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Volume 51 Number 10

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE



Taking Novi's Pulse

You could say Greg Chapman is the Jay Leno of Novi. The local resident and businessman has brought one of America's favorite television formats — the talk show — to Novi with his new program.

— Page 8A

Fighting hunger

Toni Wise Sabina hates the thought of children going hungry. With the goal of alleviating this societal problem, Sabina, owner/resident of local Epoch Restaurant Group, will host the 2006 Taste of the Nation benefit dinner for the national hunger relief organization Share Our Strength on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

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THIS WEEKEND

Kids on Broadway

Performances of "Kids on Broadway" will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday.

— 7A

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Personal Information

Next stop: November

Speaker DeRoche wins another bid for 38th District leadership

By Pam Fleming, Alyson Iott and Jim Mitchell GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Speaker of the House Craig M. DeRoche (R-Novi) won a decided victory in Tuesday's primary election for the Republican candidate for Michigan's 38th District, calling for change in Lansing.



C. DeRoche

DeRoche attracted 3,661 votes to fellow Novi resident Mario Nestor Bandurski's 578.



T. Jarrell

Tim Jarrell, the unopposed candidate for the Democratic nomination for the district, received 1,957 votes.



N. Cassia

On his way to a meeting Wednesday morning, with a legislative session beginning at 10, DeRoche said he thinks the major issue in November's election is going to be change.

"People are not happy with the track that Michigan is on, and they want us to improve. Find a new way," he said.

"That's really what my candidacy and what my Speakership's been about. It's been about changing the status quo in Lansing."

He noted that the Republican contingency in the House was in "a big fight" with the governor Wednesday morning because of a vote that was about to take place.

"She's very upset, because I want to change the way we run businesses in Michigan. That's important and very necessary," DeRoche said.

When he is referring to the elimination of the Single Business Tax which taxes companies for having employees regardless of whether or not they make a profit.

"In 39 other states, businesses are only taxed if they make a profit," DeRoche said. "We're losing jobs to that, so we have to change

continued on page 3

Novi's numbers escalate

Early figures already ahead of 2000 count

By Greg Migliore STAFF WRITER

Novi is expected to show significant population growth when the mid-decade census results are released in September.

City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius said about 48,000 residents have been counted so far, already ahead of 2000's final tally of 47,386.

The results are expected to confirm what is already a common belief: Novi and outer-ring suburbs are increasing population as residents migrate from Detroit and its inner suburbs.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments calculated Novi's population to be 53,640 in March and estimates the city will grow to 76,711 by 2030. By comparison, Novi had just 9,688 residents in 1970.

Cornelius said she is pleased with how the counting process has gone.

"We had the cooperation of most residents," she said. The Clerk's Office recently began another mail campaign to count households that did not respond initially. Cornelius said about 400 households sent information in last week, though about 3,300 remain to be counted.

She said the census finished conducting door-to-door visits by its target date of Aug. 1.

The final counting is expected to be finished by the end of August and the results certified by the Secretary of State by early December.

Greg Migliore can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Summer soccer

Racing to control a soccer ball, Kerri McMahon, left, and Katie Erdman, both 10, participate in a drill during a Novi Jaguars' summer soccer camp. The camp was held last week at the Novi Community Sports Park on Eight Mile.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Brian Burke, salesman at Tom Holzer Ford, stands next to a Ford GT in the dealership's showroom.

Life in the fast lane: Brian Burke enjoys getting behind the wheel

Volunteerism and golf among Novi man's other activities

By Matt Doran STAFF WRITER

Tooting around Novi in a Ford GT — an exotic sports car with a six-digit price tag and looks to kill — typically garners one of two band signals for Brian Burke from his fellow drivers.

"Half the people flip you off and half the people give you a thumbs-up," Burke said.

Considering he recently got to take the GT home for a week during the Michigan '06 Festival, it's hard not to be envious of Burke.

Driving jaw-dropping, drool-inducing pieces of finely tuned steel is just one aspect of his job as a sales consultant at Tom Holzer Ford in Farmington Hills, which had the GT on display in a tent at the festival.

Burke has gone twice to the renowned Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, meaning he not only knows how to keep the powerful GT under control on the road, but can also appreciate its abilities.

"I thought I could drive," Burke said. "These guys (at Bondurant) can drive."

Another one of Burke's high-speed goals is to take a NASCAR vehicle around a racetrack. He's already driven one that was on

continued on next page

Play the name game

City launches naming rights program

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

We all hope to be remembered in some way after we're gone.

Now, area residents and businesses can create their own legacy in the city by participating in the Novi Parks Foundation Naming Rights Program.

The program was officially launched at the Aug. 3 foundation golf outing with the unveiling of the program's new logo and naming rights categories.

"This will give you the opportunity to pick a ballfield, a park, bench or even a room at city hall and put your name on it and help us support the community," said Charley Staab, foundation chairman and president.

continued on page 3

India Day:

Event to attract 20,000

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Rajni Joshi of Novi invites area residents of all nationalities to one of the biggest events for the Indian community in the country — India Day 2006.

The all-day event will take place at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi for the first time.

"This year is the fourth year for the festival, however, which celebrates India's liberation from British rule that occurred on Aug. 15, 1947."

"This year's celebration is expected to be one of the largest to date, with about 20,000 expected to attend. The event runs from about 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 20.

Booth rental is \$350, and organizers are still accepting registration. A downloadable form is available at www.indiaday.org.

continued on next page

India Day 2006

Admission to the Aug. 20 Michigan India Day is free, except for the \$5 per car to park in the Rock Financial Showplace lot at 46100 Grand River Avenue in Novi. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 20.

For more information, visit www.indiaday.org or call Rajni Joshi, chairman of the event, at (734) 574-1105.

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The 10 a.m. parade will be one of the highlights of the 2006 India Day on Sunday, Aug. 20, at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. This photo of a previous India Day at the former Novi Expo Center shows many dressed in their native garb.

India Day event to attract 20,000 to Novi

continued from front page

Novi and Farmington Hills have a number of Indian residents, according to Jishi, public relations chair for India Day 2006 and owner of an Indian grocery/food store in Farmington Hills.

The cultural festival will feature traditional Indian foods, arts and crafts, music, dance and fun in honor of India's freedom. More than 100 booths will offer such items as jewelry, clothing and Indian artifacts.

India and the U.S. are the largest democratic countries in the world. "We both value freedom and democracy, and this festival is a good thing for Indo-U.S. relations. In addition to our partnership, this brings the two communities together, plus it's a fun event for all ages."

Other Novi residents who are members of the India Day 2006 Organizing Committee include Ramnath Verma, chair of the government relations committee, and Gishli Patel, publicity committee co-chair.

"We believe this year's attendance will go well over past years," Jishi said.

More dignitaries this year

More dignitaries from Michigan will attend this year's festival as well, including many politicians from across the region

and state. Those will include Novi Mayor David Landry, Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia), State Rep. Andy Melner (D-Farmington Hills), State Rep. Aldo Vagnurá (D-Farmington Hills) and Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI).

Others present will be U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), State Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), either Gov. Jennifer Granholm or Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry, State Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) and more.

Parade starts at 10 a.m.

A "Freedom Parade" will take place outside Rock Financial Showplace near the beginning of the festival at 10 a.m., with many participants

dressed in their native attire. "Our goal is to get access to the American community," Jishi said, "as we share many of the same values as Americans."

In other words, you don't have to be Indian to enjoy India Day. The event is being organized by the India League of America, Jishi serves as secretary of the nonprofit organization, formed in 1978 in Michigan.

Its mission is to build a cohesive Indian community in Michigan, promote the cultural, social, educational and economic interests of those of Indian origin and foster better understanding between the Indian and American communities.

Volunteerism and golf among Novi man's other activities

continued from front page

display around the parking lot at the dealership. "That's one thing I'll do before I punch out," he said.

Once his youngest daughter, currently 12 years old - is out of college, Burke said he's thinking of getting a "toy" for himself, so long as he gets the go-ahead from his wife, Lori. He's hoping for something nice in Detroit, and joked that he wants it loud enough to offend the neighbors.

More time to volunteer

Burke has five children, and now that they're growing up, he's just starting to have the time to get involved more in the community. He spent a couple of years on the parks, recreation and forestry commission, and is now on the planning commission, which he said is "interesting on a different level."

"It's more technical," he said. For the last two years, Burke has been chairperson of the Novi Parks Foundation golf outing. The first year the event raised roughly \$6,500. Totals are still being calculated for this year's event, but Burke estimated that it raised \$15,000-\$16,000.

"When you have free time, you can either do nothing with it or find a slot for it," Burke said. "It is rewarding."

Burke is also a golf enthusiast, though he admits that he's only an "OK" golfer.

"I enjoy the game," he said, noting that it's the occasional good

Brian Burke

How you know him: He's on the Novi planning commission and is a sales consultant at Tom Hozer Ford in Farmington Hills.

Family: His wife is Lori Burke and he has five children.

Interesting fact: He's been to Bondurant School of High Performance Driving twice.

Quote on driving a Ford GT: "Half the people flip you off and half the people give you a thumbs-up," Burke said.

shots that make you suffer through the poor ones.

Time to relax

When he's not busy with volunteerism, Burke enjoys life in the sun at his cottage on a lake in the Irish Hills region of Michigan.

Burke and his wife also enjoy good wine, and took a trip a couple of years back to Napa. In 2005, they're planning another trip to Italy with friends.

Burke has worked for Tom Hozer Ford since 1986 and has lived in Novi since 1996. The area "looked like home," he said, and he was happy with the quality of the school district. He also likes that there's plenty for him and his wife to do on weekends, without leaving the area.

"Novi's such a neat town," he said.

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

You name it

Opportunities for city of Novi park naming rights at major facilities start at \$2,500 for a small playground up to \$15,000 for a beach area.

Anyone who would like more information about specific areas can talk to Novi Parks Foundation Board members Charley Saab, president and chair; David Staudt, vice chairman; Linda Blair, David Paul, Sue Engstrom, Treasurer; Kathy Costantino, secretary; Mark Metzger, Robert Currella Sr., Arnel Heard, Bruce Lys, Mark Adams; Brian Bartlett; or ex-officio members Lou Martin and Randy Auler, Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry director.

Or contact the Novi Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 1169, Novi, MI, 48235, visit www.noviparks.org, call (248) 561-5055 or e-mail info@noviparks.org.

Next stop: November

continued from front page

and consider the same thing. Should we move toward a corporate income tax and away from the Single Business Tax?

He noted that Michigan has lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs, and that Google would not have come to Michigan unless state leaders agreed to cut their business tax in half.

"We have to do something, and we're going to change our business tax to something that businesses use."

With gas prices climbing, DeRoche also wants leaders to look at reducing state taxes on gasoline.

"The margin that the state of Michigan makes on gas is wider than that of most companies," he said.

As far as his political aspirations, DeRoche said he would not run against L. Brooks Patterson but if the Oakland County Executive should leave office or retire, DeRoche may be interested in that seat or even the governor's.

DeRoche added that the Republican Party State Convention will be Aug. 25-26 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

Fundarski happy with voting numbers

Fundarski was thrilled with the number of votes he received in the primary election.

"I'm very, very happy," Fundarski said. "After the (Novi) school board election of February 2005, where I only got 50 votes, it broke my heart. To this day, I can't

City launches naming rights program

Those who participate will have their name exhibited on the park amenity or facility selected.

DeRoche noted that Novi is one of the few communities not only in southeast Michigan but also across the county that has initiated such a program.

"This is the wave of the future," Blair said. "More communities are doing this, especially since they're more taxed for dollars to cover services provided."

The foundation's members remind residents and businesses that Novi parks receive an average of only 70 percent of its current funding from property taxes.

Blair added that the foundation board has been working feverishly over the last year to get the naming rights program off the ground.

"We're happy we're at a point where we'll soon be knocking on your doors to get you all to be part of this great effort," she said.

Blair mentioned that Farmington Design Ltd. of Detroit assisted the foundation with the creative aspects of the project, producing the new logo and the "look and feel" of the materials.

Staudt said he and Blair worked on the marketing materials for about six months.

"We might have had it done sooner," he said, "but we really wanted a quality product."

Mayor David Landry, State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) and Clay Pearson, city manager, unveiled the naming rights logo at the end of the golf outing.

Staudt added that Landry and former Mayor Lou Casardas have supported the foundation's efforts from its inception in 2004.

Fani Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at ffleming@gannett.com.

For more information on the marketing materials for about six months.

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Maloney is an engineer with Daimler-Chrysler Corporation and a lifelong Northville resident. He described his campaign as "a big learning experience," and said that he may run for another office next year.

"I'd like to learn more about what people are thinking and how I can improve my next campaign. If I choose to do one," he said.

Cassis said that she appreciated Maloney's positive approach in his campaign.

