



Novi News

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INSIDE



Novi Neighbor

Anthony Lolli may not be able to see very well, but that hasn't stopped him from being a neighbor people can count on. He's friendly, he's outgoing and he's determined to make friends no matter where his feet take him.

Meet one of Novi's Neighbors.

— Page 3A

Novi's Andiamo, Second City now open for business

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The long wait is finally over. After months of anticipation about the arrival of the two powerhouses, Novi residents have a new comedy theater and an upscale Italian restaurant at their doorstep.

Andiamo of Novi opens their doors at 11 a.m. today, with The Second City comedy theater starting their preview shows last night at their Main Street Novi location at 42705 Grand River Avenue.

The restaurant, which seats 250, includes a 40-person private

dining room, which can be reserved for special occasions. Employment opportunities are still available at the restaurant.

Andiamo of Novi is open seven days a week. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to midnight; Saturday, 4 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Dan Linsen, co-owner of the business, said the decor, designed by Ron Rea, is unique to the area.

"The dining room is very open, but yet there are nooks and specialty seating areas that can make for an intimate night," Linsen



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of The Second City's first show in Novi, "iPod We Trust," from left, Quintin Hicks, Margaret Exner, Topher Owen, Tiffany Jones, Shawn Handlon, Jenny Hagel and John Edwartowski. The comedy theater will have previews of the show starting tonight, with the theater officially opening Aug. 18.

said. "It's really three distinct businesses under one roof. Patrons can spend their entire night in our facility."

The cuisine features northern Italian dishes — pasta, steak,

continued on page 4

"This is one of the most significant drug seizure cases in the history of the United States."

Chief Doug Shaeffer
Novi Police Department

Novi's finest 'in the money'

■ Forfeiture funds increase to \$3.6 million

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi Chief of Police Doug Shaeffer has a nice problem. His dilemma?

He has to try to figure out how to spend about \$3.6 million his department has received from federal forfeiture funds.

The funds were handed down to Novi from the Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency after Novi police officers stumbled upon about \$4.8 million in drug-related money in a Novi hotel and rented Northville home in March 2004.

The drug-money seizure and the investigation that followed led to the breakup of one of the largest drug cartels in the country.

The first two checks came in April. Last week, the department was notified that even more cash is coming its way. Additional funds are expected to be received in the next year, with the total expected to increase to about \$5 million.

"This is one of the most significant drug seizure cases in the history of the United States," Shaeffer told city council Monday night.

"Sounds like you're in the money," Mayor Lou Coordas told the Chief.

Now, city council has the daunting task of having to approve how the money is spent.

In March, the department put forth a plan on how it wanted the money to be spent, following DEA guidelines on federal forfeiture funds.

Monday night, council agreed to earmark funds for overtime pay that occurred during the investigation; eight replacement vehicles and one new patrol car (required per union contract); and new communications equipment.

Shaeffer noted that although the policy does not apply to the Novi officers involved in the investigation, the DEA has a reward program for its agents who successfully complete major investigations.

Benefits can include a week of extra vacation, a raise and a cash award up to \$5,000 or more with approval from their chief.

Council Member Bob Gatt, however, said he was shocked by the thought that Novi's



Doug Shaeffer

SPORTS



Will hard work pay off?

With the fall sports season looming on the horizon, athletes are quickly realizing the benefits of working out over the summer. For some, it's about staying in shape, while others want to be leaders.

— 1B

Now the waiting begins

■ City meets critical deadline for state grant

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Randy Auler made one of the most important trips of his career last Friday.

Auler, director of Novi's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, drove to Lansing that day to deliver what has become one of the most controversial issues in the city this year — a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a new public park.

The paperwork had to be in Lansing by the Aug. 1 deadline.

The application asks the state to fund 75 percent of the cost of about 51 acres of property to create the proposed Meadowbrook Park.

The property in southeast Novi is located just east and west of Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and Ten Mile roads.

The latest turn of events is that the Friends of Novi Parks did include a letter of intent with the application stating it will pay the other 25 percent of the cost of the property.

The organization's members had to commit to the \$103,662 match for the city council to approve the grant application.

Now, the waiting begins, as the MNRTF Board of Trustees meets over the next few months to review applications. The board's decision is scheduled to be announced the first week of December.

If the grant is awarded, and the residents can come up with the money for the 25 percent match, the park would include about 15 acres north of Village Wood Lake east of Meadowbrook Road between Nine Mile and Ten Mile roads plus about 36 acres west of Meadowbrook Road between the two mile roads.

The property north of Village Wood Lake is owned by William Roskelly of Bagney & Smith developers in Livonia. The land west of Meadowbrook Road is owned by Claudio Rossi of Mirage Development in Novi.

Roskelly, who already has an approved site plan to build 10 condos on the site, said he would sell his land for \$900,000.

Rossi said he would donate

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Photo by JOHN REIDER

Go jump in a lake

Novi's Camp Lakeshore counselor Chadd Neal, right, dumps a cool bucket of Walled Lake water on camper Rachel Fox during a Thursday afternoon session in late July. With the recent above average temperatures, Lakeshore Park's been the place to cool down for Novi residents.

Triangle to revamp Main Street project

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills developers Dave and Pierre Nona are working on the premise that "if at first you don't succeed, try again."

Nona, of Triangle Development, and brother, Pierre, had proposed a Downtown Development Authority in conjunction with their firm's \$120-million plan for Main Street Novi.

But, after a majority of city council members did not respond favorably to the idea of a DDA for Novi, they have decided to abandon the idea and present a scaled-down version of the concept to the city.

Triangle was to bring in experts to explain to council members the benefits of a DDA

at last Monday's city council meeting. They will instead introduce their revised concept during a study session at the Aug. 22 council meeting.

"We felt that the idea (for a DDA) was not well received," Dave Nona said last week. "We're not going to fight for it."

Nona said the DDA was a mechanism or tool to provide the nucleus of a downtown area for Novi for the long term.

"We felt like it really meshed with the city's vision for the area," he said.

According to Nona, by providing parking for the general area, the DDA would have made it possible for Triangle to develop smaller lots on property owned at east of Novi Road and south of Grand River Avenue.

The plan was for the DDA's capture of tax dollars to help

Recreating the dream

In a July 25 letter to City Manager Rick Helwig, Matt Quinn, Triangle's attorney, said the developer would like 30 minutes set aside at the beginning of the Aug. 22 council meeting for the developer's presentation of a new concept. A draft of the plan will be delivered to the city no later than Aug. 18 so it can be included in the council packet.

fund the building of two parking garages along Grand River Avenue, costing about \$7 million to \$8 million to be

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COMMUNITY

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Community gathers at Novi Middle School

■ Teen Center luncheon a way to say thanks for support

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi Middle School was hopping last Wednesday afternoon, as many prominent members of the community gathered for a luncheon put on by the Novi Teen Center.

Those in attendance included Peter Don, the Novi Community School District's new superintendent; John O'Brien from O'Brien Funeral Home; Claudia Walker, who represents the Novi Youth Assistance organization for Oakland County; Bob Steeb, director of Novi Community Education; State Sen. Nancy Cassie; Novi Fire Chief Art Lonaghan and many others who represented the Novi Police Station, among other organizations.

