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Novi News

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Volume 51 Number 7

Novi, Michigan

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Official
50's
Festival
program
inside
this
edition

50¢

INSIDE

International Festival

Indian dancers performed during a previous International Festival at the Novi Civic Center. This year's event will take place Saturday, Aug. 19, at Main Street Novi.



— Page 6A

Engineer & Author

Novi native Elizabeth Christensen co-authored

"StarGate Atlantis: The Chosen," a novel based on the science fiction TV series. Her day job?

engineer for the US Air Force. — Page 7A

SPORTS

Get up and go!

The Novi varsity cross country team's path to the state finals begins on Taft Road. Since June 19, the team has met at Novi High School for daily "cannibal" practices — optional, student-run workouts that are designed to help athletes gain the necessary endurance to improve during the fall season. — 1B

Look inside for your **GREEN SHEET Classifieds**

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No school campaign violations

Administration investigation uncovers "inappropriate" activity by parents, none by educators

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Despite the fact that two non-employees involved with school organizations may have "inappropriately" campaigned for candidates in the last school board election, a two-month long investigation by the Novi Community School District has uncovered no wrongdoing by school employees, and no violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

That's according to assistant superintendent for human resources Bob Schram, who conducted the investigation, interviewing 22 people. The investigation was launched upon request of the board of education at the May 4 board meeting.

Former trustee George Kortlandt, who was unseated in the May election in question by challenger Katie Razon, asked for the investigation, citing possible inappropriate distribution of election materials within schools.

The Novi News sought further comment from Kortlandt at the time, but he refused to elaborate on the allegations, which were described only generally, noting that he preferred to let the administration pursue the investigation.

Two incidents

Schram found two "inappropriate incidents," over the course of the campaign finance act and no wrongdoing by school employees.



Bob Schram

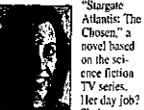
president of the Novi High School Band Boosters encouraged people to vote for Kortlandt at the group's Feb. 13 meeting. The incident was even recorded in the meeting's minutes, Schram said. Since the president was a parent and not a school member, encouraging people to vote for Kortlandt did not break any rules, Schram said, but it was inappropriate.

In the second incident, the president of the Deerfield Community Council encouraged people attending a March 7 pizza party at the school to get out and vote, and then told them to "vote for Katie," referring to challenger Katie Razon, who unseated Kortlandt in the last board election. The president of the DCC is also not a school employee, Schram said.

Allegations not proved

The investigation found no support for a number of allegations, Schram said, including:

continued on page 3



Novi native Elizabeth Christensen co-authored



Sheryl Walsh, Novi director of community relations, joins Audio Visual room coordinator Dave Reinhardt, right, and production specialist Nate Hartwick in the city council video studio. The city is considering broadcasting future sessions over the Internet.

REDISTRICTING NOVI SCHOOLS

Grasping the committee report

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

The Redistricting Subcommittee for the Novi Community School District has recommended a plan which would affect students living south of 10 Mile Road, according to assistant superintendent for business and operations Jim Koster.

The proposal is laid out in the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee report, and says 499 students would be displaced. The plan, proposal number seven, was endorsed by the full committee.

"At some point, there's going to be a time someone," Koster said.

Proposal number seven states that new growth in the district would be split between Deerfield and Parkview elementary schools. "With enrollment lower at Novi Woods Elementary school," Koster notes that the school board mandated current first and second graders would be allowed to "grandfather" in at their current schools. It notes that allowing other grades to "grandfather" would be problematic.

Koster sat on the redistricting sub-committee, but said his role was mainly limited to providing data. The group met eight or nine times for hours, he said. The report was put together by the committee, which was composed of education

Move's not popular with all

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Bobbie Murphy has mixed feelings on the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee report.

Murphy, a parent of students in the Novi Community School District, said she is still not certain why redistricting is needed, and believes that fewer students would be affected if Deerfield Elementary School — where two of her children went last year — had not been scheduled to become a neighborhood school.

Neighborhood schools draw students from the surrounding area, whereas Deerfield, which has teachers trained in different methods of instruction, selected students through a lottery.

"It's a huge number they're looking at displacing," Murphy said. "Lots of parents have voiced concerns over equity."

Murphy said she knows if no "grassroots movement" to keep Deerfield from becoming a neighborhood school, and said asking the redistricting committee to re-evaluate would be difficult at this point.

"With the amount of work the redistricting committee did, it would be a slap in the face," she said. "Obviously, there was a tremendous amount of time and effort put into (the report)."

However, Murphy questioned why the report contained a section on community education, since she sees that as a separate issue.

"It seems to make it even more convoluted," she said.

Improvements being made

Murphy is glad public forums are scheduled on the redistricting process, because she said there has been a lack of dialogue in the past between parents and the

continued on page 4

City explores video streaming council meetings on the Web

First-year cost around \$7,400

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Let's say you're a local developer, and your project is going before city council.

But, you have a prior commitment, and can't attend the meeting.

What if rather than having to set up a VHS or DVD recording of the meeting, you could watch it right on the city's Web site?

And, you could even go to the specific part of the meeting you want to watch.

The ability to produce video through a Web site — known as video streaming — is available,

and the city is considering purchasing the equipment to make it possible.

Council members discussed such a proposal at its July 10 meeting.

Mayor David Landry asked if a proposal for the cost for both live and on-demand video streaming could be brought back to council within 45 days.

Video streaming is designed to deliver video over the Internet in real time and is produced live or on demand.

On-demand streams are stored on a server for a specified period of time. Live streams are only available at a particular time, such as a video stream of a sporting event.

The city is considering producing an on-demand stream, archiving each meeting for 30 days —

the same amount of time videos are available in the library.

Currently, council meetings are broadcast live via the city's government access cable channel 13 and replayed at 7 p.m. on the Sunday following the meeting.

"Video streaming provides an opportunity for all community members, as well as people interested in the city of Novi with Internet access, to view city council meetings via the Internet," according to Sheryl Walsh, the city's director of community relations.

With only a few modifications to the existing audio-visual room behind council chambers and the purchase of a video capture computer, the city would be able to video stream council meetings,

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SPORTS, SCHOOL KEEP NOFAR BUSY

Student enjoys family business

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

For 21-year-old Andy Nofar of Novi, life is a mix of family, sports, school and business that keeps him hopping.

"I've been playing sports since I was a little kid," he said. "It's big in my family."

During high school, Nofar was a running back for Walled Lake Western High School, and is currently learning how to play golf.

"It's a tough sport," he said. "I'm making progress."

Besides learning golf, Nofar is

continuing his study in the academic arena, working towards a business degree at Wayne State University. He hopes to graduate in a few years.

He also enjoys spending time with his large family. Nofar already has two nieces and nephews, and plenty of cousins.

Running the family business

It was his family that introduced him to another one of his loves: business. His family owns hotels and Novi Fine Wine & Liquors and Pizza Marvelous in Novi, and he started learning the ropes as a child.

During high school, Nofar said

he was one of the top business students, and now he is responsible for managing Novi Fine Wine & Liquors and Pizza Marvelous.

Neighbors

He has worked at the businesses, which share the same location, since he was 17 years old.

"I've always liked business," he said. "Work took most of my time (in high school)."

Currently, the store's renovation is keeping him busy.

Adding to his expertise

Nofar said he takes wine classes at Schoolcraft College and attends tastings to better familiarize

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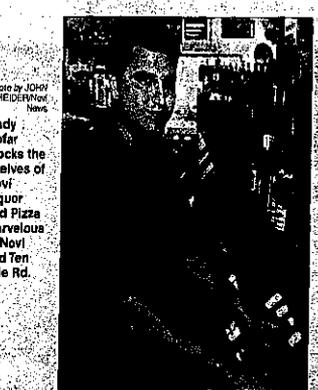


Photo by JOHN HEIDENROTH/Novi News
Andy Nofar stocks the shelves of Novi Liquor and Pizza Marvelous at Novi and Ten Mile Rd.

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- Red Cross
- Serra Toyota
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- Shuman Chrysler Jeep
- Signature Audio Services
- State Farm Insurance
- Stone Soap Co.
- Tony Marie's Hair Studio
- Total Soccer
- Tributes of Wixom Village Center
- Uptown Market
- Varsity Lincoln Mercury
- Volare Restaurant
- Walled Lake Western Bank
- Wixom Library
- Wixom Masonic Lodge
- Your Mirror's Image

Sports, school keep Nofar busy

continued from front page

"People come to see me just for that," he said. "They know I know my stuff."

He has also extended his interest in business and sports to the community, sponsoring an estimated 12 youth sports teams each year, in baseball, softball, hockey and soccer.

Nofar is also a member of the board of directors of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce.

"I plan on getting more and more involved with the city," he said.

Matt Down is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdown@gannett.com.

Andy Nofar

How you know him: He is on the board of directors of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, and attends St. James Roman Catholic Church. He also works at Novi Fine Wine & Liquors and Pizza Marvelous.

Interests: Business, real estate, law, sports.

Interesting fact: He was a running back in high school for Walled Lake Western High School.

Quote: "I plan on getting more and more involved with the city," he said.

No school campaign violations

continued from front page

"That a member of the facilities sub-committee for the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee, who is also a staffer at Deerfield Elementary School, had been pressured by other Deerfield staffers to delay the work of the committee till after the school board election."

Deerfield, formerly a magnet school, became a neighborhood school earlier this year in a controversial decision by the board of education. Redistricting has also been a hot-button issue, although the staffer was only involved on the facilities sub-committee, which compared school buildings within the district.

The "rumor" was "total falsehood," Schram said, noting that co-workers of the staffers did not pressure the person to delay the committee's work, which he said would not even have been feasible.

That Deerfield Elementary principal Richard Njus campaigned for Raean at the March 7 pizza party, attended by 600-700 people. There was no evidence he did, Schram said.

Deerfield Family Fun Night

A number of other allegations centered around the Deerfield Family Fun Night, held at the School April 28. The atmosphere at the event was political, Schram said, with many parents wearing political stickers, but there was no evidence school employees, including Njus, had done any campaigning for Raean.

One parent at the event complained to Njus that someone was passing out stickers for Raean, and Schram said Njus investigated, but couldn't find the described activity.

There was also a complaint that campaign materials were being distributed at the volunteer registration table at the event that night, Schram said. The table was open 6-7:30 p.m. for volunteers to sign up and around 8 p.m., someone saw campaign literature on the table, which wasn't being manned at the time.

However, Schram said the literature belonged to a person attending the party, who had set it down momentarily while they gave it to someone else. While it was momentarily on the table, it was not there to be distributed to the public, Schram said.

Campaign Finance Act

The board also asked that the Michigan Campaign Finance Act be looked into for possible violations, but none were found, Schram said.

The section of the act in question reads: "A public body or individual acting for a public body shall not use or authorize the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of a contribution under section 4(3)(a)."

Future lessons

As a result of the investigation, superintendent Peter Dion said that he would take personal responsibility in terms of campaigning at school functions.

"People don't know," he said at the June 11 board meeting. "We know because we're in the business."

"What we concluded was, we need to do a better job of educating non-staff people on what is appropriate at school functions," Schram said.

Matt Down is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdown@gannett.com.

Novi explores video streaming city council meetings on the Web

continued from front page

After the equipment is purchased, the annual cost to video stream two council meetings a month would be about \$2,000, Walsh said.

This is the cost for 50 viewers. Since it's a demand service, the fee would go up with additional users. "The more viewers who log on, the greater the cost," Walsh said.

Meetings would be available for on-line viewing the next day. Harwick said the service would be useful to someone who wants to watch a meeting who lives outside the city, those running a satellite dish and others who don't have access to cable Channel 13.

Cost for the first year would be about \$7,400, including the one-time purchase of about \$5,400 worth of equipment, to be able to produce the video streaming.

Troy staff likes video streaming meetings

By Pam Fleming

Troy Public Library. They are making the meetings available on video through the city's intranet used by city employees.

"There's a lot of time the employees have to go back and check something," Stewart said.

She said the city has not made the video-streamed meetings available on its city Web site because there have not been any requests for such a service, plus it takes up a lot of room on the computer server.

Department heads for the city of Troy are required to attend the council meetings.

"Before we had video streaming, we had a conference room where they could all watch the meetings on TV without having to sit in the council chambers," Stewart said.

"Once we went live on the Internet, they could sit in their office while they watched the meeting. A lot of people like to get work done while they're watching the meeting. This has been a real help for our city staff."

She said several times city council members and Troy residents have been out of the state and been able to watch council meetings on their computer.

Residents can also watch their favorite TV program while watching the city council meetings on their computer while at home.

"It's just one more way that we're taking advantage of technology in this fast-paced world," she said. "It's been a time saver for staff, residents and council members. I think it's great that Novi may follow suit."

Stewart mentioned that the video streaming cost the city only about \$100 since most of the equipment was already available.

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@gannett.com.

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Grasping the committee report

continued from front page

and community members. PTOs and principals came up with a list of potential parents for the committee and sent out a questionnaire about their school involvement, Koster said.

Koster said in many school districts, administrators restrict as often as every couple of years without seeking input from parents. The Novi district has not been restricted since 1989, he said.

"We wanted to make sure the process had a say," he said. Public forums on the restructuring are also scheduled for 7 p.m. today at the ITC Forum and August 14.

Restructuring, which Koster said seems to be a "hot-button" issue in the community, is only one of three aspects covered in the report. The two other sub-committees addressed school utilization and community education.

The facilities report

The Facilities Sub-Committee, which looked at school utilization, focused on the elementary schools, and Koster said committee members examined each school and compared them to each other in terms of classroom type and size.

The report says that the need for "equitable facilities" is high at Orchard Hills, Parkview, and Village Oaks elementary schools.

"At this point, it probably holds quite a bit of credence (with the administration)," Koster said.

However, any improvements or construction on school buildings would be far out in the future and it is possible that nothing will happen, Koster said.

