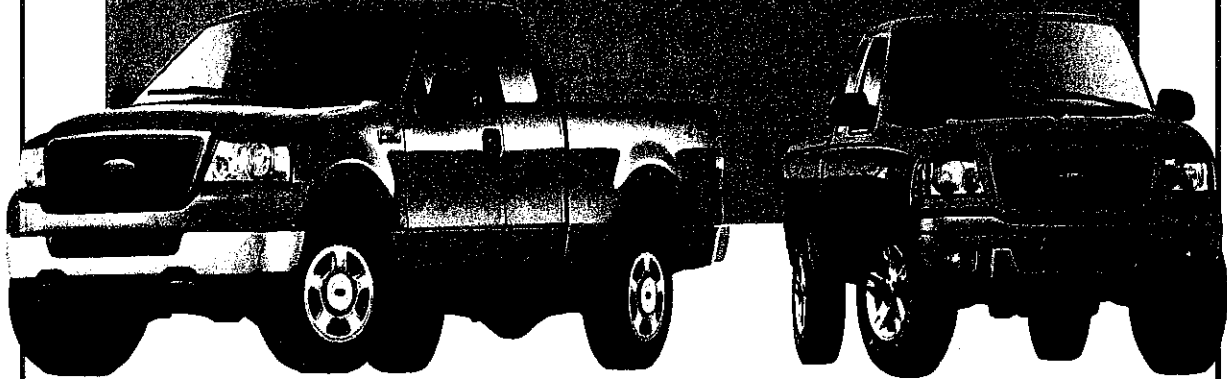
Novi Teen Center staffer Matt Topper, right, encourages camper Andrew Ward, 12, as Ward maneuvers around a jet ski video game at its Novi Middle School location.

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OPEN SATURDAYS

Tempers flare over floodplain

continued from front page

Roskelly has not agreed to donate the developable land, however, as open space. He and his partners want to build 10 condominiums on about three acres on the north end of the parcel. Woodland, wetland and storm water management permits have already been granted by the planning commission, which approved a preliminary site plan for the 10-unit development to be named Village Wood Lake on June 8.

Roskelly recently told city officials he would need \$900,000 to not develop the land.

"I didn't purchase this land to keep it as open space. I did it to build 10 houses," Roskelly said. "But, at the same time, if the financial returns are adequate, I would consider it. We have to look at the point that everything's for sale."

He has agreed, however, to hold off on developing the property until the city learns if the grant will be awarded.

The property contains a flood plain along the north portion of the site and part of Village Wood Lake, a retention basin on the south side of the lake. The 10 new homes would back up to the lake, similar to existing homes on the south side of the lake.

City opposes grant application

In a memo sent June 23 to City Manager Rick Helwig, Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director Randy Auler said he did not recommend pursuing the grant for the following reasons:

- The Community Recreation Plan for 2003-2008 says Novi already has enough passive-use parkland and needs active-use parkland.
- Funds would be spent for grant writing, appraisal and environmental assessment services, but the city may not have a willing seller based on the outcome of the appraisal. Without a willing seller, the grant is ineligible for funding. The grant requires a seller, two state-certified appraisals, an environmental assessment and an amendment to the

MINRTF GRANT APPLICATIONS

- In 2004, only 52 out of the 189 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund applications were for development projects. The majority of applications were for development projects.
- Acquisition projects are only scored against other acquisition projects. Novi wouldn't be one out of 189 but one out of 52.
- 15 out of the 52 projects were funded last year, meaning roughly one out of every three projects is funded.
- By law, at least 75 percent of the total funds from the trust fund (projected to be \$20-25 million) must be spent on acquisition projects. In recent years, the Board has allocated up to 80 percent for acquisition projects. That means there's a very large pot to fund acquisition projects.

Source: Linda Hegstrom, grant coordinator, Department of Natural Resources

Community Recreation Plan, according to Auler.

It was noted during the meeting that the appraisals, in fact, could be done after the grant is awarded. Tom Schultz, city attorney, said that although technically, the two state-certified appraisals are not required that they would be needed to obtain Roskelly's commitment to sell the property as green space.

Based on grant evaluation criteria and special initiatives, the project may not be as worthy as others submitted.

The parcel is isolated from any public park in the city. If used as a park, it would be a small, neighborhood park and these types of parks have high maintenance and operation costs but serve only a small number of residents.

The planning commission required that the north 6.73 acres of the site, which is a floodplain, be placed in a conservation easement which would preserve the wetlands and woodlands in the area. This use of the land would not need city more general mandates.

On Memorial Day, for instance, Granholm ordered flags lowered—but only until noon.

Closed that day, the Novi Expo Center's rooftop flag stayed put.

"Didn't know it was supposed to be (lowered)," operations manager Harvey Guman said. "Most of the time, people will say, 'Why is it at half-mast?' I'll tell them."

Sometimes, he gets reminders from Novi American Legion Post No. 19, based at the center.

Post Comm. Ray Garcia, a Korean War veteran, said the tradition isn't as common today. Still, he sees Novi keeping up.

"At least 50 percent of the flags are lowered when they should be," Garcia said. "It just symbolizes the pride and determination of the country and the people."

"It's a matter of respect."

Kim Kovelle is a former staff writer for the Novi News.

Fly it high on the 4th of July

continued from front page

A more common reason is servicemen and women who perish in the line of duty.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm made the proclamation in December 2003, shortly after war efforts were under way in Iraq.

As of June 7, there were 31 separate orders.

"It does come quite frequently," said Jerry Harris, owner of Novi Bowl. "It's kind of hard to always be right on top of it. Sometimes it's a half-day late, day late."

"We have accessibility to it, so it's not that hard."

John Campbell, general manager at Rocky's restaurant in Northville, said he gets updates from AM radio station on the morning drive.

"I also tend to keep track of who else's flags along the way to work are lowered," Campbell said. "We probably have an obligation as citizens. Certainly, if it's not hurting anybody and that's what they proclaim they want to have done, I don't have a problem following them."

Roskelly's was among private enterprises that lowered its flag after the pope's death, he added.

Other area businesses opted out. At the Novi Sheraton hotel, Chief Engineer Larry Furton said the hotel's Connecticut-based offices gave the order.

"Corporate did not direct us to do so," Furton said. "We have to be responsible ... to the ownership of the hotel. Also we have to be sensitive to the brand."

Furton said he regularly checks federal proclamations at the White House Web site.

"I've never seen one that's been directed to companies or buildings that aren't under (government) con-

WHEN TO LOWER

These Web sites offer details on when to lower flags to half-staff ashore or half-mast at sea:

- www.michigan.gov/gov: click on "press room," then "flag honors," gives directions, dates for holidays, Michigan military killed in action.
- www.whitehouse.gov/news: includes half-staff proclamations by President George W. Bush.
- www.usflag.org: services started by a Holland, Mich. resident offering tailored e-mailed updates for \$10 per year.
- www.usflag.org: other details on flag history, etiquette.

There are nuances even with

Monday through Thursday, or they can go to the Novi Youth Assistance Office, located at 45175 10 Mile Road, or call (248) 347-0410.

"We run a really great program," Topper said. "Out of the 75 kids attending, probably 50 are returning, and that says a lot."

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down every week." Those interested in controlling their children can visit Novi Middle School, located at 49000 W. 11 Mile Road any time between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.,

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRIPS

The Novi Youth Assistance Summer Teen Center is back and in full swing. Here is a schedule of a few of the upcoming events and field trips:

- Thursday, June 30: Detroit Tigers baseball game, 11:15 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 5: Henry Ford

NOVI RESIDENTS JOIN THOUSANDS IN EDUCATION RALLY

continued from front page

several residents appeared before city council to say how much they enjoyed the beauty and the wildlife observed in the undeveloped acreage.

"We hope you will take the current taxpayers into consideration

and not just the future ones," said Jennifer Huggins, who lives on Hestherbrae Way. "People come from all over to use this lake."

"I think it would be a shame to have a grant that we have little chance of getting," Helwig said.

"The chance of false hopes in a political year is shameful," Cordas said, obviously referring to Mutch's current bid for a city council seat.

"This isn't about investing; it's about gambling," said Council Member Laura Lorenzo. "I can't take \$10,000 in tax dollars (for grant writing and appraisals) and gamble it away," she said.

Current city assessment records value the parcel at only \$474,000. Unless the property is appraised for \$1.2 million (two and a half times the assessed value of the vacant land) Roskelly will most likely not be a willing seller, according to Auler.

A public hearing on the project must take place by city council before the grant is submitted.

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

Speakers, games, movies and more!

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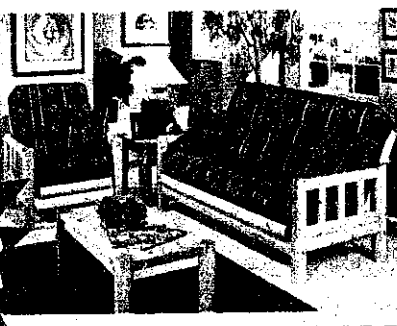
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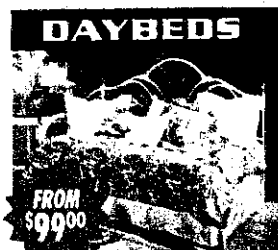
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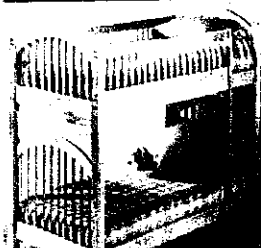
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- LIVONIA** 31629 Plymouth Road (1 block West of Merriman) 734.425.1500
- NOVI TOWN CENTER** (near Merwyn's South of I-96) 248.348.5494
- ANN ARBOR** 2131 W. Stadium (South of W. Liberty) 734.222.9472
- YPSI/ANN ARBOR** 4563 Washtenaw (1/4 Mile E. of US-23) 734.975.9200

COMMUNITY

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



Temperatures hit the 90s, but that didn't stifle the creativity of patrons during the annual fifth grade and up Tie Dye Program at the Novi Public Library. An added feature was a fencing demonstration by Ron and Aaron Ozimek.

Novi Public Library hopping during the summer months

Programs make library a hot spot

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's summer, but that doesn't mean Novi's youth can't still participate in educational programs and have fun at the same time. With so many camps and programs happening all over town, it might be a little tough trying to decide which to look into. But the Novi Public Library wants to make that an easier decision through a series of programs and events each day.

The library, which is closed this Monday in observance of Independence Day, will host a crafts project on Tuesday, July 5. "We'll be working with clay," said Margi Karp-Oppeier, head of youth and teen services. "Kids can mold clay into animals that are a medieval type, like dragons."

The theme of the library this summer is "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds." Children can mold clay into something pertaining to the theme, or they can mold it into whatever they want. "We'll have examples, and I usually have the librarians plus maybe 10 teens that always help us for our craft program," Karp-Oppeier said.

The program is divided into two age groups. At 1 p.m., ages 5 and 6 are invited to attend and 2 p.m. is reserved for those ages 7 and up. Each session is 40 minutes, and no registration is required, but space is limited to 60 children per session. There is a \$2 fee for supplies.

Kids ages 4 and up can have some fun with music on Wednesday, July 6 at 10:30 a.m. with the "Wanda Degen and Pete Vitale" visit. The program will take place from 1-1:45 p.m. and children can listen to music and participate in sing-alongs. The duo will use instruments such as ukulele and guitar. "They're going to take us back

and forth from present day to mid-eval times with music and fun," Karp-Oppeier said. No registration is required for this event, however because of fire regulations, only a certain number of people are allowed in the library meeting room. Karp-Oppeier explained that the library would like to accommodate children first, so parents may not be able to attend some programs.

Summer story times return to the library on Thursday and Friday, July 7 and 8. Each session is 30 minutes. "It's storytelling with the Novi librarians," Karp-Oppeier said. "They're great stories."

Thursday's session is for ages 4 and up and begins at 10:30 a.m. Friday's session is for ages 2 and 3 with an adult and siblings welcome. No registration is required. 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.

Local developers give feedback to city staff

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Local developers met with members of city of Novi staff and the planning commission June 15 to informally discuss problems and priorities. One request from the developers for city staff was "Be honest."

"If a project review is going to take 60 days, don't say it will take 30. The city needs to be truthful," said Bennett Donaldson of J.B. Donaldson Company.

Donaldson was joined at the meeting by developers Gary Jones of Whitehall Real Estate; Randy DeRutter of Cunningham-Lump; and John Houser of Singh Development.

The evening of June 15 was the second time this year that the Novi Planning Commission invited developers to think of ways to improve the tax base in the city. Developers were also present at a meeting on May 11.

On the suggested Web site dedicated to attracting and helping businesses locate in Novi, developers would like the site to include information that promotes the city, helps builders understand the city's development process and targets fast-track development.

Jonna would also like to explore the possibility of a Gateway West corridor west of Novi Road on Grand River Avenue. He also found it helpful to attend a Master Plan and Zoning Committee Meeting. "Developers want early feedback on projects," Janna said. "Commissioner Wayne Wrobel said he doesn't want Novi to be so conservative that we 'cut our own throats' as far as projects in the future."

"We don't want Novi to be thought of as a city that's hard to deal with. Our goal is to make us

RANK THE FOLLOWING

- At the June 15 meeting developers were asked to rank the following ideas from the May meeting.
 - Continue to make infrastructure improvements.
 - Develop a Web site dedicated to attracting and helping businesses locate in Novi.
 - Establish a Downtown Development Authority.
 - Increase the use of economic development tools like incentives and abatements, including studying the pros and cons of tax abatements.
 - Increase the flexibility in the Gateway East District along Grand River Avenue.
 - Revise ordinances to reduce the need to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - Solicit more developer input on ordinance changes.
 - Permit developers to submit one plan for all required permits (soil erosion, grading, right-of-way, etc.).
 - Investigate permitting the use of new building technologies and materials to help builders reduce costs, such as possible changes to the ordinance on facades.
 - Make the building process more user-friendly.
- Educate the real estate brokerage community on a better perceived view of the community.
- Simplify the project process time; interior building permits take too long.
- Make building permit reviews consistent.
- Compare Novi taxes and assessments on buildings with neighboring communities.
- Increase the number of building stories to attract prestigious uses.
- Match building height to the increased number of stories.
- Provide permits for various steps of construction, such as foundations and steel framework.
- Improve sign regulations by increasing the number and size permitted.
- Inventory and make available infrastructure in buildings, such as power, fiber optic

easy to deal with so developers want to come here," Wrobel said. Lynn Kocan, planning commission chair, said she would like to see more guidance from city officials. "You want to be equitable. How do you say yes to one developer, but no to another?" she asked. Donaldson noted that Novi is still considered difficult to deal with, and that there is a lot of "old baggage" that needs to be addressed. The city hopes to have more of these meetings in the future to obtain input from key players in the local development world. Area developers are invited to a 2 p.m. meeting July 13 at city hall to discuss the new ordinance on financial guarantees and how it affects developers. For more information, call Barb McBeth, planning director, at (248) 735-5622 or e-mail her at bmcbeth@novi.mi.us.

