

YOUR HOT TICKET

Oktoberfest

The President's Council of Detroit Public Television is planning a rollicking family-oriented Oktoberfest at the Riley Broadcast Center in Wixom from 2-7 p.m. Saturday, benefiting Detroit Public Television. It will be an afternoon of fun and games for the whole family, highlighted by the contagious energy of Tommy Scherber and the Sound of Sengenbrecher, a celebrated, authentic four-piece German band. All will enjoy the chance to sing-along and "dance-along" with these lively entertainers.

To delight pre-schoolers, Detroit Public Television's popular "My Bed Bugs" will present a live performance and will be greeting their fans throughout the afternoon. DPTV's "Get Up! Get Out!" hosts Fred Nathel and Kelly Hamilton will also be on hand. To tempt older children and grown-ups to test their skills, 21 carnival games, a moonwalk and an obstacle course are available for free.

What would an Oktoberfest be without German beer and the aroma of brats and sauerkraut cooking and ready to enjoy? For the younger folks, pizza and hot dogs are also on the menu.

Admission to Oktoberfest is free. Parking fee is \$5. The Riley Broadcast Center is located at 1 Clover Court in Wixom, at Grand River Ave. and Napier Road, one mile west of Wixom Road.

Look inside for your **GREEN SHEET Classifieds**

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- Fax: (248) 249-9832
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Be Scene in Novi

Gae McCord was delighted to share the Old Tyme Carnival at Fox Run this weekend with granddaughter Maria

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Novi News

Your hometown newspaper celebrating its 51st year serving Novi and the Lakes area

Thursday, October 12, 2006

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50¢

Volume 51 Number 20

Novi, Michigan

How to fix Beck?

Novi weighs options, strives to balance growth, neighborhood concerns

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

It's probably not even going to happen any time soon — but tensions are already flaring.

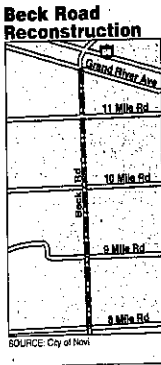
The issue: reconfiguring Beck Road between Eight Mile Road and Grand River Avenue in Novi.

The problem: determining the scope of the project so it balances the concerns of neighborhood residents with the commuting needs of a burgeoning city.

adage, you can't please all the people all the time," said Rob Hayes, city engineer.

"We're taking everyone's input," Hayes said.

What could happen



Like fathers, like sons
Catholic Central's annual Fathers & Sons Field Day, put on by the school's Dad's Club, drew nearly 200 people. See the story and more photos on page 11A.

Novi schools redistricted

Recent vote displeases many Deerfield parents, voters

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Linda Conroy thinks she's been naive.

The vote could lead to a possible bond issue in the May 2007 election.

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Caring in the kitchen

Nine local folks cook up a weekly church fund-raiser

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

west of Mendonbrook Road.

YOUR NOVI Neighbors



Joanne Ward volunteers in the Novi First United Methodist Church's Kitchen to host the Novi Rotary.

Jeff Nielson replaces Dan Austin on school board

By Renee Saunders
STAFF WRITER

Austin's four-year term at the end of the meeting.

The remaining two years of Austin's term are up for election in 2007.

State law required the school district to fill the position within 30 days.

daughter, Ritough, at Orchard Hills.

Just ask Kathy Ballard.

Ballard is the kitchen supervisor at Novi United Methodist Church located at 41674 10 Mile.

And, he said he plans to hold on to his seat longer than the few months currently allotted to him.

And, he said he plans to hold on to his seat longer than the few months currently allotted to him.

Nielson said he wanted to be on the school board because he enjoys being involved in the community and because his family-

Jeff Nielson was appointed by the school board to serve the remaining nine months of

assistant superintendent for human resources.

Austin resigned last month because his

Nielson, 40, has two second-graders, his son, Evan, and his

continued on page 6A

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Pillar to Post of Novi

Offering thorough inspections for home buyers

A thorough home inspection can often save a homeowner or prospective buyer thousands of dollars — and big headaches. Randy Patterson at Pillar to Post of Novi offers an inspection that is literally from each Pillar to Post.

Instead of just walking through, Patterson gets under eaves and on roofs, inspecting every aspect of the home and all of its systems. Nothing is left untouched, including plumbing, insulation, floors, drainage, foundation, electrical, cable, telephone, appliances, ventilation, basement, plus heating and cooling systems. Patterson literally tests out each appliance, examines the inside of toilets, climbs into the attic and peeks in the gutters.