"This is like a thank you for everybody who helped out in the community," said Matt Topper, teen center supervisor. "It's a thank you to the fire department, the school board, the police department, people who work in the city of Novi, youth assistance and anybody who works for us."

Topper said that the teen center had about 30 businesses contribute their time, goods and/or money to help this year's program get off the ground and be successful, once again.

And successful it was. The teen center leveled off at about 80 kids this year, which is a great number, according to Topper.

"We have seven on staff and we want to keep it close to a 10- or 11-to-1 ratio," he said. "Our primary funding is from Providence Hospital, who gives us \$6,000. The kids also pay a \$100 fee for six weeks, which came out to less than \$5 per day, which is a great deal. They pay for their field trips too, but we're not making any money off the center."

Topper said that about 70 kids showed up for the organization's overnight trip, in which went very smoothly. Mike Orenovich, Novi Middle School principal, helped get his school ready by piping in surround sound for such movies as



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Teen Center visitor Dan Farrugia, 12, left, and another boy enjoy a video driving skill game during last week's community appreciation luncheon at its Novi Middle School location.

Holding such a large event isn't cheap or easy, but the work load was just a little lighter thanks to local businesses. Here's a list of organizations and companies that donated to the Novi Teen Center luncheon July 27:

- Applebees donated riblets
- Baja Fresh donated taquitos, chips and salsa
- Caribou Coffee donated coffee
- China Cafe donated fried rice
- Coldstone Creamery donated ice cream cake
- Italian Epicure donated salad and bread
- Jimmy John's donated submarine sandwiches
- Maria's Italian Bakery donated submarine sandwiches
- Outback Steakhouse donated chicken fingers
- Santino's donated chicken explosion
- Vintage Wine Shoppe donated pop

"Star Wars," "Pulp Fiction" and the new "Harry Potter."

"It has been a great year," Topper said. "We've had many kids and the staff really set the tone and the atmosphere. They're the ones who went out and got everything we need. It can be a thankless job to ask for donations, but a lot of these places didn't even question it. It's great. We wanted to make it special this year."

Ideas for next year's teen center are already in the works. Topper said that the kids will have access to computers throughout the whole program, along with many of the same fun activities and field trips. However, there is one brand new field trip that might be added to the agenda.

"We're thinking, maybe about going to Cedar Point, which would be a great ending to the whole year," Topper said. "It really is worth it to come here. You can either do nothing or come here, eat, have fun, hang out, watch movies and play basketball."

Teen Center employees this year included:

- Marc Van Poperin
- Kristi Arnold
- Arlie Jirasek
- Sarah Stapley
- Katelyn Staab
- Stefan Zornie



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

John O'Brien, left, director of Novi Youth Assistance, talks with Novi Teen Center's Matt Topper during the center's appreciation luncheon held last Wednesday for its various community sponsors.

The walking man Anthony Lolli easily recognizable, friendly neighbor in 'Noville' area

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Being legally blind would probably hinder the lives of many people. But Anthony Lolli, a local resident, hasn't let his disability stop him from doing things he's always enjoyed.

A 79-year-old retiree from General Motors, Lolli has turned his misfortune into a means to exercise and meet new friends. Technically, he lives in Novi, but has a Northville mailing address. So, in order to get around town, he must walk — something he doesn't mind one bit.

"I go for walks because I can't drive," he said. "I walk anywhere from two to three miles per day."

And those walks have given Lolli a chance to meet friends and to have nice conversations. "I like talking to people," he said. "If I meet someone, I always say 'good morning' or 'good afternoon' or 'hello,' 'how are you' and I hate it when people don't answer. There are a lot of people out there who don't say anything back and that irks me."

Lolli has developed many acquaintances during his walks. No matter where he goes, there are many who will stop to chat, which makes his day enjoyable.

"Sometimes when I'm walking home from the store and I have a load, some people will stop and give me a ride," he said. "That's really nice."

Lolli grew up in Middletown, Ohio until he went into the United States Marine Corps.

About Anthony Lolli

- Age: 79
- Occupation: Retired from General Motors
- Family: Has three kids: Jim, who lives about three-quarters of a mile away, a daughter Susan and another daughter, Linda.
- School: Middletown High School in Middletown, Ohio. Graduated in 1943, then went into the Marine Corps. Came out in 1945 and attended the American Television Institute of Technology in Chicago and earned a degree.
- Years worked: 23 years worked for GM. Retired at age 56.
- Interests: Likes sports, but being legally blind, he can't play any.
- "I can't watch them too much on television, especially hockey or games like that because I can't see enough of it to enjoy any more," Lolli said. "I watch a little bit of baseball but most of the time I'm on my computer."

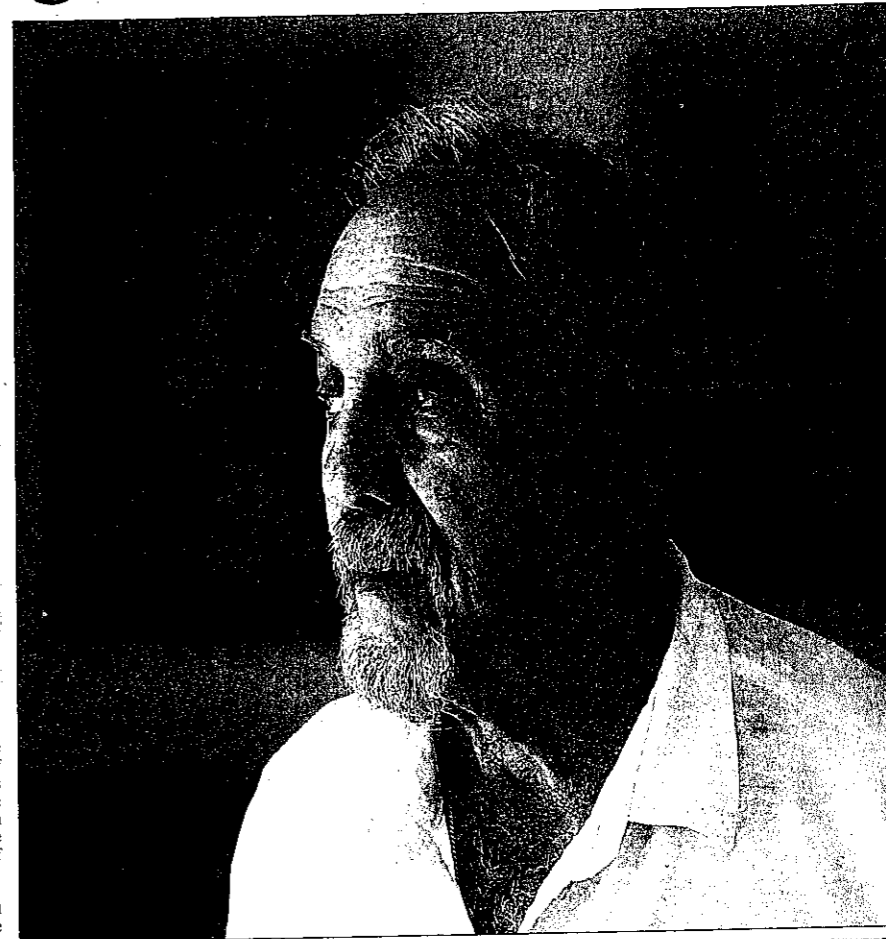


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Anthony Lolli stands in his apartment in front of two paintings created by his wife's aunt.