Next fiscal year's outlook positive, says city manager

Rainy day funds have tripled in last five years

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Today is the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year, with tomorrow marking the next chapter, so to speak, in Novi's financial history. So, how does the city stack up financially, and what lies ahead?

Rick Helwig, city manager, said last week that Novi, unlike most Michigan municipalities, is still growing and as a result is still financially stable.

"We are one of the few communities with a target goal of 14 percent of our expenditures in rainy day funds. We are also able to fund an aggressive capital improvement program as well as maintain services," he said. Even though on a cash flow basis for this past fiscal year, the city has spent \$300,000 more than it's taken in. "Our rainy day funds have tripled on our watch in the last five years," Helwig said. "I'm

very proud of that fact." Helwig has announced plans to retire from the city manager's position in February 2006.

"It is good to be watchful in any given fiscal year how much you're taking in and how much you're spending. But, we need to be mindful that we're playing a lot of catch up in neighborhood repaving and many other capital items," he added.

Helwig noted that with the retirement this week of Chief Operating Officer Craig Klavor, whose position will not be filled, that the city will save funds from his salary.

"We're not adding general fund positions. The spending is on much-needed capital improvements," he said.

In an overview of Novi's financial picture presented December 2004 in a fiscal analysis performed by the staff from the city of Novi finance department and local consulting firm Plante & Moran, the city's current financial picture looks good.

The report stated that faced with the slowdown in the state's economy that Novi is fortunate to have an increasing tax base from continued growth and development. "Bond ratings the city received

from Standard & Poors and Moody's last year were high (AA- and Aa2, respectively) because of the city's role as a major retail center with a strong tax base, high-income levels and sound financial position as the result.

But, with the city receiving the majority of its revenue from property taxes at about \$28 million a year, and the fact that it will soon reach its maximum property tax revenue rate because of tax legislation, the city will face a decline in that revenue.

The fiscal analysis shows that focusing on Office Service Technology development, which has the least impact on city services and infrastructure, would provide a valuable addition to the city's land use inventory.

So, whether it be building more office buildings, special utilities, an income tax or other type of tax, or public-private partnerships, the city will have to come up with a plan in the future for dealing with its declining property tax rate, according to the report.

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

PARKS & REC

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

New scholarship program offered by city department

Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Dept. attempts to accommodate all citizens

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

With the help of the Novi Parks Foundation, the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has started a scholarship program for individuals in financial need, so they can participate in its programs.

A voluntary new organization, the foundation has allocated monies toward the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, which those who qualify for, can apply to receive.

"We don't want to leave anybody out," said Tracie Ringle, event and marketing coordinator.

"We're here to serve the community, and that's our goal. We're meeting the needs of the community and people that have limited financial capacity, in terms of all of our programs. So, essentially, anybody who may have been deterred because of cost, we're going to make an attempt to accommodate."

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has a confidential application available that residents can apply for to receive a scholarship. A fami-

ly of four's income would need to be below \$34,950 to apply. That rate adjusts depending on how many people are in the household. Any Novi resident who meets the income qualifications can apply for the program.

"The scholarship is to address those individuals who live in Novi, who are having difficult financial times and deserve to participate in parks and recreation programs," Dave Stundt said, Parks, Recreation and Forestry commissioner.

In addition to getting the scholarship for the program to be funded, the department is also collecting used sports equipment for residents as well. "If they can't afford the program, they may not be able to afford the equipment either," Ringle said. "We're taking in everything from bats, gloves, hockey sticks, footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, or any other sporting goods. They will be our sponsorship program."

Scholarship applications are available in the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department at this time. They can be sent out to residents or they can stop by and pick one up. Once they are filled out they and the recipients are confidential.

Scholarship recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Novi one or more years and ability to confirm residency. (Drivers license, state identification, property tax statement or City of Novi water bill)
- Proof of income—W2 form.
- The maximum allowable scholarship per family per year is \$500. (Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry reserves the right to adjust the maximum amount based on funding levels).
- If approved, the scholarship will be valid for four months from the date of approval.
- Scholarship may be rescinded and restitution of any fees paid if scholarship information is falsified.
- Transportation to and from programs/classes and events, as well as any additional fees associated with the program/class are the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.
- Application should be returned to: Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Dept., 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI, 48375. Attn: Jack Lewis, Deputy Director.

Call (248) 347-0400 for more information.

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.

Sen. Cassis proposes SBT and spending reforms to revive Michigan's economy

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) recently unveiled her proposal to reform Michigan's Single Business Tax and hold government spending in check. The proposal is a result of more than 100 hours of testimony taken over 18 months from job providers and leaders of businesses both large and small across Michigan.

The package would reduce the Single Business Tax rate to 1.8 percent beginning January 1, 2007, and continue to reduce it by .1 percent annually until it is phased out. It also would change the apportionment rate to 100 percent of sales. The current rate is 90 percent of sales and 5 percent each of property and payroll.

Senate Joint Resolution D proposes to amend the Michigan Constitution to create a Taxpayer Bill of Rights. It would limit state spending increases to the rate of inflation plus any population increases. Any additional revenue generated by the state would go to the budget stabilization fund to be used only for fiscal crises.

Notices is hereby given that on 7/21/05 at 3:30 p.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Storage 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI. (Space No. 174) David Bruce 85 boxes, 1 exercise equipment, 2 recreation equip., 15 household furnishings, 10 other/misc. (Space No. 254) Curtis Smith -Tully Corp 29 bags, 3 household furnishings, 8 recreation equipment, 1 exercise equipment (Space No. 452) Julie Norton 1 stove, 1 washing machine, 1 dryer, 5 misc. household goods, 20 boxes, 2 recreation equipment, 10 other/misc (Space No. 263) Curtis Smith 4 other/misc, 1 power tool, 2 household furnishings (Space No. 1) Brian P. Denton 1 TV, 4 household furnishings, 5 boxes, 2 recreation equipment

Legislators heard testimony that followed three recurring themes, according to Cassis: the SBT is a job-killer; the SBT is a complex tax that is unique to Michigan, making us less competitive than other states; and government, like families and businesses, must live within its means.

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BUSINESS

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dSpace Test Company of Year

Frost and Sullivan selected Novi-based dSpace as the "leading manufacturing test company of the year" in recognition of its pioneering role and its marketing position in the hardware-in-the-loop systems market on June 23.

Frost & Sullivan said that dSPACE's continuous product development, vision, and expertise have earned it a leading market share in the HIL simulation systems market, leaving its competition far behind.

DeMaria hired for jobs

The Detroit Medical Center (DMC) & Waterford Partners Center, L.L.C., has hired DeMaria Building Company, in a Design/Build contract with Hebls & Black Architects, Ann Arbor, MI, to build the new 410,000-square-foot Ambulatory Surgery Center in Waterford. The project is valued at \$4.0 million.

DeMaria Building Company has been hired by the University of Michigan to renovate the existing Hatcher's Graduate Library in Ann Arbor, as well as the School of Nursing on the Ann Arbor Campus.

The library project is valued at \$3.3 million and the School of Nursing project \$1 million.

Sample new ice cream

In honor of National Ice Cream Month, on Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon, every Cold Stone Creamery location across the country will offer free tasting samples of the following new ice cream flavors - Wasabi Ginger, Fruit Loop, Black Licorice, Oatmeal Cookie Butter and Tangarine Sorbet.

In addition, each store across the country will give away one certificate good for ice cream for a year. That's nearly 1,100 opportunities to win.

Molding system unveiled

Hiskey and Lear Corporation unveiled Husky's new Quallac-Tandem-Index injection molding system yesterday during an open house at the Novi location.

The QTI system will deliver finished multi-material parts from a single machine, which will eliminate parts speaking and rattling and reduce production floor space by over 40 percent.

The system can also produce new large interior and exterior components of a vehicle, using a combination of materials and colors, and standard molds.

City grants business sign allowance during 50's Festival

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City council voted June 20 to provide a one-time business sign allowance during the Michigan 50's Festival scheduled July 13-16 at the Fountain Walk lifestyle center in Novi.

The annual event attracts visitors from across the area. The sign allowance gives businesses an opportunity to promote their products or services to community guests prior to and during the festival.

To provide fairness and maintain safe and attractive business areas, the following rules apply:

- Each sign will be permitted from Sunday, July 3, through Saturday, July 16. Signs must be removed by the end of the day on July 16.
- One additional sign per business registered with the city of Novi is allowed.
- The sign must be portable, meaning a free-standing sign not permanently anchored or secured to either a building or the ground, such as A-frame poles temporarily driven into the ground and T-shaped signs like a traditional "for sale" sign.
- The sign can be up to six square feet but not more than five feet high.
- The sign cannot be placed on public property or in the public right-of-way or any road easement.
- No permit is required for the signs.
- Rick Helwig, city manager, said in order to keep signs off public property, generally businesses should place their sign behind city sidewalks.
- Tenants will need to coordinate and receive permission from property owners, Helwig said in a memo to area business owners.
- The city will not become involved in any lease-lease discussions.
- The signs must also be placed on the same private property as the business being promoted.
- "Be aware to not block site lines for drivers entering and exiting the business area," Helwig added.
- The city reserves the right to direct changes to sign placement if required to maintain road safety.
- Business owners with questions about the one-time sign allowance during the 50's Festival can contact either Cindy Uglow, Neighborhood Services Coordinator at (248) 347-0437, cuglow@ci.novi.mi.us or Melissa Place, administrative assistant, city manager's office, at (248) 347-0478, mplace@ci.novi.mi.us.

\$97,000 ring sold in Novi

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Move over mega-millionaires and model Paris Hilton. There's a bride-to-be in Florida who could fit right into your family album sporting this hand decoration.

"She'd gone on the Internet and did some research, then contacted me and told me what she was looking for," Larson said. "If they went on the Web sites that I dealt with and basically beat the air out of the other prices she was getting."

He was able to offer her and sell her a much better stone at a much better price.

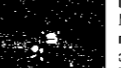
"She flew in Friday, came in on Saturday, saw it and bought it," he said.

Larson said the betrothed couple is moving to Florida, so she shipped the ring out earlier this week.

"It's a gorgeous, stately-looking ring, and it's huge," Larson said. "If you put a dime next to it, it's bigger."

The Geological Institute of America-certified stone totals 6.07 carats. It's an emerald-cut diamond in a handsome, platinum setting with two matching 1.15 teardrop-shaped diamonds, total carat weight of the ring: 7.22 carats.

"That's the largest single piece I've ever sold," said Larson, 47, his business address is 43155 Main St., Suite 304, in Novi.



7.22 carats

Although the future Mrs. Larson will remain anonymous, Novi jeweler Brian Larson made the sale of his career recently when a woman from out of town purchased a ring valued at \$97,000.

The woman, referred to Larson by a friend from the Detroit area, flew to Detroit from Washington, D.C., on June 24 to get a look at a six-plus-carat stone at Larson Jewelry Design at 43155 Main St., Suite 304, in Novi.

Larson noted that he had to raise the insurance in his store just to have the stone for the bride-to-be from Washington, D.C., delivered to his store.

"People don't have to fly to New York necessarily to find the best deals. We can be as competitive as anybody else," he said.

The bride-to-be told Larson on her way out that she'll work on getting her fiance to buy her matching earrings for Christmas.

Emmett, who is now officially retired from the Novi Community School District as superintendent for 13 years, had graduated by then and was teaching sixth grade. Marge graduated the next year and became a teacher.

Superintendent rides off into the sunset

Dr. Emmett Lippe retiring after 13 years in Novi

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

They met on a blind date on her first day of college. It just so happened that the future Mrs. Lippe's roommate had a date that night, but she also had a boyfriend who didn't have a car. Enter a guy by the name of Emmett Lippe, who did have a car, but no date.

"I had quite a serious boyfriend back home, but I thought we were just going to go to church, and what harm can a guy named Emmett Lippe do?" said Marge Lippe.

Little did she know that that of the date was over, Marge was completely smitten with him. The two dated for three years and were married between her junior and senior year in 1965.

Emmett, who is now officially retired from the Novi Community School District as superintendent for 13 years, had graduated by then and was teaching sixth grade. Marge graduated the next year and became a teacher.

LIPPE SERVICE

Things you might not have known about Emmett Lippe:

- He was given the nickname "The Happy Hooker," by his colleagues in the Williamston School District, for his ability to effectively shoot hook shots in basketball.
- He enjoys refinishing furniture and, apparently, is good at it.
- He likes to fish, golf and get together with friends to play cards. He also loves to watch sports.
- He's currently an usher at Michigan State University football games.
- He has season tickets to Michigan State University basketball games.
- He loves collecting memorabilia, such as old magazines that talk about World War II, or the Civil War. He enjoys collecting coins and baseball cards too.



E. Lippe

And he kept going back to school until he ended up with five degrees: An undergraduate from Huntington College; a master's from Northern Colorado University; a masters from Michigan State University; an educational specialist degree from Michigan State; and a doctorate from Ball State University in Indiana.

After Tokosha, he worked in Alton as assistant superintendent, and from there, moved on to the Williamston School District and finally to Novi.

"He's always been well-liked and left in his own accord," Marge said. "Emmett is a real leader, but at the same time, he likes challenges. He likes to grow."

Marge described her husband as a humble, sincere and honest person. She said that if he does get frustrated about something, he thinks it through and they discuss it together.

When he had to attend night meetings, which was quite frequently as superintendent, he would come home first, have a family dinner, and then he would play ball with the boys before going back to his meeting. If he was home early enough afterwards, he would help tuck them into bed.

The happy couple worked together in Tokosha, Mich. Emmett was a high school principal and Marge was a second grade teacher in the same grade.

Champs get street signs

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to honor Prog Force 503, Novi High School's Robotics team, which recently won a world championship competition, the city of Novi has put up four street signs that read: "Home of Novi High School's F.I.R.S.T. Inter Nov Robotics Team 2005 World Champions."

Three signs are already placed at:

- 1275 and the Eight Mile Road exit ramp.
- Haggerty Road and Eight Mile Road.
- The east bound exit ramp of I-96 at Novi Road.
- The fourth will soon be placed at the entrance to one of Novi High School's parking lots.

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Jennifer Harvey, a Parkview Elementary School art teacher and mentor of the students, founded the Novi Robotics team five years ago. She's excited about the team's recent accomplishments but believes that the sky is the limit.

"I figure that in only five years we've won a world championship, and we've secured futures for the students," said Harvey. "Imagine what we can do with more experience under our belts and more knowledge of the community around us."

During his speech, Richard Banfield, president of Inter, gave a variety of reasons why his company is involved with the team.

"I had hoped we would do well in the regionals, but a world championship? No. I never thought that would happen," Banfield said. "It's wonderful."

He said he was interested in what I had to say about teaching, to get that teacher perspective," she said. "That really amazed me, that he would really be aware of what I was going through as a teacher in negotiations or all the work I would bring home. He really had a true realization for what teachers did and, of course, the children perspective with his own kids. He's really a well-balanced, well-rounded person."

