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Thursday, August 3, 2006

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Volume 51 Number 9

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE



50's Fest
Ashley Zhang, 4, bites into a hot dog at the Michigan 50s Festival last week. See our photo page and a letter from Novi's mayor in this week's *Be Scene* in Novi.
— Page 7A



Right side of the law
Novi Youth Police Academy attendees Matthew Kaindt grimaces as their fellow cadets practice pressure-point restraining tactics during last week's instruction at the Novi Police Department.
— Page 11A

SPORTS

Meet the "new guy"

Sam Eggleston's shoes wore big, but he'll fit in as he's up to the task of filling them as the new Novi News sports writer.
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Primary election Tuesday

■ Polls open
7 a.m.-8 p.m.

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Registered voters in Novi are encouraged to vote in Tuesday's

primary election for the purpose of nominating candidates of all participating political parties for these various offices.

Candidates to be nominated include the governor, the U.S. senator and the representative in

the state legislature for the 38th district, the county commissioner for the 8th and 9th districts and delegates to the Republican and Democratic party conventions.

Absentee ballots are available to registered voters at the city clerk's office, 45173 W. 10 Mile Road.

The deadline for receiving applications for ballots to be mailed is 2 p.m. Saturday. The city clerk's office will be open to issue absentee ballots from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday.

Persons qualified to vote by absentee ballot may obtain a ballot

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Suit filed over new chamber's name

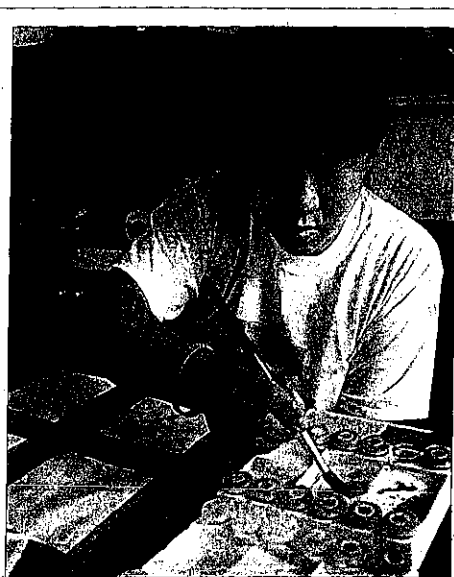
■ GNCC says that businesses aren't confused

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The rivalry between Novi's two chambers of commerce has heated over into a legal wrangle.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce slapped the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce with a lawsuit last month, seeking to halt the use of what it calls "a colorful imitation" of its name and is seeking for unspecified damages. In a 10-page suit filed July 26 in federal court, the Novi Chamber says the Greater Novi Chamber's name is causing confusion among merchants and is an attempt to capitalize on the established chamber's reputation.

continued on page 3



Like father, like daughter

Iris Shen-VanBuren paints in her father's Walled Lake gallery Monday afternoon. The John Shen Gallery opened at 201 Legato Dr. in Walled Lake. Iris' works are also on display and for sale at the gallery. See story on page 4A.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDEN/NOVI NEWS

Mideast conflict hits home

■ Novi man knows of war's destruction first-hand

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

For Michael Abi-Assaf of Novi, the conflict in Lebanon is more than just images on a TV screen.

"The human aspect should be our concern right now."

Michael Abi-Assaf
Novi resident from Lebanon

"I know what it means to live in a shelter and I know what it means to live in fear because I lived much of my young life in war-torn Lebanon," said Abi-Assaf, 45, who immigrated to the U.S. in 1984.

Abi-Assaf's mother came to visit him in Novi in April and was supposed to return to Lebanon in late July but now is stuck here because the Beirut airport was bombed, he said.

"It's not a short-term deal," he said. Much of Abi-Assaf's family lives in Lebanon still, and his brother is even stationed in south Lebanon as an officer in the Lebanese army, which he said has been "practically sitting idle."

continued on page 3

Bees going postal, stinging mail carriers

■ Hives in mailboxes pain in the bee-hind for workers

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Novi Post Office carriers have been dealing with a foe more men-

acing than the stereotypical yappy dog with a bark worse than its bite this summer.

Postal carriers from the office have been stung by angry bees 12-13 times already this summer, according to supervisor of customer services Gregory Casso. He said one worker had to get a shot of Demerol at the hospital to treat swelling after being stung by four bees at the same time.

"I've never been in an office with this many stings," said Casso, who

For more information on how to deal with bee stings, please turn to page 3A.

said he's worked at roughly 20 post offices. "It's an imitation as a lot of the carriers. Nobody likes to be stung."

The bee attacks are on pace to match last summer's tally of 15-20 stings, which caused four post office workers to seek treatment at

the hospital, Casso said. One had to be rushed to the emergency room by ambulance because she was having trouble breathing after a sting made her always start closing, he said.

Casso, who said he's puzzled by how homeowners retrieve their mail with bees present, said part of the problem is the decorative wooden covers that homeowners often put up around their mailboxes. He

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/NOVI NEWS

Kathy Crawford shows a playful range of emotions as she's interviewed at the Novi Civic Center including her trademark smile.

Retirement doesn't mean slowing down for Crawford

■ Former senior center director stays busy

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

To Kathy Crawford, life is full of possibilities.

It's an attitude she inherited from her parents and grandparents, who raised her on a 300-acre farm on Meadowbrook Road, back when nobody had heard of Novi.

"It's an attitude she tries to pass on to the children, she's worked with for much of her life, showing them the opportunities available

later in old age. And it's an attitude that has led her to a life of activism and involvement in the community.

YOUR NOVI Neighbors

Crawford said, noting that the follows the ethic of "lead, follow, or get out of the way."

"I have zero tolerance for whiners," she said. "Most people don't think they can do things. I've learned from my experience a small group of people can make a huge difference."

One huge difference she's made in Novi is starting the Novi Senior Center, back in 1980. Being raised with her grandparents gave her an interest in working with seniors, and she stayed on as the

center's director until 2004. "I loved that job," she said. "I'm a builder kind of person."

Staying active

Since retiring, Crawford has stayed plenty busy. She's written a book for senior center directors, and travels around the country

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Novi Public Library logo and contact information for various departments: Services, Loans, Circulation, etc.

fewest dropped calls

raising the bar...ill

■ GNCC says that businesses are confused

continued from front page

Novi Chamber officials declined to comment for this report and deferred to their attorney, Joe Carrier. He said he hopes the dispute will be ironed out soon, and said some kind of compromise over the name is likely.

"I'd like to see a speedy resolution to this," said Carrier, who works for the Novi firm of Carrier, Blackburn & Associates, P.C.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1967 as the Novi Board of Commerce. It switched to its present name in 1970 and has more than 500 members.

The Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, which was founded in May, was caught flat-footed by the suit. It's working on a strategy with its attorney, said Executive Director Whitney McClellan.

"We're kind of taken aback," she said.

The Greater Novi Chamber, which has about 60 members, disputes it has been deceptive.

"We have been anything but misleading," McClellan said.

The chambers situation began in the spring, when a group of disgruntled business people splintered from the older chamber and formed the GNCC. In April, the Novi Chamber changed its bylaws, giving the president a vote and keeping the position's salary confidential from most of the members, which ignited a firestorm of criticism in the community.

Two chambers with similar names or overlapping jurisdictions isn't unheard of in Michigan, said Bob Thomas, assistant to the president of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in Lansing. He noted that the Macomb Chamber in Warren and the Central Macomb County Chamber of Commerce in Mount Clemens both spur economic development in that county.

Thomas said chambers with synergies usually collaborate. "It's unfortunate that they're seen as competitors," he said of the Novi chambers.

Novi Mayor David Landry also called the lawsuit unfortunate and said he isn't taking sides since the city is a member of both chambers.

"It's too bad that it was filed," he said.

The situation has local merchants concerned.

"Instead of worrying about the names, let's worry about the business," said Melissa Agosta of Gina Agosta Salon.

Greg Mithore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmithore@gannett.com.

■ Novi man knows of war's destruction first-hand

continued from front page

"We go back often to visit (family)," Abi-Assaf said. "We have been regularly in touch with my family. Thank God we're still able to get in touch with them on a daily basis."

Abi-Assaf, who is Catholic, is originally from northern Lebanon.

■ Bees going postal, stinging mail carriers

continued from front page

Letters and pamphlets have been sent out to homeowners with bees in their mailboxes, Casseo said. They can help alleviate the problem by spraying nests and filling any cracks where nests could be built with spray cans of foam, he said.

"We would really appreciate their help," Casseo said.

Lebanon hostage for years, Abi-Assaf said. Iran is using Lebanon to attack Israel without bringing war within its own borders, he said.

"Every few years we get a fanatic in the Arab world who stands up and says he wants to destroy Israel," Abi-Assaf said. "I think they (Iran) want to destroy the country. Everybody should stop Lebanon hostage."

Abi-Assaf said the majority of Lebanese people want to live in peace with Israel. He believes Hezbollah needs to be dismantled and prevented from making further attacks on Israel.

Iran and Hezbollah do not value life, Abi-Assaf said. Seeing the

destruction of war and then coming to America taught him to value life, he said.

"When the Lebanese try to get up from under the rubble, they get knocked down again," he said.

Abi-Assaf was last in Lebanon this past spring. He was planning to go on a trip in the country with US Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, but that got delayed and then had to be scrapped when the conflict broke out, he said.

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.

Tips for treating a bee sting

By Matt Doran

A bee sting is a painful nuisance for most people, but for some, it can be much more serious. Those experiencing an allergic reaction to a sting should call 911, Shuttle said. EMS workers will begin treatment in the field, she said. Shuttle said people who know they react badly to bee stings often start carrying EpiPens, so they can inject them if they are stung. Shuttle said treatment options for a bee sting include:

- Elevating the stung extremity to help reduce swelling.
- Taking Benadryl to help with the itching.
- Taking Motrin to reduce swelling.
- Taking antibiotics if the site of the sting starts becoming infected.
- Long-term treatment options for people who are allergic to stings include "desensitization" by an allergist or dermatologist.

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■ Former senior center director stays busy

continued from front page

giving talks to senior groups. In 2005, she was selected by U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter to attend the 2005 Whitehouse Conference on Aging.