The community education report

The most strongly worded section of the report was by the Community Education/Community Partnership/Technology Sub-Committee. It lists four current issues: safety, space, minimal requirements and technology.

The "minimal requirements" section notes that not enough "basic programs" are being offered, such as additional childcare and pre-school programs, additional ESL classes, and day-time classes for non-citizens.

"We are a bare minimum school district, or are we 'Committed to Excellence' in education?" the report asks.

The technology section notes that the technology used is set to expire and "ongoing revenue to maintain our technology requirements is needed."

The safety section of the report notes that adults are coming and going near where children are in class, and there is a lack of security and supervision in the community education office because of the building's layout.

The space section of the report complains that the ITC technology center has "inadequate" pre-school classrooms and bathroom facilities, as well as "inappropriate" playgrounds for pre-school

and childcare students. It also says space is needed for English as a Second Language classes, because people are being turned away.

The space section says more space is needed for alternative education classes, so that they can be held during the day time. Alternative education has had six locations in the past 10 years, the report says.

"Are we going to 'write-off' the at-risk students because we have space problems?" the report asks.

"Minimal requirements"

The "minimal requirements" section notes that not enough "basic programs" are being offered, such as additional childcare and pre-school programs, additional ESL classes, and day-time classes for non-citizens.

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Move's not popular with all

continued from front page

school board. However, she is not sure how many people will attend a summertime forum. The forums are scheduled for July 20 and August 14.

"We'll see what the turnout is," she said. "What they're doing is an improvement over the way they've done things in the past."

Last year, two of Murphy's children attended Deerfield Elementary School. One of them has since aged out, and the other will be grandfathered in next year. However, she is concerned that eventually being a neighborhood school will change the style of teaching at the school.

"I will tell you, in three years that school will change," she said. "The lottery is something that sits things up every year, (but) I don't think in order to address that you take away the concept."

Murphy said she would be interested in seeing the district explore the possibility of extending the Deerfield program to other schools in the district instead of limiting it since it was popular. "What exactly is the vision for this district?" she asked. "Where are we heading?"

MEAP scores down

District's scores lower than last year

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

MEAP scores fell slightly overall compared to last year in the Novi Community School District. The test results, released by the state last Friday, show that although gains were made in science and social studies, scores are still down overall compared to last year, with results dipping in math, reading and writing.

The numbers game: In math, roughly 74.5 percent of Novi High School students met or exceeded state standards, down from 78 percent in 2005. In reading, roughly 84 percent met or exceeded state standards, down from 89 percent in 2005.

In science, roughly 77.6 percent met or exceeded state standards, up from roughly 75.3 percent in 2005. In social studies, roughly 51 percent met or exceeded state standards, up from roughly 45 percent in 2005. In writing, roughly 76 percent

met or exceeded state standards, down from roughly 80 percent in 2005.

More took test

More students took the test this year. In 2006, 435 students took the math portion of the MEAP at Novi High School, 432 took the reading portion, 433 took the science and social studies portion, and 431 took the writing portion.

Compared with other schools

Novi's scores were lower overall than those recorded at Northville High School, which had higher marks in math, reading, and writing, and lower marks in science.

South Lyon High School outscored Novi in reading, science, social studies, and writing, but fell behind in math. Novi High School outscored Milford High School, West Bloomfield High School, Walled Lake Western High School and North Farmington High School in every category.

Novi's scores were also well above state averages in every area.

COMMUNITY

Start your pedals

Team Tree Farm hits the trails in Novi on Tuesdays

By Bill Laitner
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

To sprawling Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi lures shoppers by the hour.

To its glitzy new Rock Financial Showplace, the city draws 2,000 concertgoers to a crack to sit-down diners.

And to its Lakeshore Trail? Mountain bikers, about three dozen or so, every Tuesday.

From just down the road and all the town around Novi, they descend on this oasis of nature beside Walled Lake.

The off-road bikers come for their weekly "social ride" on a 10-mile trail they largely built themselves. They even designed and helped make the trail signs, complete with "you-are-here" maps, in what's now a popular spot for walkers, joggers, dog owners and bird watchers.

They call themselves Team Tree Farm, a high-spirited "mod" to Lakeshore Park's origin as a spring-and-shrub nursery. Their trail winds at times just a stone's throw from Fountain Walk mall, yet it feels like you're in northern Michigan.

Team Tree Farm helps maintain several bike paths, from Stony Creek to Metropark South of Rossdale to the Potowomac Trail north-west of Ann Arbor. But its home turf is the Lakeshore Trail, says Cox's wife, Wendy Cox, 36, who often rides with her husband.

Bits of Novi's path have been there for years, but Team Tree Farm members created most of the Lakeshore Trail, says Wendy Wiktorowski, Novi's supervisor of parks, recreation and community development.

AS a department, we've made partnerships with groups in the community. Our three biggest are the Novi Jaguars soccer team, Novi Youth Baseball and these mountain bikers.

"The Tree Farmers are really fun," she says. "They're really into it, but we actually deal with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, the statewide coalition of scores of similar bike clubs, he says."

"Together, we worked to create a recreational opportunity that isn't found in other communities. Not only do we have new parents out there, but they're also interested in a decent club that's fun and safe for their kids."

Wendy Wiktorowski, Novi's supervisor of parks, recreation and community development.

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Photo by GANNETT NEWS SERVICE. Novi's Lakeshore Trail is a popular spot for walkers, joggers, dog owners and bird watchers.

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Team Tree Farm Relay

What: A mountain bike relay race of four-person teams, with men's, women's and coed divisions in sport and advanced classes. It's also a fund-raiser to support the trail.

When: July 23. Racing starts at 10 a.m.; race meeting at 9 a.m.

Where: Lakeshore Trail at Novi's Lakeshore Park, west of 13 Mile and Novi Road.

Who: Great for experienced riders testing their skills, but beginners welcome. Helmets required. Expect an unpaved trail with dips, hills and turns.

Fee: \$100 per team, in advance; \$125 per team on race day.

Info: See www.teamtreefarm.com for details and entry forms.

Shotwell, 38, of Commerce Township.

After the group's recent romp beside I-275's roaring traffic, members had to their weekly post-ride stop at Lakeside Bar & Grill, overlooking Walled Lake.

There, over trout and burgers, brows and pop, the off-road talk was not all sprockets and spokes but also of plays at Stratford, Ontario, and on the latest food-safety advice from Washington.

One cycling subject, though, remained uppermost on everyone's mind: the fund-raiser on July 23 - which club stalwart Stanton Flynn of West Bloomfield calls "the perfect event for beginners."

"In the last few years, Novi has gotten a lot of funding" for the Lakeshore Trail from the state group, Flynn said. "We'd like to give back."

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Poloclinic
The Detroit Poloclinic invites people of all levels of riding ability to a 1-day clinic. Equipment & trained horses provided. Lunch included. Must be at least 14 years old. 7425 Berling Rd., Howell July 22nd - 10 a.m. Registration: Mail \$50 check to Secretary DPO 11921 Farmington 7, Farmington, MI 48353. Questions? Please Call 248-688-3721

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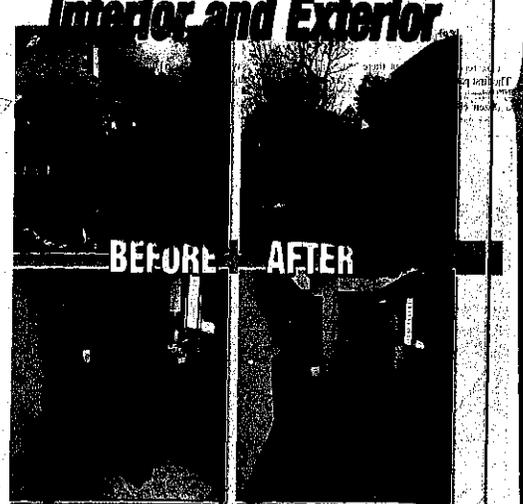
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International Festival moving to Main Street

Booths needed for Aug. 19 event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Want to learn about other countries but can't afford a trip around the world?

Try attending Novi's free International Festival Saturday, Aug. 19.

(A rain date of Sunday, Aug. 20, has been set.)

The annual festival has been moved to Main Street Novi this year.

The event will offer a potpourri of food and goods from different countries and will take place from noon-6 p.m. on Main and Market streets.

The festival is organized each year by the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, which instituted the multi-cultural festival several years ago.

Booths from Japan, China, Taiwan, Pakistan, Iran and France have already been established.

"We are looking for vendors, more informational, health and arts and crafts booths representing various countries, restaurants and caterers and local performers," said Tracie Ringle, event and marketing coordinator for the department.

Performances can include dance, storytelling, singing, playing music or other activities.

Vendors can sell items to the public, but the city does charge a vendor fee of \$125.

The fees cover each vendor a 10-by-10-foot tent, two 6-foot tables and two chairs.

Restaurants also get the tent, tables and chairs. The city will take care of all licenses related to the festival.

Vendors must provide a sampling for the participants, but they can also sell food, according to Ringle.

New this year is the Parade of Nations, which will feature participants in native costumes on horseback, will take place at 2 p.m. The parade will run from Market Street to Main Street.

Get involved

The city of Novi's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department staff needs multicultural vendors, performers, restaurants plus volunteers for the Aug. 19 International Festival at Main and Market streets.

To register, call Tracie Ringle at (248) 347-0400, or e-mail her at tringle@ci.novi.mi.us. Deadline for registration is Friday, July 28.

Ringle said festival organizers plan to have two stages set up for entertainment.

"So, we're still looking local cultural entertainment," she said.

The festival, which started in the schools, then went to Fountain Walk, and was supposed to be at the Main Street location last year.

But, the festival was kept at the Novi Civic Center due to mud construction.

"We're excited to finally have it at the venue that we want," Ringle said.

"Main Street has such cultural diversity that it really is a perfect fit."

Hafeez Shaikh, landlord for the Main Street Building, welcomes the festival to its new venue and added that the merchants will participate in the event.

Shaikh said Main Street Novi has become the city's meet mixing bowl.

He sees the festival as an excellent opportunity for area residents to share ethnic food and different cultures.

"Main Street is booming again, and I'm working on a few new tenants as well."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 115, or by e-mail at pfleming@nownews.com.



These Indian dancers performed during a previous International Festival at the Novi Civic Center. This year's event will take place Saturday, Aug. 19, at Main Street Novi.

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<p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 6400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-348-2345 112 Mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 346-1547 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Rev. John Hico Rev. John Coope www.fumc-northville.org</p>
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<p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2055 Woodworth Ave. - NW of 11 Mile Worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Holy Days: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Fr. John G. Kusko, Pastor Fr. Robert Datta, Assistant Pastor Pastor Office: 346-3437</p>	<p>HARVEST FELLOWSHIP 4929 Pontiac Trail Warren 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>
<p>MATTHEW OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH 3381 Five Mile Rd. (at Hoggerty) Livonia, MI 48150 Phone: 248-346-2103 Reverend: St. George Madrini (Orthodox) 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Fr. George M. Vassallo, Pastor www.mthgk.org</p>	<p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Farmington Hills • 23225 Oak Rd. • 348-4740-884 Summer school: Sunday worship: 8:30 a.m. Sunday: 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Wednesday 308-722-9310 Nov. 03 NOV Novi, Michigan</p>
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CITY BRIEFS

Parks Foundation funds increase

Brian Burke, co-chair of the Aug. 3 Novi Parks Foundation "Get in the Game" Golf Outing at the Links of Novi, recently announced additional corporate sponsors to the foundation's fund-raising event.

New sponsors include Tom Holzer, Paul, Cooper Shifman, FDI Group, JPS Marketing Communications, Michigan CAT, Walker Tool, COHO Co., Donald Samlet, FC, McInch Sporting Goods, Onion Auto Electronics and Stiles Chiropractic, PC.

There is still room for individuals and foundations for golf. Anyone wishing to register for golf may do so in person at the front counter of the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, or call (248) 561-0255.

"We are continuing to seek additional sponsorship support from local businesses in and around Novi," Burke said. "This is a great opportunity to help the community and these in turn."

Burke can also be contacted via e-mail at BBurke@holzerford.com.

Rouge Bus Tour set

The public is invited to the "Remember the Rouge" Bus Tour from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Join members of Friends of the Rouge and Dr. Oriin Coddiford, University of Michigan-Dearborn professor of environmental studies, on a tour of the Rouge River. Attendees are invited to meet at the Environmental Interpretive Center on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. A requested donation is \$10 for Friends of the Rouge members and \$15 for non-members. Lunch is included.

This tour is sponsored by Friends of the Rouge and the Rouge River communities, which includes Novi. It is paid for, in part, by a grant from the National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

Seats are limited, so pre-registration is required. To register, call (313) 792-9621 or e-mail peccoradina@therouge.org.

Soccer camps recognized

City council members recognized the 2006 Novi High School Girls Varsity Soccer State Champions and coach Brian O'Leary at the beginning of the July 10 meeting.

Mayor David Landry presented the team with a special plaque for the accomplishment.

Boarding facilities reviewed

Kirk Nicola of Beverly Hills appeared before city council again July 10 to discuss the city's proposed city ordinance amendments that would allow animal boarding facilities in light industrial areas.

Nicola said he recently met with Tim Schmitt, city planner, regarding the parking requirements. After further research was done on parking requirements, the amendment was changed to one parking space per 700 square feet of space used for such a facility rather than one for every 350 feet.

The Beverly Hills resident, who wants to open a pet boarding facility in Novi, also said that there really isn't a "wash hour" when it comes to people dropping off and picking up their pets, and that, typically, clients come to such facilities throughout the day.

Library has computer for blind

The Novi Public Library recently purchased some software that can assist the visually impaired.

The library received an Oakland County Community Development Block Grant through the city of Novi for \$2,900. The library applied for the grant in August 2004, and it was approved in July 2005.