The Lippe family owns a house up north, which is frequently visited by their sons and their families. Other than spending time there, the two would like to spend their retirements traveling and reconnecting with old friends.

"We've never been to Yellowstone," Marge said. "And we've never seen Mount Rushmore. Like he says, he will now get to follow his own agenda instead of someone else's."

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'05 CHEVY IMPALA Stk. #16613, Auto, Radio XM, Sunroof, Leather \$19,696²⁵ or \$197²⁵/24 mos.	'05 EQUINOX Stk. #15432, Auto, Sunroof, Leather, LS \$20,149²⁵ or \$234²⁵/48 mos.
'05 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4x4 Stk. #15307, Auto, A/C, Power Seats, LS \$25,818²⁵ or \$231²⁵/24 mos.	'05 TARGO 4x4 Stk. #15433, Auto, Sunroof, Power Windows, LS \$34,004²⁵ or \$359²⁵/48 mos.

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CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-043

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hallie's Hallmark is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a sidewalk sale at Hallie's Hallmark located at Novi Ten strip mall at the northwest corner of Ten Mile and Meadowbrook Roads. The dates of the sidewalk sale are July 19, 2005 through July 23, 2005.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday, July 14, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

(6-30-05 NN 223252)

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-041

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GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

(6-30-05 NN 223258)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS TEAM LEAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for TEAM LEAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY 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, July 27, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read.

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIC, 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 "TEAM LEAGUE PHOTOGRAPHY 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 informalities 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.

NOTICE DATED: July 5, 2005

CAROL J. KALINOVIC
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0445

(6-30-05 NN 223421)

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SENIORS

Kim Kovelie, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kovelie@hl.homecomm.net

450 retirees now call Fox Run their home in Novi

In the two short years since Fox Run opened its door to our first residents, we have become the fastest growing retirement destination in Michigan.

Men and women from all over the state (and country) are moving to Fox Run to experience an unparalleled lifestyle. As the executive director, I am so pleased that over 450 people now call Fox Run "home."

And "home" is what it is. A "house" is just a house. The love and warmth that fills a house make it a "home." People often feel something special when they walk through the front door of the

Assist Clubhouse for the first time. I truly believe it's the sense of community and sharing of life that makes Fox Run so inviting and welcoming. A cornerstone which graces the entrance to Fox Run, exemplifies the spirit of our campus and reads "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony" (Psalm 133:1).

We've come a very long way since June 2003. Construction on the Assist Clubhouse as well as five residential buildings are finished and now complete the first Fox Run neighborhood. The fifth building in mid-April to rave reviews. The Fox Run Fitness/Aquatic Center, Fireside Restaurant, Hunt Club Café and state-of-the-art medical facility operate under the guidance of warm and seasoned professionals. The landscaped grounds are

blooming with color, including a special "friendship garden" created by students at our neighboring Franklin Road Christian School. There have been so many fun, exciting events at Fox Run that it seems like the party never stops. My favorites so far have been the Michigan vs. Michigan State Tailgate Football Party, Detroit Pistons' Pop Rally and Magic of Michigan Gala. Last month we had a good old-fashioned talent show where residents and staff shared their talents to a sold-out show, with our very own Ernie Harwell serving as master of ceremonies.

The second annual Fox Run Gala, "My Big Fox Run Wedding," is coming up on Saturday, Aug. 6. The gala raises money for our Benevolent Care Fund, which helps to ensure that Fox Run residents have a home for

life. It's going to be another great party!

Fox Run residents have been on the go since the first day we opened. There are almost a hundred different activities to choose from, including things like ballroom dancing, educational seminars, computer classes, painting and water aerobics, just to name a few.

Fox Run community members are also extremely active in off-site programs with local charities, travel groups and service organizations. Unlike many retirement communities, all the "clubs" at Fox Run are created and driven by the residents. Currently the Fox Run community outreach program is coordinating a "volunteer" corps that will work with the XI Super Bowl team on a variety of special events and activities connected with the Super Bowl festivities across the metro Detroit area.

Plans are under way for the construction of our second neighborhood, which will include the Belmont Clubhouse, a performing arts auditorium and additional facilities. We plan to double our current workforce.

As I look back, I am amazed at what Fox Run has become and I am exhilarated by all that Fox Run will be in the future. We love our new home in Novi and can't wait to give back to the community for many years to come.

Michael McCormick has been responsible for directing the daily operations of Fox Run since its opening in June 2003. He oversees staffing, training and performance management for food services, facilities, grounds, security, transportation, health services, and overall community administration.

Area college students find summer jobs

Bessie Song of Novi and Maggie Shaffer of Brighton will have much to share about what they did on their summer vacation when they return to their respective college campuses in the fall. Song and Shaffer are both working at Fox Run, a campus for men and women over the age of 62 in Novi, to gain valuable hands-on experience that will be applicable to their chosen fields of study.

Song, a 2004 graduate of Novi High School, is not new to Fox Run. She previously worked in the Fireside Restaurant as a student server. She is studying International Studies, Business and Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business.

"I missed working at Fox Run," says Song. "I just love the residents."

Song is getting a diverse exposure to the operation of Fox Run by working with several departments including administration, resident



Bessie Song, left, and Maggie Shaffer are working at Fox Run this summer.

life and finance. She is especially involved in preparations for the second annual Fox Run Gala to benefit the community's Benevolent Care Fund. The gala, this year entitled "A Big Fox Run Wedding," will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6 at the Assist Clubhouse at Fox Run.

Shaffer graduated in 2002 from Brighton High School and currently is pursuing a business management degree at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich. Having worked at TGIFriday's in Grandville and Novi, Maggie has decided to pursue a career in restaurant management.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 7/1	Wednesday 7/6
8:45 a.m. Pancake Breakfast	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength cancelled
9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	9 a.m.-4 p.m. Women's Golf
10 a.m. Body Recall	10 a.m. Secretary of State Mobile Office
10:30 a.m. Lunch/dogging	10:30 a.m. Body Recall
12:30 p.m. Bingo	11 a.m. Quilting
1:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	11 a.m. Blood pressure
	11 a.m. Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
	12:30 p.m. Lunch
	1:30-2:30 p.m. Sing-a-Long, free
	2-2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch
	Thurs, Beacoms and Buggies Trip
Tuesday 7/5	Thursday 7/7
9 a.m. Pancake Breakfast	9 a.m. Line dance
9 a.m. Line Dance	9 a.m. Mixed Golf
9:30 a.m. Line Dance	9 a.m. Lunch
10 a.m. Coffee and Conversation	10 a.m. Bridge
10 a.m. Asian Pacific noon	10 a.m. Line dance
12:30 p.m. Lunch	1:2 p.m. Line dance
3-4 p.m. Bingo	

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Phone: (248) 347-0414.

FAITH

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



Courtesy photo

A Little Bit of Class

Livonia Church of Christ hosted its Fourth Annual Classic Car Show to benefit Angela Hospice on June 18, with the help of "A Little Bit of Class" car club. Despite cloudy skies and the threat of rain, 38 vehicles entered the show, raising \$830 for Angela Hospice. "The classic cars which participated this year were of uniformly high quality, and there was a good turnout of spectators to enjoy them," said Mike Bennett, car show chair. "We are looking forward to a fifth annual event in 2006." Pictured, Joan and Len Harold of Novi, who won first place among Class F cars from 1972-1980 with their 1977 Chevy Monte Carlo. Joan has been working at Angela Hospice as an admission nurse since May.

Holy Cross hosting Journeys to Jerusalem

Children ages 4-14 can take a trip to the Holy Land of Jerusalem without even leaving the comfortable surroundings of Novi.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross, located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi, is hosting a program called "Journeys to Jerusalem" at 10 a.m. every Sunday this summer.

Participants receive a fake passport, which gets stamped at every stop they make on the journey. At each stop they either witness a dramatic presentation, or some sort of storytelling on the significance of that particular place in the life of Jesus Christ.

"They are following Jesus' journey," Pastor Karen Henry said, "and they will be Nazareth, they'll then go on to several other places where we know Jesus was before we go to Jerusalem."

The way it works, every week different people from the church are responsible for setting the stage. During last Sunday's program, a couple with a baby actually played the Virgin Mary, Joseph and the

DETAILS

Those interested can call the church at (248) 427-1175 and leave a message or just show up any Sunday at 10 a.m. They can also e-mail the church at holycrossnovi@hotmail.com.

New children are always welcome to the program. It generally runs about 35 minutes each week, and the children join the rest of the church in worship for the last half hour before going back to complete their class and have snacks.

"We're hoping this program can touch more lives," said Henry.

Law Enforcement is Stepping UP!

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD High & Elm Streets, Northville Church: 349-3140 School: 349-3146 Pastor: Rev. Robert Henry Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 2211 Acorn Dr., Novi (248) 349-9191 Worship & Church School: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Rev. Robert Henry, Pastor Rev. James P. Smith, Pastor
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE On Hogarty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Celebration: 10:30 a.m. (248) 348-1700 Dr. Ron Bickel, Pastor	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 2211 Acorn Dr., Novi (248) 349-9191 Worship & Church School: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 6:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Rev. Robert Henry, Pastor Rev. James P. Smith, Pastor
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21325 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi at I-75 Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m. 248-348-7757 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hight Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl	OUR LADY VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 1701 Hoyet, Northville WEEKEND LITURGIES: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. School: 349-2621. School: 349-3410 Religious Education: 349-1259 Rev. Terrence Kerner, Pastor
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Hogarty Phone: 248-427-1175 Sun: 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m. Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class: 8:45 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-2565
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345 10 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 348-1144 8 Mile & I-75 Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Rev. John Rice Reveries Choir
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4625 W. 10 Mile Novi MI 48274 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Reverend George Chantry, Pastor Phone: 248-327-7778	OAK POINTE CHURCH 11 Mile & Wagon Rd. Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary, live band (248) 912-0043 www.oakpointe.org
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 1625 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi MI 48275 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun 7:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Holy Day: 7 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Rev. James M. Bickel, Pastor Rev. Robert Henry, Associate Pastor Phone: 349-8847	HARVEST FELLOWSHIP 49229 Plymouth Trail Warren 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH 3051 Five Mile Rd. & Hogarty Phone: 248-400-0131 Sunday Services: Morning 8:30 a.m. Holy 10:00 a.m. Rev. Fr. George M. Haggerty, Pastor www.nativity.org	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Between Grand River & Freedom 248-414-0064 Sunday Services: 9:15 Traditional 11:00 Contemporary July 18, September 4, 9:30 a.m. Donna Cave, Pastor Phone: 248-414-0064
WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Dr. James M. Bickel, Senior Pastor 4025 W. 10 Mile, Novi MI 48275 Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m. Religious Education: 349-1259 Pastor: Rev. James M. Bickel	ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD High & Elm Streets, Northville Lutheran Pastor Church: 349-3140 School: 349-3146 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

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Visit www.michigan50sfestival.com or call 248.349.1950 for up to date schedules.

Novi News VARSITY LINCOLN MERCURY

CHURCH CALENDAR

• **Meadowbrook Congregational Church** invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

• **The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.) Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Worship Service of Compliment is held at 8:30 p.m. Rice 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. Youth Worship Service is held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sundays of every month; all are welcome. The church will be offering a Spanish Mass this Sunday at 4 p.m. as its ongoing mission to the church office.

• **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School is offered at both services for children of all ages, preschool through 12th grade and nursery care. Faith Community houses the Novi Emergency Food Program, a food bank that has been serving the hungry of Novi, New Hudson, and Wixom for over 25 years. All children kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to attend Vacation Bible School, 9-11:30 a.m. today and tomorrow. There is no cost for this program and volunteers are always welcome. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.faithcommunity-novi.org, or be found in the church office.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Summer services are at 9:15 and 11 a.m. (except for July 3 and Sept. 4, when a service will take place at 9:15 a.m. only). Nursery is provided. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

• **Crosspointe Meadows Church** meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 a.m. 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 13 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-7200 or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holloworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

• **The Holy Family Church** is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River Avenue and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

• **Oak Pointe Church** service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. Visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

• **St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **First United Methodist Church of Northville** worship hour schedules are as follows: 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Taff Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

• **Church of the Holy Cross** is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Hogarty roads). Visit www.churchoftheholycross.com for more information.

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OPINION

www.novinews.com

Novi News

Grace Perez Perry
PUBLISHER

Cal Stone
EDITOR

Richard Perlberg
GENERAL MANAGER

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

WHERE WE STAND

Independence Day: Free, for all?

Monday provides another opportunity for Novi residents to wave a flag and dedicate themselves to freedom's cause.

The rest of the year is about backing those promises up. Freedom is a noble cause, a quaint existence often found nestled at the base of some slippery slope. It's a bedtime story we get told from an early age, one we hold dear and recite by rote.

Too often, though, freedom's most enduring lessons put us to sleep long before we fully commit ourselves to serving its primary purpose. We awaken buoyed by good intentions, but hamstringed by busy schedules.

That's a waste. Freedom is personal choice and professional opportunity, bound together by individual sacrifice and the responsibility of preserving them for another generation. Freedom is a candle fueled by intellectual engagement and personal conviction, not political speeches and empty promises.

Parades are nice, convenient. But anyone who relishes freedom and wants to further it along will find time this year to attend at least two city council or school board meetings. Volunteer for a community group. Contribute in some meaningful way to the betterment of a less fortunate child. Get to know your neighbors. Read, listen and discuss issues relevant to your community.

And vote. Celebrating freedom often means providing it to those less fortunate among us, a reality far from the comfort of outdoor cookouts and ceremonial displays.

Those who value freedom most find ways to share it, provide it and inspire it. They understand freedom is a hard-earned privilege, not a pedigree certificate ensured by birthright.

America has sent away to war more than a few of its sons and daughters, to die, all in the spirit of defending freedom and protecting a flag.

Wouldn't it be nice one year if we stayed awake long enough to hear freedom's entire story, then awakened the next day with a better sense of ourselves — and a more meaningful way of celebrating its legacy than by simply closing a bank, waving a flag or pledging blind allegiance?

Is burning our flag your right?

This weekend being the Fourth of July holiday, it made sense to run a story on our nation's flag, Old Glory. The seed for that story was planted many weeks ago when a Novi resident, Rosemarie Denton, let me know that several local businesses were ignoring our governor's request to fly flags at half-staff after the pope's recent death.

There are federal and state protocols to follow, and there are other very specific guidelines when it comes to flying or folding our flag and destroying damaged ones.

And rightly so. Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution (House Joint Resolution 10) prohibiting the desecration of the American flag.

Rep. McCotter, a former editor at this publication and now press secretary for Congressman Thad McCotter, e-mailed me an update on the resolution, including the following quote from Rep. McCotter.

"The American flag is an enduring symbol of liberty, democracy, and justice. It is fitting that the House act to protect it as we approach our nation's birthday, and as our men and women in uniform rally behind it on battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our flag honors those who have fought to protect it, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America's storied history, the Stars and Stripes represents the very best of this nation."