"He was gracious in terms of his compliments on my accomplishments on my achievements on behalf of the 15th District," she said. "I wish him well."

As for the next three months, she said, "I look forward to a very spirited general election campaign."

Cassis, who lives in Novi, will face Democratic candidate Ray Raczkowski in the November run for the 15th district state Senate seat. If elected, she will begin her second 4-year term in January 2007.

Cassis wins primary run for 15th District Senate seat

Incumbent Nancy Cassis bested opponent Christopher Maloney in Tuesday's Republican primary election for the 15th district state Senate.

Maloney posted 29 percent of the vote, a significant showing for a first-time candidate.

"I'm very happy with the results," he said. "I think that I did a very good job."

Cassis said the primary results were "very heartening."

"Almost three out of every four votes cast for an incumbent is a very positive sign of the election (overs) want to see the 15th district continue," she said.

The primary was Maloney's first election as a ballot candidate. In February, he ran as a write-in school board candidate for Northville Public Schools.

Maloney said that he spent \$54 campaigning, while Cassis' treasurer, husband Viktor Cassis, reported expenditures of \$13,000 to \$14,000 to date, including money spent on signs and brochures.

"I think (Maloney) really did not run a campaign in the sense of utilizing the typical approach of brochures and campaign signs, so he put his name out there and let the chips fall where they may," Cassis

Potter advances to general election

Voters casting ballots for the Oakland County Board of Commissioners decided to stick with experience.

Incumbent Commissioner Jeff Potter drew 2,023 votes in the primary contest against challenger Andrew Clarkson, who received 757 votes, giving Potter the Republican nomination for the 8th District. Potter will take the 73 percent victory into the November general election against Democratic candidate Dan Clay, who was unopposed Tuesday.

The 8th district includes South Lyon, Novi Township, Walled

Lake, Wixom and portions of Novi. Voter participation in Potter's hometown was less than impressive, with 18.5 percent of registered South Lyon voters participating, and — in spite of a library millage question — just over 20 percent from Lyon Township (see related story on page 4A).

Potter, who served as mayor of South Lyon for 13 years, was elected to the Oakland County board in 2003.

Potter said Wednesday he was pleased with the results, and will soon begin campaigning for the November general election.

"I am hoping to engage the whole community for support," Potter said. "So our progress can continue."

James Mitchell is a reporter for the South Lyon Herald. Reach him at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at jmitchell@gannett.com.

Asson Iotti is a reporter for the Highland Times. She can be reached at (248) 355-1507, ext. 21, or by e-mail at aiotti@gannett.com.

2006 Primary Election Results

| | |
|--|--------|
| State Senator 15th District - Republican | 15,402 |
| Nancy Cassis (Incumbent) | 3,661 |
| Christopher Maloney | 5,202 |
| Representative State Legislature 8th District - Republican | 3,661 |
| Craig DeRoche (Incumbent) | 3,077 |
| Mario Fundarski | 578 |
| Oakland County Commissioner 8th District - Republican | 1,949 |
| Jeff Potter (Incumbent) | 700 |
| Andrew Clarkson | 757 |
| Novi's Numbers | |
| Registered voters | 32,729 |
| Ballots cast - total | 4,588 |
| Ballots cast - Republican | 3,077 |
| Ballots cast - Democratic | 1,310 |
| Ballots cast - Nonpartisan | 201 |
| Ballots cast - Crossover | 193 |
| Total Voter Turnout | 14.2% |

*Winners move on to the general election in November.

Potter said Wednesday he was pleased with the results, and will soon begin campaigning for the November general election. "I am hoping to engage the whole community for support," Potter said. "So our progress can continue."

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COMMUNITY

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

Parks Foundation Golf Outing brings \$15,000-\$20,000 to Novi

■ Second year's another success

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Charley Stash may not have been on the winning team for the second annual "Golf in the Game" Golf Outing last Thursday. But he was all smiles following the event's second successful year as a Novi Parks Foundation fundraiser.

Brian Burke, co-chair of the outing, said at the event's conclusion that \$15,000-\$20,000 was raised again this year.

Contributions will help pay for local residents to enroll in Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department programs who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford to and to upgrade Novi's park system.

Mayor David Landry thanked all who played in the outing, which had a two-hour plus run delay due to heavy rains.

"Whether you realize it or not, because of your participation today, some kids are going to be able to participate in some Parks and Recreation activities," Landry

And the winners are...

First place in the four-man scramble was actually a tie at 11 under par. After going to the No. 1 handicap hole for the tiebreaker, Joe Opron, Steve Nelson, Nick Bentomas and Jim Hensing from Coca-Cola.

Members of the winning team received a city of Novi wind jacket, a dozen golf balls, a PGA passport that allows them to get into any PGA event for the next year and the trophy that will be on display at city hall with their names engraved on it.

Mika Kantor won the longest drive for the men on hole 2 on the Links of Novi East Course. Longest drive for the ladies was Sheila Coble on hole 9 on the West Course.

Closest-to-the-pin for men on 8 East went to Chuck Houmlan; closest-to-the-pin for the ladies on hole 4 on the West Course was awarded to Lori Durk.

"Your people are doing God's work."

Stash noted: "These events have allowed us to spend over \$5,000 to allow children and senior citizens to participate in Parks programs that wouldn't have been able to handle it financially."

Landry also thanked the Parks Foundation, calling it the "poster child" of what other organizations should be doing for the city.

"They're reaching out to businesses and they're raising money

to allow the city to save the taxpayers money," he 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.

For more information on the NPF golf outing, please turn to page 11A.



Concentration
Nabil Hamati, 10, contemplates his next move during a week-long chess camp at Novi Meadows School. The camp, run by Russian chess champ Alfa Tabak, taught a dozen kids the fundamentals and strategies of the game.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Book signing at Borders

Brighton author Carol McCloud will read and sign her new children's book "Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" at noon on Saturday, August 19 at Borders Books Music Stores & Cafe in Novi.

The book, released in July, teaches children the value of treating others kindly. It was written for children in kindergarten through fourth grade, but the reading will be suitable for preschoolers as well.

A book signing will follow the reading, with a portion of book sales being donated to the Salvation Army. A free bumper sticker comes with each book purchase as well.

For more information, call (248) 347-0780.

Verma's term will expire on July 28, 2009. The Commission on Services to the Aging advises the Office of Services to the Aging, the governor and the legislature on policies and programs for older persons in Michigan.

It also promotes the interests of senior citizens within state government and communities and administers programs of the Federal Older Americans Act and state-funded programs.

Verma also serves on the Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs for the state of Michigan. Members of this council advise the governor on issues within both the Asian and Pacific American communities.

Verma is also chairman of the Michigan Indian American Democratic Caucus and an officer-at-large for the Michigan Democratic Party and the Oakland County Democratic Party.

"I am honored and humbled," Verma said of his reappointment as a Commissioner. "This is an exciting opportunity to serve the state of Michigan and the Indian community."

Verma reappointed to state post

Gov. Jennifer Granholm recently reappointed Novi resident Ramesh Verma as a Commissioner on the Services to the Aging Commission.

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Irresistible secrets revealed in book

■ Becoming the object of desire is just a few pages away

By Tracy Miesler
STAFF WRITER

Linda Racine doesn't have to read a book to make people realize how irresistible she is.

In fact, the 36-year-old Northville Township resident said all women are irresistible in their own way.

"No one person is going to tell me how to keep my husband in love with me," Racine said. "I

they were some magic manual that had all the answers, there wouldn't be any drama."

Racine said previous to her 2001 marriage to her husband, Rick, she wondered what it took to find the perfect spouse.

"We've all been there," she said. "Should I lose weight? Should I get a makeover or change the way I dress? What's wrong with me?"

"Then I realized, it's me who has to be happy with me before anyone else is going to be."

Though Racine swears by her own ways, some men and women seek self-help books to improve their lives.

With Ebony (E.E.) Kelley's debut novel, "How To Be An

Irresistible Woman," women can now read their way to becoming the object of desire of men everywhere.

"This book is my commentary and opinion on what worked for me," said Kelley, of Detroit. "I've always had people ask me for relationship advice. The people that I date always treat me like a queen and my book can help others get the same treatment."

Kelley, 26, was born on the west side of Detroit and attended the University of Michigan for her bachelor's degree in English.

Learn from the pro

Kelley said her book is for married and single men and women.

"People should read books about improving their relationships," Kelley said. "The divorce rate in this country is crazy... The only way to not bring children up dysfunctionally is to not have dysfunctional relationships."

In her book, Kelley discusses topics like being financially savvy, getting glamorous, being pretty on the inside and learning proper etiquette.

"The first part of the book is my commentary; the second is e-mails and phone conversations from real people; and the third part is the irresistible information — statistical information to back up my thoughts," she said. "What I say works. It's not just about getting a date, but helping (peo-

ple) get healthy and whole and attracting someone who is healthy and whole."

Kelley said she swears by everything in "How to be an Irresistible Woman."

"I hope by reading this book, people will realize and recognize themselves as making their relationship bonds stronger," she said. "As women, we create a long list of things we want in a man."

"If we want all these things, then we have to do what our partners want too, and vice versa."

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

"How to be an irresistible woman"

Author: Ebony (E.E.) Kelley
Purchase: <http://irresistiblewomanonline.com> or www.authorhouse.com
Price: \$15

About the book: Kelley gives practical advice on how you can become the object of desire of men everywhere. Each featured chapter is supported with real-life stories from women, plus evidence to support the author's claims.

Sample chapters: Learn Proper Etiquette, Get Glamorous, Befriend His Friends and Update Your Entourage

City unveils new website

■ New address and upgrades for site

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

The City of Novi's digital home is now at a "much easier" to remember location on the World Wide Web.

Earlier this month, the city's website moved from www.cityofnovi.org to www.cityofnovi.org, which includes a number of improvements and new features, according to community relations manager Sheryl Walsh.

Walsh said the new site is now easier to navigate, with a new menu bar at the top and "quick-links" on the left hand side to popular features such as meeting minutes, forms, and police reports.

It also features a searchable calendar listing city events. Users can either look for events using a search feature, or select a particular day and see what is happening on that date, Walsh said.

Last year, the site was visited six times more than any other website in the state, Walsh said. She said improvements are made every couple of years to the site, and development on the new one began in April.

The city's website gets roughly 80,000 visitors each month, Walsh said. The new site is ADA compliant and will allow vision-impaired visitors to hear the its contents read aloud, she said.

The site also gives users the option of signing up for mail list services — e-mails which provide subscribers with information on anything from community events to road construction, Walsh said.

"There is also a slide show promoting the diversity and community events in Novi," Walsh said. The site's easy new name will also make for better branding opportunities, and the address will be posted on city vehicles.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 100, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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Crowds flocked to 50s Festival

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Sparky weather couldn't keep crowds away from one of Novi's signature events, the Michigan 50s Festival.

Attendance was up "substantially" compared with recent years, said Bob McCann, past festival president. Final figures weren't available as of press time, but he said crowds swelled for the night events, though scorching heat and heavy rains weighed down attendance during the day.

"I'd say in a word 'fabulous.' We were very pleased," said McCann, whose job is president of the Detroit division of Bright House Networks, a cable television and communication company.

The festival, in its 19th year, switched to the Novi Town Center this year because of construction at the Fountain Walk Shopping Center.

"They were very supportive," said Lori Kapelczak, festival president. "It was a great venue for us."

The festival had been at Fountain Walk for the last two years. It's also been at the Expo Center (now Rock Financial Showplace) and Main Street. Kapelczak said next year's location could be decided by mid-September.

Activities included a car show, pancake breakfast, 5-kilometer run, live entertainment, fireworks and other activities.

McCann said one of the most poignant moments of the festival was a cover of the Neil Diamond classic "America" by Rocky & the Rollers on Friday night that was followed by fireworks.

Previous festivals featured a carnival, but it was scratched this year because of a scheduling conflict, Kapelczak said. A potting zoo and giant sand box helped fill in, she said.

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

Acting up, Novi-style

By Bill Laitner
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

"Hey, let's go to camp and break a leg!"
Onstage, that is.
You can if you're a kid in the after camp in Novi.

Youngsters at the city-run day camp have been staging acting, dancing -- and even mock sword fighting -- their way through weeks of rehearsal, preparing for three shows this weekend.

At the Novi Civic Center Stage, across a four-story atrium from Novi City Hall, on 10 Mile just west of Novi Road, they'll strut and warble through tunes and drama from a dozen Broadway shows.

That's a big change after 14 years of doing simpler shows based on fairy tales. But the summer days of the Broadway-style singing and dancing have been fun, said Katie Kelly, 12, of Novi.

There are shows we've never heard of, but we go home and look 'em up, like on Google," Katie said.

Her friend Emma Walter, 12, also of Novi, said she was excited to be in the camp's performances this year. Last year, just as Emma was finishing her theater camp run and ready to hear applause, a family vacation snatched her away.