Members of the Novi Lions, the Novi Public Library and the non-profit group eBlind all wrote letters to the city that helped the city obtain the grant.

The grant paid for new software (JAWS, Zoomtext, Openbook, and Microsoft Office) and some new hardware (a scanner and CD burner). The library provides the space for this computer and free use of it by patrons who are visually and/or physically handicapped.

"This will be of particular use by any Novi resident who is training through the eBlind program in Practice and main others on," said Lucy Roehrig, head of Specialized Services at the library.

The Novi Lions Club also paid for Roehrig to be trained by an eBlind trainer on the software purchased. Although the library does not have a name for the project yet, the name of the computer in the library is the Adaptive Technology Computer.

For more information, contact Roehrig at (248) 349-0720, Ext. 117, or e-mail her at lucy@novi.lib.mi.us.

Novi native helps pen "Stargate" novel

Christensen co-authors book based on sci-fi TV series

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

When former Novi resident Elizabeth Christensen set out to co-author a novel based on the TV series "Stargate Atlantis," she had only to draw on her own experience for background.

No, Christensen is not a deep space traveler bumping up against extra-terrestrials on a regular basis.

However, she does work as an engineer for the U.S. Air Force, and since the show is about members of the Air Force traveling in space, her knowledge came in handy from time to time.

"Writing is in my off-time," she said. "It is not something you see often, an engineer who cares about grammar."

Christensen co-authored "Stargate Atlantis: The Chosen" with Australian writer Sonny Whitehead. The two have collaborated on another book for the series, which Christensen will come out in August.

The book is roughly 200 pages and is set in the universe of the TV show, which runs on the Sci Fi channel, Christensen said. She had to work within the constraints of the show, making sure not to contradict past episodes or get into specific details that could potentially conflict with future shows.

"It's kind of a delicate balance," she said. "You have to be careful, and they don't give us a lot of advance warning on what episodes up. It's a little limiting, but it's entertaining."

However, having established plot outlines and characters to work with was also a "springboard," Christensen said. She was able to foresee incidents in past episodes of the show, which she said is appreciated by dedicated fans of the TV show.

The book is available online at www.amazon.com, and sales have been good so far, Christensen said. It should also be available soon in Barnes and Nobles bookstores, she said.

One challenge for Christensen was the fact that Whitehead is based in Australia, meaning the two had to share their writing and swap feedback via e-mail and occasional phone calls, often made right when Whitehead was waking up, and Christensen was ready for bed, she said.

However, the two complemented each other, Christensen said. She is strong on character development, while Whitehead is good with plots and action.

The series has a strong international following, Christensen said, and the book was published in the UK. She ended up providing expertise on American slang and speech, she said, since most of the people involved in the book's development were from other countries.

It took a year or two for the book to be published after development began, Christensen said, but noted that her second collaboration with Whitehead moved along much more

quickly. Writing on that book began in February, and it will be published in August.

Christensen became involved with the project through "pure, dumb luck," she said. She was contacted by Whitehead after posting a commentary online about the space shuttle Columbia. Whitehead had already written one novel for the series.

In the future, Christensen is considering pursuing some of her own writing projects, outside the realm of TV series based books, she said.

"I think I would like to pursue it and see where it goes," she said. "I'm not under any illusions about how difficult it is. I'm not giving up my day job."

In the meantime, she is preparing for an August conference for Stargate fans in Chicago. She will be giving a presentation at the conference about the book, and said she might read an excerpt.

Christensen said she is a fan of the "Stargate Atlantis" TV series because of the Air Force tie-in, and because it is more humorous, innocent and sarcastic than many other science fiction shows.

Her talent for writing comes from her father, who majored in journalism while in college and currently works in advertising, Christensen said. She was born and raised in Novi, and received an aero-engineering degree from the University of Michigan. She now works in Ohio for the Air Force.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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BE SCENE IN NOVI

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novionline.com fax (248) 349-9832



Phil Hill, Gary Eldridge, Brian Gura and Greg Rakowicz



Brad Atiyeh, Bennie McCusker and Ed Harrell



Keith Kuhn, J.R. Atiyeh and Ken Grant



David Malloy, Sheryl Walsh, Maryanne Cornelius and Clay Pearson



Mark Pappas, Bob Eder and Kirk Ritchie



Dan Helka, Eric Lowery, Dennis Helka and Randy Gregory



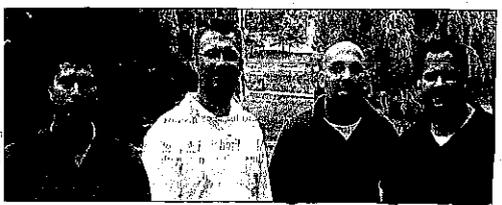
Melissa Fazio, Pal Webb, Allen Tuchkloper and Gina Kozlowski



Dean Gauthier, Bryan Beever, Bill Keane and Doug Ruby

Greater Chamber outing:

The First Annual Greater Novi Chamber Golf Outing with J.R. Atiyeh was held July 12 at the Links of Novi. Suburban Group was the major sponsor of the event. The Greater Novi Chamber's next event will be an after-hours mixer at Gus O'Connor's August 10.



Andy Nofar, Neil St. Aubin, Andre Joseph Esshaki and Mike Shammos



Greg Meadows, Steven Meadows, Lori Hollinger and Dave Hollinger



Josh Arnold, Brad Villa, Tony Villa and Doug Metcalfe



Ed Browalski, John Cain, Chuck Wallin and Mike Billings



Todd Solo, Tom Steffler, Ben Swaine and Randy Patterson



Frank Bracken, Bob Owens, Leo Tucker and Andy Bracken



Sean McClinchey, Mike McClinchey, Michelle Bownes and Dennis Cunningham



Brian Janowicki, Dean Klifton, Dave DeWitt and Vince Orsini



Gene Dziadon, Brian Roeth, Jim Baker and Joe Behrend

NEXT WEEK: The grand opening tonight of MIXX Lounge in Novi

Got an event for Be Scene in Novi? Submit your pictures (with individuals identified) to Novi News, 104 W. Main Northville, MI 48167, or e-mail to cstone@gannett.com. Call Cal Stone, editor, at (248) 349-1700 for more information.

BUSINESS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com fax (248) 349-9832

Remerica's Novi office expands to include new workout room

Agents also play basketball

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Gary Reggish is no ordinary boss. Not only has he provided a new workout room for his real estate agents in his Novi office, but he also included shower facilities.

The Remerica United Realty office in West Market Square at Beck Road and Grand River Avenue was recently expanded by 3,000 square feet to offer more offices and its employees a way to energize themselves while at work.

Reggish said that with the real estate market on the decline and homes taking longer to sell with three times more product on the market than usual, real estate agents are having to work harder and longer hours.

"Agents are working harder today than they ever had," Reggish said.

"They may early morning meetings and plan to be home in time for dinner. Then an offer comes in on a property or they get a listing appointment, and before you know it, they're not home until 9 or 10 o'clock at night."

Agents might work 10-, 12- or 14-hour days, and along with that can come a lot of fast food meals and eating on the road.

Getting to a gym to workout takes time, which is the one commodity real estate agents don't have.

So, Reggish decided to step up to the plate and offer his employees a place to exercise right at work.

"They need to have some balance in their life and a healthier lifestyle," he said.

The new workout room includes a weight machine, elliptical trainer and treadmill. A basketball hoop was placed on a court outside and shower and changing facilities were also included.

"Now agents have 45 minutes they can work out right here," Reggish said.

A phone was also placed in the workout room in case an agent is waiting for an important call. "Business doesn't stop," Reggish said.

The real estate broker said that



Courtesy photo

Patti Malda, an agent for Remerica United Realty in Novi, works out on the office's new weight machine. Gary Reggish recently expanded his real estate office by 3,000 square feet to provide a workout room for his agents.

agents who might not have been working out before have jumped on the bandwagon with the new equipment conveniently located in the office.

"The workout room has been available for about a month now, and Reggish said the agents love it. He said he can't wait to see how many agents will use it."

Agent Patti Malda of South Lyon has worked at the Remerica office for a year and a half.

"I like to work out, and this frees my time up so I don't have to go to the gym," Malda said. "I can bring my clothes here and work out at my leisure as opposed to having to set a schedule. It's wonderful."

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@gannett.com.

Realtors, mortgage loan officers invited to free seminar in Novi

Firms assists bruised credit home buyers

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Dan Chelton knows it's a buyers' market right now when it comes to real estate.

"Our real estate market has suffered from rising interest rates, a slow economy and flat home sales," he said.

But Chelton, president and CEO of the Beverly Hills-based Marketplace Homes, LLC, says he can help mortgage loan officers and real estate professionals "jump up the volume" with his home buying system.

Chelton will offer a free, one-hour informational seminar at 7 p.m. today at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi.

The hotel is located at 27000 Stratton Drive, the access drive on the west side of Novi Road at I-96. The drive can be accessed at the intersection near the West Oaks shopping center.

Free seminars will also take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8, and Thursday, Aug. 10, at the Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights.

"We help people with bruised credit move into the home of their dreams on a rent-to-own basis," Chelton said. "We've done about 70 of these deals over the last three years."

With a bad economy and rising interest rates, foreclosures are up, and a lot of people want to be in homes but are unable to obtain financing.

Chelton said his firm currently has more clients than it can handle. That's why he's inviting area real estate professionals to become independent licensees of the Marketplace Homes Home Buying System.

Those who pay the \$1,500 to become licensees and attend the weekend seminar receive the tools to close difficult real estate transactions and the chance to write more business.

Chelton formed his firm four years ago after selling an employee benefits company, Timberland Group Services, in Coeurville in 2000.

But he wasn't ready to retire. "My wife said you can only play so many hand rounds of golf," Chelton said.

When his son turned down a position at Morgan Stanley that had been offered to him, Chelton decided to start his own business.

Register, learn more

Realtors and mortgage loan officers are invited to a free, informational seminar offered by Marketplace Homes, LLC, on how to assist buyers with bruised credit at 7 p.m. tonight at the Doubletree Hotel in Novi.

To register, call (888) 224-4050. Seminars are also slated on Tuesday, Aug. 8, and Thursday, Aug. 10, at the Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights.

For more information visit www.marketplacehomes.com or contact to view a three-minute flash movie about the seminar.

Now, they help people purchase homes who otherwise could not. "There are so many good people caught up in bad situations due to unforeseen circumstances, such as poor health, loss of job or divorce," he said. "They just need a second chance."

Chelton not only handles deals throughout the state of Michigan but also across the country.

He will take his training and licensing program soon to Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Carolinas.

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@gannett.com.

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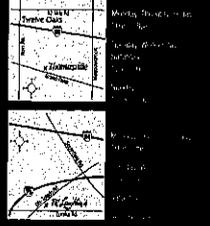
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PEOPLE

Call Stone editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novinews.com fax (248) 349-9832

Funeral Saturday for fallen soldier

■ Novi native Dreasky died from injuries suffered in Iraq

Details

Novi soldier Duane Dreasky's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Walid Lake Western High School, 600 Beck Road.

Novi soldier Duane Dreasky's funeral will be held Saturday at Walid Lake Western High School, with visitation scheduled for today and Friday at O'Brien-Sullivan Funeral Home.

Dreasky, age 31, died July 10 after nearly eight months of treatment at a Texas facility from third-degree burns which covered more than 75 percent of his body. He sustained the injuries when an improvised explosive device exploded near his hummer Nov. 21 in Iraq, where he was stationed with the Michigan Army National Guard.

"He went out with so much dignity," said Mandelene Dreasky, his wife. "He fought and defied death four times. We had hoped that he would make it."

Dreasky received a bedside visit from President Bush in January. He was being treated at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio for nearly eight months after the attack, which resulted in the deaths of four other soldiers from Company B, 125th Infantry Regiment, based in Saginaw.

Mandelene said Dreasky, a former high school football player and martial arts enthusiast, had always wanted to join

the military, but had been denied due to a knee problem. He entered the National Guard in 2003 and was stationed for a year in Cuba, before serving as a full-time recruiter in 2004. He then volunteered to go to Iraq.

The Nov. 21 attack killed Pfc. John Deuring, 21, of Hazel Park, instantly, and three other soldiers later died of their injuries. The soldiers who later died were Sgt. Spencer Akers, 35, of Traverse City; Sgt. Matthew A. Wulber, 23, of Stanswood, and Sgt. Joshua V. Yeaman, 26, of Farmington Township in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The 125th Infantry returned home last month, a total of seven soldiers from the unit have died in Iraq.

Rotary honors builder Singh

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

In recognition of his "high ethical standards in business, involvement in the community, and personal excellence," developer Gurnale Singh Grewal was selected for the Paul Harris Fellowship honor by the Novi Rotary Club.

May Sanghvi, past district governor and past president for the Novi Rotary Club, said the

honor has been given out for more than 50 years in memory of the founder of rotary clubs.

Sanghvi, along with other Novi Rotary Club members, presented Grewal with the honor at his office.

"He was aware that something was going on," Sanghvi said. "He was very surprised and he was very honored and he said he doesn't deserve something like this."

Development, which Sanghvi said has built many subdivisions and developments in Novi. He is not a member of the rotary club, but Sanghvi said honorees need not be members.

"He has been involved in the city of Novi for almost 30 years now," Sanghvi said.

Matt Doran can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.



Novi Rotarians Todd Lockhart, president; May Sanghvi; and Randy D'Amore (right) present Gurnale Singh Grewal with the Paul Harris Fellowship honor.

ENGAGEMENT



Parker-Simon

Craig and Linda Parker of Novi, announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Parker, to Eric Simon, son of Sandra and Russell Simon of Toronto, Ontario.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Novi High School and a 2003 graduate of Michigan State University. She is currently a product development engineer for Paintpack Inc. in Williamsburg, Va.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of the University of Waterloo and is currently a director of business development at Capitol One in Richmond, Va.

A spring 2007 wedding is planned.