I called Bob for a little more information, and he laughed at an irony that McCotter likes to note. Strange how it's illegal to burn leaves but it's OK to burn our flag.

I've never understood how an American citizen would view that as their First Amendment right. Why on earth would anyone want to slap the faces of the men and women who died for everything that flag stands for? Yes, they fought for your right to free speech, but that's the most illogical and disrespectful way to voice one's opinion that I've ever heard of.

Twice (1989 and 1990) the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that burning the flag is protected. Now, a constitutional amendment is the only remaining option left to protect Old Glory.

In the last four Congresses, the House has passed a flag protection amendment (with language identical to H.J. Res. 10) by more than the two-thirds majority needed, said Jackson, but it can't get through the Senate.

The current resolution has passed the House; now it's up to the Senate once again. If approved, each state will then have to ratify it as an amendment to the Constitution. How would you vote? Think about it while you enjoy your freedom this Fourth of July.

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



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Concentration
Shu Goto, right, 8, makes a move in a game of chess against Conner Moore, 6, during last week's chess camp at Novi Meadows elementary. The five-day camp, taught by 2005 Michigan chess champion Alla Tabak, gave the kids time to learn and get lots of hands-on practice in the strategy of the game. Tabak said that Moore, who just finished kindergarten, even beat a youngster in middle school.

LETTERS

On university funding

This e-mail is in response to Phil Power's column in Thursday's Novi News ("Plan for funding Michigan's universities is flawed"). As you may determine from my comments, I have no expertise in the subject, yet I feel compelled to offer my ideas in the hopes that some of them may be useful to those in a position to use them. Here goes:

1. I agree with your suggestion to let the student use the money appropriated to fund their education in the way of their choice. But since this is taxpayer money, I would add the following caveat. In order for the money to be considered a grant or gift instead of a loan, the student must commit to work in Michigan in a job that pays taxes to the state for a minimum of three years after graduation. Adding this caveat does the following:

a. The student will have a financial incentive to major in an area where he/she is reasonably assured of finding employment in the state of Michigan. In the near future, this may be in engineering or in health care. In the more distant future, who knows?

b. Taxpayer's won't be subsidizing the education of students who leave the state due to lack of jobs in their chosen fields.

2. Every college or university in the state that receives state monies doesn't have to offer every type of curriculum. What's wrong with having University of Michigan, Michigan State, Michigan Tech and Wayne State be the only schools that offer an accredited education in electrical engineering, and having Central Michigan, Western Michigan, etc. be the only schools that offer an accredited education in hotel management, for instance? By eliminating a lot of redundancy between the schools, the amount of monies needed to fund higher education could be substantially reduced without sacrificing the quality of education received.

3. Following along the thought pattern of #2 above, some curricula could be eliminated altogether. If a business in the state needed a specialist in an area no longer supported by the State of Michigan, they could import the specialist from another state (and let that state experience the brain drain that they paid for). As an example, when I joined Chrysler Corporation in an elite training program for graduate engineers in 1966, they were looking for high-caliber engineering graduates whom they could train to be automotive manufacturing engineers. A total of eight of us were hired that year, and five of us came from engineering schools in Ohio. Michigan got the benefit of the talent influx without having to subsidize the education. And, we paid income taxes to Michigan until we left or retired.

I would be interested to see if you concur with any of the above.

Thomas R. Hart
Novi

Social Security debate continues

So Willy Mena and I disagree on how to fix Social Security but we also disagree on debating it in the letters section of the local paper.

On Monday night you made my job infinitely easier. Andrew has not had time to be in campaign mode lately. He has been too busy working with the hundreds of residents

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 E-mail: cstone@ht.homecomm.net Fax to: (248) 349-9832

with whom he shares a higher priority right now — the preservation of open space in southeast Novi. He has not had time for fundraising parties or campaign "events." Most of the people — over 70 residents — who turned out for the special meeting of the city council on June 27 — the one to consider the residents' request to apply for a DNR grant — had no idea that Andrew is a candidate in the November election. But, thanks to your comments during the meeting, they do now.

Many Novi residents know that Andrew Match's commitment to the environment and his knowledge of planning processes long precede his involvement with this particular issue and extend back before his three-plus years on the city's planning commission. His willingness to do research, contact experts, propose a solution and to share real and accurate information from which residents can form their own conclusions was more obvious to them than your puzzling and repeated references to "political aspirations." In any case, now that it has been explained that the references were not to the two people sitting with you at the table who are running for office, but to Andrew, more volunteers have signed on and more contributions have been coming in. I wasn't sure how to thank you, but this letter is a start.

Kathleen Mulch
Novi

Stop floodplain development

As a resident of Novi for 10 years, it saddens me greatly to hear the news of a proposed development off of Meadowbrook Road. I understand the council is considering applying for a MRRTF grant to purchase this property from the developer to maintain it as a natural area. I strongly support this effort.

My parents moved to Novi 20 years ago and a visit to grandma's house was going out to the country. It was a beautiful place.

While I know Novi will never be the peaceful rural/suburban area it once was, I see Novi currently headed in the wrong direction. Every parent I speak with is fed up and disgusted with the continued development of open land in Novi. The children of Novi are fed up with this also. They are running out of places to "do nothing." What will we have in another 10 years? A city of houses and stores.

On a more practical note, and as a taxpayer and voter, it angers me to see the destruction of more wetlands. Ten Mile and Novi Road development is bad enough, but the Meadowbrook property is clearly a floodplain. I have had flooding in my basement already. Everyone in the area has to have a sump pump. Sound science tells us we need to maintain natural areas to absorb flood waters and filter pollution. There is a sign stating that we are a part of the Rouge River Watershed. How could this be any clearer?

I urge you, please stop this development.

What do you care? You're assured your diploma from the board of education and you can merrily float away and begin to think about what you're going to do for lunch tomorrow. I'll be having a turkey parmesan on sourdough with a slice of mild provolone cheese. And maybe a side of those wonderful roasted red potatoes that my wife makes.

Anyway, where was I? Yes! Addressing you, the graduating class.

Usually commencement speakers will try to inspire the mortar board wearers to reach for the academic stars, "seize the day," and "make a difference in your community."

Helen Whalen
Village Oaks Subdivision resident

OTHER OPINIONS

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

When it comes to fixing state budget, options are limited

Historians take note: May 5, 2005 is going to turn out to have been a red-letter date in Michigan's history.

And I'm not thinking about Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican national holiday which commemorates the Mexican army's stunning defeat of the imperialist forces of France and the Austrian Emperor Maximilian at Puebla in 1852, a major milestone on the way to Mexican independence.

No, ours is a much more gloomy May 5. We are talking about the date when Standard & Poor's downgraded the bond ratings of both General Motors and Ford Motor Co. to what the headlines call "junk." Put in the fancy language the bond rating agencies use, that means "investors should not invest in bonds of either of these companies for the long term."

When historians look back on our times, I suspect they'll seize on May 5th as the symbolic date at which it became painfully clear to all that Michigan was in a major economic crisis of a new kind.

The symptoms have been clear for years. Manufacturing employment, the traditional core of our economy, is hemorrhaging. Our largest employers — GM, Ford, Chrysler and much of the automotive supply chain — are losing market share and their investment grade credit rating.

Soon, some may be facing bankruptcy. We're tops in the nation for unemployment — and dead last when it comes to forming new companies. The state budget is structured to produce a chronic billion-dollar plus deficit every year, while the political system seems paralyzed and the politicians unable to do anything about it.

We're in serious trouble. We've had tough times in the past, yes. But today's crisis is quite unlike

what we've faced before. It is the result of complex and widespread changes in the worldwide economy — think of outsourcing and offshoring jobs to China and India as just the start.

The causes are far deeper than the usual cyclical changes in the economy, as a result, this crisis will not be resolved merely by an upturn in the domestic business cycle and a few more domestic auto sales some day.

These facts are finally beginning to penetrate even the thick walls of denial put up by Lansing's political class. Take Gov. Jennifer Granholm, without a doubt the most gifted political communicator Michigan has

seen in many years. My sense is that her re-election strategy (she's up next year) has been to run as Ms. Congeniality. This means she intended to try to slide through the recurrent budget problems, cut deals with the GOP-controlled legislature where possible and generally argue that while things may be tough just now, she's doing the best she can.

But the crisis has caught up with her carefully, cautious planning. As anybody who heard the governor's speech at the Mackinac Island policy gathering (I wasn't there, but I read the text and have talked to plenty of people who were in the room), she didn't fudge this time around.

The governor made it clear that the biggest issue in Michigan is responding to the crisis, right now, and she talked about how vital it was to invest in Michigan's economic future via the \$2 billion bond proposal she wants to put on a statewide ballot later this year.

So what are the Republicans in the legislature doing? Slow walking, that's what, doing just barely enough to avoid being labeled as obstructionists but making sure nothing significant gets done before 2006.

That's to set up Richard DeVos, Anway heir and near-vertain Republican nominee for governor, to proclaim that Gov. Granholm has done nothing to resolve Michigan's economic crisis, that he's an experienced businessman, that he has a plan ... you get the picture.

Even if that were true, Michigan can't wait. Personally, I think the governor should be telling the Republicans to follow, lead or get the hell out of the way. I think she should be talking about \$5 billion for her bond program, not a measly \$2 billion.

And I think she needs to be much, much more hard-edged, bold and comprehensive in proposing a strategy to tackle Michigan's crisis than she has been. We're in major trouble, and we can't afford to fool around.

Incidentally, I think that positioning a "bond" as the remedy for our crisis is making a basic linguistic mistake. Nobody associates the word "bond" with "crisis." The solution to this crisis is a serious restructuring plan, and the word "emergency" probably needs to be used.

Mark my words. From now until the next statewide election in November, 2006, Michigan politics and policy are bound to center around our present economic crisis. Like it or not, both parties will be obliged to address it — and they better do so realistically.

My friend, Mark Murray, now president of Grand Valley State University, offers another interesting historic parallel. He notes that May 5, 1955 was the date when Michigan suffered another symbolic financial and political crisis: Payless paydays for state government employees, thanks to another financial crisis during which the politicians couldn't agree.

History always repeats itself, but seldom quite as neatly as this.

Phil Power is Chairman of HCN, Inc. and a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@homecomm.net



Phil Power

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - Publisher
gperry@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120



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



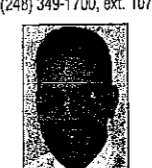
Lisa Tineu - Acct. Exec.
ltineu@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 118



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



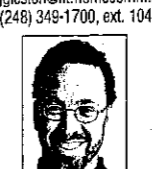
Kim Kovel - Staff Writer
kkovel@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 107



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



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer
seggleston@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



John Heider - Staff Photographer
jheider@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106



Marcia Cromas - Receptionist
mcromas@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700



Karen Whitehart - Receptionist
kwhitehart@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700



Billy Fraser - Graphic Designer
bfraser@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 116

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS

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

UNOBSTRUCTED BREATHING

While snoring is usually regarded as something of a laughing matter, it may be indicative of a potentially serious condition. The fact is that snoring is the sound of obstructed breathing during sleep. It occurs when the muscles of the back of the throat are sufficiently relaxed to allow the airway to narrow and partially obstruct the flow of air. As air tries to pass through these obstructions, the throat tissue vibrates. Large tonsils, a long soft palate, and excess fat deposits contribute to soft tissue narrowing. While one treatment option involves surgery to eliminate the tissue that collapses during sleep, some snorers can be helped with an oral appliance that is similar to an orthodontic retainer.

Research suggests that snorers have low oxygen even if they do not have a sleep disorder. Oral appliances worn during sleep provide a conservative, non-surgical and effective way to keep the airway open during sleep, raise blood oxygen levels and reduce or stop snoring.

For more information, please call 248-471-1581 or visit with me and my staff at 39595 W. Ten Mile Road, Suite 111. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to create a happier face and a healthier smile to last a lifetime.

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ALLERGY & ASTHMA

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

HOW THEOPHYLLINE WORKS

Theophylline is one of the most common medications prescribed for chronic asthma symptoms. It works by relaxing the bronchial muscles and reducing the constriction that is characteristic of asthma. Theophylline helps prevent asthma symptoms, especially at night, and reduces the need for certain chronic medications. Patients also find that it reduces the negative impact of asthma triggers, including allergens and exercise. Theophylline is available in long- and short-acting forms. Long-acting theophylline is typically taken once or twice daily for chronic asthma. Because no one medication is right for everyone, it's important to communicate thoroughly with your allergist about other allergies, other prescription drugs you take, other medical illnesses, and your diet and smoking history. For medical treatment and advice for your allergy and/or asthma condition, contact

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Attorney and counselor at law
JENNIFER BEYERSDORF SALVATORE
Jennifer's practice area is general litigation with an emphasis on commercial, employment and civil rights matters. Her wide range of experience includes representing small, medium-sized and Fortune 500 companies, educational institutions, non-profits, governmental entities and individuals in state and federal courts and arbitration proceedings.

A Northville, Michigan native and 1997 honors graduate of The University of Michigan Law School, Jennifer worked until 2003 as a litigator at one of America's top corporate litigation firms in Chicago. She has recently returned to Michigan to practice and now lives with her family in South Lyon.

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CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Walk to Remember

DATE: Sunday, July 3
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Walk to Remember Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce
DETAILS: The Lakes Area Chapter of The Compassionate Friends is hosting this walk to remember children, siblings and grandchildren who have died. Proceeds help support outreach and chapter activities.
CONTACT: Wendy Valko, (248) 685-9854

Michigan 50's Festival

DATE: July 13-16
LOCATION: Fountain Walk Shopping Center (northwest corner of Novi Road and I-96)
DETAILS: Annual event dedicated to the 1950s, featuring a circus, carnival, food and musical acts.
CONTACT: (248) 349-1950 or www.michigan50s.com

Car Wash

DATE: Saturday, July 16
TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
LOCATION: TeCOn Credit Union, 12 Mile and Novi roads.
DETAILS: Sponsored by Novi High School Band Boosters.
CONTACT: Patti Kuchyan, (248) 348-5135

Novi Theaters Productions

TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13, 5 p.m., Sundays, Aug. 14
DETAILS: Summer Camp: Kids on Broadway
TIME/DATE: noon, Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15; Fridays, Sept. 9, 16; and 2 p.m., Sundays, Sept. 11, 18
DETAILS: Senior Variety Series, Kecks on Route 66
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Special Session on ODAs

DATE: Monday, Aug. 1
TIME: 7 p.m.

KID'S CONCERT SERIES

Most of the Novi Parks and Recreation Department's Kid's Concert Series will take place every Thursday night at 7 p.m. throughout the summer, starting tonight at Lakeshore Park. However, the last concert of the series, on Aug. 18, will be held at Providence Park starting at 5:30 p.m.

• **July 21: Songster Julia Austin and David Mosher** — This duo features a unique blend of humorous children's music. All songs are interactive with audiences dancing, moving and singing. Expect to hear a number of instruments including the mandolin, fiddle, banjo and more.