Katie and Emma had just finished a rehearsal last week of their roles from the 1950 show "Bye Bye Birdie" (from which they'll sing "The Telephone Hour" -- a paean to girls gossiping about boys on Mr. Bell's invention).

On a piano beside the stage, Novi Cultural Arts Director Sheri Sansom had pounded out the song's background accompaniment, chiming in herself on the choruses of "Going steady! Going steady! Going steady for good!"

"OK, would all of you put your phones on the prop table?" Sansom called to Katie and Emma, along with Ainsley McNamara and Hannah Patterson, both 11 and from Novi, sprawled on pillows; and Phillip Buckley, 13, of Livonia, perched on a riser. Then the troupe marched off to another room, and another rehearsal.

Down the hall, meanwhile, Bryan Dechart, 19, of Novi, had been teaching sword fighting.

Dechart, a 2003 graduate of Novi High School, who likely is remembered there for his many big moments onstage, now studies acting at New York University.

Tickets to 'Broadway'

Performances of "Kids on Broadway" will take place at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18. Call 248-347-0400, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

But on this summer day, he had the attention of 10 youths in a room overlooking the lawn of Novi City Hall.

"OK, you guys, we're going to start with these sticks," he said, pointing to yard-long dowels. But Katie Pettito, 12, of Commerce Township wavered out loud. "How am I going to stab anyone with that?"

"That drew laughter as Dechart replied: 'You're not! We have these because the wood makes a good sharp sound onstage. Something metal wouldn't make as good a sound.'"

Next, it was on to five positions of theatrical swordplay. Soon, Dechart was teaching sword fighting by the numbers.

"OK, give me a one!" he shouted. "Two! Four! Three! ... Spread out! Remember, the more area we cover onstage, the more the audience will recognize what we're doing."

By yet another small room, still more kids practiced up dancing with Elaine Buck, camp choreographer and owner of the Performing Arts Academy, a private dance studio that this year moved from its longtime site on Catherine Industrial Road to the Novi Ice Arena.

"There you go!" Buck shouted over the CD player's music, as four sticks clattered across the floor.

One and a two and a three and a four ... OK! And what did I throw in at the end of that?"

Soft-spoken Gabrielle Pichardo, 11, of Novi piped up. "Cramp roll?"

"Yes, that's right!" Buck said. "No experience required! Campers pay \$300 for five weeks of camp, which runs three afternoons a week. Many of the youngsters attend year after year. Some have done lots of other performing, but others 'have never been onstage before," said Lauren Sorrentino, 23, of Novi.

"There are about a dozen boys, among this year's 86 campers -- a



STEPHEN MCGEE/Gannett News Service

Performers raise their hands for the final scene of Kids on Broadway in the Novi Civic Center in Novi, Wednesday, July 26. Novi parks & rec took the local community theater program and hired cultural arts director Sheri Sansom to start a kids' summer camp for theatre arts.

typical mix of the sexes for the actor at this age, said Sorrentino, who should know.

"I did theater in this program from sixth grade right up to high school," she said.

From there, it was on to Western Michigan University for a bachelor's degree in theater education, and now she's the camp's stage director.

Novi Parks and Recreation Director Randy Auler said he thinks the "Kids on Broadway"

day camp will win a national award at the 2007 conference of the nation's parks and recreation directors in Indianapolis. But what really counts is the boost it gives to kids' self-confidence, and the feeling of accomplishment that parents and teachers fans pride.

Novi camp costumer Marilee Dechart, a nine-year Novi resident and mother of the sword-fighting instructor, in a room jammed with costumes, she and her daughter, Kayla Dechart, 14,

cut and sewed, alongside fellow costumer Joa Freeman of Commerce Township.

"It's mostly donated clothing. We don't have a big budget," Marilee Dechart said. Still, one parent after another has helped, she said, adding, "It's cool because the whole community's involved."

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BUSINESS

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

Businessman has 'pulse' on city with new TV talk show

Program takes up-close look at locals

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

You could say Greg Chapman is the Jay Leno of Novi.

The local resident and businessman has brought one of America's favorite television formats — the talk show — to Novi with his new program, "Novi Pulse."

The show began airing July 31 on Channel 13 and features 30-minute interviews with local business and community leaders.

But, it isn't just an advertisement for the guest's business.

"What I'm trying to do is not only understand their business but also their personal side — what their leadership styles are and why they chose Novi," Chapman said.

Eddie Bourke, general manager of Lucky's at Fountain Walk; Blair Bowman, owner of Rock Financial Services; and Arvind Gangadharan, CEO of Novi Energy, were the first three to be interviewed.

The latest three scheduled to appear on the show are Rob Casali, president of Providence Hospital; Michael Stamford, owner, Varsity Lincoln Mercury dealership; and Joseph Welch, CEO, ITC Transmission.

Each program will be aired for about a month, with the next show scheduled at 5 p.m. Friday.

Chapman said the idea for the program came to him late last year even though he has no background in broadcasting or television production.

On the contrary, his training is in international business, and he works as a partner with Smith Barney's The Sierra Group.

Before joining Smith Barney about four years ago, he used to outsource global operations of Fortune 500 companies.

So, has the new venture taken him outside his comfort zone?

"You could say that," he confessed.

"It's just the opportunity to do something different," he said. "I like to try different things, and after talking to some people in the community, they thought it was a pretty cool idea that would be of interest to everybody."

How to tune in to 'Novi Pulse'

Watch "Novi Pulse," local resident Greg Chapman's new talk show featuring Novi's movers and shakers, on Channel 13.

For air times and more information, visit www.novipulse.com or www.swoocstudios.com.

For more information about video production classes at SWOCC Studios, call (248) 475-2800.

show host was really a natural transition since he spends a lot of time talking to and interviewing people in his job as a financial services professional.

"It was a natural carry-over into the TV show," he said. "The first couple of shows I was very nervous and kind of apprehensive about being in front of a camera. But, eventually, the camera kind of disappears, and you're back to having that conversation."

The host is active in the Novi community as a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce and coach for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

He's also a member of a CEO roundtable and participates in charitable causes, such as efforts to fund the Novi Public Library expansion.

SWOCC Studios staff helped

Chapman said the staff at the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission Studios in Farmington have helped him tremendously in producing the show.

"These guys are absolutely fabulous," Chapman said. "Nate Hartwick, Melissa Coats and Shana Thompson have been instrumental in pulling all of this together."

Chapman also took SWOCC video production classes and plans to have the "Novi Pulse" shows video-streamed on the Web site in the near future.

"Then people will be able to watch the show on the Web as well," Chapman said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVA NEWS

Greg Chapman, left, prepares to interview Joseph Welch of ITC Transmission for his Novi Pulse show at South Western Oakland Cable Commission studios in Farmington Hills.

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A natural transition
Chapman, who's lived in Novi since 1997, said becoming a talk show host was really a natural transition since he spends a lot of time talking to and interviewing people in his job as a financial services professional.

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

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Sam's Club opens Novi store, donates \$2,000 to police, fire

Expanded club relocates Farmington Hills store

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Sam's Club donated \$2,000 to the city last week in a ceremony that officially unveiled its new Novi store.

The police and fire departments each received a check for \$1,000, and the store donated a total of \$20,000 to local charities.

Sam's Club actually opened the 138,000 square-foot store in Novi July 23 following the closing of the nearby Farmington Hills store July 26. Company officials said they moved the club because of space limitations at the Farmington Hills location, which was 103,000 square feet, as well as its age. The Novi store will include a pharmacy and optical department, among other amenities.

Sam's Club spokesman Olan James said all of the workers transferred to the new store. He would not reveal the total headcount, but said a typical store employs 185. He also would not say what the start-up costs of the Novi store were, or specify how much it cost to close the Farmington Hills store.

The former location will be leased to a Harry-Bassham dealership, James said.

Sam's Club is a unit of Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

The Novi Fire Department will use the donation to expand a program that provides smoke detectors for people who can't afford them or have special needs, like the elderly, said acting Chief Jeff Johnson.

The department plans to add carbon dioxide detectors and fire extinguishers to the program.

The Novi Police Department plans to put its donation into crime prevention efforts, including D.A.R.E. and the youth police academy, said Chief David Molloy.

The donations were funded by the Sam's Club Foundation, which allocates money to stores for local causes. Other organizations that received donations from the Novi store included the Livingston County Area Alarm Club, Last Chance Animal Rescue, Detroit Educational Television and YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, which all received \$3,750. The Wilson and Farmington Hills police departments also got \$500.

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

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Melissa Clark is assistant account executive, vowing to strengthen its strategic communications team.

At Strat@comm, Clark works on multiple accounts, including the National Safety Council, the Alumnus Institute and 1 DaimlerChrysler. Clark has provided key media relations support for Jeep's sponsorship of the National Auto Show, and supported other DaimlerChrysler marketing programs. She also assisted in launching a public service announcement campaign for the National Safety Council focusing on the importance of child seat safety.

Wilson primarily supports the Alumnus Association account, in addition to working on the DaimlerChrysler account. In 2005, Wilson was instrumental in planning and managing the second annual Automotive Alumnus Technology Forum for the Alumnus Association Auto & Light Truck Group (ALTG). Most recently, she played a major role in planning the press conference to announce the launch of the smart brand in the United States.

Jaworski recently completed an internship at Strat@comm assisting with the account, and has accepted the offer to become a permanent member of the team. Prior to joining Strat@comm, Jaworski held internship positions at the National Auto Show, the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the UAW-GM Center for Human Resources, writing news stories for their internal publications, creating advertisements and supporting events.

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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: 2155 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: Rev. Ed Willingham, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7257, visit www.mbcw.org or phone at (248) 348-7257
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 10 a.m.

Novi United Methodist
 LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3652

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
 LOCATION: 30700 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.episcopalchurchofholycross.org
 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
 THURSDAY: 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.

Holy Family
 LOCATION: 2505 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 hfw@hfc.org
 Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
 DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
 DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Mulloy, (248) 334-3595

Oak Pointe
 LOCATION: Novi High School, 24062 Tull Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-4043 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

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

First United Methodist of Northville
 LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
 Sunday Worship

TIME: 8:15 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, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 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 5-years-old by Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baha'i Faith
 CONTACT: (248) 473-0855 or visit www.bahai.org
 International Gathering
 TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Last Sunday of every month
 LOCATION: 21803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
 DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

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.

St. John Lutheran
 LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
 CONTACT: (248) 474-6584 or visit www.stjohn-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 About! The Gospel Express."
 Sunday Worship
 TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30, 9:50 and 11 a.m., Sunday
 Sunday School
 TIME: 9:45 a.m.

LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
 LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
 Single Place Ministries
 CONTACT: www.single-place.org
 (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
 Street Dance
 DATE: Saturday, Aug. 26
 TIME: 8-11 p.m.
 LOCATION: Northville Plaza on Covert Street, between Main and Dunlap streets
DETAILS: Tickets are \$10 and include snacks, soft drinks and a DJ. There will be 50's, 60's and 70's music.
Thursday Program-Ongoing
The Gospel Express
DETAILS: The cost is \$5 per person. Programs and speakers vary.
Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-6584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
DATE: Monday through Friday
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
DETAILS: The cost is \$15 per person. The theme is "All About! The Gospel Express."
Sunday Worship
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30, 9:50 and 11 a.m., Sunday
Sunday School
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

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TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m., Saturday: 8:30, 9:50 and 11 a.m., Sunday
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TIME: 9:45 a.m.

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SENIORS

NOVI SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 8/11

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
 10 a.m. Body Recall
 11 a.m. Lunch
 12:30 p.m. Day Bridge
 1:30 p.m. Bingo
 2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

Monday 8/12

8-8:45 a.m. Men's Golf
 9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
 10 a.m. Body Recall
 11:30 a.m. Clogging*
 noon Lunch
 12:30 p.m. Pinocle*
 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sav-On Drugs, free screenings for blood sugar, bone density and blood pressure
 2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment
 3:30 p.m. Clogging

Tuesday, 8/15

8:30 a.m. Pancak Breal
 9 a.m. Line Dance*
 10 a.m. Asian Pacific
 10:30-11:30 a.m. Bookmobile
 11-12:30 p.m. Computer Class-Intermediate
 noon Lunch
 12-45 p.m. Bingo
 2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

Wednesday 8/16

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength held at Novi Civic Center
 9:15 a.m. Women's Golf
 10 a.m. Body Recall cancelled
 11 a.m. Blood Pressure
 11 a.m. Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
 noon Summerline picnic-also tickets req.
 2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

Thursday 8/17

9 a.m. Line Dance
 9 a.m. Mixed Golf League
 9:30 a.m. Travel Meeting
 11-12:30 p.m. Computer Class-Intermediate
 noon Lunch
 12:15 Contract Bridge
 1-2 p.m. Line Dance cancelled
 2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

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BE SCENE IN NOVI

Fun-raiser!