Michigan 50's Festival July 26-29 @ Novi Town Center

www.michiganfiftiesfestival.com
Get the official program inside this edition of the Novi News

Visit us on the Web: www.novinews.com

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unsightly growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed at the owner's expense, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year, and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant of any person or persons, Agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unsightly growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same together with a ten (10) percent administrative charge will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES COORDINATOR
CITY OF NOVI

(7-20-06 NN 299813)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.205

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.205, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, to modify regulations for recreational equipment storage in residential zoning districts.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 10, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(7-20-06 NN 299111)

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.203

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.203 to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, to provide regulations for self-storage facilities in the City.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 10, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(7-20-06 NN 299104)

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.204

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.204 to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, to add definitions of mixed-use buildings and mixed-use developments, to allow increased building height, change the density calculation, and allow modified room count calculations in the TC-1, Town Center Zoning District.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 10, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(7-20-06 NN 299108)

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 06-104.04

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 06-104.04, an ordinance to amend Chapter 21, Nuisances, the City of Novi Code of Ordinances, to clarify regulations for the storage of building materials in residential zoning districts.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 10, 2006 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. prevailing local time.

(7-20-06 NN 299105)

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider D1 BJOEHC, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-35, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SPECIAL LAND USE, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 4 ON PEARY COURT IN THE BECK NORTH CORPORATE PARK PHASE I IN THE LI, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. The subject property is 1.33 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct an approximately 12,000 sq. ft. office research building.



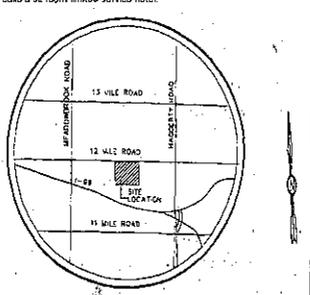
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

(7-20-06 NN 299224)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-16A, FOR REVISED PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT, WETLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 13 SOUTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD, BETWEEN HAGGERTY ROAD AND THE M3 CONNECTION, IN THE B2, COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT. The subject property is 2.52 acres and the applicant proposes to build a 92 room limited service hotel.



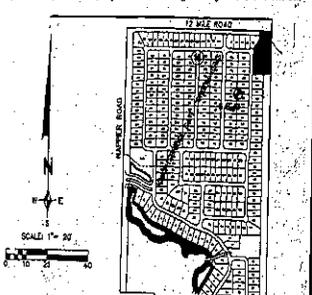
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

(7-20-06 NN 299215)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider KNIGHTSBRIDGE GATE POOLHOUSE, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-19A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND WOODLAND PERMIT. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 18, SOUTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD, EAST OF NAPIER ROAD, IN THE RA, RESIDENTIAL ACTIVE AND OPEN PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT. The subject property is 1.61 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct a pool, and poolhouse, adjacent to the Knightsbridge Gate subdivision.



All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 26, 2006.

(7-20-06 NN 299216)

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

Read Then Recycle This Newspaper

HEALTH

Call Stone editor (248) 349-7700 ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novi.news.com fax (248) 349-9832

BRIEFS

Trinity provides grants

Novi-based Trinity Health has awarded more than \$980,000 in grants to community health programs in Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland and Ohio.

The grants are drawn from the Trinity Community Health Fund, which acts as an internal "safety net" to strengthen and expand programs serving people with little or no health insurance. They are used to fund health care practitioners; increase clinical capacity and access; encourage the development of health education in underserved areas; and stimulate community-based collaboration.

The Trinity Community Health Fund annually awards grants to health programs operated through Trinity Health organizations that improve the overall health of communities, provide support to at-risk populations, foster collaboration and enhance the system's ministry.

Better Health celebrates

Local country music star C. J. Baker will headline a one-year anniversary jamboozie at Better Health Market, 42875 Grand River, on Saturday. Baker will be performing songs from his "Cooker Cause We're Older" CD which will be on sale at the picnic. The event will feature gourmet free-range beef burgers or hotdogs on the grill, spritzers and chips. If you bring a musical instrument to participate in the jamboozie, your picnic lunch is free.

Wicon-beat Better Health will have free samples of organic fruits and vegetables, healthy chips, cookies, bars, juices and more throughout the store. Nutrition specialists will be on hand to answer questions about supplements, food, and other health products.

Therapists observe Massage Therapy Week

Gina Agosta Salon's \$10 discount for hour session

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Sharon Lawlor says massage is more than meets the eye.

As a massage therapist at Gina Agosta Salon at 39831 Grand River Avenue in Novi, she and fellow therapist Denise Arata will offer \$10 discounts on one-hour massages the rest of this month at the salon.

The discounts are being offered in observance of the 11th International Massage Therapy Week, July 17-23.

The therapists will also visit the Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons on Meadowbrook Road this month to provide complimentary chair massages for residents.

Lawlor, who graduated from Irene's Myomassology Institute in Southfield and has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has worked at the salon for about a year and a half.

Antai, who earned an associate's degree in applied science with a certification in massage at Oakland Community College-Highland Lake and is working on a business degree from Sping Arbor University, has worked there about a year.

Therapy sessions are also available for 30 minutes, 90 minutes and 120 minutes. A hot stone massage last 75 minutes.

Although the salon has been there for at least a decade, it has only offered massage since Lawlor and Arata joined the staff.

"Massage is more therapeutic than people realize," Lawlor said. "It's not just for relaxation. It helps to relieve stress, muscle tension or soreness. It affects all 11

Benefits of massage

- Helps relieve stress and aids relaxation
- Helps relieve muscle tension and stiffness
- Provides greater joint flexibility and improves range of motion
- Helps relieve tension-related headaches and eye strain
- Improves circulation of blood and movement of lymph fluid
- Increases blood supply and nutrition to muscles
- Enhances the health and nourishment of skin
- Fosters peace of mind
- Promotes a relaxed state of mental alertness
- Enhances capacity for calm thinking and creativity
- Satisfies needs for caring, nurturing touch
- Fosters a feeling of well-being
- Reduces levels of anxiety

Source: Gina Agosta Salon

systems of the body, such as the lymphatic system that helps excrete wastes."

Massage also helps increase circulation and benefits people physically, mentally and emotionally.

Lawlor said she became interested in massage therapy as a career when a friend was studying massage and she was the person she practiced on, so she learned a lot.

"I wanted to be able to help people get the same benefit," she said.

The salon also offers 30-minute or 60-minute reflexology massages, prenatal massage, deep tissue massage and chair massage.



Denise Arata, a massage therapist at Gina Agosta Salon in Novi, works on a client at the Grand River Avenue location. The salon is offering a discount on one-hour massages this month in observance of the 11th International Massage Therapy Week this month.

Gina Agosta Salon is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call the salon at (248) 477-2766.

For the Novi News, she can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer

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Sam Rosenberg MD, PC

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Call Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113; cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

Westervelt heading to trial in Circuit Court

Slain woman's parents praying justice gets served

By Lisa Rose-Church GANNETT NEWS SERVICES

The parents of a slain Fowlerville gas station clerk hope that a Livingston County District Court judge's decision Friday to send her accused murderer to Circuit Court for trial will finally bring justice for their daughter.

Stephen Fear said he believes Lansing District Judge James Westervelt — charged with open murder — should die for submitting to death. Fear's 21-year-old daughter, Jessica Fear, she worked the midnight shift Sept. 9, 2003, at the Sunoco gas station.

Since Michigan does not have the death penalty, however,

lay dying. Those keys were found by a Fowlerville Department of Public Works' employee as she swept village streets three days after the murder.

Westervelt's niece, Cary Clark, testified earlier that her uncle confessed to her and her fiancée that he had been "seeing" Fear and that he stabbed her when Fear threatened to tell Westervelt's girlfriend.

Stephen Fear denies that his daughter was dating Westervelt. "She told him to go home; he was drunk," Clark, of Lansing, said.

Westervelt told her of the stabbing in winter 2004, but Clark said she was afraid to come forward at the time.

Fear had been stabbed 16 times in the back and chest. Three of the wounds pierced his heart.

Detective Donald Welch of the Livingston County Sheriff's Department also testified that Westervelt confessed to him.

Westervelt said he had been

what appears to be a deeply troubled individual" who has a serious alcohol problem.

"The prosecutor is reaching a great deal," Behler said.

Prosecutors have charged Westervelt with open murder, larceny in a building and carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent. Westervelt faces up to life in prison if convicted as charged.

Ed Heaphy refuses to stand in line at the Secretary of State office.

The 83-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident said he's driven three months with expired license plate tags in order to avoid the long lines.

"I just haven't had good luck with the offices," Heaphy said. "My tags expired in April and I waited until the mobile Secretary of State office came here."

Heaphy was among several seniors glad to see the mobile branch office drive through the Novi Senior Center parking lot last Wednesday.

"This is the second time I've used (the mobile office)," he said. "Going to the office is a task I don't relish."

"It's more convenient ... I've had no problems with the mobile office."

The Department of State's mobile office cruised into the senior center around 9 a.m., offering services to those who may not have time to visit a local office or have the ability to.

According to state officials, the mobile Secretary of State branch is a full-service office on wheels.

The mobile branch office consists of two vehicles, a tow vehicle and a trailer. The trailer is 28 feet long and 8.4 feet wide.

It offers the ability to bring all the services provided at any of the Secretary of State branch offices to any community.

FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-038

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Krueger of Melia's Sporting Goods is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to hold a tent sale on the lawn at 45283 Grand River from July 26, 2006 through July 28, 2006.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 9:30 a.m. on July 25, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to July 25, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 298785)

FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-037

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Walker Story of An Van Furniture is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to hold a furniture tent sale in the parking lot of West Oaks II at 27775 Novi Road from August 2, 2006 through August 6, 2006 and again from August 10, 2006 through August 14, 2006.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 9:30 a.m. on July 25, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to July 25, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 298785)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING

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All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WRÓBEL, SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 299222)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 9, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WRÓBEL, SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 299220)

FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-039

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lance Hornaday for W. E. Otten Construction is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for a construction trailer and a storage trailer to be located at 27540 Novi Road at Twelve Oaks Mall from August 1, 2006 through November 15, 2007.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 10:05 a.m. on July 26, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to July 26, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 298777)

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 299220)

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WRÓBEL, SECRETARY

(7-20-06 NN 299220)

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Ad Council

POLICE REPORT

Laptop stolen from office

A 27-year-old Novi woman told police that someone had stolen her laptop off her desk at ALK Development on Highline between 5:30 p.m. June 16 and 8:30 a.m. June 19.

The laptop computer, valued at \$1,200.75, was on her desk when she left to go home and missing when she returned to work the next day.

There was no sign of forced entry into the office.

Items stolen at Jaguar of Novi

A 50-year-old woman who works at Jaguar of Novi on Highline Road reported to police at 9:48 a.m. June 29 that a climate control system and stereo system had been stolen out of a vehicle at the dealership between 6 p.m. June 28 and 8 a.m. June 29.

None of the stolen items was reported at \$600.

The woman told police that the vehicle was locked while on the lot, and that there was no sign of forced entry.

Detective told the woman that they would conduct extra patrol in the area.

DVD player stolen from car

A 44-year-old Novi woman who lives on Fremont near Emerald Forest and Davenport

White Lake speeder

A 35-year-old White Lake man was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated at 2:34 a.m. June 28 at Novi and 12 Mile roads.

The gray 2006 Ford Explorer was checked on radar traveling 52 mph on northbound Novi Road.

The officer smelled instantants coming from the vehicle when he pulled the driver over for the speeding violation.

When asked if he had been drinking, the man said he had consumed alcohol at the Detroit Tigers game and stopped at the Flight Club,

Drinking at Steak on Main

A 63-year-old Novi man was arrested for drunk driving at 10:04 p.m. June 19 at Grand River Avenue and Tait Road.

Police pulled the man in the white Chrysler 300 over for erratic driving, drifting in the lane and crossing the center line while driving north on Novi Road. When the man turned west on Grand River, he crossed left of center two more times.

The man smelled foully of alcohol, according to the report, and his eyes were red and glassy.

When asked, he said he had one beer with dinner then went on to say that he stopped for dinner at Steak on Main after a round of golf and had two beers.

A breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of .15 percent.

Where he had some additional drinks. He had just dropped a friend off at a hotel and was on his way home.

While speaking with the man, the officer also noticed that his speech was slurred. He asked the man if he felt his ability to drive was impaired due to drinking, to which he responded, "I hope not."

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

What appears to be a deeply troubled individual" who has a serious alcohol problem.

"The prosecutor is reaching a great deal," Behler said.

Prosecutors have charged Westervelt with open murder, larceny in a building and carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent. Westervelt faces up to life in prison if convicted as charged.

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The 83-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident said he's driven three months with expired license plate tags in order to avoid the long lines.

"I just haven't had good luck with the offices," Heaphy said. "My tags expired in April and I waited until the mobile Secretary of State office came here."

Heaphy was among several seniors glad to see the mobile branch office drive through the Novi Senior Center parking lot last Wednesday.

"This is the second time I've used (the mobile office)," he said. "Going to the office is a task I don't relish."

"It's more convenient ... I've had no problems with the mobile office."

The Department of State's mobile office cruised into the senior center around 9 a.m., offering services to those who may not have time to visit a local office or have the ability to.

According to state officials, the mobile Secretary of State branch is a full-service office on wheels.

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Tracy Miehler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmiehler@gannett.com.

Carpetter said, "I picked up a handicap sticker and just had to do a loop and a jump to get it."

Carpetter said the mobile office is popular among her neighbors.

"The clerk was very helpful," Carpetter said. "I appreciate the convenience."

SENIORS

Call Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113; cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

"I just haven't had good luck with the offices. My tags expired in April and I waited until the mobile Secretary of State office came here."

Ed Heaphy, 83 Meadowbrook Commons resident

Novi seniors cruise to the Secretary of State

Mobile office parks at senior center to serve community

By Tracy Miehler STAFF WRITER

Ed Heaphy refuses to stand in line at the Secretary of State office.