Crawford and co-author Karen Schwack are currently finishing editing their book "Two heads abroad," a chronicle of their unplanned trip to England, Ireland and Scotland.

The pair traveled around Great Britain for five weeks, staying in

bed and breakfasts and bringing only one suitcase apiece, along with laptop computers and digital cameras. Crawford is Irish and Schwack is Scottish, and their plan was to look for their heritage, Crawford said.

"We actually met people with our surname and we met people who looked like us," she said.

"Everybody has a story. They should write it."

Kathy Crawford

Age: 64
How you know her: She's involved in a number of community groups and is the former director of the Novi Senior Center, which she helped found in 1980.

Interesting fact: She is a life-long Novi resident, raised on a 300-acre farm on Meadowbrook Road.

Family: She has been married to Hugh Crawford, an Oakland County Commissioner, for 42 fun-filled years. "They have three grown children and two grandchildren." Quote: "I'm getting old enough that I can say what I want," she said.

A life-long Novi resident

Crawford's story, 64 years in the making, starts in Novi, where she was born. Her grandparents ran a gas station and restaurant and her family "saw the possibilities in everything."

Her father, a perpetual entrepreneur, went bankrupt two or three times but never gave up. Crawford said. Before dying at age 55, he finally became the owner of a suc-

"You haven't lived till you've sprayed out a turkey's beak," Crawford said.

Her sense of humor comes from her grandfather, Crawford said, who was always trying to entertain people driving by on the road. One time, someone told him that he couldn't stand on his head on a chair. He broke his hip trying.

In those days, Novi's population was less than 1,000 people, Crawford said, and most kids got firmed out to neighboring school districts since Novi had only a small elementary school. Grand River was paved, but Novi Road was a mix of dirt and blacktop, she said.

"You knew everybody," she said. One person she got to know was


fellow life-long Novi resident Hugh Crawford, an Oakland County Commissioner with whom she's enjoyed "42 fun-filled years of marriage."

"We were the only two people here," Kathy Crawford joked. "We had to get married!"

Though she appreciates the past and the efforts of those who helped make the city what it is today, she doesn't long for old Novi.

"I love the changes because I've been a part of them," Crawford said. "People don't realize what a difference they can make. I think everyone should leave a legacy."

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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COMMUNITY

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John Shen Gallery opens at Walled Lake's Legato Point

Local architect has new venture

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Y. R. Shen is well-known in Metro Detroit architectural circles.

Now, residents of the western suburbs can purchase his art for their own homes with the opening of the John Shen Gallery in Walled Lake.

Located at 201 Legato Drive in the new Legato Point mixed-use development, the new gallery is just north of Maple Road and west of Pontiac Trail.

Shen, of Bloomfield Hills, is adding another dimension to his already successful career as an architect and celebrated the grand opening of his gallery July 15.

About 60 people attended the celebration.

Included in the opening exhibition are several of Shen's landscape paintings inspired by a recent trip which he and wife, Theresa, made to Australia and New Zealand.

Also on display are photography, sculpture, textiles and jewelry by artists, including Shen's daughter, Iris Shen-Van Buren, who trained as a sculptor.

Cranbrook Academy graduate

Shen, who earned a degree in architecture from National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan and a master's degree in architecture at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, said art has always been an important part of his life.

In addition to his busy career in architecture, he continues to pursue his interests in painting, photography, jewelry design and sculpture.

"I want to promote art and encourage artists to continue their visions and dreams," Shen said of his new venture. "I truly believe

Details

Name: John Shen
Gallery:

Location: 201 Legato Drive, Walled Lake (off the north side of Maple Road, just west of Pontiac Trail)

Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Wednesday-Saturday, or by appointment

Contact: The gallery at (248) 669-3677; Shen at (248) 425-6498; or e-mail Shen at shengallery@ameritech.net

that as time goes by there will be more appreciation of fine arts and the gifted artists who contribute so much to our society.

Shen, a native of China, has lived in the U.S. since 1963 when he came to study at the Cranbrook Art Academy. While in architectural school in China, he studied with some renowned artists.

He uses a variety of media, including oil and charcoal, and especially enjoys portrait work. A self-portrait hangs in his new gallery.

Local examples of his architectural work include the Detroit-Canada Tunnel Plaza, the Chinese classroom at Wayne State University, the gift shop at the Detroit Science Center and Eastern Michigan University's School of Music.

Freedom of expression sought

"I've been doing architecture for so many years," Shen said. "But in architecture, you don't have the freedom of expression in creating your own designs. I feel at my age I should have some freedom."

Shen has three of four colorful paintings in his gallery depicting the four seasons — a traditional Chinese concept.

He modernized the concept by

visualizing the constant changing of the seasons.

Each painting has been designed to seamlessly flow into the painting before and after it, thus depicting the never-ending cycle of seasons.

Spring, fall and winter depictions hung in the Walled Lake Gallery. This painting depicting summer was selected to be included among alumni artwork for the Cranbrook Academy of Art's Serious Moonlight fundraiser auction on July 15.

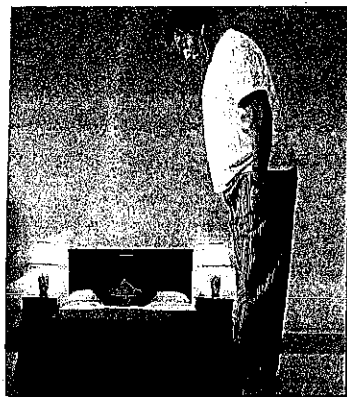
Shen said he decided to open his gallery in Walled Lake because there are so many established galleries in the Birmingham/Bloomfield Hills area, and he sees the area's population pushing westward.

"The I-96 corridor is the new population center," Shen said. "I think this area has a future."

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.



John Y.R. and Theresa Shen stand in the recently-opened John Shen Gallery in Walled Lake. Shen's paintings and other creations, like a self-portrait bust of John Y.R., right, are available for sale.



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Primary vote Tuesday; polls open from 7-8

continued from front page

lot in person until 4 p.m. Monday. This ballot must be voted in the city clerk's office.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday.

All polling places are handicapped accessible, with Braille and audio versions of voting instructions available.

Vote front, back of ballot

On the back of the two-sided ballot, citizens can vote for their county commissioner and delegates to the county convention.

"It only takes one vote to become a precinct delegate," Cornelius said.

The precinct delegates represent the respective parties at the county conventions.

At the county convention, parties then select delegates to the state party convention.

County convention attendees sometimes pass major policy or platform resolutions in an effort to communicate local needs to state leaders.

None are anticipated at this time, however, according to Jeff Potter (R-South Lyon), candidate for county commissioner.

Conventions also provide a chance to debut new talent, introducing recently-elected/re-elected candidates for the fall election.

This is also an exciting time to build unity and to fire up the troops for the fall election," Potter said. In many cases, delegates hear speeches from candidates for office.

Delegates to the state convention elect representatives to the national convention and members of the state committee. State delegates also approve the state party platform.

For more information about candidates in this primary election, log on to the League of Women Voters of the Oakland Area Web site at www.lwvva.org.

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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Help America Vote Act funding provides ballot-marking device

Equipment aids visually impaired

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Voters in Tuesday's primary election will make history as they use a new ballot-marking device purchased with federal grant money for the first time.

The funds were provided through the Help America Vote Act signed into law in 2002. Every community in the state of Michigan was provided one device per polling location.

"So, if you have two or more

precincts in one location, there will be just one machine," explained Maryann Cornelius, Novi city clerk.

The voter-assistance terminal marks the ballot and takes about 15 minutes to process the marks.

It doesn't count your vote, it just marks your ballot, and the ballot is then taken to the regular tabulator.

The device, called the AutoMARK, has a couple of options. It can be used by a person who is blind, because it has headphones and Braille markings. There is a key pad with specific shapes, such as squares.

People without the ability to hold a writing instrument can

also vote by touching the screen or the key pad to make their selection.

Cornelius said four years ago, Novi had a voter turnout of about 25 percent of registered voters for the primary election.

"We'd like to see more," she said. "Voting is a privilege and something we should not take for granted."

With the new marking device at the polls, this will be the first time that citizens who have visual or physical handicaps will be able to vote by secret ballot. In the past, someone had to assist them with their ballot.

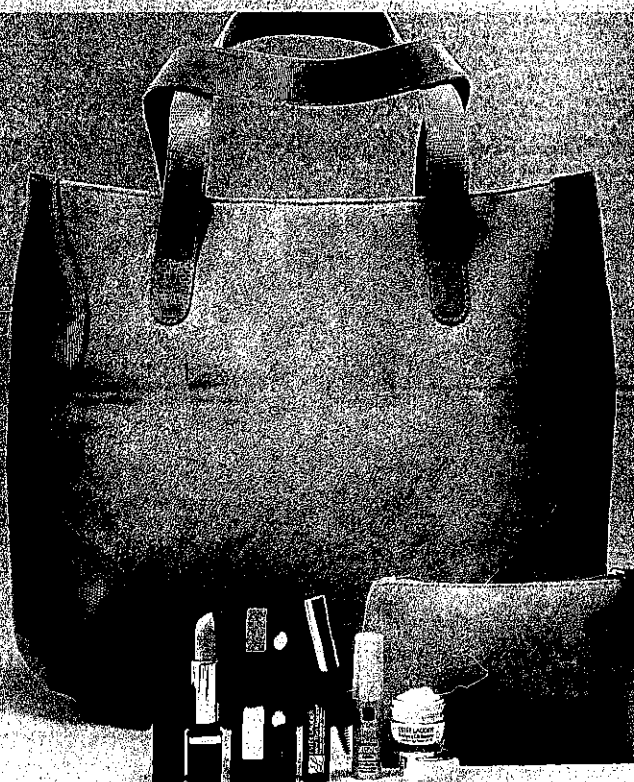
If a voter has other visual issues, such as macular degeneration, the contrast can be changed on AutoMARK.



Novi city clerk Natalie Laitinen operates an AutoMARK voting system which will be in every precinct in the upcoming primary. The AutoMARK system allows sight and hearing impaired people to cast their own votes, without help from officials.