"Just because someone has a flashlight doesn't mean they know what they are doing," said Patterson. "It's important to have a qualified inspector that can tell you what is wrong with the home, and what it would take to make it right."

Patterson has owned and operated the business for four years, after a lifetime of related work. His job experience includes: U.S. Navy maintenance worker, certified electrician, telephone and computer technology expert, consultant for a high-tech company, roofer and plumber's assistant. There's not a system in the house he is not familiar with. The training and licensure process with Pillar to Post also honed his skills and taught him to make his expertise work for his customers. Patterson has numerous certifications and memberships, including the American Society of Home Inspectors, National Association of Home Inspectors, Michigan Association of Inspectors and several affiliations with realty groups and chambers of commerce.

The Novi resident travels to homes throughout Oakland and Livingston Counties for a number of different inspection services. To help those selling a home, Pillar to Post offers a pre-inspection program. Advertising a home as pre-inspected can provide a boost in the selling process. Patterson provides a thorough inspection and provides suggestions for how sellers can fix the most urgent issues. He'll tell them how to fix the problems themselves or provide referrals for reliable contractors.

"By doing a pre-inspection they could spend a couple hundred dollars on improvements that could save them hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long run."

Pillar to Post also offers thorough inspections for home buyers. A quality inspection can save consumers from buying a home with a hidden problem and it also can help buyers reduce the purchase price by uncovering defects.

"We will give buyers peace of mind that they know the true condition of the house," said Patterson. Patterson also offers inspections for homeowners who want to make sure that the house they live in is environmentally safe, and is being maintained adequately. By inspecting an attic or basement, Patterson can help homeowners make changes that will prevent moisture and mold from ruining a home. Patterson can help homeowners save thousands of dollars, by providing suggestions about their current insulation, roofing or drainage.

Homeowners can also call Pillar to Post for air, soil and water testing, to make sure that they are living in a healthy environment. This autumn Pillar to Post is offering \$75 off an environmental testing package that includes Radon Testing - 2 Air Sample Test - Water Quality Test - Attic Insulation & Ventilation Check - Basement Check - Exterior Drainage Check - Electrical Check. This autumn check up special is now only \$395.

For more information about Pillar to Post, call toll free (877) 477-3800 or go to www.pillartopost.com/westoaklandlivingston.

By Kate Phillips



Randy Patterson, owner of Pillar to Post home inspection service, will scope out a home from its gutters to its gas furnace.

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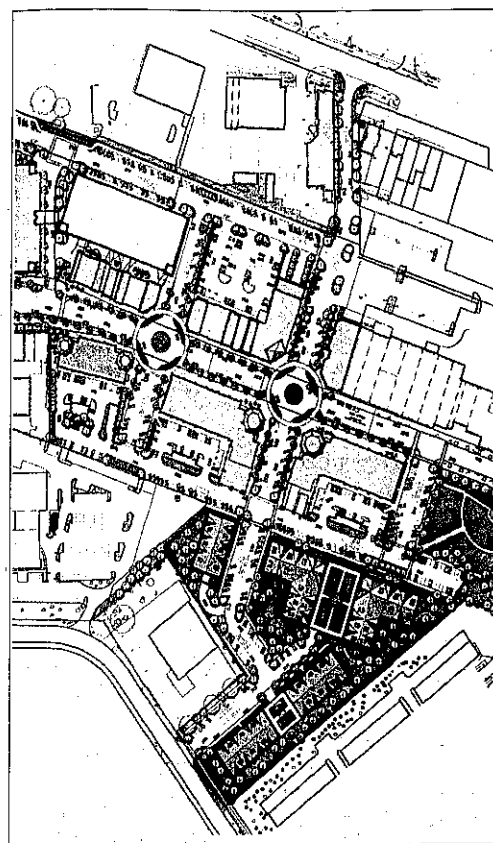
COMMUNITY

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Safety questioned on proposed traffic circles along Main Street

Engineer wants mini-roundabouts

By Pam Fleming
SAFF/WHITEN



Stephen Dearing knows that, unfortunately, drivers don't always stop at traffic signs. "I've got a video clip of a car rolling over a pedestrian because they failed to do so," said Dearing, manager of traffic engineering at Orchard, Hillz & McCliment in Livonia.