Many thanks

The 2nd Annual "Get in the Game" Golf Outing was a big success. Tom Sheldon and his staff at The Links of Novi helped 130 golfers enjoy breakfast provided by Moe's on Ten, 18 holes of slightly wet golf, lunch at the inn and a great week dinner, all in support of the Novi Parks Foundation. Through Corporate Sponsorships, golf fees and a silent auction, the Foundation raised almost \$16,000 to be used within the community.

Several people were instrumental in putting on this event, and I'd like to recognize them here.

Charlie Staab for his constant positive feedback. Dave Staab for his marketing savvy. Linda Blair for her corporate insight.

Sheryl Walsh, does this lady ever slow down? Sue Engbreton for keeping an eye on the till and, let's not forget, Kathy Cosentino, Golf Committee co-chair, for her tireless "behind the scenes" work on the auction. These folks are the real reason the outing was a success for the second straight year.

There was also some big help from our corporate friends and neighbors and I'd like to thank them for their support:

JTC Transmission, Inter Seating Systems, Novi News, LaSalle Bank, IPS Marketing Communications, Tom Holzer Ford, Moe's on Ten, Diagon Tire, Michigan Cit, Northern Facilities Group, Rydex System Inc, Utility Lines Construction, Walker Tard, Whitehall Real Estate Interest, Varsity Lincoln Mercury, Onram Auto Electronics, CWHI Co, Donald I. Sawhal PC, Links of Novi and PGA Golf Professional Tom Sheldon, Larson Jewelry, Cooper, Shifman, Gabe, Quinn & Seymour PC, Stiles Carpographic PC, McNish Sporting Goods, Pfizer, Caddyshack, National City, Telcum Credit Union, Diamond Jim Brady's, Post Bar, Gus O'Connor Public House, Buffalo Wild Wings, Congressman Thaddeus D. McCotter, Novartis, Novartis Community Outreach, Martin J. Travitt, Dr Nick Donalds, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Marjorie Narian, Hagopian, Sports Club of Novi, Second City, Hotel Baronne, Novi Chevaliers, Sheraton Hotel, Interior Environments, Bulch Knives and others that chose to share publicity.

More times than not, the front guys get all the accolades when, in fact, it's the people behind the scenes who deserve all the credit. It's their hard work and dedication that makes that front guy look good, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Again, Thank You to all,
 Sincerely,



Above, the new logo, designed with the help of Panaborn Design Ltd. of Detroit, was unveiled at the dinner.
 Left, Novi Park Foundation Board Members Sue Engbreton and Kathy Cosentino, Parks, Recreation and Forest Department employees, signed in participants.
 Below, the winning foursome, with a score of 11 under 60, included Joe Opran, Steve Nelson, Jim Hensing and Nick Bantomal.



Left, State Sen. Nancy Castle and Park Foundation Board Member Mark Adams.
 Middle, Paul Hage and Betsy Staab.
 Right, the dinner featured the Links of Novi's specialty, thick and juicy steaks.

Below, Jerry Jewel and Novi Parks Foundation Vice Chairman Dave Staab.

Left, Moe Leon, owner of Moe's on Ten restaurants, provided a hearty breakfast for the event.

Brian Burke Golf Committee

Rachel Zagariol, senior services manager, and Terry Margolis, Novi City Council woman.

The team of Mike Bulbuk, Dean Bunchu, Drew Bulbuk and Mike DeDello gets ready for the outing to begin after a rain delay.

Mayor David Landry, event chair Brian Burke and Sheryl Walsh, community relations manager for the city of Novi.

The outing included 29 foursomes, including Paul Hage, Novi Parks Foundation Chairman Charley Staab, Justin Fisher and Pastor Tom Lange.

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OPINION

www.novinews.com

Novi News

Cal Stone
EDITOR

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Richard Periborg
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Richard Rasmoff
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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

WHERE WE STAND

Republican Convention: Another feather in Rock's hat

Novi's Rock Financial Showplace will host its first political convention when the Michigan GOP brings its annual convention to the facility August 25.

"We're very excited about it," said owner Blair Bowman. "We think our facility is a perfect venue for it."

We couldn't agree more. And during a time that's typically slow for hotels, nobody can argue what this will mean to the local establishments. The GOP has reserved blocks of about 500 hotel rooms in the area.

Conversations with the party began in January. Rock was selected because of its proximity to freeways, its amenities and its newness.

Much like a political race, the bidding process for the convention was fierce, but Bowman's group put together a proposal strong enough to land the event.

It's the first political convention at the facility, which is one year old, and it's a perfect opportunity to demonstrate Rock Financial Showplace's ability to handle an event of this magnitude.

With this being a gubernatorial election year, it's extra special that the Republicans chose Novi. "It's an honor," said Mary Jane Scott, Rock's director of sales.

Again, we couldn't agree more. Congratulations!

LETTERS

Gun range needed

Regarding the proposed shooting range for the Novi Police Department, I take issue with Mr. Downey's letter in the July 27th issue of the paper. I believe the shooting range is an excellent idea. While it may be true that Novi officers rarely have to draw or discharge their weapons, it is certain that at one time or another, they will need to. In that event, wouldn't we all want them to have had the best and most current training in the proper use of these weapons? Regular training reinforces proper usage, as it does for any skill, and makes it automatic. Why would we want a "rusty" officer out there having to confront an armed suspect in a dangerous situation? I would feel much better and safer knowing that the officer's training is current, and that the officer's reactions will be the correct ones. Wouldn't you?

Tim Sawmiller
Novi

Candidate not colorful?

While I agreed with your endorsement of Craig DeRoche over his opponent Mario Fundarski for the Republican choice in the primary election, I feel the reference to Gov. Granholm's win was unnecessary and could be viewed as a partisan swipe.

Mr. DeRoche is not running against Gov. Granholm. They both stand their current jobs the same year as the people's choice and should be expected to work together for the benefit of all of Michigan. I would like to believe that is what they are doing even if they don't agree.

I also found it strange there was an earlier story on Mr. Fundarski as there was in 2004 when he ran as a Democrat for U.S. Representative Paul Fundarski for McQuinn. Only he didn't make it through the primary and never faced McQuinn (R) in the general election. I guess he's just not as colorful a candidate as a republican.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Crossing's a worse problem

After reading Dave Shingler's letter re: moving traffic lights at Grand River and Mack Road, I began to wonder why nothing is being done about the horrible, unsafe railroad crossing on Novi Road, south of Grand River. This item has been a disaster for longer than I care to



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Beatin' the heat

Esther Bai leads her kids Anna, 5, and Alexander, 8, around the Novi Ice Arena's "blue rink" during a recent open skate. A rink is open for the public to skate from noon-1:50 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

remember. Traffic almost comes to a complete stop before crossing this messily, for fear of damaging the undercarriage of their vehicles. I am sure the powers that be in Novi are aware of this condition. Yet nothing seems to get done. Does it have to become impossible before repairs are made? Come on, Novi's administration, let's get with the program and move on this traffic hazard.

Clare Wilson
Novi

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

Aerotropolis would be boon to region

Finally! It's been a long time coming, but at long last there seems to be serious movement toward what could be Michigan's largest single economic development opportunity in the coming decade: the Airport City ("aerotropolis") between Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports.

Troy-based real estate expert Stuart Frankel has announced an agreement to develop 150 acres of land in the Pinnacle Aerotropolis, an office and warehouse project south of Detroit Metro and east of the I-275/Sibley interchange. That should be just the beginning.

The Airport City project, Frankel told me recently, is "potentially the most transformative project for southeastern Michigan ever attempted. We want to make it lush."

Emphasize the "we." A joint memo supporting the Airport City project has been signed by Wayne and Washtenaw counties, the

various local government units around both airports and the Wayne County Airport Authority. This week, it will be delivered to Jim Epollito, the CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, or MEDC. (Full disclosure: I am the out-of-state unpaid vice-chair.)

With that goes a cover letter to Gov. Joniffr Granholm, suggesting "the state of Michigan needs to be an active participant and partner in this exciting economic development undertaking."

There is plenty of evidence to show that the potential is vast. A University of Michigan-Dearborn study shows that Detroit Metro Airport has a \$7.6 billion impact on the Michigan economy, includ-

ing \$4 billion in airline tickets, hotel rooms and parking, plus some \$2 billion in sales to Michigan companies.

The Airport City project has long been a gleam in the eyes of those visionaries who can see past next Tuesday. Now, at last, it might actually be getting some traction. For years, experts have known that the area's combination of assets make the site potentially one of the region's best. Those riches include what is now a first-class passenger facility (Detroit Metro), a good freight airport (Willow Run), easy access to road, rail and international water transport, and 25,000 acres of largely undeveloped land in between.

Similar airport developments in Amsterdam, Hong Kong and Bangkok are producing hundreds of thousands of jobs. Here, this agreement to develop the Pinnacle site may finally be what breaks up the logjam of inertia. That Frankel, one of Michigan's most respected — and shrewdest — developers, is prepared to ante up millions of his own funds suggests the dreams aren't pie in the sky.

That's important, because the Pinnacle project has been dragging on since the late Ed McNamara, then Wayne County Executive, launched the idea back in 1969. Now this developer intends to cut the ribbon by building 50,000 square feet of offices and 200,000 square feet of warehouse space.

That should jump-start a project that has been the victim of endless Wayne County politics and the lack of an economically realistic development plan.

And getting Pinnacle off the ground is important evidence to the larger Airport City vision has the wings to fly.

The agreement between the various local government units is equally encouraging, if only because it demonstrates that the local powers are united at last in support of the project. Signing on are the cities of Taylor, Belleville, Romulus and Ypsilanti, together with Washtenaw, Van Buren and Huron townships.

Cobbling together something that appealed to their various interests, combined with those of Wayne and Washtenaw counties and the Airport Authority has not been easy. Wayne County Executive Development Director Muh Birru deserves credit for patience and persistence.

Meanwhile, the new man at the MEDC, Jim Epollito, has succeeded in regaining momentum and morale at the state's main arm dedicated to economic develop-

ment. He has a terrific opportunity to take the Airport City project to a new level by putting planning and marketing muscle behind the project.

Nobody in state government (including the MEDC) has much money these days, but what is needed at this point is coordinated planning and evidence of firm state support.

That's relatively cheap, and Granholm would be wise to jump on board as evidence she's serious about adding jobs to the hard-pressed southeastern Michigan economy. Frankel's right. The Airport City project could transform the area. And now that the local governmental units potentially involved have their act together, it is time for the state to jump in with both feet.

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



Phil Power

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OTHER VOICES

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

Things were looking U.P.

At 20 years of age, I was perhaps too young to be able to look back and point out a moment, day or period of time and describe it as absolutely the best of my life when compared with all the others.

But after a long-winded trip to that magical land beyond the Mackinac Bridge last month, I have that moment, that day, that perfect little section of my life that stands out above the rest.

Although I was born in Detroit and have lived in Michigan my entire life, I had not yet lost my U.P. virginity. That changed when a college friend from Iron Mountain, just east of the Wisconsin border, invited me and some other schoolmates up to her home for a few days of summertime fun, Yooper-style.

How could I resist? Another college friend from Bloomfield Hills and I loaded up my pickup truck on Thursday evening and set off for the land of pasties and funny accents, ready for high adventure.

The drive up itself, an eight-hour affair, was rather colorful. Driving over the Mackinac Bridge, though the teal water and orange setting sun were amazingly beautiful, was a terrifying combination of my two worst fears, heights and water. At one gas station, my truck got coated entirely with mayflies, and we hunched lower as we drove through one U.P. town. In eight seconds flat.

But the drive, interesting as it was, could not compare with what awaited us once we arrived in the land of the Yoopers, who somewhat mockingly call us down-state folks "trolls," since we live under the bridge.

We spent most of that Friday at Pler's Gorge, a spectacular series of breathtaking rock outcroppings along the Menominee River. You never talk about beautiful? I had never even imagined that territory like that existed in Michigan: a vibrant, cool river bordered by cliffsides, huge boulders and rock shale, with thick forest strutting as far as the eye could see.

The river had plenty of white water rapids sections, with massive, dark rocks jutting out, their slimy seaweed covered surfaces carved sharp by the water. My favorite moment was when I scaled cautiously down the cliffside, waded out through the rapids, and climbed atop one of the boulders. Perched there, I marveled at the scenery as the water roared inches behind me.

Later that day, taking along the trail barefoot, I nearly stepped on a brown snake, roughly five feet long. "That looks like a massasauga rattlesnake," I thought, as I reached out and felt its scales. The snake snapped to life and went into striking position, and started shaking its rat-

tle at me. "You guys, get over here! Check out this awesome rattlesnake!" I called to my friends, who at that point were ready to have me committed to a mental hospital. They snapped a few photos, from a safe distance, of the idiot and the Snake, and then backed away. I stared my beady-eyed friend down till he slithered off.