"That's something that the rest of us take for granted," Cornelius said.
Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

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Photo by Pam Fleming

Lured
This little guy was caught fishing off the wooden walkway on Beck Road west side just south of Bellagio Drive, opposite the entrance to Barclay Estates, between 8 and 9 Mile roads.

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Novi Rotarians launch their "most ambitious" project

■ Character building and mentoring program on tap for Novi High

By Matt Ooran
STAFF WRITER

It started with a simple reflection on character, and "morphed" from there into "arguably the most ambitious" project ever undertaken by the Novi Rotary Club.

Aiming to give high school freshmen a solid foundation in character and ethics that they'll be able to apply in school and elsewhere, the "Character is Everything" seminar launched last Thursday at Novi High School with a training session for 60-65 juniors and seniors who will serve as mentors in the program.

The mentors will facilitate discussions, on-line and in-person, with groups of 10 freshmen at the high school over the course of eight weeks. Each week, the groups will gather to hear a speaker discuss that week's theme for roughly 20 minutes, according to 2006-2007 Rotary president Todd Lockhart.

Lockhart said the topics will include subjects like self-worth, honesty and integrity. The speaker list has been finalized, but will include Jim Dreyer, a world-record holding distance swimmer, and Gerry Jackson, a district governor of Rotary Club.

Each group of freshmen will have their own choice of three ethical problems to discuss that week, related to the speaker's

message. Each week, one group will be chosen to present the solution they came up with to the problem.

"I hope that they're able to gain some insight, some life lessons," said social studies teacher Lee Bonner, who runs the high school's current freshman seminar program, which he said is geared at helping students make the transition into high school.

The program will include reading materials culled from a variety of sources, such as Sen. John McCain's book "Character is Destiny," Lockhart said, and it is being sponsored by TelComm Credit Union. The speakers are coming free of charge, he said.

Launching the program

Lockhart said he came up with the idea of conducting the seminar after the Rotary club decided it was time to focus more on the local community, after spending a lot of time being victims of the Asian tsunami and the hurricanes last year in the United States.

Rotary talks a lot about character, Lockhart said, and that got him thinking about creating a high school program. He got in touch with Bonner and said once he had him on board, things started moving more quickly.

Bonner has "worked like a dog," Lockhart said, and has helped get the school administration on board with the program. "I couldn't do it again," Lockhart said. "It was a huge amount of work."

The program's structure

Lockhart said 50-65 juniors and seniors will serve as mentors to the 500-550 freshmen entering the high school this year. Each



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Brad Frey, Rachel Murray and Matt Lee, all incoming Novi High seniors, build the "Tower of Trust" during a Rotary-led seminar on encouraging compassion and understanding in the school. These seniors will then mentor their school's underclassmen.

mentor will take on 10 students and there will be some extra mentors left over to help out, he said.

Freshmen do have the chance of opting out of the program, but Lockhart is hoping they will use it as a supplement to the training they get at home and in their church or synagogue.

The results of the program will be inangible, but the goal is to give kids a basis on which to make good decisions, Lockhart said. If the program goes well, the plan is to continue it every year, he said.

The seventh week of the program will include two speakers and kids will have the opportunity to bring their parents. Lockhart is also hoping local non-profit organizations will come and set up booths so kids can get more information about them.

Rotary is also working the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce to make a presentation

August 9 to area businesses, which Lockhart hopes will get involved by sponsoring a student group.

Training the mentors

The mentors are key to the program's success, Lockhart said. They went through a day-long training session last Thursday at the high school, with a character training professional from California.

"The mentors spent the morning learning about character and the afternoon focusing on ways to be effective mentors, Lockhart said. There will be another session for mentors at the end of August and they will receive support throughout the eight week program, he said.

"The kids are great," Lockhart said. "I'm really impressed." Audrey Vallean, a mentor with the program who will be a senior

in the fall, said she had to be interviewed and get letters of recommendation to participate in the program.

During her freshman year, she had a mentor who was not very active, Vallean said. She hopes to be able to do more to tell freshmen about the different opportunities available to them at the high school.

"I want to let them know what they can do at the school," she said.

The mentor training was longer and more extensive than Vallean said she'd expected, but she noted that it made her more aware of what she says to freshmen. In the past, she said she might have been more sarcastic with them than she would be now.

Hani Dorn 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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Novi rocks as a community

I am fond of referring to Novi not as a city but as a community. This is nowhere better exemplified than the Michigan 50's Festival.

July 26 through July 29 saw thousands basking with hot, steamy temperatures but it was the music that sizzled at the Novi Town Center as people danced and sang to the music of the 1950's and '60's. In its 19th year, the Michigan 50's Festival is totally planned and operated by volunteers, and it is made possible only by the generosity and support of community sponsors.

While the 50's Festival takes place in July, the Festival Board of Directors work all year round. An event of this magnitude cannot possibly be pulled together in a few weeks or months. This is the biggest misconception about the 50's Festival. While the 2006 festival only recently ended, the Board of Directors will take a couple weeks off and (immediately) begin work on the 2007 festival, meeting monthly and eventually bi-weekly to plan the event, obtain sponsors, negotiate contracts and perform the endless tasks required to conduct a four-day festival which accommodates thousands of people.

Who are these directors? They are volunteers! They are members of our community who get paid nothing for working year round. Every single exhibitor at the festival, every single food vendor, every music act and every amusement provider has to be contacted personally. Each has unique requirements which must be provided for. All is accomplished through the efforts of volunteers. They are your friends and neighbors.

They are President Lori Kopeznak, Vice President Cindy Kopeznak, Treasurer Pat Webb, Secretary Gary Wyatt, Immediate Past President Bob McCann and Directors Art Cervi, Jerry Cooney, Fred Eagle, Ed Harrell, Tom Maricus, Linda McCarthy, Mike Muscat, Cheryl Stern, Cal Stone, Dottie Vorhol, yours truly, Recording Secretary Gerry Stipp and City Liaison Benny McCusker.

Sponsorship makes the festival possible. Without the financial support of Bright House Networks and the physical location being provided by the Novi Town Center, the 50's Festival could not happen.

What makes these businesses participate at this level? The answer is simple and powerful: all the sales and marketing opportunities that come with the festival. Indeed, when any single Novi business shows support for our community, other businesses are quick to follow suit. They are not strangers. They are the people we deal with every day, the businesses who make up our town.

They are Yarsley Lincoln Mercury, Tom Holzer Ford, Marty Edman Chevrolet, Cold Stone Creamery, JFC Transmission, The Novi News, Community EMS, Larson's Jewelry, the Diamond Center, Steve & Rocky's, Providence Parkside Cafe, the Bamboo Club, to name a few. These are people who define our community and are always eager to lend a hand for community events.

When the festival dates finally roll around, the legwork begins. On festival days, the activities are made possible only by the countless hours of volunteers who show up by sunrise. These are people who take tickets, set up, tear down and do everything in-between. These are people who operate the Vegas tent, the beverage tent and perform countless clean up activities.

They are the cruisers, the Catholic Central Dads Club, Moms Club, the Novi Lions, the Novi Rotary, the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, members of the Novi Planning Commission and members of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

And when the festival dates roll around, the 50's festival directors, those people in the white shirts, work round the clock. They start on Monday and don't stop until the following Sunday, even after the festival is over. Many get only an average of three to four hours of sleep per night and many virtually never leave the festival site.

Why? Why do all these people, these volunteers, these cruisers, these organizations, do all this?

The answer is your address. They do it for Novi. This is who we are.

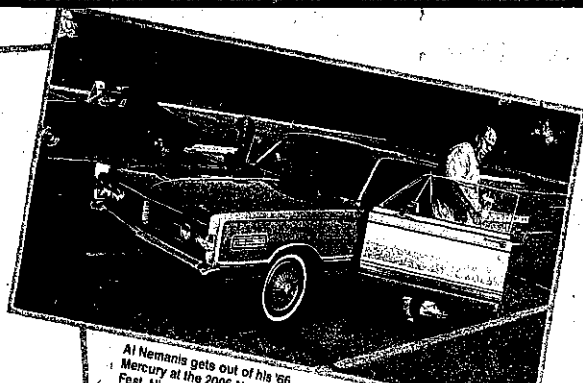
In Novi, every summer we have a festival. We get together and celebrate our community, our friendship and our everyday lives. Times are tough for everyone. We all have problems but we are all living, breathing and have the capability of smiling and laughing.

Let's do more of that. For a few days in Novi every summer, we have music, dancing, food, drink, games, a fireworks display to match all fireworks displays and just plain old-fashion fun. This is part of life in Novi. This is why we are what we are - a community. Rock and Roll, Novi!

Mayor David Lantry



Taking advantage of one of the many amusements at the festival, Connor McCusker, 7, does some outdoor wall-climbing.



Al Nemans gets out of his '66 Mercury at the 2006 Novi 50's Fest. His car was one of many classics that showed up at the Novi Town Center for the four-day event.



Ellie Elkin, 7, enjoys a bounce at Friday's fest.

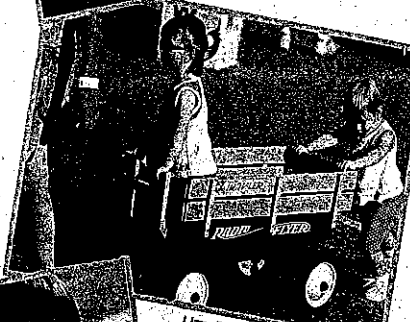


Fred Young and other members of the Novi Lions Club serve refreshments Friday night.



Bill and Marcia Blomer, of Ocala, Fla., give it a whirl.

Photos by John Heider



Lizzy Rachiele, 2, gets some propulsion help in her wagon by Emma Smith, also 2, on Friday.



Florida-based band Rocky and the Rollers plays to a good-sized crowd on Friday.



Ashley Zhang, 4, bites into a hotdog.

Larry Skonieczny deals blackjack in the Vegas tent. Skonieczny and others were part of a team from Novi's Catholic Central Dad's Club, manning the tables, to raise funds for their cause.



Council approves submission of parkland grant application

■ Parcel located near Singh Trail

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City Councilman Andrew Mutch called it "a win-win for everyone involved." And, that seemed to be the feeling across the board when Novi City Council members on July 24 authorized the submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for 16 acres next to the Singh Trail property.