Dearing advises the city Novi on traffic issues. And, he has serious concerns about traffic circles and the stop signs proposal with them for the Main Street Novi project.

He expressed these concerns during a Sept. 27 planning commission meeting and suggests instead using mini-roundabouts on Main Street of Novi Road.

The project is being proposed by Triangle Main Street, LLC, under the direction of Dave and Fiere. Nova of Triangle Development in Farmington Hills.

Planning commission members voted unanimously that night to recommend that city council approve a preliminary site plan for the \$150-plus-million development.

They also voted to send a positive recommendation to city council on the project's wetland permit and storm water management plan.

Summary called "superficial"
Dearing said he started to "get his hackles up" after reviewing the proposed traffic circles, calling the summary of the traffic circles by McKenna & Associates of Northville "superficial."

He misses the point as far as operational and safety issues that distinguish traffic circles from roundabouts," he said.

abouts have superior safety characteristics over traffic circles," he said.

A traffic circle brings traffic up to the circulating roadway perpendicular to that road basically in a series of T-shaped intersections.

When motorists drive up to a traffic circle, they have to figure out if an approaching vehicle is exiting the circle or not.

If their judgment is wrong, and they drive into the path of that vehicle, "You're looking at a roadside crash at the driver's discretion."

continued on next page

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Although the preliminary site plan made it through planning commission, McKenna & Associates, Inc. of Northville and Stephen Dearing, the city's traffic engineer, still have to review safety issues regarding the proposed traffic circles (indicated above) or the use of urban compact or mini-roundabouts.

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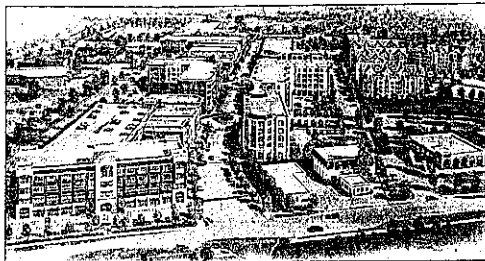


Illustration by Steve Fitz
Planning commission members unanimously voted to send a positive recommendation to Novi City Council on the preliminary site plan, wetland permit and storm water management plan for Triangle Development's \$150-plus-million MainStreet Novi project on Sept. 27. This is an architect's rendering of the view of Main Street from Novi Road.

Wetland situation also reviewed

Woodlands by mall considered as mitigation site

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

John Freeland wants to make sure that the city of Novi does the right thing when it comes to the proposed MainStreet Novi project.

A wetland consultant with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., Freeland asked questions at the Sept. 27 planning commission meeting about the wetland that Triangle Development plans to eliminate.

The developer plans to construct a park and pond shell that would completely fill in a wetland in the area at Main and Market streets.

Freeland, who performed a preliminary wildlife assessment on the wetland, said blue heron, snowy egret and turtle, are present in the pond at the site. The Main Street wetland is both city and state regulated, and an application has been presented to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to mitigate the wetland.

Besides the wildlife component, the wetland holds water and has an aesthetic benefit. Another benefit is cooling, which is often overlooked.

"Cities are heat islands," Freeland said.

Miss, minimize or mitigate

When it comes to wetlands and development, it's a case of the three M's — miss, minimize or mitigate according to Freeland.

"You can leave it (the wetland) there, minimize the impact on it or mitigate it, which is compensatory replacement," he said.

Triangle's MainStreet Novi plan fills the wetland entirely, with no part of it to be preserved. Currently, an area has been

Engineer wants mini-roundabouts

continued from page 3A

door," according to Dearing.

A roundabout, however, angles the entry, so if a driver does misjudge an approaching vehicle, only a sideswipe would take place.

Architects for the project say they don't have room for a full roundabout. But, Dearing said there are urban compact or mini-roundabouts.

"I have absolutely no doubt that a correct roundabout design can be developed...that will have superior safety and operational implications," Dearing said.

The traffic engineer said studies show roundabouts have typically half the crashes of a normal signalized intersection.

They also offer a 60-70 percent drop in personal injuries, and about an 80 percent drop in fatalities compared to a signalized intersection, he added.

"We are more than happy to work with the engineer to make these intersections as safe as possible," said Alicia Heidemann, associate planner from McKenna & Associates, who is working with Triangle Development on the project.