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Mobile Secretary of State services

- Issuing or renewing driver's licenses and special endorsements
- Changing a driver's license address or other personal information
- Issuing or renewing a personal identification card
- Providing disability parking permits
- Voter registration
- Tinting and registering vehicles and watercraft
- Transferring titles
- Registering snowmobiles

Source: www.michigan.gov



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Meadowbrook Commons resident Orange Carpetter, 89, renews her handicapped parking permit with the help of David Dodds and a mobile Michigan Secretary of State office that was visiting the senior residence.

Cruising in July

Rachel Zagoroff said she's grateful for the mobile office, which visits the senior center every July.

"We bring (the mobile Secretary of State) to the senior center because it's hard for some to get to the local offices," said Zagoroff, senior services director. "The convenience is brought here, where we have ample parking and provide very personalized service."

Zagoroff said she has heard several residents express their gratitude for the mobile office.

"Oh, good. I can get this done at your convenience if it brought to your doorstep," she said.

"I've heard so many people say, 'Oh, good. I can get this done at your convenience if it brought to your doorstep,'" she said.

"I've heard so many people say, 'Oh, good. I can get this done at your convenience if it brought to your doorstep,'" she said.

Senior Center Calendar

Friday 7/21	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	12:45 p.m. Bingo held in activities room
	10 a.m. Body Recall	1:30 p.m. Dance, \$6
	noon Lunch	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment
	12:30 p.m. Dupli Bridge	
	12:45 p.m. Bingo	Wednesday 7/26
	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
Monday 7/24	8:45 a.m. Men's Golf	9:15 a.m. Women's Golf
	9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	10 a.m. Body Recall
	10 a.m. Body Recall	11 a.m. Blood Pressure
	12:30 p.m. Lunch	11 a.m. Taking Off Funds-Seniorly club
	12:30 p.m. Pinochle*	noon Lunch
	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment
Tuesday 7/25	8:30 a.m. Pinetap Bread	Thursday 7/27
	9 a.m. Line Dance	9 a.m. Line Dance
	10 a.m. Asian Pacific	9 a.m. Musical Golf League
	11:1 p.m. Computer Lab Open	noon Lunch
	noon Lunch	12:15 Corner Bridge at Senior Center
		1-2 p.m. Line Dance cancelled
		1-3 p.m. Computer Lab open
		2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

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OPINION

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Our fundamental purpose is 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

Showcase Wixom: Novi neighbors have a lot to be proud of

One might have thought the announcement by Ford Motor Company earlier this year to close its Wixom Assembly Plant would cause folks in that city to roll into a ball and call it quits.

Not even close. From 2-9 p.m. tomorrow, everyone can see just how determined city officials and residents are to making Wixom a vibrant place to live and work.

Showcase Wixom is a celebration of a vision residents expressed back in 1998 at town meetings. Their new downtown, as described by Mike Doman, city manager, is a walkable center with condominiums, a performing center, fountains, a gazebo and open areas.

It's a remarkable project and the effort that's been put forth to bring it to fruition deserves recognition.

So head west tomorrow and say hello to your neighbors, Novi. There will be music, dancing, a car show and great food from Wixom restaurants like Volare and Moo's.

A downtown dedication will take place at 6 p.m. And, seeing as this all started with a town meeting, there will be another one at 6:30. Well done, Wixom. Congratulations!

LETTERS

NO-NO thanks

The Gardeners of Northville & Novi held their first Garden Walk this past Saturday and thanks to the efforts of many people in both of our communities it was a huge success. We would like to express our gratitude to Lou Mascolo and his wonderful staff at Garden Views and Water Wheel Health Club for selling our tickets; to Tollgate Farms and the great volunteers who kept up those beautiful gardens; to the Master Gardeners volunteers in several communities who helped out, and last but not least our local newspaper editors and reporter Maureen Johnston who understand that they are the vehicle in which we rely to "get the word out". The NO-NO's thank you for your very generous help.

Yvonne DeMatos, President
Gardeners of Northville & Novi

Rebuttal to Phil Power

There are more than 14,000 reasons why Phil Power is wrong about "out-of-state extremists" backing Michigan's Stop Over-spending plan ("Stealth Campaign Would Ruin State," July 13). They're the goal, the Michigan members of the National Taxpayers Union (NTU), whose research arm, the NTU Foundation, Power slurred. Neither NTU nor NTUF has clipped in money for the Michigan signature drive, and it may interest him to know that home-grown Michigan tax-fighter Richard Heedler served on NTU's Board of Directors for many years before he fled.

Power points to Colorado's tax limit to warn that Michigan will suffer the same fate if voters enact the Stop Over-spending initiative. Yet, fate has been most kind to the Rocky Mountain state. With the major tenets of the Colorado measure still in place, the state has the highest per-capita income west of the Mississippi, and it boasts a 4.5 percent unemployment rate, compared to Michigan's 6 percent rate. In addition, Colorado ranked near or above the middle for high school graduation rates, average teacher salaries, and the National Education Association's 19-point evaluation of school spending (contrary to Power's misinformation, Colorado's tax limit does indeed apply to localities).

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@gannett.com. Fax to: (248) 349-9832.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

Lindsey Vermillion gives a swim lesson to a laughing Saffron Schwartz, 4, last Thursday at the Sports Club of Novi. Saffron was learning how to float, duck underwater and propel herself through the pool.

But Power's biggest whopper is that the so-called Defend Michigan Coalition, which opposes limits on government, "seems to include just about every organization you ever heard of." Considering that the coalition's membership consists largely of labor unions, government associations, and beneficiaries of state funds, the author's definition of "every" would appear strange to the overburdened taxpayers who foot the bills for all of these groups' wish lists.

Pete Sepp, VP for Communications
National Taxpayers Union Foundation, Alexandria, Va.

Just a phone call away

Gasoline prices are at historic highs and rising daily. Yet no one in Washington is doing anything about it. Indeed, Congress is not even bothering to convene its usual summer hearing, and our president has skipped town for a foreign visit in the midst of this unprecedented economic crisis. Meanwhile, people's incomes are being diverted more and more into the coffers of the likes of Exxon, Shell, BP etc.

For example, at \$55 a barrel, Exxon was already pulling in \$25 billion as of April, 2005. Each dollar jump since then has added

a half billion in earnings to Exxon, and that's after allocating for dividends, share repurchases, and capital spending. More mind-boggling is the fact that our Republican Congress and president have given oil companies even more of our money by means of the newly passed \$14.3 billion energy bill. Is there not even one Republican politician in Washington with the guts to stand up and say, "Enough!"

In major ways, it should be government policy that no one profits excessively. Since we are now in an endless war for oil, should not our government step in and say it's time to reduce pump prices back to say April. Company profits would still be at record highs and economic growth would be kick-started by putting spending money back into people's pockets.

The time has come for us citizens to pressure our representatives in D.C. to rein in the excessive greed of the corporate few rather than let them continue to trump the common good. How can this be done? The answer is simple as your phone connection with your congressman in Washington (Senator: (202) 224-3121; House: (202) 224-3121) and in the voting booth next election.

Walt Sobczak
Novi

EDUCATION

Cal Stone, Editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113. cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

Novi educator returns from China

Nation poses challenges to US educational system, says Hesse

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER



Submitted photo

A recent trip to China was an eye opener for Jane Hesse, director of K-12 curriculum and assessment for the Novi Community School District.

"So many myths were dispelled," she said. "It was really amazing. We're still absorbing it." The biggest lesson Hesse came away with is that educators and administrators need to start asking the right questions - and taking China seriously as an education powerhouse - right now to equip American students to compete in the emerging global marketplace. "I think we're doing a lot of things right," Hesse said. "But they're closing the gap at a rate that surpasses us in some ways."

Journeymen abroad

Hesse said roughly 28 people went on the trip, including principals, a teacher, superintendents, heads of organizations, and three members of the Michigan state board of education. She went along because of her involvement with the state department of education in curriculum and policy, Hesse said.

During the 10-day trip, which included stops in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai, the group toured a variety of Chinese schools, including high schools and experimental schools, where Hesse said "most parents work and children are schooled in both English and Chinese."

They also met with members of the government, and Hesse was impressed with their knowledge of the latest educational research. The Chinese are hoping to make their workforce more linguistically and technically skilled to rival India's, she said.

"They know where they want to go, and they have a plan to get there," she said. "They know that

Jane Hesse, director of K-12 curriculum and assessment for the Novi Community School District, recently returned from a trip with other area educators to China. Here, she visits a software lab with two teachers at the China Aeronautical Polytechnic Institute in Xi'an.

Hesse said. She does not want to see America end up being a global bystander.

"China's just a very big player right now for us," Hesse said. "The more our students think of themselves as being part of this bigger picture, the better."

Hesse said one thing she brought back with her from China is the possibility of forming partnerships with the Chinese educational system in the future, perhaps for things like study-abroad opportunities for students. Michigan State University has been spearheading building relationships with Chinese schools, and Hesse said a Confucian school, with instruction in both English and Chinese, recently opened in the area.

Asking the right questions

The important thing right now is to start asking the right questions, Hesse said. Educators and administrators need to start thinking about the Chinese educational system and how American students can be prepared to deal with a global marketplace, where they are world citizens and players in an international economy.

No matter what field students choose these days, they will almost certainly end up interacting with students from around the world,

Hesse said. She does not want to see America end up being a global bystander.

"China's just a very big player right now for us," Hesse said. "The more our students think of themselves as being part of this bigger picture, the better."

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"A sense of urgency"

The changes in China are taking place at a very quick rate, Hesse said. There were some people on the trip who had been to China three or four years ago, and she said they were amazed by the number of automobiles and small stores which had sprung up since then.

The educational system is also growing quickly, and Hesse said a law was recently passed mandating education for children age 2 to grade nine, and there is a desire to

start education at age 1.

Another thing Hesse was struck by was the sheer scope of everything in China.

"Everything is on a huge scale," she said. There are millions of people everywhere, stores everywhere, and cars everywhere, Hesse said. She saw many people out socializing at the numerous restaurants, and said a large middle class and a new consumerism are emerging.

Heat and pollution

The atmosphere wasn't all that comfortable physically, Hesse said. The pollution is so severe that each day hotel workers had to clean parked cars to remove dust which had settled on them.

The heat was also severe, with temperatures reaching 100 degrees everyday, and air conditioning virtually non-existent. Hesse said the group would go into schools and find teachers and students drenched in sweat.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

New officers elected

New officers were elected at the Novi Community School District Board of Education's first meeting of the 2006-2007 fiscal year, held July 11. Former vice president Carol Elfring was elected president, while former president Bruce Hagday was elected vice president. Ann Glubinski was elected treasurer and Julie Abrams was elected secretary. Glubinski takes over the post from George Kortlandt, who is no longer on the board, and Abrams replaces Dave Brown as secretary. Brown is still on the board as a trustee, as is Danford Austin, who is serving again as a trustee. Trustee Katie Rueon is new to the board this year.

Search for new assistant superintendent continues

After completing a round of first and second interviews with applicants, the Novi Community School District is continuing its search to replace Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent for academic services, who is retiring. Superintendent Peter Dion announced at the July 11 board of education meeting that the district will re-post the opening and continue searching for candidates. Davis has agreed to stay on through August if necessary to help get the school year started, Dion said.

School briefs compiled by staff writer Matt Doran. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

ON CAMPUS

Walled Lake resident Matthew Koleszar was named to the fall 2005 Dean's list at Saginaw Valley State University.

Novi resident Betsy Staub was among the spring 2006 graduates of Loyola University of Law, Chicago. She earned a Juris Doctorate degree.

Novi residents Rebecca Finley, Nicole Hapanowicz, Tara Perplech, Jennifer Peltz, Ryan Pivret and Steven Szalony were among the spring 2006 semester graduates at Ferris State University during commencement exercises.

Wixom resident Stephanie Ling was named to the spring 2006 semester dean's list at Spring Arbor University.

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Race may shape future of GOP in Michigan

Even if you don't live in Michigan's 7th Congressional District, which stretches from Ann Arbor's outskirts to Battle Creek, you'd do well to keep a close eye on the Aug. 8 Republican Primary.

For not only is it, by all odds, the most closely watched race in Michigan, the outcome may say a lot about the future of our state's GOP.

The contest pits freshman U.S. Rep. John L. Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, against a former state representative and fund-raising preacher from Lenawee County, Tim Walberg.

The 7th is usually a strong Republican district - though it has been known to vote for the occasional Democrat, like Bill Clinton.

The current congressman is a former Battle Creek mayor and 16-year state senator, who won this seat in 2004 after a five-year

GOP primary in which he survived with 26 percent to 18 percent for Walberg, who finished third in that race.

The Walberg is pinning his hopes on the fact that Schwarz was the only "moderate" in that race; the "conservative" vote was split among the four opponents. Walberg, who hopes he'll pick up most of those who voted for neither man last time, says Schwarz is "out of touch" with the voters of his district.

Thanks to a hard right-wing legislative voting record, Walberg, 55, is backed by one of the state's most powerful lobbies, Michigan Right to Life. He's also received buckets of out-of-state money from the Washington, D.C.-based, free-market Club for Growth.

But the 68-year-old Schwarz has an impressive array of solid Republican credentials of his own. He's been endorsed by President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, in addition to Michigan Republican Party, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Gene DeRozsett (one of the men he defeated two years ago).

He's personally and politically close to U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has repeatedly campaigned for him. The National Rifle Association will be sending out a district mailing giving Schwarz an "A" rating, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich supported at a Schwarz fund raiser in Jackson last week.

This is not the record of a "liberal," though that's how Schwarz is being mischaracterized by his opponent. In fact, in today's politics, "conservative centrism" would be far closer to the mark. The congressman thinks our health care system needs to be reformed, but he's not in favor of socialized medicine.