The 16 acres are located on the city's southwest side between Nine Mile and 10 Mile roads.

On March 6, council discussed an opportunity to submit the land acquisition grant application for the parcel but wanted Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission members to review it first.

On June 8, the commission's strategic planning committee and city staff presented the full recommendation with a recommendation for council to authorize city staff

to prepare and submit the grant application. The commission approved the recommendation in time for the Aug. 1 grant submission deadline.

Quality woodlands, wetlands

The parcel features high-quality woodlands and wetlands in a preserve wildlife habitat area. The land is next to the Singh Trail property donated by Farmington Hills-based Singh Development and is at the headwaters of the Huron River.

If the city receives the grant, the property would be added to 189 acres of parkland and another 73 acres to be dedicated by Singh Development for a 269-acre park.

The property owners, Heritage Shoppes, LLC, have provided a letter of intent with the application indicating their willingness to submit the property for the grant. The grant amount requested from the state will be \$330,000.

The owners have agreed to contribute a land donation value of 26.6 percent of the overall value, or \$120,000, plus a cash contribution of \$22,500 to the city to cover

administrative costs if the grant is awarded.

An appraisal of the property placed a value of \$485,000 on the parcel. "It is our intent that this parcel is acquired by the city of Novi at no additional cost to the city," said John Lladis, Heritage Shoppes LLC manager.

"We have elected to donate any participation costs that the city would have on this parcel to help the city accomplish this," he said. "We're big believers that this is a nice thing that we'd like to see the city have."

Lladis said he is an avid outdoorsman who has been active in scouting for a number of years and is a former scoutmaster.

Contributions applauded

Mutch thanked those involved in getting the application ready for the state.

"I don't think we can ask for much more of a generous property owner to not only donate some value of the land... but also covering all the costs associated with the grant," Mutch said.

He also recognized real estate broker Jonathan Biteman, who brought the owners and the city together, and city staff members such as Randy Auler and Jack Lewis, who were involved in preparing the grant application.

He also mentioned members of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission and the Friends of Novi Parks, who commissioned an environmental study of the land. Letters of support were also written by Oakland County Commissioner Hugh Crawford, State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi), House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) and members of the Huron River Watershed Council, the Michigan Nature Association and the Oakland Land Conservancy.

The city recently received a grant from the state to create Meadowbrook Park on the city's southeast side off Meadowbrook Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-7700, ext. 105 or by e-mail at pfleming@novinews.com.

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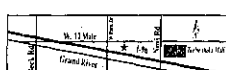
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BUSINESS

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Council OKs preliminary plans for Novi Town Center buildings

Water features to enhance area

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

An attractive water feature at the corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue will be the focal point of the new Novi Town Center project.

City council members approved the preliminary site plan Monday night for four buildings and enhancements slated by Novi Town Center Investors.

Novi Town Center Investors own the shopping center. Madison Marquette Realty Services handles management and leasing at the center.

The buildings will front Grand River Avenue and Novi Road, stretching from the northeast corner east to Town Center Drive.

A total of 26,000 square feet of retail/restaurant space is proposed to be added to the shopping center.

Pedestrian-friendly area

Developers plan a pedestrian-friendly environment at the center, with another water feature planned on Crescent Boulevard off of Town Center Drive.

The current concept for the water feature at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road includes a 6-foot tall, 2-foot-wide water curtain with the words "Novi Town Center" and the city logo inset in brick above the water.

A decorative fence is also slated next to the structure.

"It's really exciting that the managers of this shopping center...have now made a decision that it's time to expand its space," said Matthew Quinn, attorney representing Madison Marquette Realty Services.

"They want to make sure that the corner looks as 'mountain' as it can," he added.

The area around the water feature will include outdoor seating areas and landscaping.

"It's exciting to see a reinvestment like this in an established center," said Clay Pearson, city manager.

"Concerns are very important for visibility and creating perceptions."

Mayor David Landry also fully supports the project.

"I think it's a wonderful plan," Landry told the property owners. "I think it's going to do wonders for that corner."

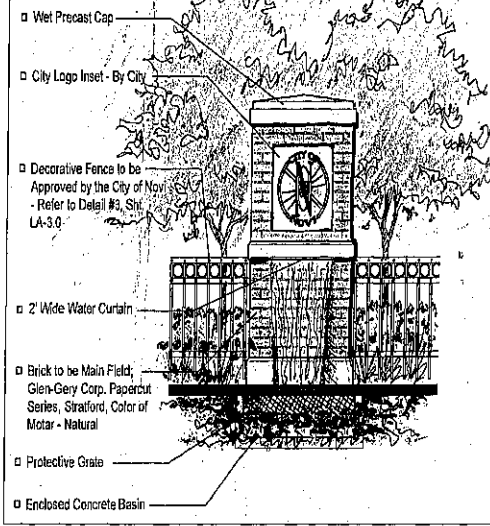


Illustration courtesy Design Team Limited

A water feature with a 2-foot-wide water curtain and brick structure with the city's logo will be part of improvements planned at the Novi Town Center shopping center at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road. The structure may include the words "Novi Town Center" as well.

Work could begin this year

"We're excited," Clear said. "We have final site plans now through, which is going to be primarily an administrative effort to resolve the planning review letters."

As soon as that is accomplished, the shopping center management will apply for construction permits.

"If we can get in the ground this year we'd love to, but we think it is more likely that it will be early next year," Clear said.

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.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Bennett Stewart has been appointed to the ITC Holdings Board of Directors. He will also serve on the company's audit committee.

A founding partner with Joel Stern of Stern Stewart & Co., a global management consulting firm, Stewart also currently serves as CEO of EVA Dimensions, a firm formed in March 2006 to acquire and manage the valuation modeling and investment research and funds management services of Stern Stewart & Co.

Stewart is also the author of "The Quest for Value," which is regarded as a definitive guide to EVA (Economic Value Added), a value-based financial management and incentive compensation framework now employed at over 350 companies worldwide. Mr. Stewart has written and lectured widely in his 30-year professional career on topics such as accounting for value and management incentive plans.

Stewart is a 1974 graduate of Princeton University in electrical engineering and 1976 graduate of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business MBA program. He presently serves as chairman of the Alumni Advisory Council for Princeton's Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering.

Eric Alent, a sales representative of Allegra Print & Imaging in Wixom, was recently recognized by the Allegra Network franchise system as one of the Top Ten International Sales Performers in North America. The award is presented annually to salespeople who generate the highest sales volume and



provide an outstanding level of customer service during the calendar year. He also received the International Gold Sales Milestone Award presented annually to individuals who achieve a high level of sales success.

Alent, a resident of Whitmore Lake, joined Allegra Print & Imaging 16 years ago as a salesman when the company opened the production facility in Wixom. He has since worked his way up in the company and is able to use his broad print background to provide customized solutions to enhance each customer's print communications and reduce their overall printing costs.

Be sure to cast your primary vote August 8!

WE WANT YOUR HELP
Your Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County wants you to help decide on the

2006-2007 BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2007
AND
2006-2007 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Board of Road Commissioners for Oakland County invites all interested citizens and elected officials to present comments prior to adoption of the 2006-2007 Budget and Road Improvement Program. For this purpose, we have scheduled a Public Hearing.

Date: Thursday, August 24, 2006
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Oakland County Auditorium
Oakland County Service Center
1200 North Telegraph
Pontiac, Michigan 48341

WHAT THE BUDGET IS
The proposed Budget sets forth the revenue anticipated to be available to the Road Commissioners and the sources of the revenue. The Budget also describes the proposed use of these funds, including the Operating Expenditures of the Road Commission and the proposed Road Improvement Program.

ADVANCE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE
Copies of the proposed 2006-2007 Budget and related information will be available one (1) week prior to the Public Hearing. They may be obtained by contacting the Finance Department of the Road Commission for Oakland County, 31001 Lasher Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025 (Telephone (248) 645-2000, ext. 2237 or TDD (248) 645-9923).

WE HOPE YOU WILL PRESENT COMMENTS
The Board Meeting and Public Hearing are held in accordance with the provisions of Act 2, P.A. 1958, as amended by Act 621, P.A. 1978, Act 43, P.A. 1983 (2nd emergency session), and Act 267, P.A. 1978, as amended.

If you require accommodation in accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, please provide the Finance Department with five days advance notice.

BOARD OF OAKLAND COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

BRENT O. BAIR,
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dropping prices at Meijer

Looking to reinforce its long history of being a low-cost leader in grocery and general merchandise to consumers, Meijer will unveil a chain-wide effort next week where thousands of unadvertised items will be reduced in price every day as part of its new "Price Drop" program.

The "Price Drop" program will be a visible fixture in all 175 Meijer stores, including locations in Novi and Northville Township, by July 31. Each store will be adorned with the full visual impact of the program, from hundreds of blue "Price Drop" banners, shelf tags and floor graphics, to outdoor billboards, buttons and cart signs, all indicating where shoppers can find those unadvertised items that have been reduced in price. These components are all part of the "Look for the Blue" campaign, which will introduce the new program to Meijer customers.

The move will dramatically increase the number of price reductions across all areas of the store, and do so on a longer-term basis than a sale event. On average, approximately 5,000 items are expected to be part of the "Price Drop" program on any given day, and new items will be added every week.

The program will include products from all categories within the store, including grocery, home electronics, health and beauty, apparel, pets, toys and sporting goods.

INCAT goes to India

INCAT, independent provider of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) services to the world's major automotive, aerospace and durable goods manufacturers, announced the Novi-based company has launched operations in India.

Established in 1989 and previously based in the London Stock Exchange AIM, INCAT was acquired in October last year by Pune-based Tata Technologies Ltd for \$3.4 million pounds sterling, the largest Indian acquisition into the European software and IT services sectors to date.

With the world's leading manufacturers identifying the development and introduction of new products as their key challenge over the coming decade, INCAT

Flowing upward in sale

Flow International Corporation, supplier of ultra-high-pressure waterjet products, reported results for its fiscal 2005 fourth quarter and year ended April 30. Flow, with locations in Wisconsin, reported consolidated quarterly sales of \$63.1 million and operating income of \$6.6 million or 10 percent of sales. Net income for the quarter was \$6.6 million or \$0.19 basic earnings per share and \$0.18 per fully diluted share. Results for the quarter include a \$75,000 restructuring expense, which represents the remaining lease and related costs on its vacated Wisconsin facility. These results supersede the figures previously provided in the company's preliminary earnings release issued on July 13.