Discussions about whether traffic circles or roundabouts will be used on Main Street will be forthcoming prior to final site plan approval.

"We're going to be at their and the city's mercy," Noma 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.

Secrest Wardle attorney begins new assignment in Walled Lake

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Van Vanerian didn't know he was going to get to eat chocolate cake on his first visit to Walled Lake City Council chambers.

But, the sweet treat was served to council and crew between the regular meeting and executive session Oct. 3.

The occasion was a mini reception to say good-bye to outgoing Walled Lake council attorney Dave Gillam and welcome Vanerian, who will now be serving the council's legal needs.

Gillam is leaving to take on a new assignment in municipal law with the city of Royal Oak and will be attending their council meetings.

Colleagues at Farmington-Hills based Secrest Wardle, Vanerian and Gillam shared a rare moment in the spotlight at the end of the council meeting.

Many council members told Gillam how much they enjoyed working with him.

"They are also familiar with Vanerian, as he has served as a prosecutor for many of Walled Lake's district court cases."

"I have no hesitation in endorsing Van," Gillam said. "He's one of the top litigators in our division."

Vanerian, a member of the firm's Municipal Department, has more than 12 years experience representing municipalities throughout Oakland and Wayne Counties. His expertise includes Circuit Court injunctions and nuisance abatement, defending

and prosecuting municipal claims for monetary damages, mobile home park litigation, and municipal prosecutions/enforcement.

In addition to representing municipalities at the trial court level, Vanerian has also represented clients before both the State and Federal Court of Appeals where he has cultivated a passion for in-depth legal analysis and writing.

He provides a variety of legal services to municipal clients, including ordinance drafting, zoning and building code matters, governmental agreements, land use/development administrative hearings, and legal opinions/consultation.

Vanerian received his law degree from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in 1992. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he completed a double major in philosophy and communications.

In the past, Vanerian has served the communities of Redford Township, Novi, Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Townships. He said the city of Walled Lake will now be his number one priority.

"This is going to be my top job," he said. "I truly look forward to this opportunity."

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

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Walled Lake council to review more options for new city hall

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Tom Langan, owner of All Star Bowling Lanes in Walled Lake, isn't ready to retire.

But, he's willing to sell his land to the city and find something else to do if it means keeping city officials from having to spend \$6 million to relocate city hall.

Langan, a resident of the community since 1988, spoke during public participation at the city's last council meeting on Oct. 3.

He urged council members, who have entertained the idea of moving city offices into the second floor of a new \$18 million development on E. Walled Lake Drive at a cost of about \$6 million, to consider other options.

Birmingham developer Redox Avedian has suggested that the second floor of his three-story proposed building be used as the new city hall. The area is about 24,000 square feet.

Other options for a new city hall, however, include:

- Building a new city hall on landlocked property at its current location at 1499 E. West Maple Road

just west of Decker. The city owns additional land across the railroad tracks west of the Walled Lake Fire Station.

- Purchasing two vacant buildings at the Textron Inc., at 850 Ladd Road or
- Purchasing Langan's property where All Star Bowling Lanes sits at 257 Ladd Road.

Project excites Avedian

Avedian introduced his concept of an \$18 million building across from Meyer Beach at a recent visioning session between the Walled Lake city council, Downtown Development Authority and planning commission.

But, city council members are wondering how, and where they are going to come up with the \$6 million for their share of the building and related issues.

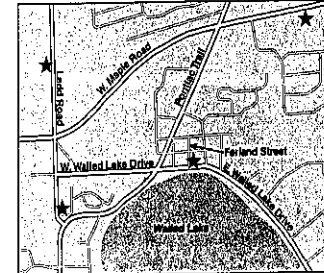
"Short of robbing a bank, we don't have the money," said council member Heather Hill.

Even more options could become available in the future.

Langan said his bowling alley is not for sale, but that he just wants council members to carefully consider all options.

He added that he's friends with Avedian, and that the developer is excited about putting in a ballpark facility in his proposed building along the waterfront.

Possible Walled Lake City Hall Sites



SOURCE: City of Walled Lake

"Although I don't want to retire, I could consider it," Langan said. "I could definitely save you money," compared to the Avedian project.

Langan said the Textron, Inc., property has two buildings about 30,000 square feet and 10,000 feet, respectively, that have sat idle for some time.

"There's also a ton of parking at that site," he said.

He added that the current city hall site could be the best choice.