Someone later told me that massasaugas don't live in the U.P. and that I really saw a pine snake. All I know is that it looked like a massasauga, it shook its rattle at me, and the story is

better when the snake is venomous anyway. And yes, I know I'm nuts.

Saturday we played in a bocce ball tournament. Let me tell you, those Yoopers take their bocce ball (which they hilariously pronounce "boh-chie") very seriously. We were coached throughout the tournament by a very knowledgeable and friendly old fellow who turned out to be Ray Marfield, the father of the former Lions' head coach, and I can't say enough what a nice gentleman he truly is.

Did I mention I tried my first pasta that day for lunch? A calorie-laden mix of meat, carrots and potatoes in a pouch of pie-like dough. It was the best thing I've eaten in a long time.

After spending Saturday night by a campfire, complete with a guitar and a songbook, we hit the sack and rested up for the drive home the next day. We stopped Sunday morning on our way back downstate at Norway Springs, an artisan well where perfectly cold, clean and great-tasting water bubbles up from the ground. I filled my water bottle and enjoyed it the whole way home.

Without a doubt, it was the best few days of my life. I got to spend time with excellent friends, enjoy new and wonderful foods, and take in unbelievable scenery. There was zero stress; for a couple of days, I worried about absolutely nothing. Can you ask for anything more from a vacation?

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the *Novi News*. Busy coping with the vagaries of life under the bridge, he can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.



Matt Doran

Fox Run family has grown to nearly 600 in just three years

In the three short years since Fox Run opened its door to our first residents, we have quickly become the fastest growing retirement destination in Michigan. Men and women from all over the state (and country) are moving to Fox Run to experience an unparalleled lifestyle.

As the Executive Director, I am so pleased that almost 600 people now call Fox Run "home." Over the past three years, the state of Michigan has surely felt the impact of a struggling economy and housing market, but that hasn't kept people from making "the best decision of their lives" and moving to Fox Run. In spite of the economic challenges facing our region, Fox Run continues to grow at an accelerated pace.

In challenging real estate markets, we created the innovative "Moving Home" program that has assisted 1,000 people to sell their homes so they can move to Fox Run sooner.

"There is a great deal of excitement at Fox Run these days as we open our 6th residential building, Wood Bridge (just want to confirm that this is the correct spelling), this month. Wood Bridge is our first building with underground parking, lake views and a direct link into our next clubhouse, The Belmont, which is now under construction.

The opening of The Belmont next summer will add an additional restaurant with different dining options, as well as beauty salon, creative arts studio, and class room. The Clubhouse will also feature exciting new amenities, including a 250-seat auditorium, catering room, pub (is this in addition to the new restaurant?) library and a television studio.

In early 2007, Fox Run will be open our state-of-the-art health care facility, Renaissance Gardens will offer the highest quality support services in the industry to our residents who need additional care services. Renaissance Gardens will be unlike any skilled nursing or assisted living facility you've ever seen and will be unmatched in the entire mid-west. The opening of Renaissance Gardens will help fulfill the promise we make to Fox Run residents that they will enjoy a "home for life," regardless of any future unforeseen circumstances like an extended illness.

In order to meet our life care assurance promise to our residents, Fox Run holds a gala every year to raise money for our Benevolent Care Fund. "Viva Las Vegas, 1950's Style" will take place on August 5th and promises to be the "party of the year." Fox Run's Asset Clubhouse will be transformed into a vintage Vegas-like setting, complete with performances by "Rat Pack" impersonators, casino games, the "Starlight Lounge" and fabulous food buffets. Fox Run's former mayor, Lou Cordas said after a previous Fox Run Gala that "it's nothing but a party."

Fox Run residents have been on the go since the first day we opened. There are almost a hundred different activities to choose from including ballroom dancing, tai chi, art classes, water aerobics, line dancing, just to name a few. Unlike many retirement communities, all the "clubs" at Fox Run are created and driven by the residents.

In 2005, Fox Run residents created their very own Center for Continuous Learning and have attracted monthly lectures by well-known guest speakers who discussed a variety of contemporary topics. Also, Fox Run recently started the "Back of the Season" program, that encourages residents and staff to read the same book each quarter. It makes for some lively and engaging conversation around the dinner table every night as well as throughout the Community.

The hottest and likely most controversial move so far this year is the DeVinet Code. A couple of weeks ago 75 Fox Run residents boarded the community shuttle and traveled to a local theater to see the movie. Upon their return to Fox Run, the group was joined by 50 or so residents and engaged in a meaningful dialogue on the DeVinet Code controversy.

In our annual resident satisfaction survey, almost 98% of people living at Fox Run said they "would recommend Fox Run to a friend." According to the independent research group that conducted the study, this was the highest score they've ever received in a community of our size! There is no question that the people living at Fox Run are living life to the fullest. The only complaint I ever get is that people "wish they would have moved in sooner."

Fox Run has created over 200 jobs for the men and women in our community. As the campus grows, additional jobs will become available. It's an amazing team of people with big hearts! Fox Run has provided not only a source of income but a positive work environment that encourages our employees to "share our gifts and celebrate life" with residents and their coworkers. I am extremely proud of each and every employee. In 2005, Fox Run was recognized by Crain's Detroit Business as one of the "Coolest Places to Work" in Michigan.

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

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



Michael McCormick

Disc Herniation?

New FDA Approved Technology Treats Herniated Discs Without Drugs or Surgery

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs, find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has led to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery?" call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit www.midsfherntion.com

COME TO THE POINT... FLEX POINT

Performing Arts Center
Offering classes in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, pointe, hip-hop, singing, musical theatre, kids & teens, technique, pilates, pre-school classes, voice, adult classes, boy's classes, tumbling and much more!
Flex Point FAC Registration Dates Are:
Aug. 7th., Dance Company Registr. 1-7pm
Aug. 8th., Returning Students Registr. 1-7pm
Aug. 9th & 10th., Open House and Registr. for NEW and RETURNING students, 9:30-12pm
*2 Incentive U' Dance Workshops Aug. 21st-24th and Aug. 28th-31st
Open to all Students
*Required for Company Members Classes begin September 11th
Come be a part of the Flex Point Dance Company!
Open Company Auditions for ages 5-18 years old.
Call for more information:
24150 Haggerty Road • Farmington Hills • 248-471-0127
Check us out at: www.flexpointfac.com

SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.C., C.C.R.I.
MANAGING YOUR ASTHMA WHILE PREGNANT
If asthma is uncontrolled during pregnancy, the amount of oxygen in the blood can decrease, which can lower oxygen levels in the fetal blood and hamper fetal growth and survival. About 30% of women with asthma find that their asthma worsens during pregnancy, with the highest levels of incidence occurring from weeks 24 to 36. By managing asthma successfully, a pregnant woman will help to minimize the risk of fetal or fetal complications. Successful treatment requires taking medications, which can make a pregnant woman feel nervous, but the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma have been shown to be higher than those linked with asthma medications. Most inhaled corticosteroids, which work well against persistent asthma, have been shown to be safe for pregnant women. The asthma medicine, salmeterol, which is used to treat mild to moderate asthma, is also safe and effective during pregnancy.
www.allergyinfo.org

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Novi Christian School
enrolling students for the 2006-07 school year. The school is located at 24150 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. For more information, please call 1-800-426-5383. Or visit our website <http://www.novichristianschool.com>.
CLASSES BEGIN: 2-7 pm, Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm, Fri. - 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, SAT. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.
CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH, 24150 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. **SEMINAR: 7 pm, Thurs. Aug. 24** (please bring your own dinner)
248-348-3720
new students 1st month is tuition... for current students for monthly balance of new tuition (tuition fee before, please see website)
\$10.00 OFF

Controlling diabetes makes a huge difference.
I'm controlling my diabetes... I'll be around for my family... for my friends... for life. Control your diabetes. Free info. For more information, please call 1-800-426-5383. Or visit our website <http://www.novichristianschool.com>. A free program of the National Institute of Health. The Center for Diabetes Control and Prevention.

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 348-9832

EVENTS

Dance Auditions
LOCATION: The Sports Club of Novi, 42500 Arena Drive, Novi, south of 10 Mile, east of Novi Road
CONTACT: (248) 735-8850, extensiv3112
Metropolitan Dance Center
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m., Wednesday
DETAILS: This is jazz, tap, ballet and lyrical auditions. Auditions are for ages 8-12 and 13 and up.
Metropolitan Ballet Academy & Theatre
TIME/DATE: 8:00-11 p.m., ages 8-10, 12:30-3 p.m., ages 11 and up, Friday, Aug. 18
DETAILS: These auditions are for Placement Classes and Showcase Casting.

Novi Band Road Rally
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 19
TIME: 4 p.m.
DETAILS: The cost for this event is \$10 per person. Participants are to meet at Novi High School, 10 Mile Road parking lot.
CONTACT: Lori Hruskowi, (248) 347-0169

Stupid Pet Trick Auditions
DATE: Sunday, Aug. 20
TIME: 1-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Michigan Humane Society, 900 Central Ave., Newburgh Road, Westland
DETAILS: The Michigan Humane Society will be holding auditions for "Stupid Pet Tricks," a signature segment of the Late Show with David Letterman. Each audition will be evaluated by representatives of the Late Show with David Letterman with all performances being recorded for future review by the show's producers. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (866) 648-6263 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

2006 Taste of the Nation Benefit
DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 23
TIME: 6:30-10:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, Diamond Center, 46100 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: Eppoch Restaurant Group is sponsoring this benefit for the national hunger relief organization, Share Our Strength. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available at the Rock Financial Showplace office.
CONTACT: (877) 26-TASTE or visit www.tasteofthenation.org

"Rapunzel: Uncut!"
DATE: Various days
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison, Dearborn
DETAILS: Novi resident, Carrie Drummond is performing in this production.
CONTACT: <http://playersguildofdearborn.org>

Parks and Recreation Summer Camps
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400 or visit www.ci.novi.mi.us
Camp Lakeshore
DATE: Weekly through Aug. 18
TIME: 9:15 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake

South Lake Drive
DETAILS: This camp is for ages 6-12. It will include field trips, games, sports, swimming, art projects and entertainment. The cost is \$145 per week for residential, non-resident fees apply. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

Borders-Novl Event
LOCATION: 43075 Coescent Boulevard
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
Author Book-Signing
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 19
TIME: noon
DETAILS: Author Carol McCloud will be discussing her book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids."
Author Book-Signing
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 26
TIME: 2 p.m.
DETAILS: Author Gloria Pucci will be discussing her book, "Lift Up Your Hairs, Raise Your Praise & Get Lost in God!"

Crickle Camp
DATE: Saturday through Aug. 26
TIME: 5:30-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Lyon Oaks Park, 52351 Pontiac Trail, Lyon Township
DETAILS: This six-week camp is designed for ages 3-16. The camp will include learning and practicing Cricket fundamentals of batting, catching, fielding and scrimmages. Motion Cricket Club and the Michigan State Cricket Club will be coaching and coaching the camp. The cost is \$88 and registration is required.
CONTACT: Tim Nowicki at (248) 437-7345 or visit www.oakgov.com/parkrec

Art Exhibit
DATE: through Tuesday
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a collection of original artwork using hobbies, titled "A Happy Crafty Crafter," by artist Lie Toupin. The exhibit is free and open to the public.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

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

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

Oakland County Business Center Workshops
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 17
LOCATION: 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
CONTACT: (248) 858-0783
Small Business Loan

Pet Awareness Day

DATE: Sunday, Sept. 10
TIME: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: City of Walled Lake, 1999 E. West Maple Road
DETAILS: This is a family and pet-friendly event. There will be activities and entertainment.
CONTACT: (248) 624-4847

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

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, Aug. 14
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 5
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 17
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
Novi Schools
First day of 2006-2007 school year
DATE: Monday, Aug. 28
Athletic Booster Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, Aug. 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: High School Forum

Wixom City Council Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 22
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

BUSINESS

GNCC After-Hours Mixer
DATE: Today
TIME: 5:30-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Gus O'Connor's, downtown Novi
DETAILS: Come help the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce kick off their new Web site and enjoy a room full of energy, excitement, food, beverages and networking. Cost is \$15.
CONTACT: (248) 347-4622

Oakland County Business Center Workshops
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 17
LOCATION: 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
CONTACT: (248) 858-0783
Small Business Loan

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 17
DETAILS: This workshop will include the "5 Cs of Credit," how to develop a loan proposal and what to know before meeting with a lender. Registration is required. Contact SCORE (313) 226-7947 or visit www.score-trenton.org

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is \$50 for a 50 minute session.