By comparison, in the fiscal 2005 fourth quarter, Flow reported consolidated sales of \$48.8 million and operating income of \$3.3 million. Loss from continuing operations for the fiscal 2005 fourth quarter was \$8 million or \$0.34 basic and diluted loss per share. Net loss in the year-end quarter was \$15.0 million or \$0.64 basic and diluted loss per share and included a \$7.1 million loss related to the Astore business unit, which the company divested in October 2005.

Epoch to have hunger benefit

The Epoch Restaurant Group, owners of restaurants in Farmington Hills and Birmingham, is having its "Taste of the Nation" benefit dinner Aug. 23 at the Novi Financial Showplace in Novi. The event will benefit local charities. It will feature chef's feasts around the state and run from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Epoch's Diamond Center ballroom. General admission tickets are \$75 and VIP tickets are \$125.

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

Economic Development Corp. gives feedback on council goals

Ball is now in council's court

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Using the theory "two heads are better than one" or in this case several heads, Novi's Economic Development Corporation members recently reviewed the city's plans for the future.

Corporation members met several times over the past four months and presented several additions to the city's goals and objectives at the July 24 city council meeting.

Jon Dostal, corporation chair, addressed council, saying he has hired in Novi for more than 30 years.

He noted that corporation members are pleased that the city is asking for their input.

"It's in the council's court now as far as how this is received," said City Treasurer, Terry Margolis, council member, has been interested in obtain-

ing more input from the corporation and thanked members for the feedback.

"This is really what I envisioned — this cooperative progress," she said.

Three changes mentioned

Members outlined three of the most important changes they would like to discuss with council:

- Change the corporation to an Economic Development Board, allowing for a broader range of activities. This new board would include members of city staff, a city council member and existing EDC members.
- Empower the EDC to attend business attraction and retention visits.
- Have EDC or board members work with planning commission members and other city boards on future projects.

"Without some changes to the structure of the Economic Development Corporation, many members feel that the organization is not serving the community as effectively as it could."

Establishing an educational program for both EDC members and local taxpayers on the value and importance of economic development in Novi was another suggested goal.

The EDC also wants to evaluate its progress annually and identify "emerging industries" that the city wants to attract. More ideas were to involve area universities in economic development projects and to promote the city through trade shows and other business events.

An ongoing goal would be to actively recruit and recommend residents to join the Novi Economic Development Corporation and to share information with the community. Pearson thought it would take 60-90 days for economic development responsibilities to be outlined.

"I see the EDC's role as clearly wider than just paying hands," said Mayor David Landry.

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-7700 ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@novi.net.

RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER

Novi Youth Police Academy attendees Matthew Kaindl, left, and Matthew Jodoin grapple as their fellow cadets practice pressure-point restraining tactics during last week's instruction at the Novi Police Department.

STORY BY PAM FLEMING



Detective Steve Conquest, using Adam Hodges, 14, as a subject, shows the Youth Police Academy cadets the proper way to handcuff a suspect.



Novi Youth Police Academy cadet Keyshawn Pearson carefully checks out the occupants of a car as he practices making a safe traffic stop during last week's instruction.

NOVI YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

Simulated shooting hits top mark with kids

Even though they only were shooting laser beams, not bullets, the simulated firearm training was the most-talked-about portion the recent Novi Youth Police Academy.

The Novi Police Department offered the academy for those ages 13-18.

"We even had a few people from Farmington Hills ask about the academy," said Det. Kristie Greenwald. "We didn't want to turn anybody away."

Wilson felt the academy was a success. "Thirty-two applied, and we had one drop out

What the students say

Michelle Zerkich, 14, who will be a sophomore at Novi High School next fall, said she liked the firearms training the most.

"Shooting the gun was really fun," she said. "Zerkich felt the academy was definitely worth while and wants to become a police officer after attending Michigan State University."

Academy graduate Brad Brasel, 14, will also be a sophomore at Novi High School in the fall. "I had a lot of fun," he said. "It was a good time, and I learned a lot."

He also enjoyed the Firearms Training Simulator (often known as FAT) and plans a career in law enforcement.

"This is what I want to do, and this kind of set the stone," Brasel said.

Adam Hodges, 14, who will be a freshman at Novi High School next fall, also liked the academy.

"It was cool and very educational," he said. Hodges also wants to be a police officer in the future.

Matthew Jodoin, 15, who will be a freshman at Novi High School in the fall, also praised the academy.

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Advertisement for Lord & Taylor. Text: "25% off all jockey for her. GOING ON NOW. LORD & TAYLOR."

Verizon Wireless advertisement. Text: "FREE CAMERA PHONES FOR YOUR FAMILY JUST IN TIME FOR SCHOOL. Get 3 LG VX5200 Camera Phones FREE when you buy any phone. ADD LINES ONLY \$9.99 Monthly Access Per Additional Line AND GET Unlimited Calling. TALK TO ANY VERIZON WIRELESS CUSTOMER WITHOUT USING YOUR PLAN MINUTES. IT'S THE NETWORK. 1.877.2BUY.VZW. verizonwireless.com"

Verizon Wireless Communications Stores list. Includes locations in Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Novi, Troy, Westland, and other areas with phone numbers and addresses.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Call Slone, editor: (248) 349-1700, ext. 113; slone@novnews.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Photo by Hans Nyberg, Ten Mile Media

Flipped boat

Novi Fire Department rescue workers helped a Novi man last Thursday when his boat flipped over on Walled Lake. Firefighters were dispatched to the watercraft rescue at 5:39 p.m., with 10 people responding. Emergency medical services personnel treated the man onshore at 1288 East Lake Road. A lifeguard said a Walled Lake Fire Department captain witnessed the incident and had a pontoon boat bring the patient to shore. The man suffered only minor injuries. The cause of the accident is still being investigated.



POLICE REPORT

Criminal sexual conduct alleged

A 59-year-old Novi man is scheduled to go to trial in Oakland County Circuit Court on a criminal sexual misconduct charge regarding a Walled Lake woman.

Randy Saxon waived his right to a preliminary exam July 14, the date of his pre-trial conference in 52-1 District Court in Novi.

The incident involving Saxon allegedly took place May 15 at the Walled Lake Villa, a government-subsidized residential center for the elderly and/or physically challenged on Pontiac Trail.

The alleged victim is a 39-year-old woman, who claims that Saxon, a maintenance worker at the center, used his pass key to enter her apartment without her permission and sexually assault-

ed her. The woman notified the center's staff about the alleged incident, and management then contacted police, according to Det. Scott Bosley of the Walled Lake Police Department.

Management spoke with Saxon, who has been suspended from his job pending the outcome of the investigation.

Sixon was arraigned at 52-1 District Court June 23 on two counts of criminal sexual conduct by Magistrate Andrea Richardson.

He is currently housed in the Oakland County Jail on a \$100,000 bond. A trial date was not known at press time.

Golf clubs stolen

A 20-year-old Novi woman who lives on Brookshire Street

near Chase Drive and Hemphire Street had a set of golf clubs and 30-40 CDs stolen from her car between midnight June 23 and midnight June 30.

The woman reported the incident to police on July 6.

Police spoke to the victim's mother and the victim, who was on her way to Michigan State University. The victim believes someone took the clubs from her yellow Ford Escape while it was parked in her parents' driveway.

More car theft

A 43-year-old Novi woman who lives on Willettsley Court near Nantucket Drive and Cider Mill Road said someone took some items out of her Honda Pilot between 11 p.m. July 4 and 7 a.m. July 5.

Missing items included \$20 in change, \$20 in singles, a book of checks and her vehicle registra-

tion. The items were missing from the console/glovebox area of the vehicle, and she believes the vehicle was left unlocked while parked in her driveway.

Warren man arrested

A 25-year-old Warren man was arrested for drunk driving at 5:45 a.m. July 3 at 12 Mile and Novi roads.

An officer was driving a fully-marked patrol Tahoe when he noticed a red Pontiac come to a quick stop at the light at 12 Mile Road when northbound on Novi Road.

When the light turned green, the driver suddenly turned right from the through lane. The officer watched as the vehicle swerved while traveling east on 12 Mile Road.

continued on next page

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission by the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **SIGN ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 06-100-28, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 28, SIGNS, OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE TO UPDATE, CLARIFY, AND ENFORCE NEW SUBSTANTIVE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS WITHIN AND THROUGHOUT THE CITY.**

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 23, 2006.
Published August 3, 2006

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY

(6-3-06 NN 302237)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-044

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ed Matlock of Cort Furniture is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to hold a seasonal furniture parking lot for tent sale located at 42350 Grand River between Novi and Meadowbrook Roads from August 10, 2006 to August 19, 2006.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 500 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary use permit.

This request will be considered at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 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 August 10, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE
PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0580

(6-3-06 NN 302232)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 06-174

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 06-174, an ordinance to amend the City of Novi Code of Ordinances to make violations of certain sections of Chapter 22 "Offenses", Article III "Crimes Against the Person" and Article IV "Crimes Against Property", punishable by imprisonment for not more than ninety-three (93) days and/or a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 24, 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.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

(6-3-06 NN 302232)

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POLICE REPORT

continued from page 12

After turning to go west on 12 Mile Road, the driver was traveling at only 20-25 mph. Finally, the driver turned into the closed Amoco gas station at 12 Mile and Novi roads, where the officer activated his lights. The driver's actions appeared to be very lethargic, and he would not look at the officer, keeping his face toward the windshield. The officer noticed, however, that his face was flushed and his eyes were red and glassy. He was also slurring his words and smelled of alcohol. When asked where he was going, the man said he was looking for a hotel and had had only two quarts to drink. A blood alcohol test showed a level of .20 percent in the man.

Items taken from vehicles

A 53-year-old Novi man who lives on Bonnie Brook Drive near Simmons Drive and Surfside Road reported that items had been stolen from two of his vehicles between 10 p.m. July 2 and 4:30 a.m. July 3.