"We're sitting on some excellent property here," Langan said.

Since a \$5 million price tag to relocate to the Avedian property would be the second largest investment the city has ever made, Langan would like to see taxpayers involved in the process.

"There are several areas to be considered," said Mayor William Roberts. "I don't think anyone at this table has made a firm decision to go either way. If there's time, I'd like to see it on the ballot."

Roberts said constructing the city's sewer system was the costliest venture for the city to date.



Photo by JOHN HEIDEMANN/Novi News

2006 NHS Court

Novi High's 2006 Homecoming Court, left to right, front row, seniors: Kelsey Cooke, Kylie Spears, Kristie Cmolech, Brenna Quinley, Middle row, seniors: Adam Doster, Robert Parkins, Brandon Carnegie, and Matt Lee. Back row, juniors: Andrew Haggerty and Melissa Moss, sophomores: Jack Petroskey and Monica Ayala, and freshmen Lauren Cady and Kevin Zak.

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Novi Rotary lunch volunteers, from left: Kathy Ballard, Joanne Ward, Warren and Nyla Wohlgenuth, Lori Kozar, Alice Ritter, Paul Root, and Lil Smart.

Caring in the kitchen

continued from page 1A

"We're not making a killing, but it does help," Ballard said. "The church kitchen was bustling just before noon Thursday with volunteers. Alice Ritter, Lillian Smart, Joanne Ward, Lori and Andrew Kozar, Paul Root, Warren and Nyla Wohlgenuth.

For some of these folks, volunteering is a family affair. And for some, Thursday afternoons are just one of many ways they contribute to the community. "They're all pretty fun," Ballard said about her staff.

Alice Ritter

Ritter is Ballard's mom and has been volunteering in the kitchen for a dozen years. "The 86-year-old Novi resident also participates in the church's outreach program, sending get-well cards to sick church members and sympathy cards to grieving family members when a loved one passes away."

"I can't quit and they can't fire me," she said.

Lillian and Bill Smart

Bill Smart was at home sick Thursday, but his wife, Lillian, said she works in the kitchen just as often as she does. "I just automatically come every week," said Lillian Smart, who has volunteered as kitchen staff for three years. "The people are really, really nice. It's my contribution to the church."

In addition to her Rotary lunch service, Smart, of Novi, also volunteers at the library at Clarendonville Middle School in Livonia where her daughter is a principal.

Joanne Ward

Joanne Ward of Novi doesn't restrict herself to just one kitchen. Along with loving worked the weekly Thursday lunch for three years, Ward has also volunteered at the Guss Somp Kitchen with other Novi United Methodist Church members. She has also done a few bake sales to raise money for the church. "I do it some of the time, but not all of the time," she said.

Paul Root

Root has been a part of the kitchen staff for about four years, and the Novi resident said there are two reasons he keeps coming

back every week. "I enjoy the challenge and the fact that it helps the church," he said while washing dishes Thursday. "I'm doing my part to keep the church going and make it better."

Lori and Andrew Kozar

A Novi resident for more than a decade, Lori Kozar keeps coming back to the church kitchen because she likes being social. "Everybody gets together and works as a team," Kozar said. "I like helping out."

Kozar has volunteered at other church events, including auctions and Christmas dinners. Andrew Kozar, isn't a Methodist, but he was working in the kitchen Thursday because he wanted to spend time with his in-laws.

Nyla and Warren Wohlgenuth

Combined, this couple has spent 40 years as kitchen volunteers. Warren has dedicated 22 years to Novi United Methodist Church and his wife, Nyla, 18 years. "I can't get a pension from this," Warren Wohlgenuth said. In addition, the Farmington Hills couple have been involved with the American Cancer Society and the Area Agency on Aging and are members of a square dance club.

Nyla Wohlgenuth said the couple recently stopped doing their work for the cancer society but continue doing favors for seniors through the aging agency. "We enjoy the people we help," Nyla Wohlgenuth said.

Renee Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

How to fix Beck Road?

continued from front page

widening each approach. "Simply repaving the existing road." And if last Tuesday's public input session is any indication, the issue will remain a flashpoint for the foreseeable future.

Hayes said the initial feedback from the meeting was that most people appeared to be in favor of intersection improvements and some kind of widening of the road.