YOUR NOVI Neighbors

He also belongs to the Police Choir Boys, an organization of over 1,500 members which was started by a Detroit Police Officer. It gathers six times a year, usually drawing anywhere between 300-500 of its members.

Lolli explained that most of the people who belong to the Police Choir Boys are either police officers now, or were at one time. Though he was never an officer himself, he has many friends who were.

"I wish we could get more members for the organizations that I belong to," Lolli said. "Especially AMVETS. We just can't seem to get the young people involved. Most of us are getting too old to handle this."

Lolli said that most members who show up for meetings with the American Legion are over 65 years old. The AMVETS organization has only one member who's younger than 65 who shows up for meetings and everybody else, even the ones

who don't show up, mostly served in either World War II or the Korean War.

"You get in touch with the community when you get involved in organizations," Lolli said. "All the organizations have service officers that help the veterans."

A humble man, Lolli does his jobs within the different organizations without looking for any rewards. He does, however, enjoy his Thursday afternoons with members of the Police Choir Boys.

"I go to meetings and with a bunch of guys together

been working on putting together his family tree.

"When I went visually impaired, I stopped doing it, but when I go back down to Ohio to look for my family reunion later this year, I've got a bunch of papers for them to fill out so I can bring everything up to date," he said. "I went to Italy last November with my son, his

wife and his son and we visited my father's birth place. It was special."

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@nl.homecomm.net.

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■ Drunk drivers graduate from Sobriety Court, help themselves

continued from page 7

retreat — all at her expense. "The program is definitely worth it and the people I've met through Sobriety Court and through the 12-step program have just been amazing. But you have to be committed," she said. "And you have to have your heart in it."

A common thread

During the graduation ceremony, graduates referred to the program as "an adventure," "a kick in the teeth," "a blessing," and "tough, but for good reason." Judges and probation officers were hushed. There were tears and laughter, handshakes and hugs. Former graduates also attended. Mike Adler, a Milford resident, was part of the first ever Sobriety Court, held in 2001. Since his successful completion, he said, he hasn't touched a drop of alcohol — and he has attended nearly every graduation.

"It does my heart good to see somebody else who has gotten some benefit from the program," he said. "It helped me, and now it's helping others to recognize what alcohol and alcoholism are all about."

Going through Sobriety Court was the first time he truly recognized he had an alcohol problem, Adler said, and the recognition came quite quickly.

"At first, I thought it was just a way to stay out of jail, just another one of those programs. But then I saw how seriously (the court) took the program. And as each day went on it became more and more apparent that these guys were trying to do something," he said.

One of last year's graduates, Maureen Dublin of Commerce, said she, too, initially thought Sobriety Court was simply a way to avoid a jail cell. Dublin started drinking at age 13. Her daily preference for vodka and Galotrade lasted 20 years.

In May 2002, Dublin was driving drunk when she rear-ended another car. It's "same time," she said, she drove to the Milford Police Station to report the collision, rather than waiting for an officer to arrive.

"I figured they wouldn't smell the vodka on me, wouldn't know I

Statistics
According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drivers with high blood alcohol levels are implicated in half of all fatal accidents that occur in the United States each year, and also cause serious injuries and property damage, leading to medical expenses, insurance costs and court costs. Statistics from 1997 show drivers killed in car crashes involving alcohol were seven times more likely to have a prior drunk driving conviction.

was drunk. I was like that every day of my life — a constant buzz," she said.

Police administered a breathalyzer test; she registered a blood alcohol level of a .327 percent. The legal limit for drivers in Michigan is .08 percent.

She was sentenced to probation and an alcohol awareness class. But she showed up to the class drunk, she said, and was put in jail for 21 days.

"Then Alex Black came and asked me if I wanted to take Sobriety Court. My first opinion was I'd do it as long as it kept me out of jail," she said. "But the truth is, I knew I was an alcoholic and I wanted help, but I wasn't one to ask for help."

Dublin had a few setbacks, but she made it through the program. She's been sober for 16 months.

"I wouldn't have a life without Judge MacKenzie and Alex and Dave (Campbell), another intensive probation officer," she said. "I am so grateful for the program, and that they saw something deep in me that I didn't know about myself — that I could do this."

Now Dublin works a job she loves, has learned to be a "real mother" to her two teenagers and has developed a great relationship with a man whom she plans to wed.

"Now, life is good," she said. "Life is really good."

"For people who think Sobriety

Court is a way to stay out of jail — that's not it. It's an unusual sentence. And people embrace that sentence," he said. "And for many of these people, this is the first time they've succeeded at anything."

Judge Robert Bondy agreed. "It can make a difference. We take people who want to be in it, and we don't take everyone."

"The bottom line is people have to do it for themselves," Bondy said. "It's successful because they get treated with dignity and respect, but it's not a cake walk. And it's a little extra work on our part — but it's a lot more rewarding (than imposing a jail sentence)."

Attorney Richard Lippitt has many current and former clients who are in Sobriety Court or have graduated from the program. He



Photo by HAL GOULD

Judge Brian MacKenzie speaks with a group during Sobriety Court graduation.

also sits on the Sobriety Court Advisory Board and considers it his "pet project."

"Sobriety Court, albeit rigorous, is a series of incremental steps that are very achievable," he said. "And there are many, many, many of them. But you really have to have your heart and soul in it — and be ready to make a change — for it to work."

Aileen Wightland can be reached by phone at (248) 685-1507 ext. 22 or by e-mail at awightland@lathomecomm.net.

"I am so grateful for the program, and that they saw something deep in me that I didn't know about myself — that I could do this."

Maureen Dublin
2004 graduate of Sobriety Court

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POLICE BLOTTER

Links of Novi break-in

Police were dispatched to the Links of Novi Golf Course at 50395 Ten Mile Road on a call about an attempted breaking and entering that occurred between 11 p.m. on July 15 and 5 a.m. on July 16.

The manager led police to the east door of the pro shop where the subjects had tried to gain entry.

There were pry marks on the door and the jam. The manager said when he hurried at 5 a.m. that the alarm was beeping which was a warning tone to disarm the alarm. The alarm had not been triggered, however.

Nothing was missing from the store, but a Pepsi machine on the west side of the pro shop had been damaged. There were pry marks on the door of the machine, and it had been tipped over.

Golf clubs stolen

Residents on Independence near Waverly and Canterbury reported that golf equipment valued at \$2,170 had been

stolen from their garage between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on July 16.

The residents said they thought they had closed their garage door when they left home that day about 4 p.m. But, when they returned, they found the garage door open and found golf equipment missing.

Police recommended that the residents describe the equipment in area sporting goods resale shops in case the suspect tries to sell it.

The residents said this was the first time they had been the victim of a crime since living in the home since 1992.

Marjuana, pills found

A 25-year-old Northville woman was arrested for a narcotics equipment violation when police found drug paraphernalia in her possession at 1:51 p.m. on July 18.

Officers saw a 1991 Oldsmobile traveling south on Waverly near 11 Mile Road with several objects hanging from the rear view mirror and pulled

the driver over. At this time, officers asked if they could search her car, and the woman consented. They found one marijuana bowl inside of a velvet pouch in the ash tray. Inside the bowl, there appeared to be a small amount of unsmoked marijuana.