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginner; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
Cultural Patch Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month.
DETAILS: This is a free class, Artist in Residence
TIME/DATE: 10:11-30 a.m., first and third Thursday of every month.
DETAILS: Joan Artistic-Residence May Our Teenies and experiment with drawing, pastel, watercolor, Chinese brush painting, mixed media and collage. Beginners are welcome, there is a \$5 materials fee.
Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 1-5 p.m., Wednesday
DETAILS: There is a \$10 materials fee.
Art Club Class
TIME/DATE: 12:15-1 p.m., Thursday
DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$5.
Yoga Class
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday, Wednesday and Friday
DETAILS: The cost is \$10 for walk-in; \$60 for 10-class card and \$70 for 7-week evening session. Pre-registration required. Massage

Mystery Night
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 10
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: This event is for kids fifth grade and up. Registration is not required.

Movie Matinee
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 24
TIME: 1 p.m.

TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is \$50 for a 50 minute session.

Oakland County Health Class
DATE: Wednesday through Aug. 30
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: 27225 Greenfield Road, Southfield
DETAILS: This class is for parents-to-be and will include information on childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, illness and safety. The cost is \$60 and registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 858-4003

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginner; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate

Novi Public Library Hours
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m., Sunday (closed during the summer)
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all program take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Friendship Circle
DATE: second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beek roads
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Nurbert Monson, (248) 851-6730, Florence Voight, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Joyvaldi, (248) 348-9136
Yoga Class
DATE: Thursday, Aug. 10
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: This event is for kids fifth grade and up. Registration is not required.

MOMs Club of Novi
DATE: first Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: This event will include a PG-rated movie, popcorn and a drink. It is intended for school-age children. Registration is not required.

Library Board Meeting
DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

SUPPORT GROUPS
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-5595

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op
DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracer, (248) 380-0958

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen, (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter
DATES: every Wednesday
TIME: 11 a.m., weigh-in; 11:30 a.m., meeting

MOMs Club of Novi
DATE: first Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: The Men's Offering Men's Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.
CONTACT: jcsung@penning@yahoo.com

LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414

HEALTH

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

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Saturday, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 326-8332 or harvestfellowship.comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Small Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.
Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.
Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-in or 10 class card for \$80.

"Dinner with a Doctor" Discussions
LOCATION: St. John Providence Park Hospital, 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: To register, (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for more information, Lois Martin, (248) 465-4505 or e-mail, lois.martin@stjohn.org
TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: These free discussions include dinner, a health presentation and an update on the hospital construction progress. Reservations are required. Children's Immunizations

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Taft Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.

Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-in; \$80/10-class card; \$70 7-week evening sessions.

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Childbirth Education
DETAILS: Evening or weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby.
Childbirth Refresher
DETAILS: A one time class to review important information for birth of your baby.
Breastfeeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one time class for men and their partner helping to provide tips for successful breastfeeding.
Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.

Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.
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DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.



Keepin' cool
 Julie Nuce splashes around in the waters of Walled Lake at Lakeshore Park in Novi with son Alexander, 5, during last week's headwave.

DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 22, Dr. Vinita Gavini
Looking Younger - Non-Surgical Treatments
DATE: Thursday, Sept. 21, Dr. M. Gowda
Looking Younger - Surgical Procedures
DATE: Thursday, Oct. 19, Dr. M. Gowda
Getting a Good Night's Sleep
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 16, Dr. Brad Rowens

Rock Financial Showplace
LOCATION: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

Abilities Expo
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

SWOCC Studio Tours
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, local community television studio.
CONTACT: Melissa Cahn, (248) 473-2840

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Taft Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.

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CONTACT: (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

Abilities Expo
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Abilities EXPO
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 REAL PEOPLE REAL CHALLENGES REAL SOLUTIONS
 A show dedicated to helping improve the lives of people with disabilities.
 SPECIAL FEATURES:
 * TOTALLY FREE Abilities Expo and show sponsor, Access Living Magazine, are collaborating to create "The Great Outdoors Pavilion" inside the show. This pavilion will be providing accessible outdoor activities & equipment, proving that there is nothing that can limit those that need to achieve it inside and out. While visiting the pavilion, taking a look at what Access Living Magazine has to offer and register to WIN FREE Accessible Web created by the magazine. One will be chosen every day of the show in 2006.
 * Show sponsor, Michigan Adaptive Sports, is sponsoring a booth highlighting some of its equipment, including the "Sports Inside II" used by Disabled Pines and Pine and will have TV personalities, award winning athletes and awards from the Adaptive and Disability Hall of Fame for kids and adults.
 * In Association with Blue Magazine, we are also pleased to announce the participation of Therapeutic Pines. The outdoor, coolest thing in therapy now.
 * Sponsored by Michigan Sports Therapist, we will be performing live games in reality and soccer throughout the show days. Check out the website for a list of featured events.
 * Join us as we welcome our national expert, Kelly Dufresh, M.S. L.A.T. to the show. Session sponsored by Broken Restaurants. Kelly will share how changes in nutrition may enhance cognitive and motor skills. See session description for more details.
 From the sponsors of Abilities Expo: FREE admission and save the show you need! For more information, call (248) 348-1700, ext. 113.
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 Details: Metro Expo provides each exhibitor contact cards for each name, address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses to help parties who wish to provide products, services and other opportunities with one-to-one contact. Metro Expo is not responsible for any other contact. Metro Expo will make every effort possible to help parties for marketing purposes, simply call 800-358-5885 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST) and follow the instructions. Metro Expo runs from October 1-5.
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 www.abilitiesexpo.com

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PREPARATION

A first and maybe a last

It took me 33 years to give it a go, and now I know why. I golfed for the first time in my life Thursday at The Links of Novi for the "Get in the Game" golf outing fundraiser for the Novi Parks Foundation.

After hearing several horror stories, I was sure that first round was going to be a doozy. It was that and more. Things started on Hole 7 of the West course.

Full of vigor (actually I just wanted to get it out of the way), I stepped to the tee to start off our four-some. A couple of swings to make it look like I



look like I was doing, and then, "Whom," I looked to the right and saw my ball dribbling into the rough, before the women's tee.

Now I know what this means, but give me a break. It's my first drive on a golf course — ever.

We make par, with me being of no help. But at least we're still at the Mendoza line.

Hole 8: Another sad drive, but this time I manage to get past the women's tee. No help again, but we're still at par.

Hole 9: Here is where it gets good. I pull out the driver in hopes that I just might hit one straight. I'm taking my time, making sure to get a good swing. My team needs two of my drives to count during the day, so I want them out of the way as early as possible.

I take a mammoth cut and, "Crack" is followed by an immediate "Snap." "That can't be good," runs through my head.

While my teammates are happy with the shot, I'm amazed to be holding two halves of a driver that snapped just under the grip when it came across my back. Still, it was one of the two drives of mine we used. We made par, but I was out one driver for the rest of the round.

On to Hole 1 East. Nothing to talk about here. I was brutal, but my teammates came through for another par. Four holes in, we're dead even — not great, not bad.

Then it happened on Hole 2. I whiffed on my drive attempt. I blew my only good shot. I had — no whiffs. Though it happened to be my only one of the day, it was still disheartening. We suffer a bogey, and I'm gettin' ticked. Things go from ticked to lost on Hole 3. My first (last ball of the day on a drive that had no intentions of going straight. I'm pretty sure the Crocodile Hunter couldn't find this one.

Hole 4: Enter rain. My game is already soaked. But Mother Nature wants to get in a quick laugh during my first round. We used my second shot, much to everyone's surprise, but my only wonder is, "What is the bee car at this point." It certainly can't hurt my game.

Hole 5: I almost made a 40-foot putt from the fringe off the green. It came up about three feet short, but it was dead on.

It's right about now I'm starting to get it. The golf gods give you a good shot every now and then just to keep you interested. Pool's gold, in other words.

Hole 6: Another lost ball. The Nike golf ball manufacturers love me.

Seventh: Another fiasco all the way around.

Eighth: A par 3. C'mon.

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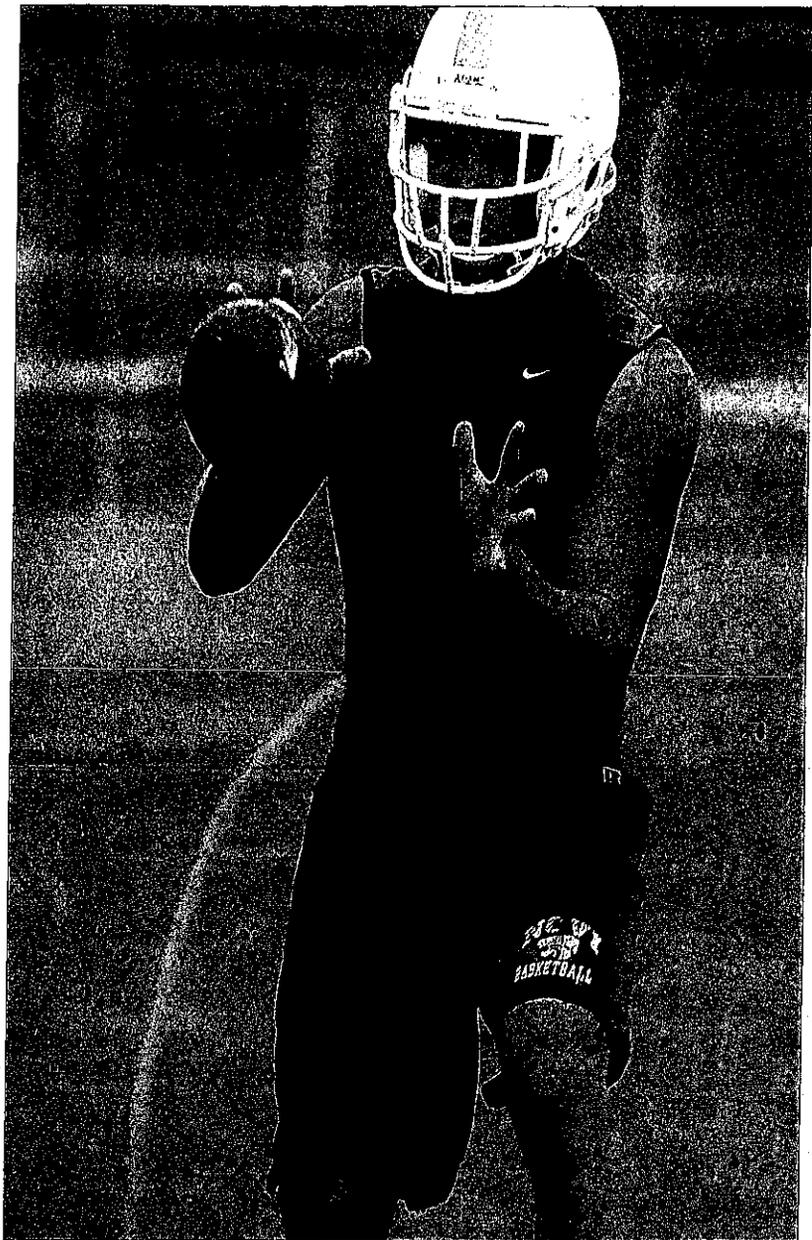


Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

Novi runningback Tom Spislich works on a foot-agility drill as he keeps his eye on a ball headed his way during training camp.

No such thing as off in offseason anymore

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Coaches often throw a simple phrase at athletes, hoping it will stick: Offseason practice makes champions.

Some kids will heed the advice. Others will simply rely on their God-given gifts once the season starts.

But most coaches know the difference right away.

"As soon as the football season begins, you can see the kids, pretty obviously, that have been running and working out," Novi head football coach Tab Kelleppourey said. "You definitely notice if a kid's taking care of himself."

Almost every sport has some

sort of offseason conditioning program. Cross country runners run. Basketball players can play pickup games and lift weights.

Point is, if a kid doesn't do his homework, he's way behind when practices and the season begin.

"We started using a program called CClug," Northville girls' cross country coach Nancy Smith said. "Runners log in and log their miles that they run or cross training that they do. I think it's a huge advantage to the team, as teammates can see what each other is doing. It makes them more aware of what others on their team do and the commitment level that others are making."

"This summer, we have had

more kids than ever running summer mileage and doing weights."

Novi soccer coach Brian O'Leary's teams have voluntary practices run by the captains.

"It helps if players go because during upsets we do a lot of running," O'Leary said. "If a player is not already in shape, the running can hurt their play, and then they may not make the team."

"Another reason it helps is the actual season starts one week after playoffs begin. If the group as a whole is in good shape when it starts, it will help the team in the first few non-league games."

Kelleppourey spells out exactly what he expects from his kids in the offseason.

"We've got a summer develop-

ment program that goes on four days a week... two hours a day," he said. "We're seeing the value of them working out."

"At the end of the school year we gave them about an eight-week course to follow. If they've been applying themselves in terms of the running and working out, they come in and they're in great shape."