But there's plenty of concern from residents in neighborhoods near Beck Road who fear the

project will make Novi more congested. "Can we discourage traffic and reduce the speed limit?" asks Tim Gilberg, president of the Cheltenham Estates Homeowners Association, which represents residents between Nine and Ten Mile roads and borders Beck Road.

John MacInnis, who lives about a mile and a half east of Beck Road, wants to see the road upgraded and is open to widening it. "You have to deal with the traffic that's there," he 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.

Jeff Nielson replaces Dan Austin on school board

continued from front page

"Otherwise it would have been one big think tank that never got anything done," he said. "It was about as democratic as you can get."

Novi schools redistricted

continued from front page

has a long history of being involved in schools. He said his mother was an elementary school librarian and his father was a high school science teacher. "Nielsen works as a principle for a health and benefits company. He said he believes he brings leadership and business decision-making skills to the table for Novi schools because of his work experience."

He said he and his wife have

been involved in the Orchard Hills Parent Teacher Organization for eight years and he was involved in the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee. "While being business savvy and being knowledgeable on local current events are important aspects of the job, Nielsen said his overall goal is to make sure all students within the district continue getting a quality education. "Academic preparedness is important to me," he said. "I want to make sure we're meeting new state-mandated guidelines."

Renee Saunders can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110, or via e-mail at rsaunders@gannett.com.

Grant secured from county

Fortunately, the communities were able to secure a grant from

Oakland County to pay for Plante & Moran's consulting services. The plan is still in the "meeting stage" at this point, according to Goodlein.

Cooperative agreements between neighboring communities are becoming especially attractive with state revenue dollars decreasing. "We're looking at everything," Goodlein said. "Everything's on the board."

He said officials in the four communities are excited about the possibilities. "I think we all entered this with a real open mind, as well as a lot of energy and enthusiasm," Goodlein said. "We want to take a good look at what we could do."

Johnston said prevention is key. The city has had 32 structure fires through September. Of those, 26 were residential and six were commercial. The city has also had 26 vehicle fires and 32 grass or trash fires. "The message is we want people to always be thinking about being safe in their homes, at work," Johnson said. "The kitchen is one of the most dangerous areas in the house, because of the potential for unattended food to catch fire. "You walk away for just a minute and something in there

Four communities look at ways to combine police, fire services

Efforts could save all dollars

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Clarence Goodlein believes in the philosophy of "two heads are better than one."

As Wisconsin's director of public safety, Goodlein is working with police and fire chiefs from Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake and Commerce Township to see if they might be able to combine services and share more resources.

The new plan could save each community dollars and improve efficiency. The idea is to serve the communities in a more unified approach.

"We're just trying to see if there isn't some way that we can either share personnel and equipment resources or even consolidate police and fire services in the area to some degree," Goodlein said.

He added that the four communities have already taken steps to examine the options. "A major step was hiring local consulting firm Plante & Moran in Southfield to assist in identifying present and future costs for a number of different choices."

He said officials in the four communities are excited about the possibilities. "I think we all entered this with a real open mind, as well as a lot of energy and enthusiasm," Goodlein said. "We want to take a good look at what we could do."

Grant secured from county

Fortunately, the communities were able to secure a grant from

Fire stations opened to raise awareness

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Fire Department is throwing open its doors to raise public awareness about safety.

This week is national fire safety prevention week, and the fire department is having an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Fire Station No. 1 on 42975 Grand River Ave. Local stations also will be open for the public to drop by all day on Friday and view informally. Novi doesn't have a huge fire problem, and Assistant Chief Jeff

Police, fire, city heads meet

The communities of Wixom, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake and Commerce Township have several leaders when it comes to heading up police and fire services.

This group will be reviewing Plante & Moran's assessment of some sort of combined effort. As director of public safety in Wixom, Clarence Goodlein serves as chief of police and fire. Capt. Jeff Roberts works as fire operations chief, Mike Dornan is city manager.

In Walled Lake, Jerry Walker, as director of public safety, serves as chief of police and city manager, Kenneth Van Sparrentak is fire chief.

In Wolverine Lake, Joe George is chief of police. Commerce Township provides fire services for Wolverine Lake, with Joe Schornack serving as fire chief. Sharon Miller is the Village of Wolverine Lake administrator.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office provides police service for Commerce Township. Tom Zoner serves as township supervisor.

Wixom, Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake already have a long history of shared personnel and equipment resources, according to Goodlein.