Police also found two, small, white pills that the woman identified as Vicodin. When asked about the marijuana, the woman said it was hers and that she had smoked all of it on July 17. She was unable to produce proof of a prescription for the Vicodin.

Chicken bones in mailbox

A resident on Mulberry near Glenwood and Groveland contacted police on a malicious destruction of property complaint when he found chicken bones in his mailbox at 6:10 p.m. on July 19.

The man told police that he thought the bones must have been placed in the mailbox between 4 p.m. July 15 and 5:20 p.m. July 19.

He said that about 9 a.m. on

July 17 he discovered a drawing of a cartoon character on his cement driveway apron and cup on the pole for the mobile basketball rim/hoop. It looked like the writing was made with chalk or a similar substance. The man did not know the significance of the cartoon character.

The resident said that his son has a housemate and that the two had had a falling out over several unrelated problems in the house.

Oak Park woman arrested

A 35-year-old Oak Park woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 9:23 p.m. on July 23 at 10 Mile and Hampton Hill Roads.

Officers were dispatched to the area when a driver called police about a possible drunk driver. As police responded to the call, they found a vehicle driving left of center eastbound on 10 Mile Road, forcing the patrol car to pull right to avoid a collision with the vehicle.

The officers pulled in behind

the 1995 Gold Toyota Camry, and after watching the driver almost have a head-on collision with a car coming west on 10 Mile Road, they pulled the woman over.

The officer smelled an incredibly strong odor of alcohol on the driver's breath and person. Her eyes were glassy and bloodshot and she also smelled like urine. Police told the woman that she was driving all over the place, and she said that she knew that she was.

When asked how much she had had to drink, she replied "A case of beer." After the officer asked if she had consumed a 12-pack or a 24-pack, she said, "Two beers."

Then she said she had had two glasses of wine and that she doesn't drink beer.

A breath test showed a blood alcohol level in the driver of .28 percent.

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GEMOLOGIST
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Real estate down, prices dropping too

By Tracy Mishler
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Rick Barbera's house is for sale, and like many sellers, he's worried about the price. Barbera, 43, of Novi, has had his home on the market a little over two months and has already dropped the price \$10,000. The metro Detroit area is currently listed as one of the 13 riskiest housing markets in the nation. Michigan is a good example of high home values and low resale prices.

- Six tips to spruce things up**
- Paint rooms a nice, even color, not just white
 - Remove large furniture to create open space
 - Remove knickknacks to avoid clutter
 - Empty accessories from basement, garage and closets
 - Keep front entrance area immaculate for first impressions
 - Keep yard well maintained and cut twice weekly

Source: Barbara Kelech, Realtor



Photo by SAM EGLESTON

Novi resident Rick Barbera stands in the back yard at his house, which is currently for sale. The yard sported a stream, landscaping, fire pit, in-ground pool and even a club house with heating and air conditioning units installed.

According to the local multiple listing service for real estate, as of July 27, there were 482 homes for sale in Northville and 601 for sale in Novi; nearly double 2004's listings.

"Michigan has a huge dependence on the auto industry," Barbera said. "With places like Ford Motor Company laying off white collar workers, people are afraid to move."

Housing hang-ups?

Barbera said the problem is that people aren't looking at accurate data when trying to sell. "Sellers are looking at the value of their homes saying 'my home should be worth this much.' They are looking at past sold values, but that's not the current data within the past six months," he said.

Barbera said people are leaving the area and new homes are constantly being built. "It's all supply and demand," he said. "We have the highest inventory of homes with the lowest interest rates and people don't want them."

Barbera doesn't see a drastic change in the near future, but she hopes the market gets better for both the sellers and the realtors. "The cost for realtors to complete a sale is 50 percent higher than in past years," she said. "We're doing our best and we just ask sellers to work with us."

Both Barbera and Kelech agreed that homes are on the market longer than they should be. "We tell people six months," Kelech said. "It could be shorter, but it will probably be longer right now."

Both realtors said prices were higher in 2004 than in 2005. In 2004, a two-bedroom condo was listed for \$152,000. In 2005, the same condo was listed for \$144,000. "We've helped people stage their homes to look immaculate in order to sell," Kelech said. "They just aren't selling."

"We've seen a pretty nice leveling off right now," he added. "But no real increases or decreases in sales."

Former Novi Schools superintendent Dale dead

Thomas Henry Dale, a former superintendent of the Novi Community School District, died June 6 in Bradenton, Fla. Born in 1924, Dale was a 1939 graduate of Hillman Rural Agricultural School and also attended Normal School for a year. He next attended Central Michigan Normal School, where he played in the marching band and earned certification as a teacher.

Dale entered the United States Army at the start of World War II and served in the Pacific Campaign as a Military Police Officer and captain in the artillery. He was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart and many other battle commendations.

He briefly returned to teaching when he joined the faculty of Kirilind Community College in Roscommon as a geology instructor. His Army service as an MP served him well later in life when a mugger attempted to rob Dale, who disarmed the culprit and kept him at bay until police arrived.

Dale is survived by his wife, Mary Adele, and their six children. A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. Aug. 7, at the Methodist Church in Algon.

Dale began his teaching career at Clarion School between Wadon Lake and Petoskey, where he met and married Mary Adell Campbell of Boyne Falls.

Dale entered the United States Army at the start of World War II and served in the Pacific Campaign as a Military Police Officer and captain in the artillery. He was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart and many other battle commendations.

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One last hurrah before school starts

August to bring much excitement to Novi Public Library

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Public Library's summer reading program may be over, but that doesn't mean kids can't still have fun there.

The first will take place at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 9. "It's called Investment skills for teens," said Margi Karp-Opperer, head of youth and teen services at the library.

On Wednesday, Aug. 17, children ages 4 and up can enjoy the Disney movie "Lion King 1/2."

"We thought we would have one last afternoon movie before school begins."

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@nl.honocomm.net.

IN THE SERVICE

Marine Corps Plc. Patrick J. Clifton, a 2001 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, recently graduated from the Marine Aviation Operations Specialist Course.

During the course with Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One, Naval Technical Training Center, Meridian, Miss., students are taught military correspondence, airfield operations,

tactical squadron flight records and reports preparation, and Marine aviation wing and group headquarters command tasks. Clifton joined the Marine Corps in November 2004.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Awwww!

Recently foster parents of Paws with a Cause puppies in training came to the Novi Library to speak to children and raise awareness about the program. In attendance were dogs of all ages and breeds all with their own special skills. The Paws with a Cause program is a favorite of the Novi Library and they hold a presentation each year during their summer reading program. Paws with a Cause, originally known as Ears for the Deaf, first formed in 1979 as a training program for hearing dogs. The program has since then expanded to include training of other assistance dogs. The organization both rescues and breeds dogs to be put through the training program. So far they have successfully trained 625 Assistance Dogs. The dogs go through many comprehensive tests and training sessions to be sure they are suited for their job. Those who don't make the cut are adopted out to families and make great pets due to the training they received while in the program. Paws with a Cause holds many events and programs to raise awareness and money to help with the training and care of their animals. For more information about Paws with a Cause, you can contact them via phone at (800) 253-7297

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Women hear shots fired outside Novi restaurant

■ Two ran to their car after eating at TGI Friday's

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Beth Pilacinski went to the Novi Restaurant TGI Friday's with a female co-worker late on the night April 10, 2003.