While offseason workouts are highly recommended, coaches of some sports have to warn against overdoing it. A major problem for runners is tired legs — a case of tiring too many miles without enough recovery time that simply wears out the runner's legs.

Basketball players can get "dead arm" by throwing too many

innings during the offseason.

They're the same sort of circumstances, just in a different part of the body.

Mostly, though, coaches prefer players who are willing to put in too much work to one expecting to turn on the light switch when it's time.

"We view conditioning as a gradual approach," Kelleppourey said. "Some kids are in better condition right now, but over the course of time everything begins to even out again."

"I do think if a kid's better conditioned, it prevents a step from injury."

Sports writer Jeff Theisen can be reached at 313-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheisen@gannett.com.

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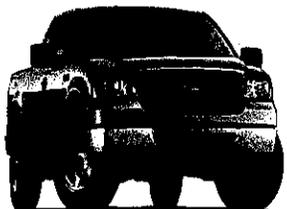
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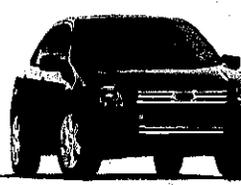
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ON THE MOVE

Northville has a lot to offer area runners

Northville is a very active running, walking and biking community. We are fortunate to have sidewalks throughout the city and the new areas of the township, numerous bike paths, and easy access to Hines Drive and Maybury State Park. For many residents, visiting downtown Northville is an easy walk from home.

To better reflect these interests, today City of Northville resident Jerry Blittman begins a monthly guest column, "On the Move."

The column will focus on running and walking at all levels—from beginners to the experienced, from casual to competitive. Enjoy!

Hello!

Before I begin, let me tell you a little about my running background. While I am an avid runner and running plays an important role in my life, I consider myself a "typical runner." And I certainly know what it is like to "take a little time off" from running. I am a 36-year Northville resident and a Ford Motor Company retiree who once took a 30-year break from running following my high school cross country days.

At age 47, I started running on a regular basis again to help lose a few extra pounds and to improve my physical fitness. During the last 14 years, I have run over 570 races, including 52 marathons. And I once thought running would be extremely boring.

Doing this has not always been easy, but I did it. And you can achieve your running or walking goals, too. How? Like most journeys, it begins with a single step. Through this column, I hope to assist you along the way.

This week, let's take a look at a few of my favorite places to run and train.

Great places to run and train

There are many great places to run, walk and train in Northville, featuring some exceptional venues. Here are just a few favorites:

- The shady streets and sidewalks in the city (especially good on a hot summer day).
- Hines Drive with its rolling hills. This 18-mile course is excellent for training runs (and biking) of any distance. (Hines starts off Seven Mile Road, just east of Stikolon Road.)
- Maybury State Park with a choice of paved trails and hiking paths. It is a great place to enjoy the spring wildflowers and fall colors. (The main entrance is on Eight Mile Road, between Beck and Napier roads. A day use or annual permit is required.)
- Northville High School Track (next to Cowke School on Taft Road). When it comes to running intervals and speed work, this is the place to go. It is available when not in use by the schools.
- Kensington Metro Park (north of 196 in Milford; a day use or annual permit is required). The bike path around Kent Lake is eight miles long and it is marked every quarter mile. This scenic route offers rolling hills, shady areas and great views.

Each month, several events will be featured. If you are not able or ready to run or walk an event but would like to be involved, consider volunteering. It is fun and gratifying.

• Aug. 26: The Crim Festival of Races in Flint (30th running). It is the day that comes to life with events for runners and walkers at all levels and a post race party. The main event is the 10-mile run at 8 a.m. Other events include an 8K run/walk, 5K run/walk, 1 mile run/walk and a Teddy Bear Trot. (www.crim.org)

• Sept. 23: Fall Color 5K Run/Walk at Maybury State Park. This event starts at 10 a.m. and is sponsored by the Michigan State Police. This is a great way to see the park. Last year, the post race food featured Krispy Kream doughnuts (after all, this is a "donut" event). For more info, www.mspri.com.

If you have suggestions and comments for future columns topics, please send them via e-mail to jim997@bellsouth.com.

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CC wrestler comes home to coach

By Susan Smiley
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Catholic Central alum and former Shamrocks star wrestler Mitch Hancock will return to his alma mater this fall to teach business classes and coach his former team. He will be an assistant coach this season but is poised to take over as head coach when longtime coach Mike Rodriguez retires next year.

"It's time for me to leave," said Rodriguez. "I'm 75, and it is time for someone younger to take the program. Mitch is an awesome young man, and I know he is going to be a great leader for Catholic Central wrestling."

Hancock graduated from Catholic Central in 2000, before the school moved from Redford to Novi. He was a state champion in the 160-pound class his senior year. He was state runner-up as a junior and placed fourth as a sophomore. After high school, Hancock wrestled for Central Michigan University, where he placed seventh at the Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association championships as a senior. He spent last season as an assistant coach at CMU but thought often about returning to the high school scene.

Although he had coaching offers from other high schools, including potential powerhouse Davison, it was Hancock's alma mater that jiggled at his heart. When Rodriguez contacted his

"I don't even know if I can fit into coach Rodriguez's shoes. Even now, when I listen to the guy, I still get goose bumps."

Mitch Hancock
On succeeding Mike Rodriguez as CC's wrestling coach

former student about a possible coaching job, Hancock knew that was where he was meant to be. "I got a call from coach Rod halfway through this past season, and he told me he was getting tired and thinking of retiring," Hancock said. "He asked me if I would be happy to become his successor, and my heart just started beating really hard."

Relates to kids

One of the most dedicated wrestlers to grace the mats, Hancock used to get up at 5 a.m. every day when he was in high school just to run a few miles before class. Three knee surgeries have changed his morning ritual to sitting on the couch watching ESPN while surfing wrestling Web sites on his laptop, but Hancock is just as dedicated to teaching his craft as he was to perfecting it.

At Catholic Central's wrestling camp early in July, Hancock

"I don't even know if I can fit into coach Rodriguez's shoes." Hancock said. "Even now, when I listen to the guy, I still get goose bumps. He is known for producing state placers and state champions, and I would like to build on that by getting to team states and winning a championship."

Like coming home

Hancock expects to develop the same personal rapport with his wrestlers that Rodriguez has with his. While Hancock was attending CMU, he talked regularly with his former coach, who helped him through some rough times on the mat.

"I knew what he was going to go through because I have seen what happens to freshman wrestlers sometimes," Rodriguez said. "I told him what he was going through would make him grow stronger, and I believe it did."

Hancock is in the process of moving from Big Rapids to Novi. When he visited Catholic Central in the spring to interview for a teaching position, he said, it felt like he was coming home.

The principal greeted me and said it was about time we got an alum on staff who knows what it is like to go to school here," Hancock said. "It's just great to return to an all-boys school and see the kind of bonds that form. It is like being part of a family, and I'm just very excited to be coming back."

Hancock hopes he can be half as successful.

A first and maybe a last

continued from page 1B

This looks reachable. I have a shot, right? Nope. The drive goes perfectly into the fairway, only it's not my fairway. I've asked my partner if she would mind if I cried, and she says to go for it. How is that for encouragement?

Ninth: Again, out comes the 3 wood for an attempt at a bone-crushing drive, only to hit a pop fly that a little league catcher would've easily caught. And people actually pay good money to play this game?

Done with the East (Thank God) and back to finish up the West.

I hit my best shot of the day so far. A second shot that goes somewhere around 200 yards and straight. It bounced off the green, but it was easily found and playable — two things that you couldn't say after most of my shots.

Hole 2: Another one bites the dust. I'm starting to sing a song in my head: "Looking for lost golf balls in all the wrong places."

Hole 3: By now I've reduced myself to trying a

Happy Gilmore approach, and darned if it didn't work. We didn't really know where the ball landed because it was busy bouncing around some bird's nest, but it actually came back down on the short stuff and was used as my second drive. We finally made our first birdie, after retracing our steps to four shots on a par five. We're above par, well above par, but it's nice to say birdie at the end of a hole.

Hole 4: Another par 3, and this time I made a good shot. It was about 10 feet off the green, but playable. The closest shot off the tee to the green I would make all day. But, we still didn't use my drive.

Hole 5: We all miss a birdie attempt from close range. It's official. I'm agitated. My competitiveness is ready to play helicopter with my putter.

Hole 6: The end. My prayers have been answered. And again, Mother Nature decides to get one last laugh in with a driving rain. The drive is miserable, but the second



Jeff Thisen shows off his driver that couldn't handle his shot on the third hole during his first ever round of golf.

if it takes me another 33 years to play. I'm as good as a birdie.

I apologize to my foursome for my hideous play, but know that you are all one step closer to heaven for the patience you had.

Me, on the other hand, I'm off to go buy a driver.

Sports writer Jeff Thisen can be reached at 348-1700, ext. 104 or at jthisen@gannett.com.

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Get ready for some football!

Novi football coach Tab Kellepourey got his first taste of 2006-07 Wildcat football on Monday. Teams across the state took to the practice fields for the first time for the first of three days of non-pads practice.

"It's great to get out there and start coaching football and to see a team come together, to work out together and hustle," Kellepourey said of day one. "It's always exciting to start the season that way."

"The attitudes were great. The coaches that were out there really worked those kids."

Most of the first day is spent handing out equipment and making sure everyone has the proper paperwork filled out to practice. But Kellepourey said once the team made it to the field, things were off to a good start.

"It's such a big start-up process," he said. "You have to have so many things in check. I always think that first day, it's kind of a slow start."

"But once we get on that field... everything begins to fit in place really well."

Getting on the field is one thing for Kellepourey; getting in pads is another.

"Until you put pads on and knock people around, you really can't see the true flavor of that team," Kellepourey said. "(Today) and Friday are more telling signs for us as coaches."

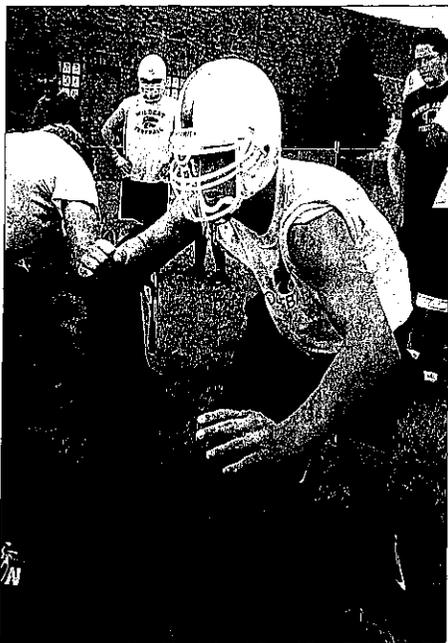
The varsity team had 64 kids come out with another 34 at junior varsity and 50 freshmen.

Football is a lifestyle for Kellepourey and his assistants. "Football is usually on my mind about 365 days of the year, no matter what we do," he said.

"But from Aug. 7, it's on everybody's mind."



Daniel Simmons, right, and other Wildcat defensive linemen practice on covering various offensive schemes during Monday's camp.



Wildcat defensive lineman Trey Hoover sheds a block and looks for a ball-carrier during a Monday afternoon training camp at Novi High.



Novi High varsity football linemen work on their hand and foot positioning during an afternoon session.



Coach John Casbourne hypes the ball to one of his quarterbacks during Monday afternoon's varsity football camp.

Story by
JEFF THEISEN

Photos by **JOHN HEIDER**
Novi News

SPORTS SHORTS

Novi girls tennis tryouts

The Novi girls tennis team will hold tryouts 8-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Aug. 14-15 at the Novi Middle School courts. Junior varsity will hold tryouts 8-11 a.m. Aug. 16-18 at the high school courts. A physical exam form is required to practice.

Powercats schedule tryouts

The 2007 10U Novi Powercats travel baseball tryouts are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Aug. 20 and 4:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at Sulliko Masi Home Loans Field, located in Maybury State Park, off Eight Mile Road. For more information, see noviliveofbaseball.org.

Brandon Inge to appear at Verizon store

Metro Detroiters can come meet Detroit Tiger Brandon Inge and get his autograph at the Verizon Wireless Communications Store in Novi between 1 and 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19.

The company is having a free child safety event for families. The event is from noon to 4 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless Communications Store on 12 Mile Road in Novi. There will be plenty of activities for children of all ages, including a balloon artist, strolling magician, and a temporary tattoo artist. Local firefighters and police officers will talk about safety issues as well as offer free child identification kits, which include fingerprinting.

U-11 Travel Baseball tryouts

Tryouts for the Novi Powercats U-11 Baseball Travel Team will be 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 12 and 8-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 22 at the Maybury State Park field. Players must be 11 years old or younger on or before May 1, 2007. The coaching philosophy provides for a positive fun environment with a focus on teaching the

players the fundamentals along with encouraging the players to enjoy the game while competing at a high level. The season is March-June, which is designed so that players at this age can learn and participate in other sports.