He's opposed to gay marriage, but doesn't think amending the Constitution is the best way to resolve social issues. He believes that abortion should be "safe, legal and rare."

Needless to say, Walberg is on his right on all counts. To my mind, the most significant thing is not where the candidates stand on some right-left continuum, or who is endorsing whom. Rather, it's the stature of the candidates as people and

what their candidacy signifies for the future of their party.

I've known Joe Schwarz for 20 years or so. I've watched him in action in the state senate, where he was the single most knowledgeable lawmaker in either party on higher education issues.

I've heard him talk about his careers as a Navy officer, as a CIA agent in Laos and Indonesia and as a medical doctor who still carries on his practice in Battle Creek. I've listened as he enthused about saving jobs in his district, including hundreds at the Air National Guard base near Fort Custer.

He's a big guy - six-two I'd guess - balding, smart, with a great sense of humor. He tolerates fools badly and has a quick temper. But he's an able, experienced legislator who knows how to get things done. He was ranked "Rookie of the Year" when he broke into the Michigan legislature in 1988 and rose all the way to "Fourth most effective" in the Detroit News' rankings four years later. And he's already carved out an impressive reputation in Washington, including being ranked among the top

10 most powerful freshmen in Congress.

Walberg, by contrast, has a record that could be charitably described as... modest. In a 1988 Detroit News survey of legislators, staffers and lobbyists, Walberg ranked 141 out of 147 lawmakers. In the 1992 survey, he rose to 119th. His poor legislative ranking, perhaps, signifies how difficult it is for an intensely ideological legislator - in his case, hard right - to sum up enough support in any kind of democratic body to get things done.

And that, in turn, gets to the future of the GOP in Michigan. While true moderate Republicans like former Gov. William Milliken are rare today, there is evidence that a GOP dominated by right-wing ideologues may lose touch with many middle-of-the-road voters.

Most surveys show Michigan about evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, but with at least as many voters calling themselves independents and happily splitting their tickets.

Michigan gave Gov. John Engler 62 percent of his votes in 1998, and four years later gave the same support to U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

But if Walberg wins the GOP primary, he risks being so far to the right that he would be vulnerable to a Democrat who might appeal to moderate Republicans and independents. And if a Walshy victory in the primary is taken by Republican activist as a sign the party should tack further to the right, the risk is that the GOP will be in for a long, hard slog to get back to the middle where most voters live.

But it is important to remember that apart from ideology, Joe Schwarz has the background, integrity and experience that are so seldom seen and are so greatly needed in Washington these days.

It's rare to see both politics and personality so aligned, but in Joe Schwarz voters have a chance to re-elect a truly distinguished man to represent them, and Michigan, in Washington.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@tinnet.com.

never do. But I did. I made the decision to go back to school in April and work toward a new goal outside of the journalism field, in accounting.

In about two years, I plan to sit for the Certified Public Accounting exam and join my dad in a partnership at his CPA firm in Rochester.

Many people have said to me, "Tracy, accounting is nothing like journalism. Are you sure you want to do this?"

The answer: Yes. I'm not giving up on journalism. And I never will. But sometimes it's good to see what other paths in life are open to

me. My goal down the road is to become certified and move slowly back into writing.

Though right now my focus will be on revenues and expenses and cost of goods sold, I believe my name will be in print sometime again in the future.

Thank you Novi and Northville Township for working with me and giving me a year of great writing. For now I say good-bye, but I will be back!

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

When you are young, the hardest decision to make when entering the years of college is what you want to do with the rest of your life.

And though people spend many years beyond college continuing their search, some seem to make a decision instantly and follow that path until they retire.

On the other hand, one of those who seems to continue

searching. The day was July 16, 2005 and the words "we're offering you a position as a staff writer for the Novi News and Northville Record" sent shivers down my spine.

Good shivers. But also scared shivers. Excited that finally, someone believed in me and wanted to help me get my foot in the door was all I could think about.

Journalism is and always will be my passion. But certain events in the course of life bring change.

For the past year, I've been known as the "spillover" for

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July 26-29

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- Petting farm, pony rides, art & science mobile, build your own sand castle, bake parade, 1st 200 kids - Free bike helmet (while supplies last)
- Vegas tent brought to you by Varsity Lincoln Mercury, Shuren Chrysler Jeep and Varsity Lincoln Mercury.
- Friday Free Ice Cream Social brought to you by Cold Stone Creamery, Mrs. Fidd's, Michigan Milk Producers and Dunkin' Donuts
- Saturday 19th Annual Car Show and Cruise brought to you by Varsity Lincoln Mercury
- Commercial and Crafts Exhibitors • Softball Tournament, SK Run

Entertainment Nightly by Bright House Networks

Wednesday - Sun Messengers - Free Admission

Thursday - '55 Steve King and The Dittolies

Friday - '40 Rocky and The Rollers • Fireworks at dusk

Saturday - '40 Gary Lewis & The Playboys w/Tribute to Jerry Lewis Opening Rocky and The Rollers

18 under Free w/ adult

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

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Expecting Someone?



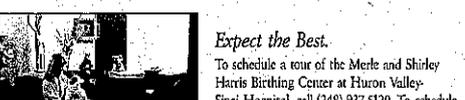
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A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700; ext. 413 cstone@annarbor.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Showcase Wilcox!

DATE: Friday
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Hawthorn Village Center Area (Wixom Rd. and VanDine Trail)
DETAILS: Fun activities for the whole family; dedication ceremony at 6 p.m.; open meeting at 6:30 p.m.
CONTACT: (248) 624-4894

Michigan 50's Festival

DATE: Wednesday through Saturday, July 26-29
LOCATION: Novi Town Center, northeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This festival will include live concerts, pony rides, tennis, lawn, face painting, social, bicycle parade, food, Vegas Tent, car show and cruise and softball tournament.
CONTACT: WWW.walshchicago.com

"Rapunzel: Uncut"

DATE: Various days, beginning Friday
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn
DETAILS: Nov's resident, Carrie Drummond is performing in this production.
CONTACT: http://playersguildofdearborn.org

Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

CONTACT: (248) 347-0400 or visit www.novinfo.com
Camp Takeaways
DATE: Weekly through Aug. 18
TIME: 9:15 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake, South Lake Drive
DETAILS: This camp is for ages 6-12. It will include field trips, games, sports, swimming, art projects and entertainment. The cost is \$45 per week for residents; non-resident fees apply. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

Red Cross Blood Drive

DATE: Friday, July 28
TIME: 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 4043 W. Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Appointments are available; walk-ins are welcome.
CONTACT: Judi Gallo, City of Wixom, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, (248) 624-2850

Windshield Repair Event

DATE: Friday, July 28
TIME: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: AAA-Now Insurance Office, 31174 Novi Road
DETAILS: Humon Glass is sponsoring this event with AAA. Registration is not required.

Art Exhibit

DATE: Beginning Aug. 3-15
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assumption Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (248) 348-5135

Borders-Now Event

LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
Summer Fun Days
TIME: 11 a.m. today, "sun-art", 11 a.m. July 27, "surprise link activities"
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: These events are for all ages.
Author Book-Signing
DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 6:00-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Main Street, Novi
DETAILS: This event, sponsored by Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, will feature books with food and goods from many countries, including Japan, China, Taiwan, Pakistan, Iran and France and multi-cultural entertainment. There will also be a Parade of Nations at 3 p.m. with native costumed horseback riders. Participants and volunteers are needed; registration deadline is July 28.
CONTACT: Tracie Ringle, (248) 347-0400

Cricket Camp

DATE: Saturday, now through Aug. 26
TIME: 5:30-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Lyon Oaks Park, 52351 Pontiac Trail, Lyon Township
DETAILS: This six-week camp is designed for ages 5-16. The camp will include learning and practicing Cricket fundamentals of batting, catching, fielding and scrimmages. Mytown Cricket Club and the Michigan State Cricket Club will be running and coaching the camp. The cost is \$80 and registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Novicki at (248) 433-7345 or visit www.novinfo.com

Novi Theaters "Senior Variety Show"

DETAILS: The production will be Sept. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Tickets are available at Novi Parks and Recreation, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Farmers Market

DATE: Thursday through Oct. 26
TIME: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Downs parking lot, corner of Seven Mile and Siskion Road, Northville
DETAILS: There are 100 stalls of fresh produce, plants, flowers, baked goods, garden art, crafts and home accessories available. This is sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce and Health, Issues of Northville Hills Golf Club.
CONTACT: (248) 349-7640

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall
CONTACT: (248) 348-5135

Novi Parks Foundation Golf

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 10
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: The cost is \$100 per golfer (includes dinner) and \$35 for dinner only. There will be prizes and a raffle. Golfers and donations are needed.
CONTACT: Dorian Koehyan, (248) 348-5135

Novi International Festival

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 19; rain-date, Sunday, Aug. 20
TIME: 10:00-6 p.m.
LOCATION: Main Street, Novi
DETAILS: This event, sponsored by Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, will feature booths with food and goods from many countries, including Japan, China, Taiwan, Pakistan, Iran and France and multi-cultural entertainment. There will also be a Parade of Nations at 3 p.m. with native costumed horseback riders. Participants and volunteers are needed; registration deadline is July 28.
CONTACT: Tracie Ringle, (248) 347-0400

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 1
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Schools

First day of 2006-2007 school year
DATE: Monday, Aug. 28

Novi Chamber of Commerce

Yxoon Tee-Golf Golf Outing
DATE: Wednesday, August 9
LOCATION: Moose Ridge Golf Course, 11801 Doane Road, South Lyon
DETAILS: This outing will include sponsorship opportunities, press, networking and championship caliber golf.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

Novi Parks Foundation Golf

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 10
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
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CONTACT: Dorian Koehyan, (248) 348-5135

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

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TIME: 7 p.m.
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CONTACT: Dorian Koehyan, (248) 348-5135

Novi Parks Foundation Golf

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CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program with an outdoor concert by former "Song Sister" Julie Austin and David Mosler. Blankets and picnic lunches are welcome. Registration is not required.

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Courteously members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

DATE: Friday, July 21
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
DETAILS: This is for ages 1-3. Registration is not required.

DATE: Monday
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: This event is for fifth grade and up. It will include learning "Juggling for Success" with juggler, Ben Spitzer. Pizza will be served. Registration is required.

DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 23
TIME: 12:30-1:15 p.m.
LOCATION: Riley Park, Common Street and Sixth St., Walled Lake
DETAILS: This is designed for preschool through third grade students. It will include crafts, games, puzzles and songs. Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch and chair or blanket. No registration is required.

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10:1 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 344-3595

DATE: Friday, July 28
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: No partner needed.

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between 7th and 8th streets
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Lovick, (248) 348-9138, joylovick@earthlink.net

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

DATE: second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Which's Hat Dept., 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, (248) 437-5496.

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing

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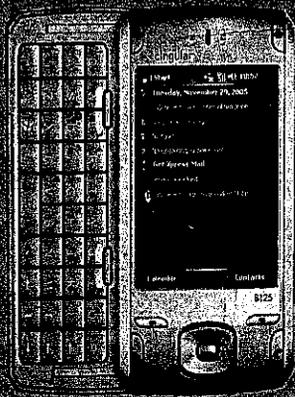
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The boys are back in town
The NABF World Series is back next week in Northville, drawing in some of the country's best talent for a baseball tournament. The series is in its 24th year in Northville

SPORTS

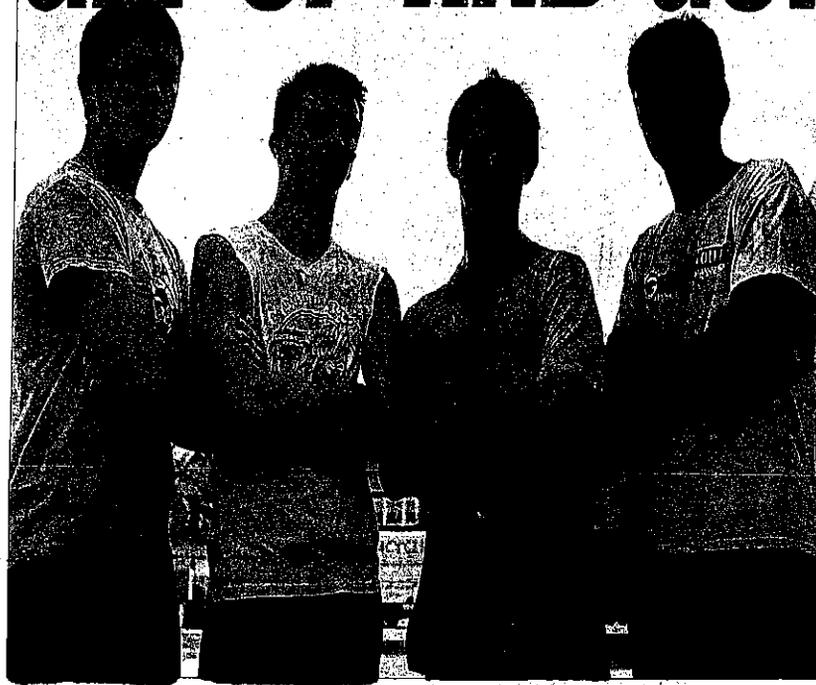
www.novi-news.com

Thursday, July 20, 2006

NOVI NEWS, PAGE B1

These four guys are the ones who tell Novi to

GET UP AND GO!



Novi's boys cross country captains have been leading their team through Novi and Northville and back again nearly every day this summer.

Team captains busy leading Wildcats through summer

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS INTERN

The Novi varsity cross country team's path to the state finals begins on Toft Road. Since June 19, the team has met at Novi High School for daily "captains' practices" — optional, student-run workouts that are designed to help athletes gain the necessary endurance to improve during the fall season. Each member of the boys cross country team received a summer training plan at the end of the school year. During the summer, incoming freshmen are encouraged to run 200 miles, while this year's captains are expected to average about 600 miles.