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• **July 28: Hargbeat** — Highly interactive, award-winning musical entertainment for the entire family. This duo has been featured in parenting and family fun magazines.

• **Aug. 4: The Kevin Devine Musical Circus** — With over 1,000 original songs, this program has something to please everyone's ear.

• **Aug. 11: Pippin Puppets** — These puppets have performed all over southeast Michigan including the Michigan Renaissance Festival. This new show will have the audience taking part.

• **Aug. 18: Chautauqua Express and the Novi Concert Band** — The entire audience will have their feet tapping. This show promises to be entertaining and interactive. Everyone from toddlers to grandparents will enjoy this evening.

Line Dancing Classes

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

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive (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

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. 10 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 (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

BUSINESS

Tea Time Talk Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, July 20
TIME: noon-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Wren's Nest, Bed and Breakfast, 7405 West Maple Road, W. Bloomfield
CONTACT: (248) 447-4456

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, July 11
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taff Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

CLASSES

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

DATE: Tuesdays, July 12, 26; Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 13 and 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City

Independence Day

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed during the summer.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Summer Reading Program

DETAILS: Sign up is now underway for the 2005 Summer Reading Program — Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds. The program is for children in the fourth grade and below.

Crafts for Kids

DATE: Tuesday, July 5
TIME: 1 p.m., 5 and 6 year olds; 2 p.m., ages 7 and up
DETAILS: There is a \$2 materials fee for each 40-minute program. No registration is necessary, but space is limited.

Wanda Degen & Pete Wittig

DATE: Wednesday, July 6
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Music and fun with dulcimers, guitars and more. For ages 4 and up; no registration.

Yo-Yo Fun

DATE: Monday, July 11
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Yo-yo guy Jake Mahoney will perform yo-yo skills. For fifth grade and up. Sign up in advance in the teen area of the library.

Movie Day

DATE: Tuesday, July 12
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Bring your own pillow or blanket, and we'll supply the snacks. For kindergarten and up; no registration.

Magic Carpet Theatre

DATE: Wednesday, July 13
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: With a bag of books, a scarf, and a couple of hats, the versatile cast will create characters and illuminate literature. No registration.

Walker Building Fund Benefit

The library will be closed Monday, July 4, for

DATE: Saturday, July 16

PLACE: 10 a.m., Emagine Theatre, Fountain Walk
DETAILS: This is a special screening of the new film, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," starring Johnny Depp. All proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Walker Library Building Fund. Individual tickets are \$6. A family pack of four tickets is \$20. Tickets are available for purchase only at the Novi Public Library.

1st Annual Novi Wildcats Boys Basketball Golf Outing

DATE: Saturday, August 6
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Club, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: Golf, lunch, raffle, prizes
CONTACT: Dave Crandell at (248) 380-3148 or Doug Reichley at (248) 380-3021

Novi Lions Club 12th Annual Charity Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, July 14
TIME: 9 a.m., shotgun start
LOCATION: Links of Novi Golf Course, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Proceeds will go to Perinckton Center for Blind Children, Taylor, Mich.
CONTACT: Lion Jerry Coonce at (248) 348-0531; Lion Pete Hoadley at (248) 960-9042 or Lion Terri D. Taylor at (248) 960-3562

GOLF OUTINGS

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: meetings first Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group, for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work part-time, or work part-time.
CONTACT: daniel@momsoffering.com

Novi High School Band Golf Outing

DATE: Sunday, July 31
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: \$100 per golfer, lunch, dinner and prizes included.

Novi Lions Club 12th Annual Charity Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, July 14
TIME: 9 a.m., shotgun start
LOCATION: Links of Novi Golf Course, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Proceeds will go to Perinckton Center for Blind Children, Taylor, Mich.
CONTACT: Lion Jerry Coonce at (248) 348-0531; Lion Pete Hoadley at (248) 960-9042 or Lion Terri D. Taylor at (248) 960-3562

Novi High School Band Golf Outing

DATE: Sunday, July 31
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: \$100 per golfer, lunch, dinner and prizes included.

CALENDAR

continued from page 16

ed. Raffle prizes are needed.
CONTACT: Dirm Kochyan, (248) 348-5135

Novi Parks Foundation & Sligh Development Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 4
TIME: 8:30 a.m., registration; 10 a.m., shotgun start
LOCATION: Links of Novi, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$100 per golfer, lunch, dinner, silent auction included. Proceeds benefit Novi Parks Foundation.
CONTACT: Brian Burke, (248) 561-0255 or Bburke@bolterford.com

Women's Prayer Support

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Novi Toastmasters

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

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, call Jackie, (248) 437-5496.



Be sure to see the official Michigan 50s Festival program in next week's Novi News!

Adoption Playgroup

DATE: first and third Fridays of the month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue)
DETAILS: A nonprofit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide opportunity to play and talk.
CONTACT: Michelle Pergau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

Free Eye Screening

DATE: Tuesday, July 19
LOCATION: Dr. David Shepherd, ophthalmologist, 41935 W. 12 Mile Road
DETAILS: screening for diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration
CONTACT: (248) 347-8030, to schedule an appointment.

Providence Medical Center/Heard Institute Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (888) 444-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATES: Wednesday mornings
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Community Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting

designed to prepare the pregnant woman and her support person for the birth experience. A tour of the birthing area is included.

Breast-feeding Preparation
DATE: July 16
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: Class provides information to expectant mothers as they prepare to breast-feed. The cost is \$15.
Infant Massage
DATE: Saturdays, July 16 and 30
DETAILS: Infant massage classes are a way to communicate with your infant before words. It is a way of establishing early lifelong bonds and trust between child and parent.

Baby Care Basics

DATE: Saturday, July 30
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: This class provides information about bathing, feeding, safety, health care and more.
Childbirth Refresher
DATE: Tuesday, August 2
DETAILS: Designed for the woman and her partner who have attended childbirth classes during a previous pregnancy. It provides a review of the birth process and techniques for dealing with labor and birth.
Yoga Classes
DATES/TIMES: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Fridays, noon-1:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-ins or 10 class card for \$80. If you are interested in battling fatigue, calming your nerves or reducing stress, this is the class for you.

television studio.

CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

EXPO CENTER

The Novi Expo Center is located at 43700 Expo Center Drive (southwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road). Call (248) 348-3660 for more information.

Grand Opening Rock Financial Showplace

DATE: Friday, Aug. 26 (by invitation only), and Saturday, Aug. 27 (open to the public)
TIME: Aug. 26: 3 p.m. ribbon cutting; 4:30 p.m., facility christening; 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m., "The Show of Shows"; 6:30 p.m., Dinner Gala; 8 p.m., program; 9 p.m., headline entertainment. Aug. 27: 10 a.m., Showplace open to the public; free of charge; 7 p.m., opening act entertainment; 8 p.m., headline entertainment; 9:45 p.m., fireworks.
DETAILS: Sponsorships are available at a variety of levels. Some sponsorship packages include dinner tickets for the Aug. 26 invitation-only gala.
CONTACT: Anne Stoney, (248) 348-5600, Ext. 210

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9852; or e-mail to cstone@nl.homecomm.net.

Win a CD signed by Mitch Ryder

■ Fund grows, last call on tickets; random drawing to award autographed CDs

Lanka fund will benefit the Grace Care Center orphanage in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. The facility, founded by California and Ann Arbor-based group Vekhava, was established to meet the needs of a region devastated by poverty and civil war. The region was hit hard by the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami that left 32,000 Sri Lankans dead, 20,000 in the Trincomalee region.
In late January, the community campaign was launched to focus local tsunami relief efforts on Grace Care Center orphanage. The South Lyon Herald joined a group of a dozen southeast Michigan doctors, nurses and others for a two-week relief mission to the orphanage, and continued educational programs pairing South Lyon School students with Sri Lankan orphans are being planned.
James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or by e-mail at jmmitchell@nl.homecomm.net.



The South Lyon Herald presents
Mitch Ryder
AND THE DETROIT WHEELS
with guest the Martindales

8pm, Thursday June 30, 2005
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South Lyon Herald tickets available at: 101 N. Lafayette (248) 437-2011 and at Bakers of Milford 2025 S. Milford Rd. (248) 685-0505

A concert to benefit tsunami relief for the "South Lyon to Sri Lanka" fund, and to assist Active Faith in helping local families.

South Lyon to Sri Lanka



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PEOPLE

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@hl.homecomm.net

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Lewandowski
Farm Bureau Insurance proudly announces that Matt Lewandowski recently celebrated his one-year anniversary with the company by ranking number one in his class of new agents. Lewandowski ranked as the top trainee agent in life insurance sales and annuity sales for the Trainee Agent Class of Spring 2004.

Lewandowski, a resident of South Lyon for more than seven years, earned his bachelor's of science from the University of Miami in Florida, his master's of science from University of Michigan, and his insurance license from the State of Michigan. Lewandowski also holds his Series 6 and 63 licenses from the Securities and Exchange Commission. He is currently working on earning special insurance designations including Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant.

Lewandowski has been in the insurance business for three years. His office is located on Grand River Avenue in Novi.

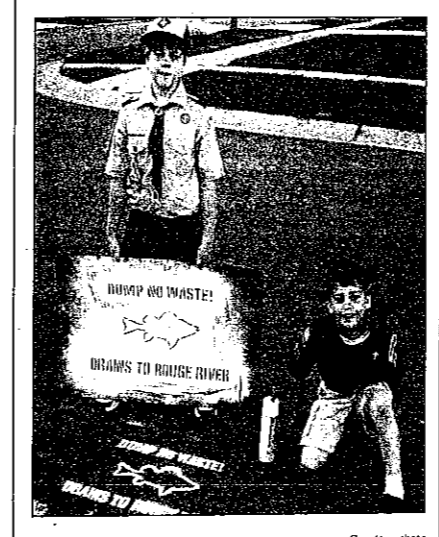
Jessie Linton, 14, from Novi has been accepted into the Universal Ballet Academy Summer Program. The Universal Ballet Academy (formerly known as the Kivov Academy), located in Washington, D.C., was voted the top ballet school in the United States in 2004. Linton studies at the Metropolitan Ballet Academy, directed by Victoria Stock-Kim, located inside The Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Arena Drive. Linton was part of the Metropolitan Dance Centre Company program for two years before focusing exclusively on her ballet training this year. For information, call (248) 735-8850 extension 4025.

Rhonda S. Kotzen, CSA with CUNA Mutual Group, Novi, completed a comprehensive course on

priority senior issues on June 10. The course is conducted by the Society of Certified Senior Advisors, an international organization that has trained over 20,000

professionals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Successful participants complete a thorough examination to earn the Certified Senior Advisor (CSA)

designation. Kotzen has taken this educational initiative to become a professional leader in meeting the key needs and issues concerning senior citizens.



Keepin' it clean
As part of the Rouge Rescue 2005, scouts, parents and friends of Cub Scout Pack 54 and Boy Scout Troop 407 of Novi teamed up to stencil all 222 storm drains in five subdivisions: Jamestown Green, Cedar Springs, Orchard Ridge, Addington Park and Yorkshire Place. Shown are Parker Maynard (standing) and Owen Mena.

OBITUARIES

MURIEL MAY HOLMES
Age 91, of Pickford, Michigan, formerly of Novi and Brighton, Michigan died Monday, June 20, 2005 at her home. She was born November 16, 1913 in Bridgford, Saskatchewan, Canada to Malcolm James and Mary Janet (Watson) McKellar. Muriel grew up in West Loran, Ontario and moved to Detroit in 1930 to work as a nanny. Muriel married Hiram Herman Holmes on December 16, 1933 in Angola, Indiana. They raised their family in Wayne, Novi and Brighton, Michigan where she worked as an assembly worker in the automotive industry. In 1980, she moved to Pickford to be close to her daughter. Muriel enjoyed sewing, baking, crocheting, oil painting and gardening. Muriel is survived by three daughters, Gloria Cogar of South Lyon, Michigan, Iona (Bill) Barber of Pickford and Mary Browning of New Hudson, Michigan; two sons, Leroy (Diana) Holmes of St. Clair Shores, Michigan and James (Dorothy) Holmes of Lewiston, Michigan; nineteen grandchildren and many great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hiram; daughter Jane King; and sister, Marion Nelson. Funeral services were held Thursday, June 23rd at Walled Lake

United Methodist Church with Reverend Gordon Ackerman officiating. Burial was at the Walled Lake Cemetery in Walled Lake, Michigan. Reamer Galar Funeral Home of Pickford, Michigan served the family.

MARY ANN C. (TOTCKY) WEBER
Age 68, died June 25, 2005. Beloved wife of the late William J. "Bill" Dear mother of David (Rebecca). Loving grandmother of Hunter William & Crystal Lee. Sister of Patricia (Dick) Guilford, Francis "Fritz" (Betty) Totcky, Stanley (Marion) Totcky, Janet (Patrick) Rivette and the late Thomas (Jackie) Totcky. Visitation was held at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi, 248-348-1800 on Tuesday and Wednesday. Service was Wednesday, inside at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, Thursday 10:30 AM until the Funeral Liturgy at 11:00 AM. Memorial donations may be made to C.O.I.S., 28 Paterboro Street, Detroit, MI 48201 or Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154. On-line condolences: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

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More for Morrison

Billy Morrison has a future in baseball — he's finally decided just where that future is going to take him.

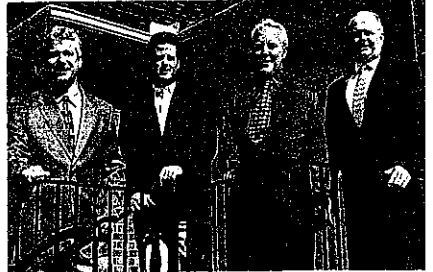
— Page 3B



More All-Star action

Being an All-Star isn't easy, but Northville was well represented last week when Mustang players helped lead the East baseball squad to victory over the West. The softball team, however, wasn't as lucky despite the wealth of Northville talent.

— Page 4B



Regional Marketplace

Tim Adams, Charles Percy, Larry Shew and George Hayden say their firm, Clear Choice, offers a logical solution to renting.

— Page 6B

SPORTS

Thursday, June 30, 2005 www.hometownlife.com B1 Novi News

Easy does it for East

West falls in annual All-Star showdown

By John Mueller
SPECIAL WRITER

When it came right down to it, winning or losing didn't seem like that big of a deal.

Instead, those who played in June 21's East-West All-Star Baseball Game at Millford High School simply wanted to enjoy their last experience as high school ballplayers.

"We really didn't care who won," South Lyon player Scooter Curtis said. "We just wanted to have some fun."

This goal was accomplished, as players and coaches alike seemed to enjoy themselves despite a pair of rain delays and muggy conditions.

And the East (Oakland County) squad ended up with a little something extra — an 11-6 victory over their West (Livingston County) counterparts. It was the East team's fifth consecutive victory in the series.