Then about 1 a.m. on April 11, as they left the restaurant, they heard five to six gunshots fired in rapid succession to the right of them.

"We could hear them clearly, and it startled me," she said, and the two young women ran to their car.

It wasn't until a male co-worker of Pilacinski's heard the news report that a man's body had been found April 14 in a wooded area south of Twelve Oaks Mall near the restaurant that she made the connection the two incidents.

Her female co-worker then called Novi police.

Pilacinski was a witness for the prosecution in a two-day preliminary exam that took place July 21 and July 22 at Novi's 52-1 District Court.

Kevin Mykolaitis, 36, of Farmington Hills, has been charged with the murder of Cameron Sanders, 27, of Novi. The two were former inmates and friends in a Michigan Department of Corrections facility.

Police say the two devised a life insurance scam in which they created a supposedly bogus business, took out a "key man" insurance policy on each other, naming each other as the beneficiaries. The alleged plan was to fake one of their deaths and split the money.

But then Sanders was murdered in an execution-style killing near Twelve Oaks Mall. The woman said she ducked

behind her friend when she heard the shots fired, which she said came from the direction of the highway.

Her friend, Jennifer Babcock, said the two women had checked in at a local hotel, then went to eat at TGI Friday's. She stated that it was around 1:15 or 1:30 a.m. when they heard the shots, as she remembered checking her cell phone at the time.

Although Sanders' body was found with multiple gunshot and stabbing wounds, no gun or knife have been found. In fact, nothing has been found connecting Mykolaitis to Sanders' body.

Sanders' sister speaks

Outside the courtroom on July 21, Sanders' only sibling, Veronica Crabtree of Minden, La., talked about her deceased brother.

She was consoled both days of the preliminary exam in the murder case by her best friend, Miranda Oaks, of Minden. Born in Shreveport, La., Crabtree said Sanders had just moved to Michigan shortly before his death.

A military family, they moved around a lot, and had lived in North Dakota and Europe before moving to Michigan.

Six years younger than Sanders, Crabtree said that with her brother being in and out of prison for various breaking-and-entering convictions, they lost a lot of time together. She noted that family members under age 18 aren't allowed to visit inmates.

Since his release from prison in 2002, they had begun to get to know each other better.

"We were just starting to have a good brother-sister relationship when he was killed," she said. Crabtree has fond memories of her brother, including his good sense of humor.

"He was very caring, open minded and too trusting," she said. "He wanted to be friends with anybody, and he always gave everybody a chance." She had just visited her brother a couple of months before his

MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

Editor's note: This is a second in a series of articles in the case of Kevin Mykolaitis of Farmington Hills, charged with the first-degree, premeditated murder of Novi resident Cameron Sanders in April 2003. Mykolaitis faces life in prison if convicted.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Kevin Mykolaitis, left, walks into Judge Brian Mackenzie's 52-1 District Court for the start of his preliminary exam. Mykolaitis was charged in May with first degree murder in the death of Cameron Sanders.

body was found, and he had just returned to Louisiana for a visit a month before his death.

A graduate of Tecumseh High School, Sanders was working at House of Sofas in Ann Arbor at the time of his death.

"He was extremely intelligent and spent a lot of time on the computer," Crabtree said.

"I'd never met anybody like him. He had an I.Q. over 170," she said.

Next week: Fellow inmate takes the stand; Ford Motor Company engineer reviews police video of Mykolaitis' F-250 taken the night of the alleged murder.

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.

"We could hear them clearly, and it startled me."

Beth Pilacinski
Witness for the prosecution

NOTICE
PUBLIC SALE. Pursuant to state law, a public sale will be held on August 19, 2005 at 11:00AM at COLONIAL MINI STORAGE, 48200 West Road, Wixom, Michigan 48393. Contents will be sold by competitive bidding for cash only to the highest bidder and include miscellaneous household, furniture, tools and personal items including clothing. Units are as follows:

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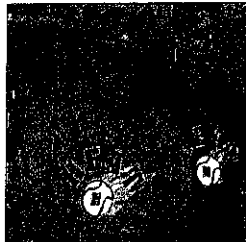
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Headed to the World Series

It means more than just another tournament — making the World Series in Puerto Rico means the U12 Novi Heat is one of the top eight teams in the country. They're looking to earn some wins and, more importantly, make some memories.

— Page 3B



Blast from the past

There once was only one Novi Heat baseball team. The inaugural year the players were 12 years old and they, too, made it to the World Series in Puerto Rico. Several alumni of that team showed up to a Sunday practice to wish the 2005 Heat well in their trip south.

— Page 3B



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— Page 4B

SPORTS

Thursday, August 4, 2005

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

Puerto Rico greets Heat

Dear Puerto Rico,

Rumor has it you have a real nice country down there where baseball is quite popular. Though I really couldn't tell you (I've never been that far south. Sorry!) but there are a few fellas here in Novi that have told me it's very nice.

You see, they went down on a visit in 1996. They were 12 years old then but they played baseball and, well, you guys know all about baseball.

That's probably why you host the World Series.

That group of boys was the first-ever Novi Heat baseball team. Back then, there was only one. They started it. They defined heart and team. They set the pace that hasn't been able to be followed in nearly a decade. They made it to the World Series on their first try. It was once in a lifetime.

Well, you've been generous enough to make room for another group of 12 year olds from Novi. They're just as smart and as talented as the last group. They're even looking to take it a step farther than the last crew by winning a game while they're down there. They're looking to set the bar a little higher than the last Heat squad that made the flight over the ocean and to your island.

The last team didn't win any games but they played their hearts out. They deserved a win (but, alas, it wasn't meant to be). The athletes that came from that squad were just amazing. Soccer players, football stars, baseball studs and wrestling champs. Heck, even one of the best long-distance runners in the nation (and not too shabby in world competition either!). They were the kings of kings in Novi. There wasn't a sport they didn't control. They could play with the best of them on every playing field.

It makes me wonder just how great the athletes from this team are going to be. Will they win state championships? Will they break records? Will they go to college on scholarships? Some will, most likely, and some won't. Everyone in Puerto Rico, just like in 1996, will get a chance to see them before most of Novi does. Enjoy it. You get to see something the rest of us could only hope to see. These kids will be all smiles and more excited than they've been in nearly their entire lives. Of course, you know that already. You've been doing this for years.

Though we here in Novi won't be able to come along to cheer on this year's Novi Heat team we're sending our best wishes along with them. We're proud of these boys and we want them to have the time of their lives.