The man told police that items were taken from his unlocked 2000 blue BMW and 2004 burgundy Ford F-150 that were parked in the driveway of his home.

Stolen items included a roadside safety kit valued at \$30 and \$10 worth of change from the F-150 and a Husky multi-tool from both vehicles valued at \$30 each.

Police told the resident they would provide extra patrol to the neighborhood.

Trampoline top damaged

A 50-year-old Novi man who lives on Fremont Drive near Emerald Forest Drive and Davenport Avenue told police that someone damaged the top of a trampoline in his yard at 11:57 a.m. July 3. The resident told police the trampoline was intact on July 2 when he was in the back yard. He discovered the next day that the surface had been cut with a



Photos by JOHN HEIGERMAN/NOV News

Teen Center celebration

Novi city officials and employees, including police officers and firefighters, gathered at Novi Middle School last Wednesday for a luncheon to celebrate another successful summer of the Novi Teen Center. The center, funded mainly through the Novi Youth Assistance bowl-a-thon, gives local teens a place to go to in the summer, the opportunity for many field trips and instructional interaction with police and fire departments.

knife. A leather knife sheath was left behind.

The silt in the trampoline was about 8 inches long with two smaller sills in the top.

Purse stolen from car

A 37-year-old Novi woman who lives on Surfside Road near Simmons Drive and Fairway Hills Drive had her purse stolen out of her 2005 silver Ford Escape between 11:50 p.m. July 2 and 6:15 a.m. July 3.

Stolen items included a tan Nine West purse and wallet, debit card, \$70 in cash and a Nokia cell phone. Total value of the items was estimated at \$300.

Stereo missing from car

A 22-year-old Novi man who lives on Clearwater Court near Pavilion Drive and Haggerty Road said someone stole his stereo and speakers out of his car between 5 p.m. July 3 and 10:30 a.m. July 4.

The stereo was valued at \$500, and the speakers were also valued at \$500. Also miss-

ing was a laundry basket with books valued at \$150.

The 2000 green Pontiac was entered by the suspect using a small tool to puncture the lock just below the door handle on the passenger's side. Total damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$1,000.

Glenda's Garden Center hit

A 38-year-old Detroit man reported to police that three vehicles were damaged or had items stolen from them at Glenda's Garden Center at 40575 Grand River Avenue between 8 p.m. July 6 and 8 a.m. July 7.

Vehicles involved included a white Ford F-450, a white Ford F-600 and a red Dodge dump truck.

The F-450 received an estimated \$1,000 in damage from a dent and a scratch. There was an estimated \$250 worth of damage done to the dump truck's stereo, which was found on the ground. A bag of 25-30 large tools, valued at \$1,000, was also stolen.

The front fence to the business was also damaged.

Compiled from Fleming



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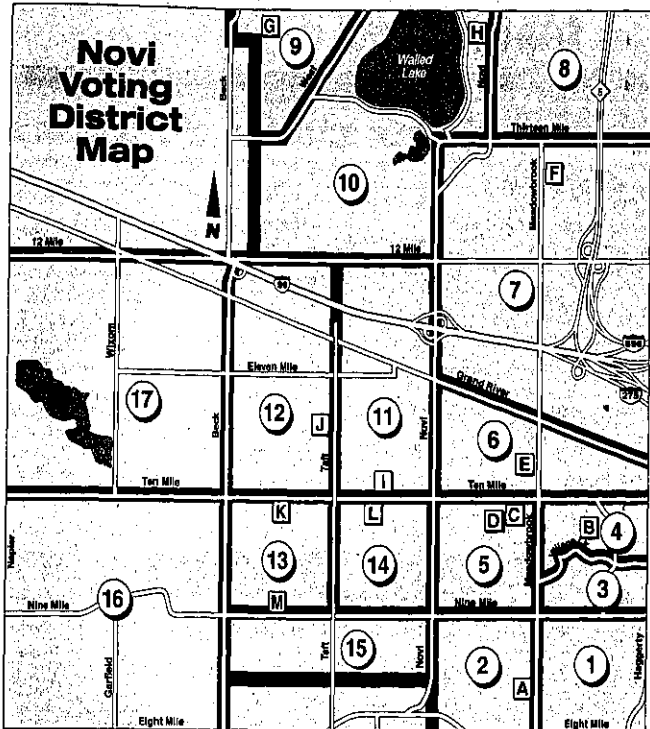
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- ① A Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21365 Meadowbrook Rd.
- ② A Meadowbrook Congregational Church, 21365 Meadowbrook Rd.
- ③ B Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook Rd.
- ④ C Novi United Methodist Church 41671 Ten Mile Rd.
- ⑤ D Orchard Hills Elementary School, 41900 Quince St.
- ⑥ E Holy Family Catholic Church, 24565 Meadowbrook Rd.
- ⑦ E Holy Family Catholic Church, 24605 Meadowbrook Rd.
- ⑧ F Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29290 Meadowbrook Rd.
- ⑨ G Portsmouth Apartments Clubhouse, 31170 Wellington Rd.
- ⑩ H Hickory Woods Elementary School, 30655 Novi Rd.
- ⑪ I Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 West Ten Mile Rd
- ⑫ J Novi Meadows JTC, 26299 Tall Rd.
- ⑬ K St. James Catholic Church, 46325 West Ten Mile Rd.
- ⑭ L Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.
- ⑮ L Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.
- ⑯ M Tholmen Creek Elementary School, 46180 Nine Mile Rd.
- ⑰ L Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.

○ DISTRICT □ VOTING LOCATION

DeRoche, Fundarski seek GOP nod

By James Mitchell
GANNETT NEWS SERVICES



C. DeRoche

Four years ago, Craig DeRoche wondered if he could turn his experience on the Novi City Council into a floor-scan in the Michigan House of Representatives Campaigning for a contested primary election next month, DeRoche's resume has considerably improved: In 2005, he was elected by his peers to serve as Speaker of the House.



M. Fundarski

"Being Speaker has allowed me to do great things for the district," DeRoche said. "And also for the entire region." The last time an Oakland County representative held the title, DeRoche said, was in 1857.

DeRoche is being challenged for his position by Novi candidate Mario Fundarski, both are seeking the Republican nomination in the Tuesday, Aug. 8, primary election. The winner will face Democrat Tim Jarell of Washtenaw County in the November general election. The state's 38th House of Representatives district includes South Lyon, Lyon

Township, Novi, Wilson, Walled Lake and portions of Northville. DeRoche, a former marketing representative for a worker's compensation insurer, was first elected to the Novi City Council in 1997 and re-elected in 1999.

DeRoche was also a Republican precinct delegate and a delegate to the Republican State Convention. During the 2003-2004 legislative session, DeRoche served as vice-chair of the Commerce Committee, and a member of the Energy and Technology, Regulatory Reform and Transportation committees. Fundarski, formerly chief of

Mario Fundaro before changing his name, is the owner and manager of Mario Fundarski Enterprises and is a longtime political activist. Fundarski has run for elections ranging from Novi school board in 2005 to Congress in 2000 and 2002. He was arrested after Clinton Township police had sought charges in stalking after a November 1999 incident involving former Red Wings player Vladimir Kostaninovic. Fundarski was later found not guilty.

A veteran and member of the VFW, Fundarski told Campbell that his "education, military and business experience" qualifies him for office. "I have life experiences that no other candidate possesses. I represent the majority of the people in the 38th District."

During his first term in the state House, DeRoche said his campaign promises became realizations.

"I want to get some specific things done," DeRoche said, citing the Washtenaw language and I-96 and other projects. Skidell will continue in a second (and term-lim-

ited final) term in the House, DeRoche said the challenge would be to improve the business climate in Western Oakland County, among the few regions in Michigan showing growth.

"It scares me that one of the best economic areas in the state is hurting as much as it is," DeRoche said. "We still need to have more focus given to the 38th District on roads and infrastructure. We need to build roads where people are choosing to live, work and invest."

In matters of economy, candidate Fundarski said he would, "Use more tax reductions as incentives to Michigan's auto-based manufacturing for a period of two years. I would eliminate all state controlled taxes on the auto industry." Fundarski said he would not offer a replacement if the Single Business Tax is eliminated, but instead would, "Cut state services."

James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or at jammitchell@gannett.com.

Clarkson challenges incumbent Potter for commissioner's seat

By James Mitchell
GANNETT NEWS SERVICES



J. Potter

The two candidates seeking the Republican nomination next month for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners are no strangers to local government. Incumbent commissioner Jeff Potter and challenger Andrew Clarkson are familiar with city, township county and state operations.



A. Clarkson

Potter and Clarkson are vying to represent the 8th District of the County Board, which includes South Lyon, Lyon Township, Walled Lake, Wilson and portions of Novi. The winner of the primary will face Democrat Dan Clay in November.

"I've always been interested in politics," said Clarkson, who began pursuing his ambitions while an undergraduate student at Michigan State University. "This is the job I really want, I like local politics."

Potter, a 20-plus year employee of Ford Motor Company, first joined the South Lyon City Council in 1989, and served as mayor until 2002 when he was elected to the county board.

Potter told Gannett that it's up to voters to decide who is "most qualified," but that his practical experience speaks for itself.

"Over 15 years of recognized success in reshaping government for high performance without new taxes," Potter cited as his strengths. "I have excellent access and working relationships with area leaders, and enjoy their support."

Heading into the 2006 election season, Potter said the county's most important issues facing the county are budget, responsibility, law enforcement and public safety, and quality of life.

"I'll help make Oakland a great place to live," he said. Potter supported bringing the "Wireless Oakland" project to Wilson, and said that a priority would be to focus on Automation Alley and

the Emerging Sectors Initiative. "To recruit, retain, and attract premium jobs and tax base."

Clarkson agreed that the economy is foremost on the minds of voters.

"This is a down time for Michigan's economy in general," Clarkson said. "It's the weakest in the nation, and that starts at the local level." He said the county should be proactive in creating and bringing jobs to the county, while commissioners need to connect with the taxpayers.

"One of the major roles of a commissioner is to directly be in contact with residents," Clarkson said. "No hear what they have to say and bring their different issues back to the board." Clarkson said his Lansing experience included time as director of Constituents Relations.

James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at 248-437-2011 or at jammitchell@gannett.com.