"It was cool to keep the tradition going," said Lakeland's Jason Priestley, who played right field for the East squad.

"It was a great time, especially since we did well," South Lyon player Nick Sarkissian said. "I know most of these guys, and I'm glad we got the win."

Sarkissian and teammate Curtis provided the game's highlights in the form of home runs, showing that summer vacation hasn't resulted in any rust on their bats. Sarkissian homered twice and Curtis smashed one of his own, and each picked up Oakland County Most Valuable Player awards at the conclusion of the game.

"I've been playing during the

"I told them to hit home runs and not to bore people. (Nick) Sarkissian's been doing that to me for years, and I'm glad he was able to hit me some homers today."

*Rick Green
East All-Star Coach*

summer in my summer league, and today I just got the pitches that I needed," Sarkissian said.

The East squad was comprised of players from Millford, Novi and Northville in addition to South Lyon and Lakeland. Chris McConnick — who went 4-for-4 at the plate — and Ben Turbiak were Millford's representatives, while Priestley was the lone Lakeland player able to make it to the game. Representing Northville were Matt Williams, Steve Besk, Tyler Laing and Rick Birdsall while Billy Morrison, Kevin Cisko, Zach Flavin and Richard Vandever were Novi's ball players.

A third South Lyon player, Anthony Darket, joined Sarkissian and Curtis in Oakland County uni-

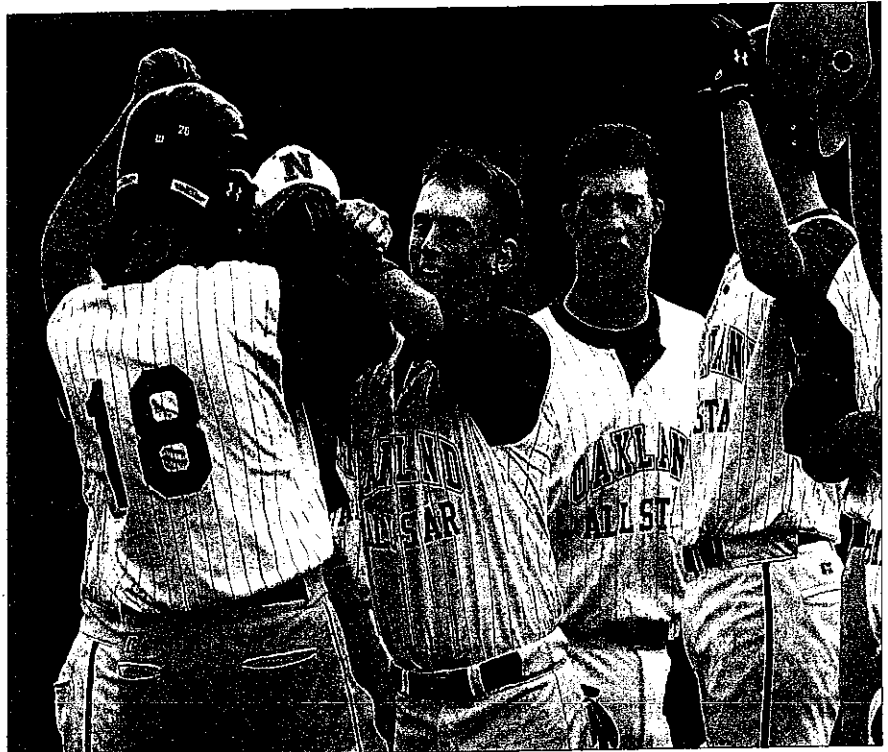


Photo by HAL GOULD

Members of the East team gather around home plate to congratulate South Lyon's Nick Sarkissian (No. 18) after one of his two home runs at the East-West All-Star Baseball Game held on June 21. The East topped the West, 11-6, and Sarkissian and South Lyon teammate Scooter Curtis were both awarded Most Valuable Player honors.

form and played a solid game.

Novi coach Rick Green coached the East squad for the fourth time in the game's six-year existence.

"I told them to hit home runs and not to bore people," he joked of his players. "Sarkissian's been doing that to me for years, and I'm glad

he was able to hit me some homers today."

Curtis said it was rewarding to see his South Lyon teammates — who finished in the middle of the pack in the final Kensington Valley Conference standings this season — play well in their last appear-

ances as high schoolers.

"It's weird how two South Lyon players got MVPs," he said. "Nobody would've expected it. It was really cool."

The West squad, made up of players from Brighton, Hartland, Howell, Pinckney and Fowlerville,

was coached by Hartland coach Brian Morrison. Howell's Eric Miras was named Livingston County's Most Valuable Player.

John Mueller can be reached at (248) 685-1507 ext. 25 or at jmueller@ht.hometownlife.com.



Photo by HAL GOULD

Northville's Jane Kruszewski throws out a pitch.

West dominates East, 6-0

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

The Sixth Annual East-West All-Star Softball Game didn't have the intensity most people might have expected, but it met an ultimate goal nonetheless — fun.

The East squad was a little bloodied and very bruised after a 6-0 stomping from the West last week, but it didn't stop the girls from smiling as they packed their bags and left their final high school game of their careers.

"It was a lot of fun," said Northville's Jane Kruszewski following the game. Her lip was swollen and bloodied and her leg was scratched up from a slide into second base, but she was still smiling. "I'm glad I was invited."

The East team, coached by Lakeland's Joe Alsup, couldn't get things rolling as they only mustered one hit in the contest. The West, on the other hand, went wild as they cranked out several hits in the contest for their six-run victory.

With the win, the West evened the all-time series, 3-3.

But when the dust settled and the game was finished, Alsup wasn't angry with the end result.

"We're here to have fun," said the state runner-up coach. "I



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON/RECORD SPORTS

Jane Kruszewski (left) helps Kim Bagian work on her swing prior to the All-Star game last week.

think most of us did that. I really think this is a good way for these kids to wrap up their high school careers."

The East squad was made up of players from Millford, Lakeland, Novi, South Lyon and Northville. Novi's Alyssa Wagner was the single represen-

tative from the Wildcats while Mustangs Kruszewski, Kristin Zawacki and Kim Bagian represented Northville. Milford was represented by Caitlin Jackson, while Lakeland players Shannon Raupp and Hillary Barlow represented the Eagles. Alsup found ways to add

enjoyment to the game. From his spot in the entrance to the East's dugout, the all-star coach would poke fun at old rivals who were on his team and on the opposing side of the game.

He also made sure to inject

continued on 2

By the numbers	11	2	2	2	1	5-1	3-3
	Runs scored by East baseball squad in last week's East-West All-Star game.	Most Valuable Player Awards given out to East squad players.	Infield slaps Novi's Kevin Cisko out on first base to earn hits on the day.	Number of times rain delayed the game.	Hits mustered by the East softball team in their 6-0 loss to the West.	East baseball's lead over West in all-time series standings with this year's win.	All-time series record for the East-West softball contest with West's 2005 victory.

High-flying fun



Photo by HAL GOULD
The West's pitching was too much for the East.

East falls, 6-0

continued from 1

some fun by rotating his nine players around the field. "I thought you said you were going to get the next one?" he asked Novi's Alyssa Wagner at third base when a second ball made it past her. "I told you I never played third before," she said, smiling. "That I will get the next one."

The East didn't stay with nine players for long. One all-star player had to head out of the game early for a trip to Illinois, prompting the West to send one of their players over for the final two innings.

The East players didn't just focus on the loss they took. Instead, they got to know one another. Questions of where each were going to college passed around the dugout, as well as some good-humored teasing about games that had come and gone over the years.

And — girls will be girls — shopping even managed to make the grade for conversation topics.

In the end, the score didn't matter to anyone. No one cheered, no one jeered. It was a lot of good old fun and games.

"These are players who normally play against each other and this game gives them a chance to be on the same team," Alsip said. "It gives them a chance to get to know the players they went up against over the years. It's just a great way to end a career."

By Melissa McGuire and John Mueller
SPECIAL WRITERS

Anyone who thought disc golf was a passing fad in the 1990s — a sport seemingly designed for tie-dyed-wearing teenagers and 20-somethings — better take a closer look.

You don't have to look too far, either.

Disc golf is thriving in Oakland County after a steady rise in local interest over the last decade, proving itself as an established 'sport' rather than a mere relaxed-day-in-the-park activity.

So why has disc golf grown in popularity?

Frich Siler, an employee at Watson's Discraft store, has a few ideas.

"It's casual, it's available in a lot of parks and it's fairly inexpensive to play," he said. "And it's not that hard to learn the game."

It sure isn't. Put simply, this is a sport for anyone — young or old — who can throw a frisbee.

The Professional Disc Golf Association's Official Rules of Disc Golf page, which can be found at www.pdga.com, states the following in its preface:

"The growing popularity of the game of disc golf begins with the essential fact that throwing a flying disc with power and accuracy is a marvelous sensation."

That, right there, seems to be the major draw. There's technicalities to be aware of, sure, and certain rules to abide. But all of that seems to take a distant second to the feel of winding up and letting one fly.

Obviously, the sport is closely related to golf. The object of the game is to throw the disc down the fairway and get it into the basket at the end, with the fewest number of throws possible. Each throw is counted as a point and any penalties received are added up at the end; the lowest-scorer is the winner.

Courses are normally 18 holes long, but there are also 9-hole, 22-hole, 24-hole and 27-hole courses. Since most of these courses are carved into some form of wilderness, some of the biggest challenges players face are things like tree branches and shrubbery.

Courses for disc golf can be found all over the United States and also throughout the world.

There are three types of discs that are sold and Discraft, the above-mentioned company, now offers them in its starter packs of three. These include a driver to make the initial throw, a putter to throw the shots closer to the basket and a mid-range disc, which is known as the "in-between" disc. The different styles of discs are sold in different weights and sizes so that golfers can vary their lengths and put certain angles on the shots.

Keith Murray, the general sales manager for Discraft, said that it is important to have the right kind of discs to use, especially as a beginner.

"If you throw one and don't do



A discgolf player fires off a shot during a match recently. Discgolf is still growing as a recreation in the area.

good at it, you are going to think that you will do better every time," he said. "But if you have the opportunity to go into a store somewhere and look for a different disc or have someone help you, you may realize that this is something you are good at."

Discraft, located on Beck Road, was established in 1979 by James Kinney and his wife Gal McCall, who were freestyle frisbee champs in the 1970s. The pair originally just wanted to design a frisbee disc that was built with better quality, but a few years later, the business entered into the realm of disc golf as it was attaining major popularity.

Murray said there has been a steady increase in the number of sales in the last few years as the sport has become more and more popular.

There hasn't been any major slumps or major jumps in its sales of our discs," he said. "But there has been a lot more people out at the courses."

"I think people like being out in nature," said 25-year-old Dexter resident Josh Romina, a first-year professional disc golfer. "Anybody, any size, any gender... Anyone can play."

Kensington Metropark in Milford and Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter are among the local parks disc golfers flock to during the spring and summer months. The amount of activity at these courses — especially at Kensington Metropark — has even prompted

some to consider building additional courses.

"Discraft has been talking to Lyon Oaks park and the city of Wixom to think about putting up a course in the areas to thin out the traffic at Kensington and give people an opportunity to play at other courses," Murray said.

Like in any sport, disc golf has its beginners and its more accomplished players. Some just play for fun, and some are die-hards.

Jamie Mosier, a 17-year-old South Lyon High School student, has been playing since 2000 and considers himself more of a serious disc golfer. He refers to the people at Kensington Metropark who play for fun as "casuals," and doesn't play there much anymore because

of the heavy traffic at some of the courses.

"Sometimes I have seen about 10 people at the tee," he said.

For the individuals whose interest in the game surpasses that of the "casuals," there is some serious tournament action now available in the area.

Discraft sponsored the Discraft Great Lakes Open (DGLLO) last weekend at Hudson Mills Metropark, and the United States Amateur Nationals are set for Sept. 9-11 at Kensington Metropark's Toboggan course.

Anyone looking for more information on the sport should check out the following websites: discraft.com, www.discgolf.com, www.pdga.com/games.html or www.pdga.com/information.php.

Often, curiosity plays a big part in drawing people into the sport of disc golf. Just ask Mosier.

"I saw the baskets at Kensington and was wondering what they were," he said. "So I stopped by and was talking to some people who were playing, and then I went to buy some discs and started playing."

It's as simple as that. You can do it, too.

Morrison going to WMU

Wildcat standout hoping to get time on diamond

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's final — Billy Morrison is headed to Western Michigan University to play baseball.

Morrison, who was the ace pitcher for the Kensington Valley Conference championship Novi Wildcats this year, picked Western after considering several options, including Cincinnati.

Western had made their interest clear earlier this year, but Morrison wanted to weigh his options. The decision to delay ended up costing him a little bit.

"They offered me 50 percent in the fall but I never took it," he said. "Now I'm getting 20 percent academic and I'll have to play well and hope for a scholarship next year."

Morrison said he doesn't regret the decision. He wanted to look over all of the schools interested in his pitching ability before making a final decision.

"I'm content with my decision," he said.

The right-handed hurler picked the school for their potential on the diamond as well as their academics. He said he plans on studying in the business field and eventually work in the field of sports management.

He said he also hopes to earn some playing time as a freshman.

"They said I had a good chance as starting my freshman year," Morrison said. "If I don't start, I'll have a lot of opportunity to get in playing time."

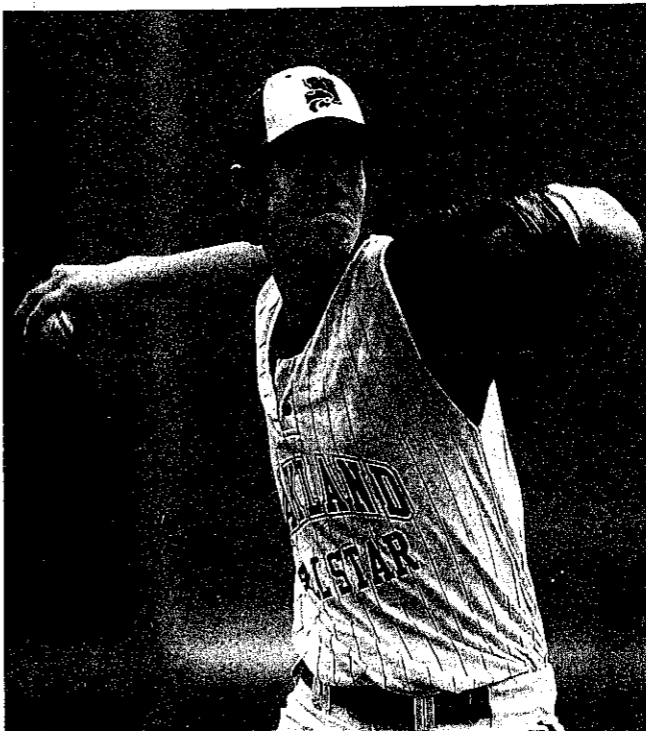
Morrison, who throws a fastball, a change-up and a curveball, said he expects the collegiate coaches will work on his velocity when he heads to the college in the fall.