The team usually runs from the high school to downtown Northville, though they have also trained at Lakeshore and Maybury parks. Disciplined summer training has helped Novi to stay successful in a league with multiple state contenders. "The KVC is very competitive," senior captain Alex Prasad said. "Pinckney, last year, won the state. Their team also swims. They swim and run every day, and I've actually started doing that, too, just because I think that gives them an advantage. The biggest benefit (of summer conditioning) is that you're not falling behind." Although captains' practices are mostly attended by juniors and seniors, underclassman turnout at the morning practices has improved in recent years, Prasad said.

"My freshman year, I ran between 200 and 300 miles and I didn't go to a single captains' practice," he said. "Why? I don't know. I was a freshman, I didn't really know anyone. Now, we're getting more fresh-

men. Today, we had 19 people at practice. The team is only about 30 (people)."

"It'd be to their benefit for underclassmen to come now, especially new freshmen, so that they can get to know the team and become better as the season progresses," senior captain Ricky Manza added. "We all are able to run faster in a group, rather than by ourselves. It's the best way to condition."

In addition to captains' practices, the team will attend a cross country camp in Wolverine, Michigan, from July 30 to August 5. The athletes will run twice per day at the non-school-sponsored camp.

"The entire team is invited, except incoming freshmen, because they're not usually ready," Manza said. "It's the best training we can have in a week and it gives us different workouts to do. It's usually

"There are a lot of people excited about what we can do in the fall, and that's really been driving a lot of people that maybe wanted to sleep in more than they want to run in the morning. There's real potential here, and I think a lot of people are excited about that and excited to come out."

Alex Prasad
Novi Cross Country Captain

about a 60 mile week, depending on your experience and your training."

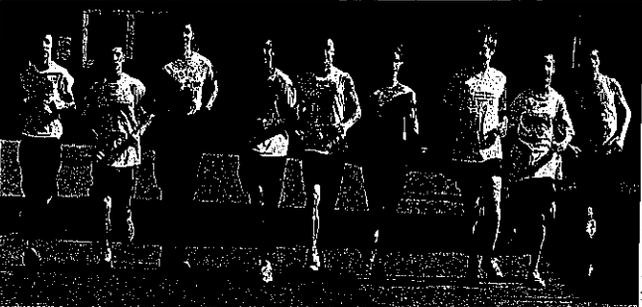
By the first day of fall practice, the athletes at the Novi team will already have thousands of miles of combined summer training.

"There are a lot of people excited about what we can do in

the fall, and that's really been driving a lot of people that maybe wanted to sleep in more than they want to run in the morning," Prasad said. "There's real potential here, and I think a lot of people are excited about that and excited to come out."

All the extra work in the summer is really going to pay off in the end," Manza said. "Hopefully, we'll finish in the top 10 in the state again!"

Courtney Ratkowiak is a sports intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



The Novi boys cross country team is planning on making a run at the KVC title come the fall season. They've been working all summer in hopes of increasing their chances.

Pom gets honors at camp

The Novi Wildcats varsity and junior varsity pom teams have made it clear they plan on making a lot of noise this year.

Their annual trip to the Mid-American Pom Camp this summer led the two squads to Grand Champion trophies after they took first place finishes in speed learning, kick line and original routines.

"Overall, I could not be more proud of both teams so far this season and I am looking forward to a great year," said varsity coach Lauren Madjeja.

Madjeja will be joined again this year by Jeni Hubenschmidt in her 10th year of coaching while Erin Holmes takes over as the new JV coach.

Team picture, 3B

Senior leadership is once again strong with the Wildcats as the seniors won the senior kickline competition, making it two years in a row for Novi. Seniors this year include: Kaitlyo Hagan, Sarah Reichel, Stephanie Jaussi, Kelsi Okowski, Aubree Bixman and Meghan Hoon.

In addition to the Grand Champion status, the Wildcats also had several pommers selected to the All-Star squad. They will perform at the Thanksgiving Day parade, Detroit Pistons games and other events throughout the year. The Novi All-Stars include: Ashlye Babinskiak, Lia Barducci, Aubree Bixman, Vanessa DeCello, Kaitlyn Hagan, Meghan Hoon, Stephanie Jaussi, Brittany Jaffe, Paula Langley, Sarah Reichel, MaryBeth Shively, Emily Turner, Christine Wilde and Sarah Yegachayevyeh.

The two squads were also awarded the Showmanship Award for scoring the highest points throughout the camp in that category.

Lacrosse recognized

Wildcats have several earn honors

For the Novi Wildcats lacrosse team, 2006 was a year of firsts. It was the first year under the guidance of coach Nick Asmus and it was the year Novi finished first in the Kensington Valley Conference.

The Wildcats earned several honors for their hard work, both on and off the field. Earning All-Kensington Valley Conference honors in academic achievement this year were: Mark Bernier, Travis Blackledge, Matt Ericson, Paul Favonite, John Favonite, Eric Gutman, Eric Hepler, Jeff Kols, Mike Kols, Ryan McNamara, Scott Moran, Robert Napier, Kevin Rowz, Nick Shafer, Scott Smith, Bobby Watts and Nick Zoroya.

Novi also had several individual standouts this year. Earning nods to the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches' Association All-League team were: Smith, John Favonite, Watts and Shafer, while Moran was awarded the association's "rising hero" award for his efforts.

The Wildcats' top players were also recognized with the Don Sill Memorial Most Valuable Player award, which was given to Favonite, a captain. Awards were also given to Shafer for his leadership, Smith for his teamwork, Moran for being the most improved player on the team, Favonite for his sportsmanship and Jimmy McCusker for his work ethic.

Novi finished 12-4 on the season and was undefeated in Kensington Valley Conference play.

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WORLD SERIES RETURNS



Andrew Distler is ready to go to bat for the Broncos during the NABF World Series.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOW NEWS

Will this year's NABF Word Series be another homer for Northville?

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's back! The National Amateur Baseball Federation U16 World Series tournament has once again been bid to the city of Northville for the 24th year.

With a quarter of a century of hosting the World Series, some might think it's becoming old hat for the town. Think again. "This is a great time of year for baseball fans," said tournament director Dave Jerome. "Everyone can come out and watch some great teams play right here in Northville."

Included on that list is the host team, the Northville Broncos. The Broncos are coached by Rich Welch, who also wears a junior varsity baseball cap as a coach for the Northville High School Mustangs.

Check back next week for more NABF news!

For a number of years, even earning a "Red Shirt" for his years of volunteer services. Also, joining the team will be assistant coach Dick Anderson.

There are some changes to this year's tournament that are expected to increase the intensity of the World Series.

The first major change is that of venue. Traditionally the tournament has been hosted at Hillside Field, known in the area as an "easy" home run park. Instead, the Broncos will open the "tournament" next Thursday at Northville High School.

"We are very excited about our new facilities," said Jerome.



Bronco Marty Louwerer will have a chance to face some of the country's best players in his age group.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOW NEWS

"Hillside is a great field and we're going to miss it, but being able to host the games at the new high school field is something we're looking forward to." Another change in the tournament format is the number of teams participating. This year Northville will play host to eight teams instead of the traditional 10. The first game is scheduled for 9 a.m. next Thursday at the high school, located on Six Mile Road between Sheldon and Beck roads.

Though the Broncos haven't had much success in the tournament in the past, that's another change the home squad is hoping for. This year they boast several returning players to the line up and will be looking to "make an impact" when they begin play at 3 p.m. at the high school next Thursday.

"This year's team" includes: Jesse Carpenter, Kevin Uetz,

Looking for NABF World Series news!

It's time to dust off the cleats and stretch out one more time to the second annual NABF alumni game. If you took part in a NABF Junior World Series game over the past 24 years you are invited to come on out and relive a bit of your past. We will supply the Ben Gay for those sore muscles after the game. The game will be held at 5 p.m. July 29 at the Hillside Diamond. Please contact Carl Gallati at gallati@comcast.net to let him know you can make it. If you don't get a chance to call just show up!

Ross Nishi, Nick Balow, Kyle Asher, Joe Mitchell, Andrew Distler, Mary LaRouere, Steve Anderson, Andy Closs, Chris Fisher, Mike Pape, Mike Collins and Andy Omliljan.

The tournament kicks off, as every year, with an opening ceremony and the first pitch. Throwing the ball to open the 2006 NABF World Series will be Scott Baldwin, a long-time

local coach from the youth to the high school level. He is also a long-time volunteer with the World Series in Northville. "We're excited for this year's World Series," Jerome said. "It's going to be a lot of fun for everyone involved."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gannett.com.

Volunteers help tourney run smoothly

You've heard of the Red Hat Society, but what about the Red Shirt Crew? Most people haven't. Even those who've seen the crew in action hardly notice they're around. But they are and come next week when the National Amateur Baseball Federation U16 World Series rolls into Northville like it has each summer for the past 23 years, you'll have a chance to see them working hard to keep things moving smoothly.

"This tournament couldn't be held without volunteers," said NABF tournament director Dave Jerome. "We're very lucky to have them."

Though there are quite a few Red Shirts to be seen at the tournament, it's not an honor handed out to just anyone. Each and every person sporting the stylish shirt sporting the words "NABF Grounds Crew" received it as a gift for their volunteer work during the World Series.

To qualify for a shirt, volunteers had to be a part of the program for three years and being a parent with a player on the team didn't count, said Jerome.

Jerome would know. He, his wife Kathy and his daughter Leah all have a red shirt with their names on it. Jerome, who took over for Bob Frellick as tournament director, has worn every had the tournament requires. To this day he supervises everything from field reservations to fund-raising events and clean up. In 2002, he was named the NABF Man of the Year.

His wife, named NABF Woman of the Year in 2005, handles the local scorekeeping job this year while his daughter continues her editing of the tournament's program while balancing school at Alma College.

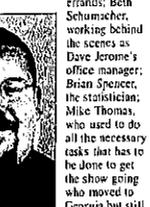
One of the coaches of this year's team, Leroy Asher, has his second son playing this season and spent four years volunteering for the program. Joining him with a red shirt is Stacey Baldwin, who is in charge of the banquet and catering after previously working on concessions and decorating the field with the softball teams she coached.

Scott Baldwin, who has been involved in Northville athletics for years, will act as director of one of the World Series sites this year. The treasurer for more than 20 years, Dan Bastian is back again this year. In his time with the program he has seen his son, who is now a doctor, play in the series. He also threw out the first pitch in 2002.

Well-known Northville names include Bob Thom, Don Boland and Jim Cicca. Cicca's wife, Mary, and Thom's wife, Shirley, have also earned shirts along with Rev. Kent Clise, who has read invocation at the banquet for a number of years and plays the role of host for the guest speaker. Joining them is Northville High School coaching legend Donald "Dutch" Vanligen, who is 77 years old but still finds time to coach, play and is the head announcer at the second field where the tournament is held.

The list continues with Marty Gilchrist, a scorekeeper; Hank Lamp, who is in charge of mechanical work to

keep the field maintained; Jim Long, the scorekeeper for the final game; Don McCulloch, the head announcer of the entire World Series who threw out the first pitch in 2005; Rev. Jim Russel, who has played at the opening ceremonies over the past 10 years; Northville High School coach Todd Sander, who goes to every game either umpiring, working the field or running errands; Beth Schumacher, who works behind the scenes as Dave Jerome's office manager; Brian Spencer, the statistician; Mike Thomas, who used to do all the necessary tasks that has to be done to get the show going who moved to Georgia but still faithfully pitches in; and Lynn Frellick Zelek, a score keeper who also works the grounds dragging the field.



Sam Eggleston

And though you may not believe it, there are still a few more to be mentioned. Like any good thing, the best was saved for last. John Edwards, the head of the grounds crew, shows up at 5:30 a.m. on opening day and puts the flag up for all to see before he toils to get the field ready for the tournament. He works on everything from the mound to the batter's boxes to the first pitch in 2003.

Joining him is the Frellick Family. Bob Frellick, considered Northville's "Mr. Baseball" and honored with a plaque at Hillside Field last year, founded the Junior Division in Northville in 1983. He worked as the director for 16 years. He retired to North Carolina but still takes time away to come back for two weeks to assist in the tournament.

His wife, Charlene, has been by his side since the beginning, working as the head scorekeeper, running T-shirt sales and contributing as the master organizer. She was selected as the NABF Woman of the Year for her work.

The Frellick's son, Dean, has done everything. He was a bat boy, the official scorer, a player, a coach and an umpire over the years.

Also making the NABF World Series a family affair are the Galletti's. Carl takes care of the mound and the bullpen and became the Assistant Tournament Director in 2002. He threw out the first pitch in 2004 and in 2005 was named the NABF Man of the Year.

His wife, Kathy, heads concessions and their son, Tony, played for two years before acting as the tournament "troubleshooter" and helping solve the problems that come up.

Dave Jerome said it right when he said a project as big as the NABF tournament can't be done without the help of a lot of generous people. "You have to bid to host the NABF World Series and we've had other cities bid more than us," he said. "Why do they keep letting us host it? Because of the people who volunteer. Why do we volunteer? So the kids can play."

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"Why do they keep letting us host it? Because of the people who volunteer. Why do we volunteer? So the kids can play."