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FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Meadowbrook Congregational
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, (248) 348-7757 or visit www.mbcoc.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 10 a.m.

Oak Pointe
 LOCATION: Novi High School, 21862 Telford Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

St. James Catholic
 LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

Novi United Methodist
 LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2652

Commerce United Methodist
 LOCATION: 1155 South Commerce Road, Commerce Township
 CONTACT: (248) 363-3935

Holy Family
 LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
 Catholic Faith Questions
 DETAILS: The church has information available regarding "Being Catholic, What's it all about?"
 CONTACT: Maria, (248) 349-8847 or email hlfamily@aol.com
 Adaptive Parent Networking Meeting
 DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing.
 TIME: 10-11 a.m.
 DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Malley, (248) 334-3595

First United Methodist of Northville
 LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.firstumnorthville.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 8, 9:45 and 11 a.m.
 Community Healing Service
 DATE: First Monday of every month
 DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life, or that of someone close to them.

Crosspointe Meadows
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29260

Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-9700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran
 LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
 Kindergarten Registration
 DETAILS: Children who will be 3-year-old by Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

Faith Community Presbyterian
 LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
 Summer Worship and Sunday School
 TIME: 10 a.m.
 The Baha'i Faith
 CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.bahai.org
 Devotional Gathering
 TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
 LOCATION: 23803 Kippie Creek St., Novi
 DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace.

People of all faiths are welcome.
First Presbyterian Church of Northville
 LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
 Single Place Ministries
 CONTACT: www.singleplace.org
 (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
 Thursday Program-Ongoing
 TIME: 7:30, social: 8 p.m.
 program
 DETAILS: The cost is \$5 per person. Programs and speakers vary.
 Walking Group
 TIME: 11:30 a.m.
 LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturdays, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co.,

34655 Grand River Ave., Farmington
 DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
 LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m., Sunday School
 TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7: 10 a.m. All ages Lunch Hour Worship
 TIME/DAY: 12:10-12:50 p.m., Wednesday, ongoing
 DETAILS: This will include scripture and Holy Communion.
 Youth Worship
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., second

and fourth Sunday of every month
 DETAILS: All youth are welcome.
St. John Lutheran
 LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
 CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.sjohn-lutheran.com
 Vacation Bible School
 DATE: Monday through Friday
 TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
 DETAILS: The cost is \$15 per person. The theme is "All Aboard! The Gospel Express."
 Sunday Worship
 TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Sunday
 Sunday School
 TIME: 9:45 a.m.

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SENIORS

Going for the gold

Age doesn't get in the way of these Olympians

By Tracy Mishler
 STAFF WRITER

Arion Quigley took five gold and three silver. And his wife, Peg, 79, took a gold and two silver. The couple of Fox Run, participated in this year's Michigan Senior Olympics in Kalamazoo and plan to head to nationals next year in Louisville, Ky.
 "It keeps us fit," said Quigley, 81. "We have to work out and exercise, and it gives us a reason to keep doing it."
 The Quigleys have participated in the Michigan Senior Olympics for the past 16 years.
 "More seniors should join simply from the health standpoint,"

Quigley said. "The older you get, the more you need to need doing it in order to keep active and healthy."
 During this year's Olympics, five residents from Fox Run went to the games, including Ed Papellin, Dick Weiner and Sharon Pearson.
 Quigley said there will be about 10-12,000 people in Louisville next year.
 "It's important that our competitive seniors are out there staying active," Logan said. "As we get older, we tend to get lazy, but it's inspiring for other seniors to see a group of seniors from their community out there competing."
 Logan said Fox Run is going to try and promote the Michigan Senior Olympics more in the future.
 "We plan to have a much larger group next year since it will be held in Oakland County," he said. "It would be pretty nice to see the president go to other communities involved... Getting more people out of their homes and involved is the goal."
 Quigley said he and his wife



Ed Papellin, Sharon Pearson, Dick Weiner, Peg Quigley and Arion Quigley of Fox Run won a total of 20 medals at this year's Michigan Senior Olympics, in Kalamazoo.

will continue to compete until they can no longer.
 "We enjoy it and look forward to meeting new people and seeing these we've met in the past," he said. "A lot of people don't have the time to exercise when they are young. But we look forward to it."
 "It's important when you're younger to stay in shape and be healthy, because the healthier you are, the longer healthier lifestyle you will live."
 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.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 8/4	12:45 p.m. Bingo	1:30 p.m. "Ask the Lawyer" by appointment
9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	
10 a.m. Body Recall		
10 a.m.-noon Jack Man, Medicare Discussion		
noon Lunch		
12:30 p.m. April Bridge		
12:45 p.m. Bingo		
2:20 p.m. Massage by appointment		
Monday 8/7	8:45 a.m. Men's Golf	12 p.m. Aging to Perfection, "A Positive Attitude"
9 a.m. Stretch and Strength	1:30-2:30 p.m. Sing-A-Long with George and Caroline	
10 a.m. Body Recall	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	
11:30 a.m. Clinging*		
noon Lunch		
12:30 p.m. Pinochle*		
2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment		
6:30 p.m. Clinging		
Tuesday 8/8	8:30 a.m. Panera Bread	12:15 Line Dance cancelled
9 a.m. Line Dance	1:30-3 p.m. Book Discussion "Life of Pi"	
10 a.m. Asian Pacific	2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment	
noon Lunch		
12:30 p.m. Focus: Hope Distribution		

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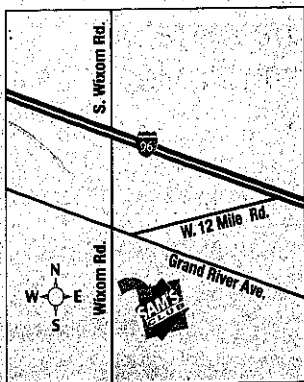
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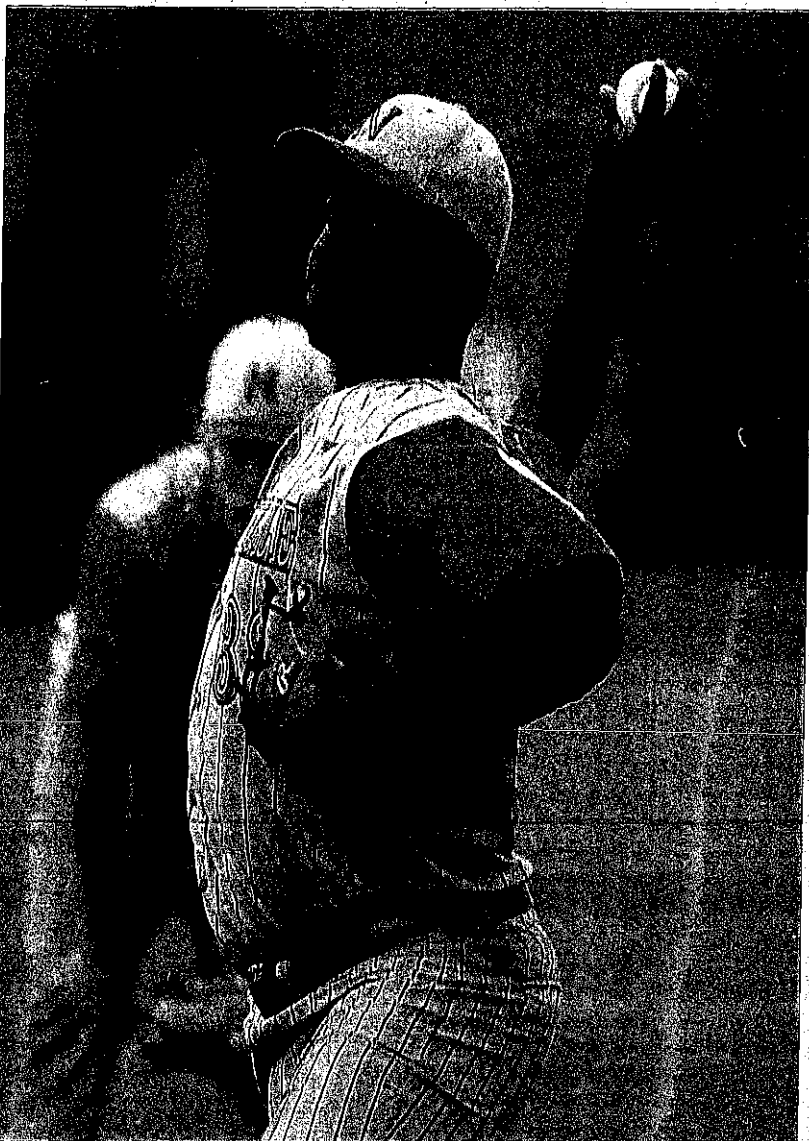


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BRONCOS GOT BITE



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Nood News

Northville Bronco's pitcher Chris Fischer in action against the Columbia Reds. Fischer earned the Bronco's first win of the tournament.

Northville makes World Series semifinals

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Don't call the Northville Bronco just the hosts anymore. While they still hosted the 2006 Junior Division NABF World Series at Northville High and Ford Field this past weekend, the Bronco, also advanced to the semifinals.

The Bronco used clutch hitting and good defensive play to beat the Columbia (Maryland) Reds on Thursday, 4-3. Riding momentum, the Bronco, then went on to beat the Toronto Mets 5-3 in eight innings Friday. The two wins put Northville in the semifinals.

"Absolutely nothing is expected with Northville," Bronco head coach Rick Welch said of his team after Saturday's semifinal game. "These kids gave it their all, and we had a lot of fun. We're not going home with our heads down. We're going home knowing that we finished third or fourth in the nation."

The Bronco's final two games were losses coming to the teams that would eventually play each other in the finals.

The Kinet National (hosted out of the Cincinnati/Dayton area) won the tourna-

ment with a 5-4 victory in eight innings against the Bayside Yankee Americans (New York) to win the title Saturday evening at Northville High School.

But the early talk of the tournament was clearly Northville advancing. The tournament switched to a round-robin format approximately 10 years ago, according to tournament officials, and the Bronco had yet to advance to the semifinals. That all changed after Friday's win.

Welch credits last year's experience with basically the same things a Bronco team (which went 0-3) is "helping" drastically in this year's tournament.