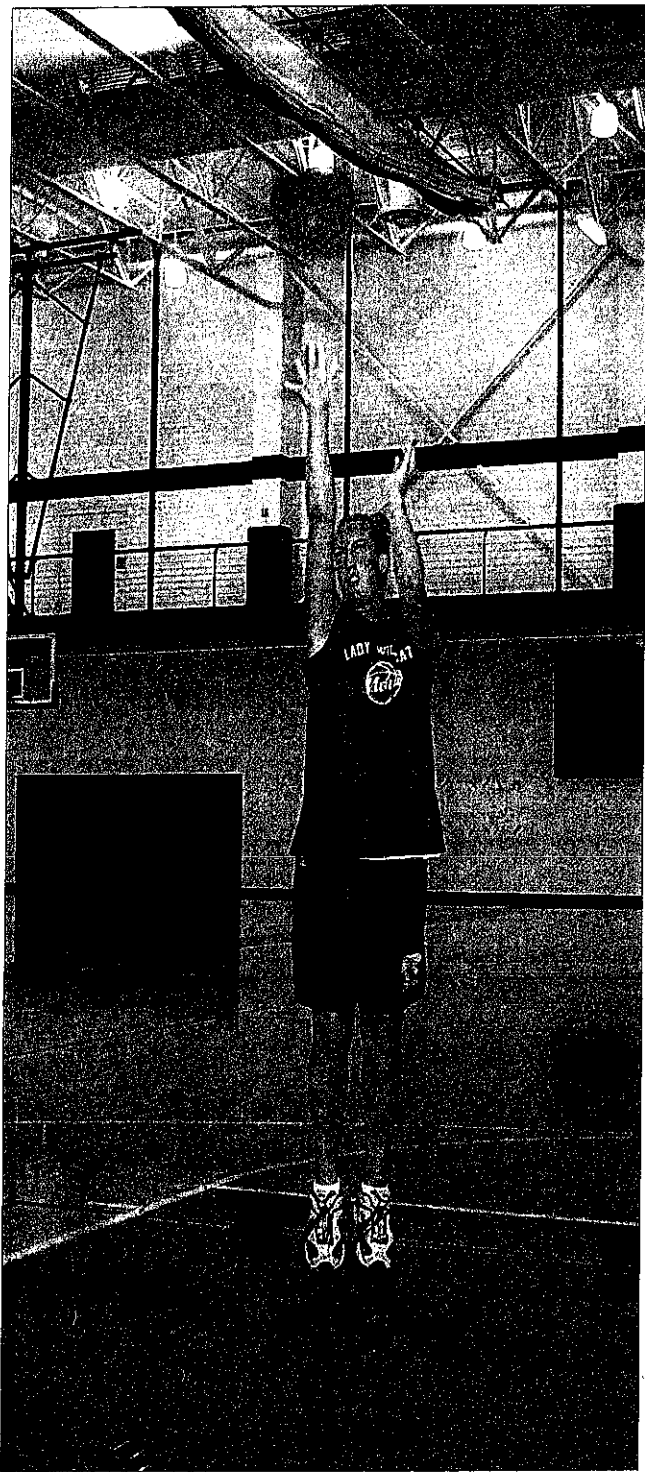
We have confidence everyone there in Puerto Rico will do their best to make it one of the most memorable moments in the life of every player there. You did it in 1996 (great job, but the way. The guys are still talking about it!) and we know you'll do it again.

Best of luck, Heat. Make this the greatest time of your young lives. It's moments like these that great athletic careers are forged. Just look at those who've made the trip before you.

Yours truly,

Sam Eggleston

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



Rachele Folino put in plenty of hours over the summer preparing for fall basketball.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Practice makes perfect

Plenty of summer hours make the difference come fall

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Mark Yassay glanced at his biceps and his forearms and then shrugged.

"My forearms aren't that big, but I'll probably work on that," said the recent Northville graduate.

Forearms? Maybe not so big, but the rest of Yassay's arms, his chest and legs are chiseled with muscle. They are a product of hard work and dedication.

Yassay may have graduated from high school, but that didn't stop him from putting in time in the weight room. He has a collegiate football career at Hillsdale College he embarked on yesterday. He couldn't afford to take a break.

"I've been working pretty hard," he said. "(John) Mullen and I have been lifting this summer."

Mullen, too, will be playing college football. His will take him to Olivet College.

But it's not just those playing at the next level who've put in the hours and the sweat over the summer. Novi basketball forward Rachele Folino, who has verbally committed to Niagara University in New York on a scholarship, played with the Michigan Belles throughout the summer in addition to her own workout.

"I ran every day in the summer and practiced shooting," she said. "I don't belong to a club like Lifetime or the Sports Club, so I run and I play basketball."

Though Folino said she wasn't in the tip-top shape she would have liked to be in heading into the fall, she still stayed in the shape that mattered the most.

"I'm in good playing shape," she said. "I might not have the fastest time in the mile when we run conditioning, but I could still play basketball. My long-distance running is something I need to work on, but by the time the season starts I'm sure coach (Bill Kelp) will whip me into shape."

Folino said she hopes to turn her senior year into her best season yet. She said personal accomplishments would be nice, but wins for the team would be better.

"I'm going to have to be a leader this year," she said. "That's why I have to come into the season ready to work hard. I need to lead by example."

At an informal conditioning with the team, Folino showed that leadership Monday. The last girl on the track for a mile run was struggling and quickly slowing. Folino and two other players jogged out to meet their fellow hoops player and ran with her the remainder of the mile.

But leading others isn't always a driving force. Sometimes it's the need to be better than the year before.

For some players, it's staying in playing shape despite not being able to play. Matt Watza, a Northville standout football player who earned a walk on spot at Michigan State, found out recently he won't be able to play due to a shortage of credits. That hasn't stopped him from working hard.

"I'm still rostered and I'm still working out," he said. "I just can't play."

From running to weight lifting to jumping rope, athletes across the area are keeping in shape with the same goal in mind: Being dominant in their respective sports.

"If you don't work through the summer you're not going to be ready when you need to be," said Yassay. "Even when you do work all summer there's still room to improve. It's just a good base to get started from."

Schmitt signs for volleyball

Standout spiker inks full-ride scholarship

Courtney Ratkowiak
SPECIAL WRITER

When Sarah Schmitt hit the ball out of bounds to seal Novi's loss in the regional semifinals, she thought that her Wildcats varsity volleyball career was over.

Little did she know that, four months later, she would be signing a letter of intent to play varsity volleyball for the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. On July 26, Schmitt became the first Novi volleyball player to receive an NCAA Division I full-ride scholarship.

Schmitt, a right side hitter and setter, played for the Novi High School varsity team for two years and the Oakland Juniors volleyball club for three years. Although Schmitt had been accepted to Michigan State, she returned to the Oakland Juniors club during the spring of her senior year to increase her chances of receiving a volleyball scholarship. Immediately following the spring season, the Bethune-Cookman volleyball coach contacted club director Brandon Parsley regarding unsigned senior setters. Parsley told the coach about Schmitt's collegiate-level potential.

"One of her dreams was to go on and play college volleyball," Parsley said. "She was probably overlooked (earlier) in the recruiting process, and I knew that the only reason she played this spring was for the chance to get a late scholarship. I knew that she would definitely appreciate the (Bethune-Cookman) opportunity."

After a visit to the Daytona Beach, FL campus, Schmitt was offered a four-year, renewable scholarship covering tuition, room and board, and books.

"At first, I couldn't believe that it was actually happening," Schmitt said. "I've always wanted, more than anything, to continue playing volleyball past the high school level."

Father Marty Schmitt agreed that the scholarship was unexpected.

"We have four daughters, and having all four of them in college at the same time is pretty difficult,

so it was a pleasant surprise," he said. "Sarah wasn't pursuing a scholarship at the time, but it just so happened that she was a perfect fit for what they needed at Bethune-Cookman."

Due to the absence of a veteran starting setter, Schmitt will be receiving ample playing time as a freshman.