Dave Jerome
NABF World Series Director

FOOD

Elegant Entertaining

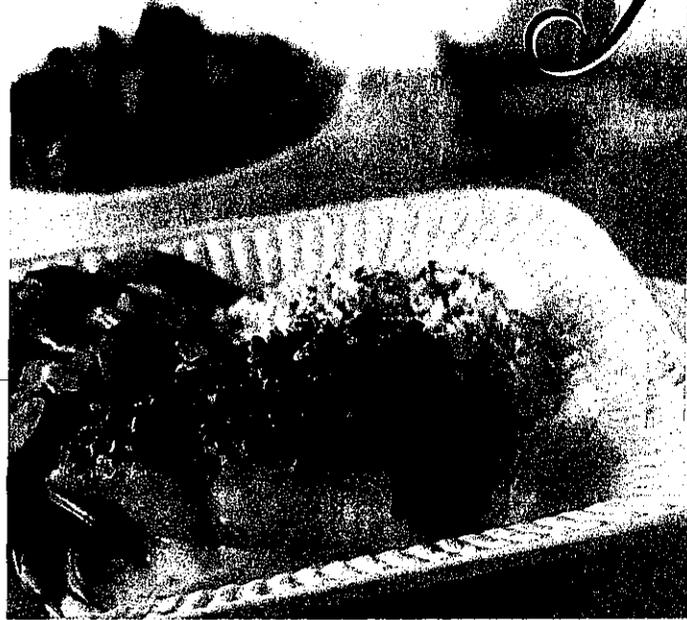
MADE EASY

FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you're celebrating birthdays, hosting a friend's bride or baby shower, honoring the graduate, or simply gathering the family for a sunny Sunday brunch, occasions abound in summer for easy and elegant entertaining at home. Denise Vivaldo, a celebrity caterer who has hosted more than 10,000 parties, cites that the most important element to successful entertaining is to ensure that as much prep work as possible is done in advance.

"Professionals can cook for large groups quickly because they have sous chefs doing the prep work. When entertaining at home, my meal magician is this gadget called the Magic Bullet. It chops, dice, purees, whips and grates my ingredients so I can prepare meals quickly while limiting kitchen clutter."

Vivaldo's Springtime Party Menu, adapted from her latest book "Do It For Less! Parties" offers up four mouth-watering dishes that take advantage of the season's bounty of fresh ingredients and are appropriate for any midday party. These recipes serve 12, but can easily be cut down or multiplied based on party size.



Pecan-Crusted Halibut Fillets

- 12 (4-ounce) halibut fillets, skinned
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 7 ounces pecans
- 1 3/4 cups plain breadcrumbs
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Combine flour, salt and pepper in mixing bowl.
3. In another bowl, whisk eggs and mustard.
4. Using the Magic Bullet, finely chop pecans in small bullet cup.
5. In third bowl, combine chopped pecans and breadcrumbs.
6. Set the 3 bowls in a row, with baking pan at end for placing fillets. First dredge each fillet in flour, shaking excess back into bowl. Then dip fillet in egg mixture to coat, and place in pecan mixture. Press lightly to coat both sides of fillet with nuts and place fillet on baking sheet. Repeat with remaining fillets. (Fillets can be refrigerated up to 2 hours before sautéing.)
7. Melt 2 tablespoons butter in large sauté pan over medium heat. Add as many fillets as will comfortably fit in pan. Cook about 3 minutes per side, or until light brown. (Fillets can be drained on paper towels and refrigerated up to 6 hours before baking.)
8. Arrange sautéed fillets on baking sheets and bake 10 to 15 minutes, or until cooked through. Serve with Dijon Cream Sauce.

Helpful Hint: To make chopping nuts easier, add a little sugar to bullet cup. Pulse to keep from grinding nuts too finely.

Dijon Cream Sauce

- 1 1/3 cups heavy whipping cream
- 3/4 cup 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- Salt and black pepper to taste

1. Combine cream and mustard in bullet cup and process until combined.
2. Pour mixture into large saucepan; heat on low until warm.
3. Season sauce with salt and pepper to taste and ladle over fillets.

Baby Greens With Champagne Vinaigrette

- 2 1/4 ounces Champagne vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- 1 1/8 cups extra-virgin olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 pound mixed baby greens salad

1. Combine vinegar, mustard, mayonnaise, salt and olive oil in tall bullet cup. Process until emulsified. (Dressing can be made 1 day in advance and stored in refrigerator.)
2. Just before serving, place some baby greens in individual salad bowl and drizzle with vinaigrette.
3. Using tongs or hands (wear disposable plastic gloves), toss salad until well coated. Add more dressing to taste, being careful not to add overdressed leaves.
4. Repeat with remaining baby greens and vinaigrette.

Timesaving Tips in the Kitchen

Entertaining can be relaxing and rewarding, especially if you streamline the cooking process, which can allow you time to socialize with guests. The Magic Bullet — a sleek, compact, all-in-one food-processing machine — can help eliminate time-intensive prep work. It is also helpful in preparing a multitude of items, including:

- Grating cheese
- Grinding coffee beans, spices and herbs
- Dicing vegetables for soups
- Pureeing beans or vegetables for soups, dips, soups and sauces
- Whipping cream for delectable desserts or to top coffee
- Blending smoothies, eggoggs and Bellinis
- Chopping nuts for creating homemade bread crumbs or cereals
- Creating nut butter
- Chopping nuts for creating homemade bread crumbs or cereals

The Magic Bullet is available for purchase at www.hillsidebullet.com and at all major retail outlets, including Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, and Bed Bath & Beyond.

Strawberries and Chantilly Cream

- 3/4 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 pints large strawberries, cleaned, hulled, and sliced

1. Place cream, sugar and vanilla in tall bullet cup. Pulse until sugar is dissolved.
2. Continue beating mixture until cream forms soft peaks. (Dip can be made up to 1 hour in advance.)
3. Serve with strawberries.

Helpful Hint: Chantilly cream is lightly sweetened whipped cream flavored with vanilla or liqueur. For best volume, chill bullet cup in refrigerator or freezer at least 30 minutes before whipping the cream.

Peach Bellinis

- 1 cup water
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen sliced peaches
- 1/4 cup orange liqueur, chilled
- 3 cups peach nectar, chilled
- 2 (750-ml) bottles champagne, chilled

1. To make simple syrup, bring water to boil in small saucepan. Gradually pour in sugar, stirring until dissolved. Skim any foam from surface and set aside to cool.
2. Place half of cooled simple syrup, peach slices and orange liqueur in large bullet cup. Puree until smooth. Spoon into large glass pitcher. Process a second batch with remaining simple syrup, peach slices and orange liqueur. Spoon into another large glass pitcher. Chill until ready to serve.
3. Just before serving, add champagne to each pitcher and pour into chilled champagne flutes.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Novi News

Thursday, July 20, 2006

SMART BUSINESS

Learn lessons — from your competitors

By Tamara E. Holmes
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

There's an old saying: "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer." Small-business owners would be wise to learn this lesson since a good way to make sure your small business measures up to others is by knowing your competitors. You don't have to plant spies on your competitors' organizations or try to steal company secrets, but there are a variety of ways that you can get some clues into what's working for them—and what may also work for you.

Be a customer

The only way you'll get a true understanding of your competitors' customer experience is to become a customer. Buy products or services from competitors every once in a while to see how your offerings stack up. Not only should you pay attention to competitors' products and services, you should also rate their other intangibles such as customer service. If confidentiality is your concern, hire someone to act as a mystery shopper. That person can utilize a competitor's services and then report the findings back to you.

Survey customers

What better way is there to find out what potential customers value than to ask them directly. Come up with a survey that asks customers what services they appreciate most, as well as what they like most about other businesses they support. If you can't get a list of a competitor's customers, send surveys asking potential customers what businesses they support in your industry, and what they like best about them.

Monitor the media

Anti-fraud competitors running special promotions or getting a lot of local media attention? By keeping an eye out for sales and special marketing blitzes, you can see how your business stacks up or may be stacking.

Talk to sales reps

If you sell products, you may have another good source of information: the vendors who sell you merchandise for your store. Sales reps sell their wares to businesses across the country. Ask them what special promotions they've seen, and whether they've noticed any product displays that have seemed particularly effective.

Go the distance

Don't just check out the competition that's nearby. With the Internet and so many forms of communication, people can often get services and products from anywhere. Likewise, competitors in a different geographic area might cue you into some money-making ideas that have not made it to your side of town yet. Plan yearly trips to different regions to sample products and services from out-of-region competitors.

Join trade groups

One of the best ways to meet competitors is to join trade associations and business support groups. That way, you'll be in an environment conducive to discussing best practices in your field. You'll also be able to find out what's working and what's not working for other small businesses. Regional organizations can give you a sense of what local competitors are doing, while national organizations can expose you to best practices across the country.

Strengthen the network

Once you meet competitors at association meetings, take the relationships a little further. By getting to know your competitors, you may find that it's possible for the two of you to work together. Though you may sell some of the same products, you might find that there are other areas where the two of you can refer customers to each other. By getting to know one another, you may discover ways to make both of your businesses better.

Businesses must always be willing to learn and grow in order to maintain success. By keeping your eye on the competition, you may discover ways to take your business to the next level.

ADVERTISEMENT



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/StarNet News Services

A birthday party races around the miniature golf course at Paradise Park, located at 45799 Grand River Ave., east of Beck Road in Novi.

Paradise Park: Fun for all

New family park lives up to its name

Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

Paradise Park gives families a day in paradise that's close to home. The new center offers all sorts of family fun, like an 18-hole miniature golf course, two large picnic areas, a trampolene center, automatic soccer cages, climbing walls, laser tag and a really cool arcade.

And the setting is a tropical paradise, with excellent accessibility for everyone.

When the Wainwright family decided to create a family entertainment center, they decided to try to create a paradise where families could spend quality time together.

"There's something here for every member of the family, from grandparents to the youngest child," said Theresa Wainwright.

Owners and operators, Jeffrey and Theresa Wainwright, brainstormed with teenage sons Gregory and Justin and project associates to figure out what activities families would enjoy the most.

Then, the Plymouth family found the perfect place — on Grand River Avenue, just east of Beck Road in the high-growth community of Novi. It's centrally located and has great freeway access at Beck and Novi Roads, making it easy to find for families from all over southeast Michigan.

Just thinking about palm trees makes Theresa feel relaxed, so she decided to bring palm trees into the island paradise. Several palms have been planted throughout the miniature golf course close to the waterfalls and rivers. They'll be moved inside during cold months.

PARADISE PARK

What: Family entertainment
Where: 45799 Grand River Ave., just east of Beck Road in Novi
Open: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
Call: (248) 735 1050
Web: www.paradisepark-novi.com



Joshua Zohr enjoys some trampoline time at Paradise Park, located on Grand River Avenue in Novi.

The outdoor miniature golf course is the picture of paradise. It was designed to look like a theme park, with island accessories and special bright-colored turf for each hole. The bright colors add a special touch, together with the waterfalls and small rivers.

"I wanted it to look spectacular," Wainwright said. "We have something that no one else has." The indoor area is as much a paradise as the outside. Pictures of palm trees and dolphins dance across the walls. The ceiling is covered with blue sky and white clouds painted in an iridescent paint that yields a magical effect at night. With the black lights on, after dark, the indoor area is transformed into a party of lights, with the patterned carpet glowing and arcade games flashing. Guests become part of the decorations, glowing in the colored lights.

The laser tag arena continues to amaze people with its incredible design. A "Star Wars" solar system theme with aliens and space ships sets the scene for fun. This arena is the design result of Creative Works, Inc., which is considered the premier arcade designer. Private parties, businesses, churches and community groups just love this area. With cutting-edge "Laser Blast" technology in a brand-new facility, everyone is impressed. As an added degree of safety, this arena is Class A fireproof.

A laser tag league meets during the week to compete for cash prizes. This summer the league will include "Go-Kart laser tag," a high-energy game developed by Paradise Park.

Outdoor fun includes a trampolene center, a climbing wall, miniature golf, and soccer cages. The park also features world-

class family Go-Karts, driving on a large concrete slick track that includes multiple high banked turns and five steeply banked hairpin curves. The park also has special double karts made for both an adult and a child.

A Kiddie Go-Kart venue opening this month will include specially designed small scale go-karts on an easy to maneuver track. The kids ones will have this fast-paced activity.

Both Go-Kart tracks include some of the art safety features. Staff members monitor the track operation from special locations, making sure that the operation is always safe and fun. Each kart is electronically controlled, allowing staff members to insure proper operation at all times.

No effort was spared on accessibility and safety measures. This park, unlike others, was carefully laid out without a single step or stair. Even the laser arena and golf course are fully accessible.

"It is important to us that every child and family member can enjoy the features of this park, regardless if they are on crutches, in a wheelchair, or just moving slow," says Jeffrey Wainwright.

Video equipment covers the indoors and outdoors so that staff can monitor guests at all times. There's always a member of the family overseeing staff and making sure that safety protocols are followed.

Safety, cleanliness and customer care are the biggest priorities at the facility. And the family has noticed that these are equally important to guests.

"Families come here because they know it is clean, safe and family operated," said Wainwright. "There's a level of trust building. It's different at our park because we are so concerned about safety and the quality of the experience."

Since opening last August, Paradise Park has been well received by the community. Families and teens have been flocking to the attraction and so have private parties and local groups.

Birthday party packages are available which include the homemade pizza, beverages, custom decorated cake, game tokens and a choice of activities. A hostess stays with the party to ensure the birthday child and guests have a great time. That's why Paradise Park is called the "Birthday Capital."

The outdoor area includes two enormous grassy picnic areas that are suitable for large parties such as graduations, bar mitzvahs and corporate picnics. There are already many scheduled for the summer months, but openings remain. Owners use several centers to provide unlimited food choices and can bring in additional entertainment options such as comedians, kiddie trains, and clowns.

A large veranda offers a place for families to enjoy the summer or celebrate an occasion together. Parents can watch kids play while they sit on the veranda with a notebook computer. Wireless Internet service is available at no charge.

Guests can bring a picnic basket to enjoy on the veranda or carry Perry's Pizza. The pizza is so good that some folks come in just for pizza carry-out.

Aside from pizza, Paradise Park also offers Perry's hot sandwiches, Chicago style hot dogs, chicken fries, homemade bread pizzas. Snacks like ice cream, cotton candy, chips, slushies, ice cream floats, sports drinks and pop round out the fun.

Contact Paradise Park by calling (248) 735 1050 or go to www.paradiseparknovi.com

Paradise Park

45799 Grand River Ave. • Novi
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