"Until then, he has a summer training program Western sent him and has a summer season of baseball with the Michigan Monarchs still to play.

The Wildcat ace should fit in nicely at Western.

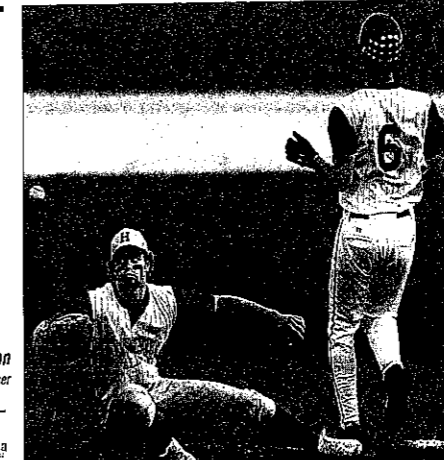
"He's a great player and a great kid," said Novi coach Rick Green. "He'd fit in on any team."

Though Morrison earned



ABOVE: Billy Morrison throws a pitch in the East-West All-Star game. BELOW: Morrison gets on first base off a hit he earned in the victory.

"I played my best. I'd much rather have wins than losses, but I want to feel good about the season when it's all done. I do feel good about this year"



Billy Morrison
Novi Senior Pitcher

plenty of times at the plate as a better this season and was one of the top three hitters on the Novi squad, he said he's not interested in trying his hand at offense too often.

"I'm more of a pitcher," he said. "I don't care about the other side. I just want to pitch."

And pitch he does. Morrison had the best win percentage of any pitcher at Novi this year, though his team got ejected

from the district tournament earlier than they had anticipated.

"The senior said the end of his high school career was disappointing, but he said he just has to get ready for another year.

"The key is to just have no regrets after the game," he said.

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

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STAR GREAT LAKES CHICKEN	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
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LYONVILLE PALMADIUM 12	FORD WYOMING DRIVE-IN	STAR ROCHESTER

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SILVERDOME DRIVE-IN	SILVERDOME DRIVE-IN	SILVERDOME DRIVE-IN	SILVERDOME DRIVE-IN
STAR GREAT LAKES CHICKEN	STAR GREAT LAKES CHICKEN	STAR GREAT LAKES CHICKEN	STAR GREAT LAKES CHICKEN
STAR SOUTHWELD	STAR SOUTHWELD	STAR SOUTHWELD	STAR SOUTHWELD
LYONVILLE PALMADIUM 12	LYONVILLE PALMADIUM 12	LYONVILLE PALMADIUM 12	LYONVILLE PALMADIUM 12

Baseball All-Stars in car wreck, unhurt

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

It's amazing that the desire for sunflower seeds can do to a baseball player and his friends and family.

It can even lead to a car wreck.

The Sixth Annual East-West All-Star Baseball Game had been pushed back an hour while the teams waited for the umpires, so East standout Kevin Ciso and Billy Morrison, both of Novi, decided to grab some ice cream with Ciso's parents.

"We had just got ice cream and then we were going over to the gas station for sunflower seeds," said Ciso. "We were just sitting at the light when the person behind us got milled and then we got milled."

The tangle of cars — four total — left the Ciso's Chevrolet Equinox crumpled in the back and, ultimately, in the shop.

"It's supposed to be in there for a month or something," said Ciso.

The collision jolted the small sports utility vehicle forward a few yards and the group of four got out. Witnesses jumped from their cars to make sure everyone was all right.

Morrison said he and the other passengers were "little sore," but that didn't stop them from getting back to the game.

"We had to walk back almost the whole way," said Morrison. "We were still able to play though."

The wreck caused a traffic back-up nearly all the way to I-96 on Milford Road.

Eventually, the smoke from

burning fluids cleared and everyone was checked out.

"Everyone was OK," Ciso said, who's family's car was towed away. The driver of the car who allegedly caused the wreck was ticketed.

"I guess he was on the cell phone," said Ciso.

"Thankfully, no one was hurt."

The players on both sides of the baseball game were happy to see their fellow all-stars avoid injury — even though both Morrison and Ciso contributed to the 11-6 East victory.

"It could have been a lot worse," said the East coach, Novi's Rick Green. "These two are great kids and it would have been a shame for them to be hurt in something like that. It would have been a shame for anyone to

"We had to walk back almost the whole way. We were still able to play though."

Billy Morrison
East All-Star Pitcher

have been hurt in that wreck. We're all glad everyone was fine."

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



Kevin Ciso rounds third base on his way to an easy score in the East-West All-Star Baseball game.

All-star games about more than wins

The problem with being an all-star is everyone expects you to perform no matter what the conditions are.

The beauty about being an all-star coached by Rick Green is he expects you to perform, but he expects you to have fun while you're doing it.

"It's supposed to be fun," Green said as he turned and talked to the East squad assembled in the dugout behind him. "But I want to win this one."

Win they did and, like all-stars, they did it in style. Two South Lyon players jacked home runs and earned Most Valuable Player nods.

They played together like all-stars, showcasing their abilities in front of a good size crowd.

The all-stars came into the game only knowing each other as rivals and opponents. South Lyon,



Sam Eggleston

one of his players that sailed just shy of a glove.

Zach Flavin, a Novi catcher, just shook his head.

The East did perform like all-stars. The fans cheered. The players laughed. In the end, it was a good time for everyone.

"Thanks so much for inviting him to the game," said one mom of her son.

Sure, the Novi News and the Northville Record would like to take credit for making these kids all-stars, but the truth is the papers didn't have much of a say. The kids did the talking.

They were the ones who made themselves into all-stars. They played great ball and they had fun doing it.

"If that was me, I would have caught that," he said to the team following a close call on a fly ball

SPORTS SHORTS

Golf Benefit

Sarah is a 14-year-old high school freshman, who at age 12 was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She has already undergone two surgeries to remove the majority of her brain tumor. She must now go to Bloomington, Indiana for eight weeks to receive a specialized form of radiation therapy at the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute, to treat the rest of the remaining tumor. Her friends have rallied in her support and are sponsoring a golf outing to help offset the cost of treatment not covered by insurance. The event will be held at Hawk Meadows Golf Course located at 410 E. Marr Rd. in Howell on July 25, 2005. Donation of \$95/person includes 18 holes and cart, continental breakfast, hot dogs/beverage at the turn and appetizers afterwards. For more information please call (248) 960-7227 or (248) 231-6553.

The camp, hosted by varsity coach Bill Keip and members of the girls varsity basketball team, will teach girls, grades 2-9, the fundamentals of the game of basketball.

Cost is \$126 and includes a T-shirt and a basketball in addition to the experienced coaching of skills and basketball basics. Registration begins May 2.

For more information, please call Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

Novi Community Education Basketball Camps

Call (248) 449-1206 for registration, beginning Monday, May 2.

Boys Basketball Camp (grades 3-9)

DATE: Monday-Friday, June 20-24

TIME: 8:30 a.m.-noon, grades 3-6 and 1-4:30 p.m., grades 7-9

LOCATION: Novi Middle School Gym

DETAILS: Participants in this camp will receive knowledge of the game of basketball, as well as instruction to aid in the development of their playing abilities. Emphasis will be placed on all phases of the game including dribbling, shooting, pivoting, faking, rebounding, team play, sportsmanship, and defensive concepts. Students will be grouped according to age, size, and ability. Gym clothes and shoes are required. All participants will receive a T-shirt and outdoor basketball. The fee is \$126.

Boys and Girls Shooting Camp (grades 3-9)

DATE: Monday-Friday, July 18-22

TIME: 8:30-10 a.m., grades 3-6 and 10:30 a.m.-noon, grades 7-9

LOCATION: Novi High School Field House

DETAILS: This shooting camp will be packed with instruction, techniques, and the drills a player needs to shoot the basketball well. Emphasis will be placed on 3-point shooting, free throws, shooting off the dribble, and spot shooting. Awards will be given to shooting contest winners. Gym clothes and shoes are required. The fee is \$63.

Boys and Girls Basketball Camp (grades K-2)

DATE: Monday-Friday, July 25-29

TIME: 8:30-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon

LOCATION: Novi Meadows School

DETAILS: Learn basketball skills and build your confidence. Emphasis will be placed on dribbling, pivoting, passing, lay-ups and shooting. Gym clothes and shoes are required. The fee is \$63.

Girls netball players wanted

Want to be a part of a new and exciting game hitting the area? Then netball is the sport for you. Imported from the United Kingdom, netball is a very popular sport that is starting to creep into the United States.

Girls ages 15 and over are welcome to participate in the league. For more information, contact Sarah Whyburne at (248) 344-2828.

Girls basketball camp

The Novi Wildcats girls basketball team will be hosting a girls basketball camp June 27-July 1 at the Novi High School

chance to play with them. They're all really talented players."

Though most guessed Ciso was the fastest player on the team (he did beat out two throws to first on infield grounders), there were some who wanted to see him race South Lyon's Scooter Curtis.

A simple run from first to second to see which all-star was the best.

Both players just smiled and shook their heads. Another time, maybe. Right now, they were equals and they wanted to keep it that way.

The game was rain delayed twice, but the players didn't mind. They took turns picking on Green, who was always quick to tell them of his skills and prowess as a player.

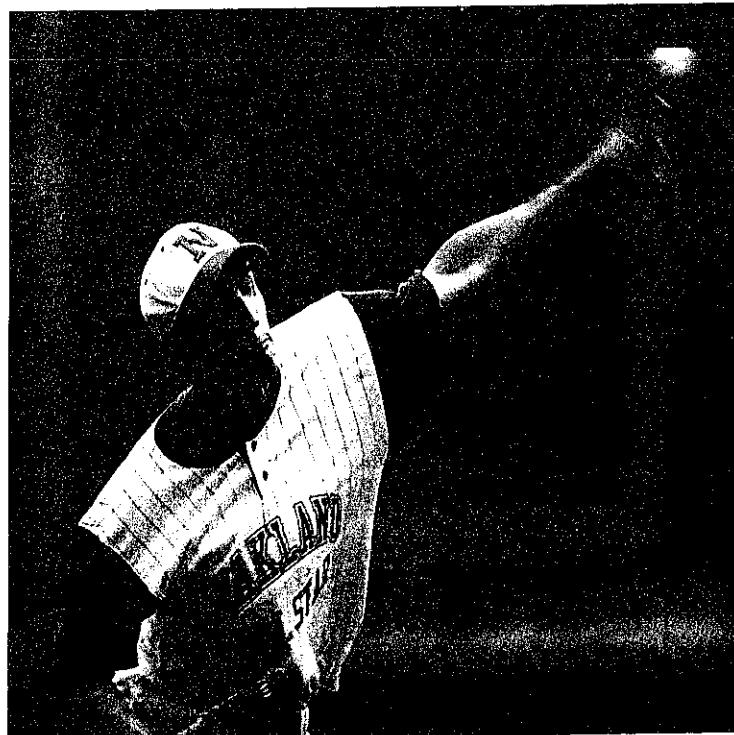
"If that was me, I would have caught that," he said to the team following a close call on a fly ball

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

ALL-STAR ACTION



The West proved to be the better team in the All-Star Softball game last week. Here, a West batter gets on first base after the East has trouble with the play.



Northville pitcher Steve Besk fires a pitch against the West.

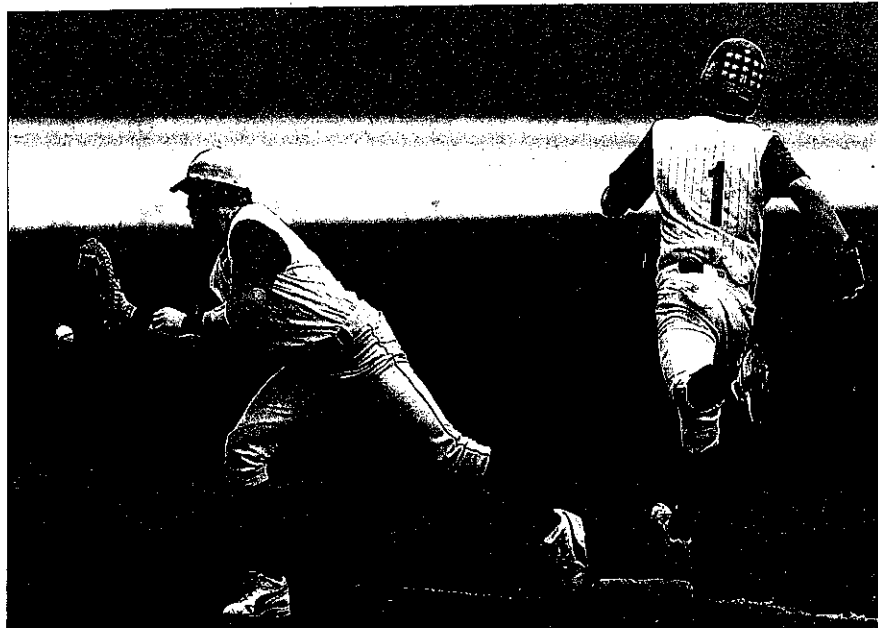
Baseball: East, 11; West, 6
Softball: West, 6; East, 0



An attempted East steal at second is tagged out by a West player.



ABOVE: Novi's Alyssa Wagner fires a pitch toward the plate after coming in as relief for Northville's Jane Kruszewski in the East-West All-Star Softball Game. RIGHT: A West All-Star baseball player watches as the ball slips past his glove, allowing an East runner to reach first base.



Photos by HAL GOULD - Milford Times/South Lyon Herald

FOOD

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

Fresh Tomato Pizza

Serves 4 (2 pieces per serving)
Preparation time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 15 to 20 minutes
For best results, use fresh Italian plum tomatoes, which are available all year.

- Vegetable oil spray
- 1 (10-ounce) package refrigerated pizza dough
- 3 or 4 medium Italian plum tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup snipped fresh basil or parsley
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Spray 12-inch pizza pan with vegetable oil. Press dough evenly into prepared pan. Arrange tomato slices on top. Sprinkle with basil and season with pepper. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or according to package directions. Cut into 8 wedges.

Nutrient analysis per serving: Calories 284, Protein 15g, Carbohydrates 40g, Total Fat 7g (Saturated 3g, Polyunsaturated 1g, Monounsaturated 2g), Cholesterol 16mg, Sodium 500mg.

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Share some family time by preparing this easy-to-make pizza with the kids.



American Heart Association

Products displaying the heart-check mark meet American Heart Association food criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2.

www.heartcheckmark.org

Smart Shopping Made Simple

With so many food options in the grocery store, it's hard to spot heart-healthy choices quickly. That's why the American Heart Association created the heart-check mark. The distinctive red heart with the white check mark helps consumers easily and reliably identify heart-healthy foods that can be part of a sensible eating plan. Food packages bearing the simple logo have been evaluated to ensure they meet the American Heart Association's criteria for heart-healthy levels of saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2. You have more important things to worry about — spending hours at the grocery store shopping for heart-healthy foods shouldn't be one of them.