"I'm going to be stepping onto the court right away," she said. "It's going to be hard being a freshman and having to control the game as a setter, but I think that one of my better skills is leadership."

High school varsity coach Julie Fisetie added, "Sarah's greatest attribute is definitely leadership, being that take-charge, go-to person. She knows how to get the job done, the points scored, and never cracks under pressure."

"I told the (Bethune-Cookman) coach that Sarah could step into her varsity team and set right now for those junior and senior hitters. I don't think that, physically or technically, she will have any issues stepping in and leading that team as a freshman."

While attending Bethune-Cookman, Schmitt plans to study biology and forensic science with a minor in criminal justice. Although the college does not have a soccer or cross country program, she plans to possibly run track in the spring. She admits that she has always wanted to get away from the "cold Michigan winters" and looks forward to going to the beach in her free time.

Schmitt will start team training August 8. As she begins her collegiate volleyball career, fulfilling her dream while making a mark on Novi athletics history, the girl who printed graduation party invitations with Michigan State University in mind is simply thankful for the late scholarship opportunity.

"It's going to be such a great experience to be in a totally new environment," she said. "I'll be almost 1200 miles away from everyone I know, but it's new and different, a once-in-a-lifetime deal. I'll never get this opportunity again."

All-Star game tomorrow

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's starting to be old hat for Novi's Kevin Cislo and Northville's Matt Williams.

The two All-State Dream Team baseball players will, once again, be representing their respective communities as members of an all-star baseball team. This time, however, they've been selected by the Detroit Tigers as some of the best players in the business.

The two standout athletes will take the field tomorrow at Comerica Park at 10 a.m. The game will feature some of the top talent in the state and will be played as part of the Negro League celebrations annually hosted by the Tigers.

"I think it's going to be a lot of fun," said Williams in an interview earlier this summer. "It's an honor to be selected as one of the best players in the state."

Williams and Cislo will be among 28 players from across Michigan showcasing their talent. Both players were also selected for the East-West All-Star game hosted by the Northville Record and the Novi News as well as for the East-

West All-Star game hosted by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches' Association.

Cislo was also selected to play in the East-West All-Star football game but had to bow out due to a bout of mononucleosis. He said he was feeling much better and is expecting to play.

"I wouldn't miss this," he said. "I'm really looking forward to playing at Comerica again."

The two players have received a slew of recognition this year. Williams, who will play baseball at Duke University on scholarship next year, earned All-State Dream Team, All-State First Team and shared the title of All-Area Player of the Year.

Cislo, who is playing at the University of Michigan on scholarship, earned the same recognitions and was also an All-Area Dream Team selection in football last fall.

"It's such a great honor to be picked by the Detroit Tigers to play in this game," Cislo said. "I think it's going to be great."

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

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, August 4, 2005

MONEY MATTERS

Today's young entrepreneurs still dream big dreams

"We can't make you successful, but we can create an environment in which people can dream big dreams and in which people are willing to risk capital." Those are the words of President George W. Bush in a National Small Business Week speech honoring entrepreneurs.

Dreaming big dreams and risking capital is something that Americans value. Ours is a culture that strongly supports small business and entrepreneurial activity. Across this great nation there are about 25 million small businesses operating in every imaginable industry, creating wealth for future generations of business owners and jobs for about half of the U.S. private work force.

The public's faith in small business, and its appreciation of the behaviors and conditions associated with small and entrepreneurial ventures, provides an atmosphere that influences small-business success.

A study by the NFIB Research Foundation examining public perceptions of small business found that 90 percent of those surveyed would approve if a son or daughter went into business for himself or herself. Half of those would strongly approve. What's more, the study found that women and minorities were the most likely groups to be favorably disposed to having a child launch a business.

Similarly, 91 percent of those who responded to the study said they thought small-business owners work harder than people like themselves and eight of 10 believe that local business owners contribute more to the betterment of the community than they themselves do.

But the hard reality of starting from scratch was top-of-mind for those surveyed. Typically Americans believe that it is difficult to start a successful small business, let alone start one and grow it into a large firm.

Starting a small business is no cakewalk. The fact that millions of Americans have done it successfully is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit and determination that is interwoven in the fabric of our society.

One group, the NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation, believes that it can help smooth the path for tomorrow's small-business owners by encouraging them to learn more about the inner workings of the free enterprise system before taking the plunge. That's why the foundation recently laid more than \$400,000 on the line for 382 Free Enterprise Scholars Awards those students can use to attend the college, vocational or technical school of their choice to study business. Major funding support is provided by VISA USA.

Students from 46 states received awards, the largest of which, \$10,000, was won by a future entrepreneur from Wisconsin. Four \$5,000 awards went to students in Missouri, Massachusetts, North Carolina and California.

The program received 2,100 applications for scholarships this year, more than double the number for 2004 and a clear indication that some of tomorrow's small-business owners are already savvy enough to recognize a competitive advantage when they see one. For these future entrepreneurs, seeing is knowing. That's just what the Young Entrepreneur Foundation is hoping for.

As President Bush noted in his speech, "Men and women who run small businesses have a vision to see beyond what is, and the courage to pursue what might be."

Jack Faris is the president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at www.NFIB.org.

ADVERTORIAL

Kids flourish at Gayle's DancePhase

At Gayle's DancePhase in Wixom, you'll find as many styles of dance as there are students; from Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Lyrical, Pointe, to Cecchetti, hip hop and specialized Technique classes. They offer a friendly, family-style atmosphere with a big focus on fun and building skills. The studio also features classes that include private to semi-private and small group instruction.

Students quickly feel at home regardless of their skill level. The studio provides an atmosphere where everyone can find a space to shine whether dance preference is a recreational pastime or a serious devotion.

"We're geared to all age and skill levels. We're not just competitive, we accommodate the recreational dancer as well," added Tina Bishop, co-owner and instructor Gayle's DancePhase.

Right now, they're gearing up for registration and next fall's classes. Registration for current students will begin Aug. 8th by phone. New students may begin registration on Aug. 15th by walk in or phone and will continue through the beginning of the new season. The public is also welcome to attend the open house on Wednesday Aug. 17th from 5 to 8 p.m.

At Gayle's DancePhase students feel at ease, whether joining a friend or meeting a new one. Perhaps the family-type environment is due to the fact that Tina Bishop and founder Gayle Winnie are co-owners and teachers at the facility. Gayle founded the studio over 22 years ago in the home of their mother, Carol Limbright. Their dream has grown into a 7,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that has remained a family-based business.

There's always something new going on at the studio. The group is winding down from the past season after a grand finale — national competition at Disney World in Florida.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience for them to dance at Disney World," agrees Bishop, who accompanied the group on their recent trip to Orlando. Last fall the group performed at the South Lyon Pampkinfest. Some classes performed for the Novi Rotary at the Sheraton in Novi. In January, they performed at the Palace during a pre-game show for the Detroit Pistons. Afterwards they watched the basketball game against the Orlando Magic. The group consisted of approximately 80 dancers with skill levels ranging from first year to competitive. Bishop notes the younger students look up to the older mentors, especially at these events.

DETAILS

Classes offered: ballet, Pointe, Cecchetti, tap, jazz, hip hop, lyrical, technique classes and competitive lines.

Important dates: Fall Registration begins; Aug. 8th through 10th 3-7 p.m. and Aug. 15-17th, 12-7 pm.