Work teams are already composed of detectives, evidence technicians and accident investigators that work crimes and assist each other in each of the communities. Personnel also train together, which drives down the cost.

"I think this is the wave of the future," said Jerry Walker, director of public safety and city manager in Walled Lake. "As revenues and other resources continue to tighten up, I think it's incumbent upon governments to find better ways to deliver service. This is just the beginning."

Walker sees agreements

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NOVI POLICE REPORT

Beer bottles stolen

A man stole two cases of empty beer bottles from the back of 12GL Friday's restaurant on Crescent Oct. 1 about 12:35 p.m. The suspect put the cases in a Chevrolet S10 pickup and left the scene with another man. About 20 cases of empty beer bottles and a key were observed in the truck's bed.

Wallet stolen

A leather wallet containing a driver's license and credit cards was stolen from a GMC Envoy parked at a residence on Galway Sept. 22 or early Sept. 23. One of the credit cards was used at the Meyer in Northville Township.

TV, speaker ripped out of car

A television and a speaker were stolen from a Honda Civic parked at Famous Dave's restaurant on Crosscut Sept. 23. The television was smashed. The television was ripped out of the dashboard, and the speaker was taken from a side panel.

Compact disc and other electronic equipment in the car were left behind. The television was valued at \$1,500 and the speaker \$200.

Jeep scratched, slashed

Someone scratched a Jeep and slashed its tires while it was parked at a residence on Naples Sept. 21. The damage was estimated at \$1,500.

A car phone, which a street sweeper found on a clear resident in the area, was found under one of the Jeep's tires.

A Chevrolet Cavalier was also scratched late Sept. 20 or early Sept. 21 at a residence on Riversides.

The antenna was also bent. The total damage was estimated to be \$2,500.

Hunting stands stolen

Three hunting stands were stolen from a rural I-96 parking area near the intersection of Astoria late Sept. 20 or early Sept. 21. The suspect cut the cable that secured the stands to the truck. They were valued at \$800.

Lawn damaged

The lawn and flower beds at the Novi Ridge apartments clubhouse on Chapin Trail were damaged when someone drove over the grounds late Sept. 22 or early Sept. 23. A flagpole was also damaged, and tire tracks were found over the entire length of the lawn.

Tire slashed

A tire was slashed on a Chevrolet Impala at a residence in Tukwila Oct. 1. The vehicle's owner had left to go to work and the suspect was leaving a note on the damage was estimated to be \$150.

Fuel-and-flee

Someone stole \$2.21 worth of gasoline from a BP station on 12 Mile Road Sept. 27. The suspect was seen leaving in a large industry car.

Picnic table vandalized

A picnic table was vandalized at the Northwood on Novi Road Sept. 25. Someone carved "this is now mine" and "Rite" into the table top and removed one of its support beams. The table was also moved about 25 feet. It was valued at \$200.



Rescue situation
Novi Fire/Rescue and Community EMS personnel assist a female motorist involved in an accident on I-96 below Novi Rd. on Weds. Oct. 4. At about 9 a.m. the pickup truck she was driving was hit by a semi truck while entering eastbound I-96 from northbound Novi Rd. She was transported to a hospital with a severe foot injury.