If interested, you will be encouraged to contact parents from this year's team to gain information regarding the coaching staff, etc. Please contact Jim Cox, head coach, (248) 735-0410 or Todd Hoyer, manager, (248) 247-2182.

A couple of the coaches' goals are for each player to feel like they are an important part of the team and to have so much fun with baseball, that the player will want to continue playing year after year.

Roller hockey league looking for players

Anyone interested in playing roller hockey during the 2006-07 school year can contact Jim Erickson at (248) 349-4337. Efforts are to get two teams to play in the High School League at Warren. This is not a school-sponsored event.

Motor City Madness to host two clinics

The Novi Motor City Madness will be hosting two clinics: Monday, Aug. 21 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for a defensive girls fast pitch clinic and Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. for an offensive clinic.

They clinics cost \$20 each or \$30 for both; an additional \$5 if not registered before Aug. 19.

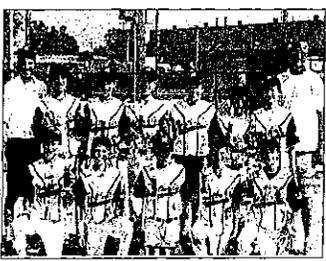
The tryouts for Motor City Madness' fast pitch softball will be Sept. 10 and Sept. 17. Girls 10 and under — 9-11 a.m. Girls 12 and under — 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Girls 14 and under — 1-3 p.m. Contact Chris Lawler (248) 735-1993 for more information regarding the clinics and the tryouts.



Submitted photo

Northville's All Americans

Northville runners Lindsay Hagan and Jason Turnbull both qualified at All Americans at the United States Track and Field Junior Olympics held July 26-30 at Morgan State University in Maryland. Hagan finished third in the 3,000-meter run at 10:42. She also placed 11th in the 1,500 meters in 5:02. Turnbull finished eighth in the 1,500 meters. The top eight in each event earned All-American status. The national event brings in 5,700 athletes from all 50 states, making it the largest track meet in the world.



Submitted photo

Mustangs Riding High

The Northville Mustangs U12 baseball team won their second straight tournament of the year by winning the Riverview Baseball Association U12 Championship. The Mustangs pounded out 91 runs in five games against teams from Allen Park, Wyandotte, Southgate and Trenton. Mitch Alameddine, Max Williams and Trevor Marsh all shared the majority of the pitching duties, allowing a tournament-low 23 runs in the five games. Peter Halash led the hitting parade with 14 hits and a .560 batting average for the tourney. Trevor Marsh hammered 11 hits for a .321 average and Ryan Powell added 10 hits including a two run homer. Alex Fisher had 9 hits for a .529 average, Brad Stegmeyer and Max Harrison had 8 hits a piece and both also averaged over .500. Marshall Williams, Nick Gingell and Michael Walukas had multiple hit games and all maintained an over .500 on base percentage.

Bottom row: (from left) Trevor Marsh, Peter Halash, Michael Walukas, Max Williams, Nick Gingell. Top Row: Coach Chay Halash, Ryan Powell, Mitch Alameddine, Brad Stegmeyer, Alex Fisher, Max Williams, Max Harrison and Head Coach Todd Williams.

Family Links

David (right) and Andrew Ukrop of Novi won third place at a father-son golf tournament July 17 at the Stonebridge Golf Club in Ann Arbor. The twosome combined to shoot a 71 in a scramble format.

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Submitted photo

Bronco's Place 22nd

Each year, two 12-year-old teams from The Northville Baseball and Softball Association travel to Cooperstown New York with their families to represent the Northville Community and to compete against 95 top-level travel teams from across the country. The U-12 Bronco's have enjoyed many accomplishments winning several tournaments, but certainly none as thrilling as last week's 22nd-place finish in this national event. After seven games (4-3 record) of pool play, the team battled to victory in four single elimination rounds before being eliminated by a Virginia team. Standing (from left): Greg Putman, Joel Pennington, Mike O'Sullivan, Jeff Hewlett, Billy Mitchell. Sitting: Jeff Gertley, Brett MacDonald, Connor Smith, Andre Polerale, Trey Stominski, Mike Schultz, Bobby Nayth. Coaches: Mike Putman, Chris Schultz, Gary Nayth.



Submitted photo

Big Mac Attack!

The Novi Youth Baseball League Pony Division Championship between the Big Macs and the Moidy Cheese Slicks came down to the final at bats with the Big Macs winning 12-11. The Cheese Slicks led 11-6 in the fifth inning before the Big Macs started a rally that finished with Nick Colocchino knocking in the winning run in the seventh inning for the Big Macs. Pictured (from left): Coach Mike Colocchino, Coach Chuck Anway, Jordan Jabbari, Chad Halash, Jimmy Pletcher, Mark Anway, Dan Egner, Mark Mieser, Nick Colocchino (with game ball), Ryan Jok, Matt Volchoff, Coach Dave Egner, Andrew Palmer, Coach Rick Jok.

THE HOTTEST MOVIE OF THE SUMMER!

Every second chance begins with a first step.

STEP UP

STARTS FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP |
| STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP | STEP UP |

Now It Comes With A List Of Ingredients.

A short new report from your water supplier will tell you what's in your tap water. Look for your report and read it. When it comes to your drinking water, the most important ingredient is you.

SEPA Drinking Water. Know What's In It For You.

Call your water supplier or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. Or visit www.epa.gov/astwater

Home Owners... Your Home's Safety & Efficiency!

Hints for Homeowners

Tips On Avoiding Home Safety Risks
It's a good time of year for you to focus on the maintenance of your home—not only the inside of your home but outside too, making sure the home is safe and properly maintained. Doing this will help to prevent safety risks and costly repairs in the future.

Inspect the deck: Wooden decks can be damaged and softened over time and exposure to weather conditions. Check for any nails or screws which may be popping up. Power wash the deck and seal it with a good UV sealant.

Check electrical outlets: Replace any loose fitting plugs and covers to prevent a safety hazard. Replace the covers if plugs are Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) protected.

"Depress" the grass: If the family car has been taking oil or other fluids onto the garage floor, now is a great time to clean it up. A greasy garage floor is slippery and potentially a fire hazard. Use non-toxic, non-flammable, biodegradable degreasers. Pour the concentrate on the spill and scrub with a nylon brush.

Close the gaps: Close the gaps with about an inch of styrofoam or particle board floor joists. Use materials which are available at various auto parts stores and let it sit for 24 hours. Sweep away the material for a clean floor.

Check the garage door: The garage door can weigh up to 400 pounds. Springs and balancing mechanisms can fail over time which can cause great damage to the door and harm to people. Now's a good time to take a close look at the springs.

To avoid safety risks and expensive repairs: Hire a professional to do a good safety check to get a complete home inspection from a reputable and established company such as Home Pros.

Improve the yard with size in mind: Landscaping with low bushes and trees will grow during the past year. They may be too large and could cause damage to the home's structure. Leave enough space between the home and the shrubs to allow 12" between the plant and wall. This provides adequate ventilation and reduces the risk of future damage.

Clean the A/C: Use your garden hose to rinse off the evaporator coil fins on your A/C condenser unit. Remove debris, leaves, etc. out of the exterior unit to have it run efficiently and cool the home properly.

Inspect smoke and carbon monoxide detectors: Test them and change the batteries every three months as needed. Be certain there is a Carbon Monoxide detector on each floor of the home. We recommend a smoke detector in each bedroom, laundry room, and basement to help prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. A good idea is to have a certified electrician when making electrical changes and upgrades to your home.

How is your Attic Ventilation and Insulation?
Do you know that this is the most common issue found in homes? Insulation has blocked the soffit attic vents which increase the heat in the attic which can cause air to rise and heat the home. We recommend upgrading to the older style two prong duplex outlets to a modern three prong grounded outlet to provide modern electrical safety practices. This will help to avoid injury risks and expensive repairs down the road. It's also a good idea to have a certified electrician when making electrical changes and upgrades to your home.

Home owners should understand that there are just some of the general items that should be checked to help you save on your energy costs and improve home safety issues.
We provide home owners with a complete Home Inspection Report to identify ways you can improve the home energy efficiency of your home to help you save energy costs as well as identify any safety issues you may not be aware of in your home.

Call us to have your home checked. We provide a 1000 point computer generated inspection report and review this report in detail with you on site at the conclusion of our inspection.

We provide you this report in a sleek ring binder with a Home Maintenance and Repair CD as well as a Seasonal Check list to remind you of items to help get ready for the coming seasons. The binder also includes a home filing system to let you file and maintain an orderly record of home maintenance receipts & home energy use.

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We also provide home owners with the following Environmental Testing Services:

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- Water & Air Quality Testing
- Test Insulation
- Test for Sepsis Infections
- Home Energy Surveys
- Environmental Data Reports
- Custom Inspections for Law Suits of your home.

Sheryl's School of Dance: In perfect step

Novi dance school wins nationals

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

SHERYL'S SCHOOL OF DANCE

Location: 40500 Grand River Avenue in Novi, between Meadowbrook and Haggerty Roads

Phone: (248) 473-1160

Web: www.sherylsdance.com

Sign up for fall classes, call (248) 473-1160.

Sheryl's School of Dance is one of the top dance academies in the nation. It was voted number one after winning a dozen awards in the national dance competition in Myrtle Beach.

"We are so proud of how well our students did at nationals," said owner Sheryl Sulek. "The students and the teachers are fabulous at what they do."

At the last national competition, dance teams from Sheryl's earned awards like Overall Super Grand Champions, Highest score, Best of Show, Petite Champions, Junior Champions, Teen Champions and Senior Champions of 2005 Myrtle Beach National Championships. The academy also earned awards for Best Choreography, Future Star and Dance USA National Overall Star Studio.

Avenue studio. Yet at every competition, the teams pull through and bring home still more trophies.

"Why is the Novi dance school so successful? Winning comes from a combination of hard work, experience and skill.

It all starts with staff expertise. Owners Sheryl Sulek and Arline Hahn have been running the studio for 45 years. As a gifted dancer, Sheryl started



Students from Sheryl's School of Dance line up at the bar at their 40500 Grand River Avenue location in Novi. For more information, call (248) 473-1160.

"People always comment how professional we are. That's what separates us from the rest."

Arline Hahn
Sheryl's School of Dance, Novi



Three generations at Novi's Sheryl's School of Dance: Back row: Sheryl Sulek, Arline Hahn, Jackie Sulek and Julie Hughes. Front row: Madison and Kylie Hughes, Julie's daughters.

in Detroit with a few children and a lot of talent. Arline worked hand in hand with Sheryl to help grow the studio.

As their reputation for quality instruction grew, families flocked to the studio. Sheryl's moved to Livonia then finally to the current Novi location 13 years ago. During that time, the staff has seen a lot of competition and have learned what works well.

Sheryl's daughters Jackie Sulek and Julie Hughes grew up in the studio and were a part of every recital and competition. Jackie and Julie later graduated into the role of instructors and have led the top dance teams into competition. Their loyalty and dedication to the studio is as strong as their family ties.

Over the years, the staff has learned that professionalism is a crucial part of performance. And the professional attitude doesn't stop when the curtain falls. It's a higher standard of conduct behind the scenes of competitions and recitals, during rehearsals and during every day life.

"People always comment how professional we are," said Arline. "That's what separates us from the rest."

"This applies to the recre-

ational dance classes as well. Many students choose non-competitive recreational dance classes at Sheryl's. The same quality teaching and professional attitude are a part of the recreational classes.

Skill and experience enable staff to put together award-winning choreography that exhibits the skill of the dancers, but is also entertaining to watch. The combination of innovative choreography and creative costuming helps Sheryl's shine above the rest.

But it's the dancers themselves that play the biggest role in winning awards. The students put in many hours of rigorous training each week. Most are involved in classes several days a week. They hone their technique and pushed themselves physically for the ultimate in strength, flexibility and coordination.

"It's not just about fun, it's about working toward your absolute best," said Sheryl. "That's what makes it fun."

Instructors make sure that the kids enjoy the work and contin-

ue to grow. There's a lot of satisfaction in seeing progress over a week or over a year.

The students work together towards a common goal, so that in the process close friendships and team bonds are formed.

"Dance lessons aren't just a place to learn, they are a place to spend time with best friends who are like brothers and sisters," said Sheryl.

Sheryl's School of Dance offers both recreational and competitive classes for students of all ages — from preschool through adults.

The Recreational program is designed to provide students of all ages the skills to enjoy music and dance for a lifetime, as well as building self-esteem, confidence, poise and creativity.

Tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical dance and hip-hop are all on the fall schedule.

To sign up for fall classes call (248) 473-1160 or stop by the studio, located at 40500 Grand River Avenue, between Meadowbrook and Haggerty Roads in Novi.

Celebrating 46 Years of Dance Excellence

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