Look, Learn and Eat HEALTHY!



In their eyes, you're a superhero. Be a lifesaver by looking for the heart-check mark when shopping for your family's favorite heart-healthy foods.

FAMILY HEALTH EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

So, you're out grocery shopping for, say, the ingredients to this delicious and heart-healthy pizza. But do you take the time to read the nutrition information on the food labels? Fewer than half of Americans do, according to a recent survey by the American Heart Association. That's a discouraging figure, considering the tremendous effect the food we eat has on our health — particularly our heart-health.

However, research shows that shoppers who do read food labels cut about twice the amount of fat from their diet as those who don't read labels. If you're trying to stick to a healthy eating plan, having reliable label-reading skills is obviously important. Yet, in the modern media climate of fad diets and daily "breakthrough" discoveries, choosing healthy food can be more complicated than ever. Just getting through the grocery store can be a challenge, considering all the product "health claims" bombarding consumers.

Take heart. There are simple ways to quickly and reliably find what your body — specifically your heart — doesn't need in the food you eat.

First, look for these two red flags: saturated fat and cholesterol. As the nation's foremost authority on heart-health, the American Heart

Association states that reducing saturated fat and cholesterol in the diet helps reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease — America's #1 killer of women and men.

Next, continue reading the food label for information on calories, sodium, added sugars and other ingredients your doctor may advise to watch in your diet.

For even faster healthy food shopping, look for the heart-check mark. The distinctive red heart with a white check mark was developed by the American Heart Association's Food Certification Program to help consumers quickly and reliably identify foods that can be part of a heart-healthy eating plan. Located on the product package, the familiar mark is easy to find and easy to use — right when and where you're making your food selection.

"The American Heart Association red heart-check mark is a great way to find heart-healthy foods simply and reliably," says Rebecca Mullis, Ph.D., head of the University of Georgia's nutrition department. "Consumers can rest assured that the mark is based on the best science available."

Mullis says it's one tool she recommends to her own patients to help them build a heart-healthy diet. Anyone with a medical condition, she adds, should contact a physician or registered dietitian about special dietary needs.

Shop Smart. Live Well. Look for the Heart-Check Mark.

Products that qualify for the American Heart Association's Food Certification Program carry the heart-check mark on the label. It lets consumers know instantly that the food has significant science to back the mark and meet the American Heart Association's nutritional criteria per standard serving:

- Low fat (less than or equal to 3 grams)
- Low saturated fat (less than or equal to 1 gram)

- Low cholesterol (less than or equal to 20 milligrams)
- Moderate in sodium, with less than or equal to 480 milligrams for individual foods
- Nutritious, containing at least 10 percent of the Daily Value of protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron or dietary fiber
- Meals must meet USDA standards for "extra lean"

You can find a complete list of the association's certified foods by logging on to heartcheckmark.org. While there, you can use the online "Grocery List Builder" to create, print and take your heart-healthy grocery list to the store. It's an added convenience to help you shop smart — and fast.

To learn more about reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke through good nutrition, visit the American Heart Association Web site at americanheart.org or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 for your free copy of the "Shop Smart with Heart" brochure.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Thursday, June 30, 2005

MONEY MATTERS

Time running out to consolidate student loans at record-low rates

Nobody likes a cliché, but the shopworn adage, "all good things must come to an end" is a fitting description for what's about to happen to the record-low student loan rates college students and graduates have been enjoying for the past three years. Bottom line, if you're considering consolidating your student loan debt, now is the time to act. The rock-bottom rates on Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and Stafford loans obtained after July 1, 1998



Mary Davis

could rise by as much as 2.5 percent after June 30 of this year. Loan consolidation allows you to roll all of your loans into one fixed-rate loan. Doing so allows you to extend your repayment period well past the typical 10-year term for federal student loans, thereby reducing your monthly payments. There is no prepayment penalty with consolidated federal loans. So, if after a few months you find that your financial situation is stable, you can begin to pay your loan down by hunking up your monthly payment with an extra \$50 or \$100.

When shopping for a consolidation loan, ask lenders what benefits they offer. Many lenders are willing to take a full percentage point off your rate if you've made 36 or 48 consecutive on-time payments on your original loans. They'll likely shave an additional .25 percent off your interest rate if you opt for automatic monthly deductions from your checking account, a benefit that individuals who choose not to consolidate can enjoy as well.

Be selective about which loans you consolidate. Your consolidation interest rate will be the weighted average of the interest rates on your existing loans rounded up to the nearest 1/8 percent or 8.25 percent, whichever is lower. If your highest interest rate loan has only a small balance, you might be better off not including it since it will raise the blended average of your consolidation rate.

There should be no fee to consolidate your student loans and there is no limit to the dollar amount you can consolidate. Individuals in a period of forbearance, where they're unable to make payments because of a financial hardship can also consolidate. Keep in mind you can only consolidate once. For help in deciding if student loan consolidation is right for you, visit Sallie Mae (www.salliemae.com), USA Group (www.usafunds.org) and College Funding Services (www.cfsloans.com) for information and calculators.

For some answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about student loan consolidation, log onto <http://www.bankrate.com/overkeyword/news/cheap/20030701a.asp>.

One more thing to consider: The U.S. House is considering legislation that would eliminate fixed-rate consolidation loans. Should you choose to consolidate now, your loan won't be affected should the legislation pass.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide trade association representing Michigan credit unions. Send your financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

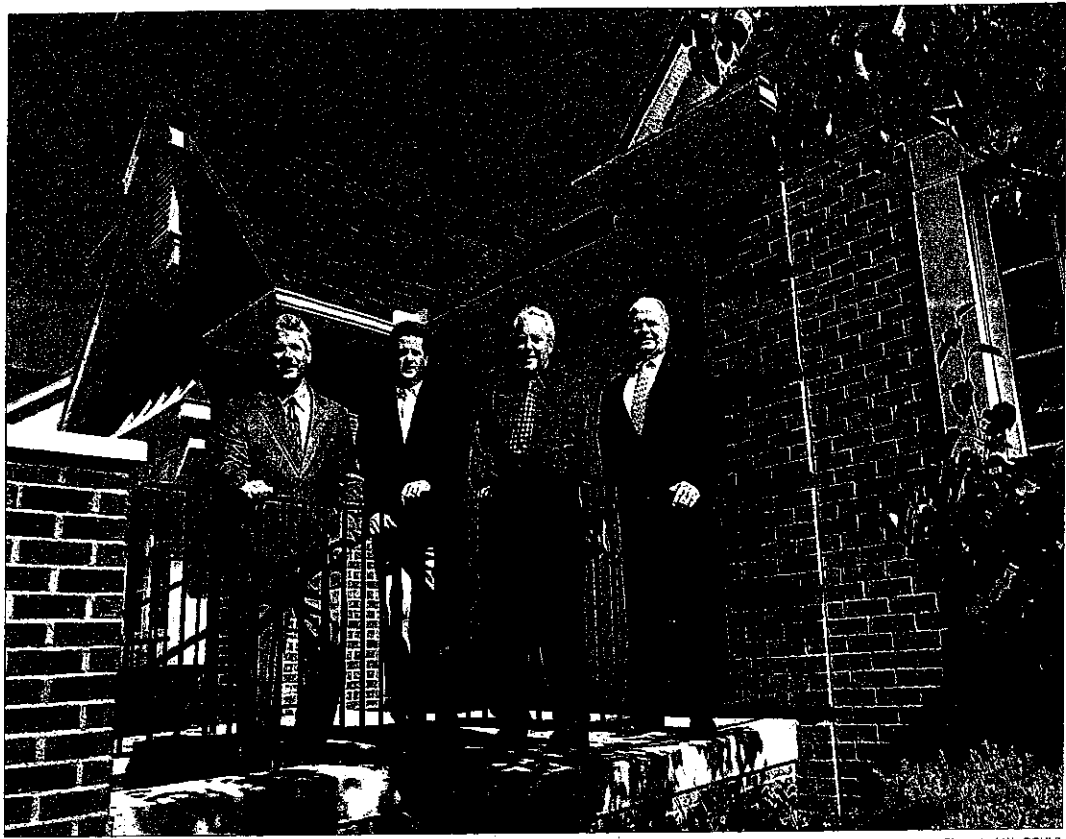
Send us your business news:

mail:
Novi News
Cal Stone, editor
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

fax:
(248) 349-9832

e-mail:
cstone@ht.homecomm.net

ADVERTORIAL



Photos by HAL GOULD

The firm's four owners (left to right): Tim Adams, Charles Percy, Larry Shew and George Hayden.

Clear Choice offers logical solution to renting

Savvy business owners have discovered they now have a choice. Many have found an alternative to renting while lowering their expenses, improving cash flow, and building equity. Clear Choice Commercial Condominium, LLC offers small business owners an alternative that makes financial sense – owning their facility. It's no surprise that these intelligent business owners are asking the obvious question – "Why rent?"

With many successful commercial projects under their belt, owners Tim Adams, George Hayden, Charles Percy, and Larry Shew have discovered an incredible demand for their product. Although popular throughout the country, Michigan has lagged behind other states with this concept. Now thriving in the tri-county area, Clear Choice is preparing to take their company to the next level. They believe that there are many potential customers/clients that are unaware of this product and the benefits it offers.

Potential customers/clients are anyone who needs professional office space, whether medical, non-medical, law or insurance offices. George Hayden, head of the Marketing/Education Division, notes that currently most every development includes a CPA or financial planner. It's no surprise that they've figured out owning "just what they need" makes financial sense.

In addition to designing, developing, and building attractive quality facilities, a primary goal of Clear Choice is to educate their clientele by hosting free educational seminars, where they present the benefits of ownership versus renting or leasing. One of the target audi-

ences include professionals requiring approximately 2,000 - 10,000 square feet of space. Recent seminars have been held at Bakers of Milford and the Courtyard Marriott in Novi. Additional seminars will be held on a regular basis.

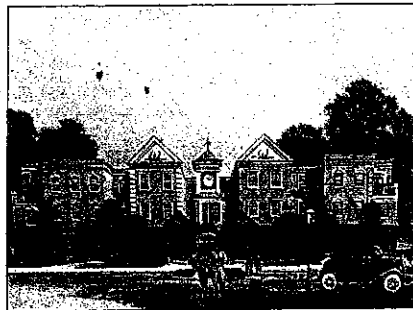
"If someone is spending money leasing or renting, we can show them how to save money," said Hayden. "A customer's monthly mortgage payment is often less than their rental/lease obligation, so their cash flow improves immediately, and their overall operating expenses are generally less."

He recalls a physician (a current client) with 11 years of lease receipts totaling \$600,000 who realized, "I could have owned my building by now."

As a bonus, any improvements made to the property builds equity for the owner, not the landlord. Improvements also generally increase the resale value of the property. Other potential savings are found by sharing the costs of common areas, including parking lots, landscaping, hallways and elevators... similar to a residential condominium concept.

Clear Choice demonstrates that four heads are clearly better than one. They could be considered a good case study example of a successful synergistic organization. Each owner contributes their expertise: Tim Adams leads the Sales/Acquisitions/Development Division; George Hayden leads the Marketing/Education Division, Charles Percy leads the Construction Division, and Larry Shew leads the Architectural Planning/Development Division. Together they offer decades of combined experience.

By following the project from



start to finish – through planning, development, construction and marketing – they can ensure a quality product. The partners are involved from ground-breaking to completion. That includes searching for viable commercial property.

Tim Adams aids the group in acquisitions. However, they welcome inquiries from those interested in selling commercial properties for development and offer feedback and evaluations. "We have a reputation in the area that everybody knows. Our concept is to create office condominiums and make them affordable," explains Adams.

Several projects are on tap locally including Grand River and Beck Road in Novi and the Village Town Center across from Hector and Jimmy's on Milford Road in Milford. Other developments include Avalon Pointe at 11 Mile and Meadowbrook roads in Novi, and Edgewater Medical Center in Commerce.

As architect for the project, Larry Shew's philosophy is to create buildings that are not only attractive, but also compatible with the neighborhood and community. It's a crucial part

of design!

"We're community sensitive. Going into a project we try to see what fits that community... we don't want to put up a building that's not compatible," said Shew. "When all is said and done, our goal is to not only meet, but to exceed our client's expectations."

Clear Choice prides themselves on working closely with their clients to accommodate special requests, resulting in a custom job that's affordable and provides value.

"We really do cater to personal needs," adds Charles Percy, head of the Construction Division. It's his job to ensure that projects are completed on a timely basis. Staying on schedule becomes even more critical since most developments have sold out before completion of the site plan. Percy notes that the style of construction utilized also saves client's money over the typical steel and concrete structures generally associated with office space.

For more information, contact Tim Adams at Clear Choice Commercial Condominium, LLC at (248) 889-2690 extension 3. Or, visit their Web site

WHY RENT?

- Ownership builds equity versus paying rent.
- Improvements increase your equity.
- Common area expenses are shared with other condominium tenants
- You can plan for future expansion
- Lease out extra space to offset operating expenses
- Possible tax advantages
- Pride of ownership

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Village Town Center in the Village of Milford off Milford Road across from Hector and Jimmy's
- Avalon Pointe Offices Eleven Mile and Meadowbrook Roads in Novi
- Edgewater Medical Center in Commerce
- Grand River/Beck Road area in Novi

at www.ClearChoiceCC.com for more information.

Call (248) 889-2690 extension 1 to make reservations for an upcoming seminar(s) which are co-sponsored in partnership with Fifth Third Bank and the CPA firm, Mellen, Smith & Pivoz P.C. Limited seating is available; reservations are required. Information packets will be sent upon request.

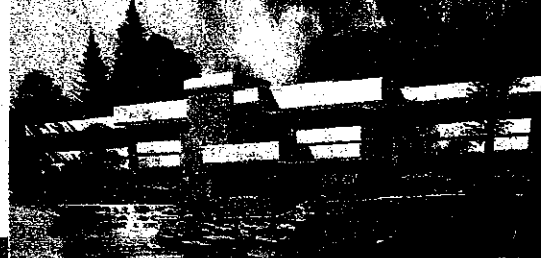
Look for a Division of Clear Choice Commercial Condominiums, LLC coming soon to the Grand Traverse Bay area.

WHY RENT!!

Clear Choice Commercial Condominium, LLC offers an affordable, money saving alternative for business professionals. Suite Ownership from 1,000 sq. ft. to 30,000 sq. ft.

You only purchase what you need vs. the entire building and grounds. Ownership builds equity instead of a stack of lease payment receipts. Your build-out decisions increase your equity not the landlord's. CAM expenses are shared proportionately with other owners. You can plan for the future expansion, plus you may wish to lease out extra space to offset operating expenses. There could be tax advantages. Pride of ownership usually denotes a nicer facility as your business grows!

Edgewater in Commerce



Clear Choice
Commercial Condominium, LLC

For Information Packet Please Call
Tim Adams at (248) 889-2690, Ext. 3