"Huge. Absolutely huge," Welch said. "Just that one game where we were able to play with a team (last year) that was run-up, just that one game, being able to play with them, got it in their heads saying, 'You know what? If we work a little bit harder, we try a little bit more things, we'll push over, and we'll get through this.'"

Welch also explains that the teams the Bronco beat probably underestimated them by throwing their second or third best pitcher against Northville.

"What it's gotten to be is they know they



Bronco's catcher Ross Flecht slides into home, part of 3 runs collected by teammate Nick Barlow's double.

can throw off when they play us," Welch said. "Well, this year they weren't able to do that. We paid Toronto a little bit of trouble for throwing off on us."

Leading the Bronco in the tournament were Joe Mitchell with a .467 average, Nick Barlow in .333, Marty Lakover at .333 and Kyle Asher at .285.

Hello, from the 'New Guy'

...Helloooooo Novi and Northville. It's great to be back in the state of Michigan.

I am the "New Guy" at the Novi News and Northville Record. Sam Eggleston has moved back to his roots in the Upper Peninsula, and I'm ready to take over.



Jeff Theisen

I'm originally from Troy and graduated from Troy High School before venturing into Oakland Community College and then to Oakland University. I took my time and switched majors before finally graduating with a degree in journalism.

My timing was rotten though as I graduated right when the Detroit News and Free Press workers went on strike. All of the local newspapers went on a hiring freeze and I was forced to look elsewhere for a job.

I wound up in Kansas where I wrote for a daily paper for just over four years. I left there for a job in Michigan City, Ind., for just a little more than a year before this job opened up.

To say I'm excited to come back home to work is an understatement.

I don't have a lot of knowledge about the area or the teams so I'm relying on our readers and anyone else who would like to help out. I've read enough to know that Novi and Northville are powerhouses in soccer and Catholic Central's dominates in football, hockey and several other sports. Other than that, I'm kind of in the dark.

I'm usually very good at getting back to people with e-mail. Please, feel free to write whenever you want. I accept all compliments and what we will call "suggestive criticism."

If there are things you think the paper can do to improve itself from a sports perspective, feel free to let me know.

I really hope to bring the best possible sports section to the readers of both papers each week. I know there are very good sports in the area, and we should be able to put out a paper that is every bit as good. Regardless of what your take is on the paper, please give me a chance to get to know the area and its surroundings, and I hope by then you will see that I'm trying hard to improve the paper.

Jeff Theisen is the sports writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at jtheisen@gannett.com.

Jeff Theisen by the numbers

- 33** Now Novi News/Northville Record sports writer Jeff Theisen is 33 years old.
- 5** For the last five years, Jeff Theisen has reported in Kansas and Indiana.
- 0** Number of championship high school teams that Jeff Theisen has covered.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 4B

Local Issues

Thursday, August 3, 2006

BUSINESS SENSE

Workplace interruptions are costing you time — and money

By Vicki Gerson
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

As a small-business owner, you don't want to be ignored or interrupted when having a meeting or a serious conversation with an individual or a group. But when an interruption does happen, it's important not to get flustered. Whether at a company meeting or just meeting with one or two individuals, it is necessary to maintain control of the conversation.

Here are some suggestions to prevent disruption of your thoughts. These techniques will also keep you focused, so you can have the conversation you need with your employees.

Don't present important information in a hallway conversation. When you want to convey information to an employee, do it in a location where your chances of being interrupted are less. In a hallway, people will naturally stop and chat. They don't realize you may be trying to convey a crucial message to an employee.

Hold all calls. Do not answer your phone during a meeting. If possible, ask your assistant to take all calls or just let them roll to voicemail. Being interrupted could allow the conversation to drift away from significant issues.

Insist that cell phones or beepers are turned off at meetings. If you take this action, participants won't be able to make a call or return a call during the meeting. It seems obvious that people would have the common sense to shut these gadgets off, but many don't. In fact, many people see nothing wrong with having conversations in the room while you are trying to conduct a meeting.

Don't allow employees to leave the meeting to make or receive phone calls. Too many times, you're trying to present information, but an employee gets up and talks outside the meeting room on his or her phone. Not only is it disruptive to get up and leave the room, it also becomes a parade as employees go in and out to make these calls. Insist that no one leave the room while a meeting is in progress. When employees leave the room and talk on their phones, they surely don't get the entire message you are presenting. All they have is disjointed information.

However, if the meeting is going to last more than 30 minutes and allow a 10-minute break for coffee, phone calls or the restroom. The first time you institute this policy, if employees don't return in the allotted time to wait. Then make the announcement that you expect employees to return on time because the meeting won't continue without them. With a repeat offender, you may need to have a private conversation telling the individual you won't tolerate him or her making everyone wait.

Define "urgent." Your employees may believe this policy is unfair. Tell them that the exception to the rule will be a sick or injured family member or a pending birth. An office secretary will interrupt the meeting if that happens. This allows everyone at the meeting to concentrate on your important presentation.

Don't make employees dread conversations or meetings with you. Now that you can get everyone's attention, the success of the conversation or meeting rests upon your ability to present your points clearly and concisely. Either specify what it is you want, generate ideas to solve a problem or set deadlines and allocate responsibilities. Stay positive and whenever possible use a timely joke or an anecdote.

Your employees will not only hear you, but they will also listen and respond positively to proposals that are well organized. No longer will you feel as if you are battling the elements trying to get through a situation and your message across.

ADVERTISEMENT



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Gannett News Service

Gayle's DancePhase tap-ballroom teacher Tina Bishop instructs students. Gayle's DancePhase is located in Wixom at 51700 Grand River Ave.

Gayle's DancePhase: In motion

Wixom dance studio offers fun, instruction for all ages

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

You can't help but feel the fun and excitement when you peck into one of the rooms at Gayle's DancePhase in Wixom.

The classes, workshops and camps are a great way to channel energy while having fun and making friends. Don't miss out — now is the time to register for a year full of activities. Drop by and find out what's new at the studio.

Gayle's DancePhase provides a relaxing atmosphere for dancers of all ages and skill levels from professional and competitive to recreational. There are as many types of dance as there are students including tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, pointe, coxchett, hip-hop and specialized technique classes.

New this year is the tumbling classes, which Melissa Meadows will be instructing. This versatile skill is useful for dancers, gymnasts and cheerleaders. Other exciting new activities include the Triple Treat camp with a combination fashion show, modeling, gymnastics and dance all rolled into one. This includes an exciting opportunity to work with the dancers for the Detroit Shock at the Palace.

"It's a real girly thing, with a little bit of everything," said instructor and former student, Sarah Benish.

Another fun and new event this year included a surprise performance by a group of 18 duets at the South Lyon High School, who wowed their wives and daughters. The popular program will be offered once again this year.

"It was such a great success," noted Carol Limbriht. "The daughters presented it with flowers and trophies after the performance."

Speaking of the guys, boys are more than welcome and encouraged at the Wixom studio as evident by their enrollment.

GAYLE'S DANCEPHASE

Location: 51770 Grand River in Wixom, west of Napier Road
Phone: (248) 305-5600
Web: www.gaylesdancephase.com
Sign up: Gayle's DancePhase is gearing up for registration. Current students may register 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Aug. 21; or 3-7 p.m. Aug. 22-23. The public is welcome to register during walk-in registrations Aug. 28-29. To check out the studio, attend the Open House, which will be held 5-7 p.m. Aug. 23. Competition line addition dates will be held Aug. 21. Call for details.



Slaters Kelly, 13, Hannah, 11, and Rachel Manzenberger, 9, and Emma Meadows perform a bridge exercise at Gayle's DancePhase.

ment. They offer all boy classes as well as mixed classes.

Gayle's DancePhase offers a state-of-the-art facility with 10,000 square feet including a bright and comfortable lobby where parents can relax while they wait. Air conditioning during the warm weather months is definitely a bonus.

Last year, their dance groups competed at nationals in Sandusky, Ohio, where they stayed on site at the Kala Jini resort. Even mother, Carol Limbriht joined the fun at the indoor water park. Next year's highlight will be a trip to Las Vegas. Limbriht's daughters are the backbone of the family business, with Gayle Winnie as owner and Tina Bishop as co-owner. Both are active instructors at the facility.

Limbricht is now proud to watch another generation — her grandchildron perform at the studio.

Gayle's DancePhase sponsors the Majestic Dance Group, which is currently in its third season. This specialized group will be performing the Nutcracker at the Lydia Mendelsshin Theatre in Ann Arbor on Dec. 9 and 10.

For the first time they will be offering tryouts for the part of the mice. This is open to children ages seven and under on Sept. 15 from 6:15-7 p.m.

Locally, they also participate in the South Lyon Pumpkinfest and the Festival of Lights at the Rock Financial Show Center.

In July 2006, twenty students were part

of an exciting trip to Los Angeles. During that time they attended workshops with renowned dancers like Paula Morgan, Mia Michaels and Tyce Diorio. It's one of many exciting activities available to their dancers.

"There are lots of opportunities to participate in local and out of town events," added Limbriht.

One way they make the students feel special is the "Hall of Fame" with individ-

ual portraits of each dancer lining the walls. The portraits are taken by Scott Winnie, Gayle's husband.

"So it really is truly a family affair here," said Limbriht.

Gayle's DancePhase is located at 51770 Grand River in Wixom just west of Napier Road, with easy access from I-96. For more information or to register for classes, call (248) 305-5600. Or check out their Web site at www.gaylesdancephase.com.

Gayle's DancePhase

Celebrating 24 Years of Excellence in Dance Education

Gayle's DancePhase is the place for ALL STAGES of a dancer's education. Offering classes in Tap, Jazz Ballet, Pointe, Hip Hop, Coxchett, Lyrical, Technique, Combination Classes and Boys.

Classes for Ages 3 yrs and Up

CALL TO REGISTER TODAY!

Registration August 28 & 29
Competition Line Addition August 21

(248) 305-5600

DANCE CLASSES NOW FORMING!

Open House August 23rd 5-7pm

Visit our website at: www.gaylesdancephase.com

WHATEVER YOUR NEEDS MAY BE, COMPETITION OR JUST-FUN-GAYLE'S DANCEPHASE IS FOR YOU!

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