Open House: Weds. Aug. 17th 5-8 p.m.

Competition Auditions:
• Thursday, Aug. 11
Age 10 and under 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Age 11-13 6:45-7:45 p.m.
Age 14 and up 7:45-9 p.m.
Classes Begin: Sept. 6th, 2005

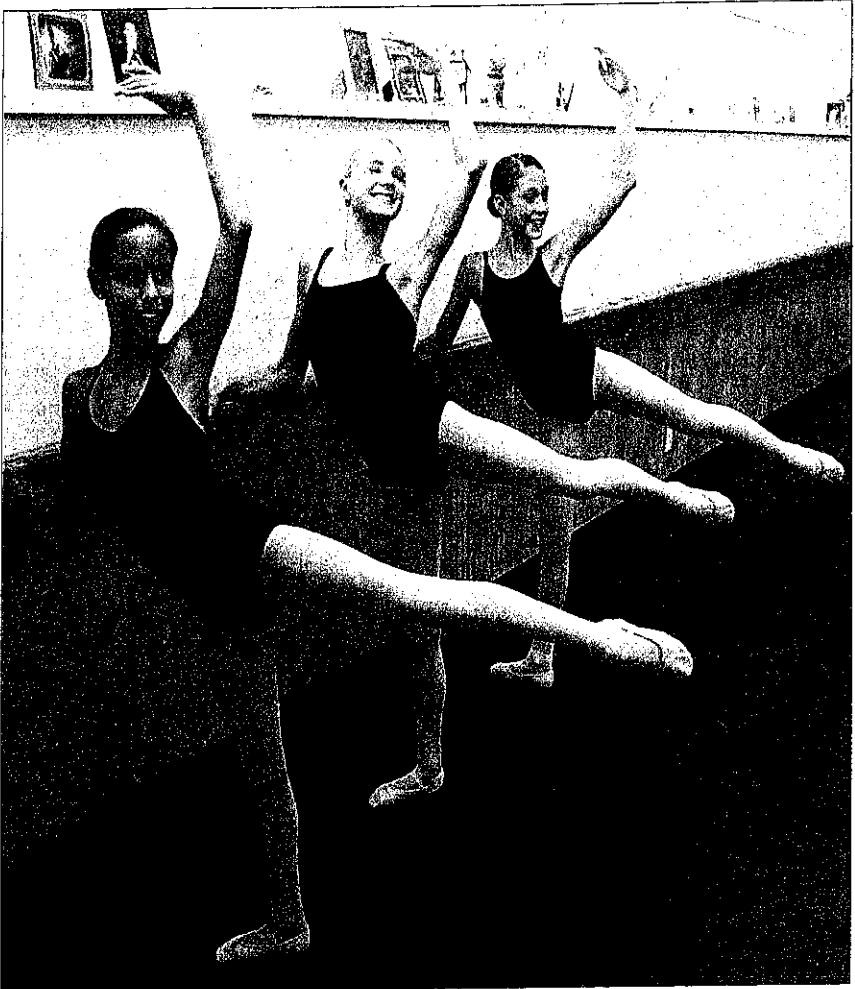


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

From ballet and tap to jazz and hip hop dancing, Gayle's Dance Phase helps students reach goals in a family friendly atmosphere. Practicing at the bar are students Lauren Cole, 11, Chelsey Korte, 12, and Lauren Timm, 12.

This year they will also perform at the Festival of Trees in Novi, a benefit for Children's Hospital.

Another great event this year is the annual performance of the Nutcracker with the Majestic Dance Ensemble. Gayle's DancePhase is home of the newly formed ballet company. Many students have auditioned and have been selected to be a part of this festive holiday event. "The Nutcracker gives our students another opportunity to perform," Bishop notes. Tina Bishop and co-director Sarah Benish are delighted to include several former students in this year's production; including Adam Crain, Adrienne Odmak, and Samantha Crain. These former Gayle's DancePhase students have remained a part of the DancePhase family and are very willing to give of their time.

Gayle's DancePhase also offers clinics throughout the year with top of the line artists from both coasts, New York City and Los Angeles. All skill levels are welcome, however, they're geared to honing competitive skills. Hip-hop continues to be one of the most popular styles of dance styles at the studio. This year the studio hosted hip hop/jazz specialists Cassidy and Brian Thomas. They offered a fun filled workshop. Paula Morgan also continues to be a regular guest instructor. "She's well renowned for working in top studios across the country," noted Tina Bishop. Gayle's Dance Phase also

offers special scholarships for boys.

"We encourage the boys to come. We'll offer all-boy classes as well as mixed groups," noted office manager, Linda Crain. "A boy that's talented has a lot of opportunities."

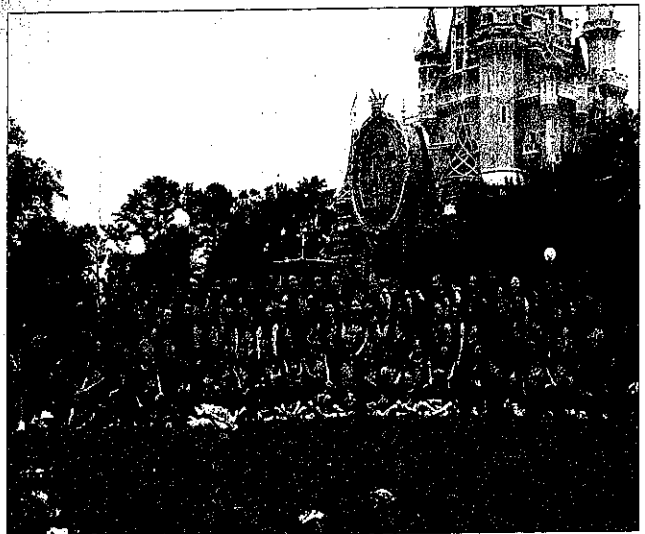
One of the studio's goals is to make each student feel special. For example, the halls are lined with a large individual portrait of

each dancer. At the end of the year they receive a special memory book that documents the year. Each dancer will also receive a trophy for participation. Those who've participated for three, five, and ten years receive additional trophies in recognition of their years of dedication over and above the yearly award.


"They like getting the trophy

at the end of the year... it really gives them something to look forward to," said Linda Crain.

Gayle's Dance Phase is conveniently located at 51770 Grand River in Wixom between Wixom and Napier roads. There's easy access from I-96. For more information or to register for classes call (248) 305-5600. Or check out their website at www.gaylesdancephase.com



Dancers from Gayle's DancePhase pose after performing at Walt Disney World in Florida during a national competition.



Gayle's DancePhase

Celebrating 23 Years of Excellence in Dance Education

Gayle's DANCEPHASE is the place for all stages of a dancer's education. Offering classes in Tap, Jazz Ballet, Pointe, Hip Hop, Cecchetti, Lyrical, Technique, Combination Classes and Boys Classes for ages 3 yrs and up

CALL TO REGISTER TODAY!

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DANCE CLASSES NOW FORMING!

OPEN HOUSE AUGUST 17th 5-8 pm

Visit our website at: www.gaylesdancephase.com

WHATEVER YOUR NEEDS MAY BE, COMPETITION OR JUST-FOR-FUN Gayle's DANCEPHASE is for you!

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