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BUSINESS

Comfort Suites aims to serve business travelers

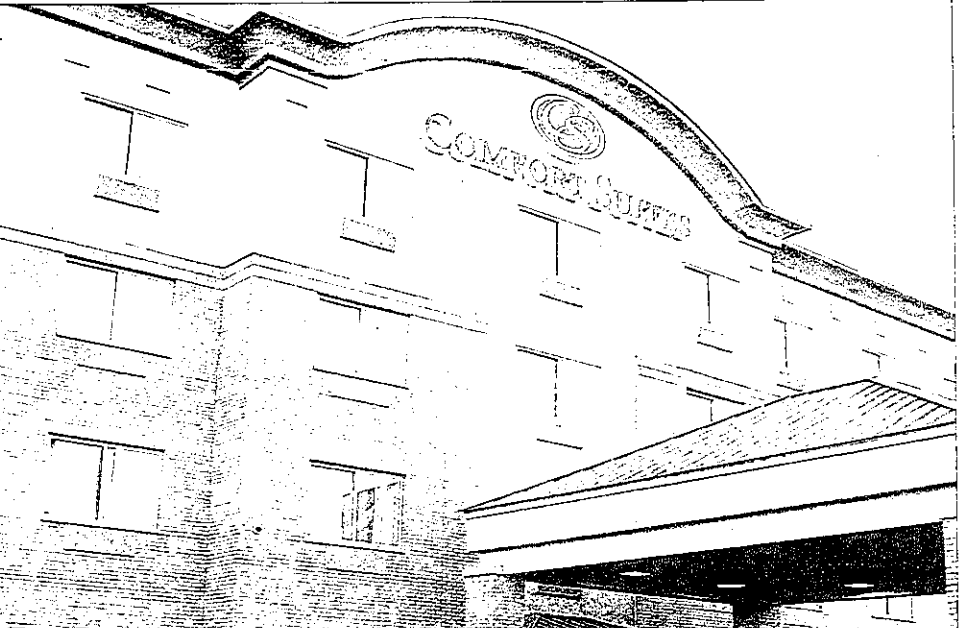
Grand opening draws about 200

George Barber, general manager of the new Comfort Suites hotel in Wixom, says today's business traveler expects more than ever. Beyond a clean, comfortable room, the corporate traveler wants a full-service experience. "They want to feel taken care of, just as they would at a Marriott or Ritz-Carlton," Barber said. He believes his staff brings that dynamic to west Oakland County. "We've put the staff together specifically to take care of corporate travelers," Barber said.

Owners of the new facility that just recently opened at Wixom Road at I-96 are offering amenities usually found only at high-end hotels. These include a full business center, free local calls, free high-speed Internet, a conference room for 80 people, indoor pool and fitness center. The hotel will also have a relationship with a local fitness club for guests who desire a more extensive workout.

Each of the 92 rooms has a coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave and HBO. Breakfast is included in the price of a room and features such items as sausage, eggs, waffles, fruit, cereals, juices, breads and more. A grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting attracted about 200 well-wishers last Tuesday evening at the hotel, conveniently located on the southwest side of the I-96 interchange.

Owners J. B. Patel and Mayur Joshi showed an amazing amount of fortitude in staying with the project that took so long to develop, according to Barber. It was five and a half years from groundbreaking to when the hotel operations were finalized. "They overcame a lot of design and structural changes," Barber said. "They added another floor." Barber said members of the Wixom community have been wonderful throughout the project, which helped ease the frustration of the delays. "We're excited and happy to have it open," Joshi said.



How 'Suite' it is...

Wixom's newest hotel, Comfort Suites, is located at 28049 Wixom Road on the west side of the street just south of the I-96 interchange. Introductory room rates are \$89.99 Monday-Thursday; \$69.99 Friday-Sunday; and \$119.99 a night for the presidential suite.

Comfort Suites Wixom

For more information or to make reservations, call (248) 504-5080.



Wixom's newest hotel, the 92-room Comfort Inn Suites on the west side of Wixom Road just south of I-96, is open for business. Pictured at the Oct. 3 grand opening that attracted more than 200 people are, from left, owners Mayur Joshi; J. B. Patel; his son, Neil Patel; and hotel general manager George Barber.

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Novi company ITC Holdings a finalist for energy 'Oscars'

■ ITC up for prestigious Platts awards in 3 categories

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Electricity transmission company ITC Holdings Corp. garnered strong kudos last week when it was named a finalist for three Platts global energy awards.

The awards are considered among the highest honors in the energy industry. Novi-based ITC is up for energy transporter of the year and industry leadership awards. It's also been named as a finalist in the "rising star" category. The winners are to be announced Nov. 30 in New York.

ITC has been a finalist for Platts awards three years in a row. ITC is the holding company for ITC Transmission, which transmits electricity in 13 counties in Southeast Michigan.

for industry leadership, energy transporter of the year and the rising star award further validates its role as a leader in the transmission industry and the power market as a whole," Joseph Welch, president and CEO of ITC, said in a statement.

"They're almost like the Oscars for the energy industry," ITC spokeswoman Lisa Aragon said. "Platts is an energy information company with offices in 16 countries. It is a division of the

McGraw-Hill Companies. Separately, ITC priced its public offering of 6.6 million shares of common stock at \$31.91 a share Oct. 4.

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



Photos by JONW
NEOPE/Novi News

Changes coming

Hafeez Shalkh, a partner with the Main Street Partnership, LLC, talks with tenant Tiffany Zendejas of the stationary store "Sincerely Yours" about changes taken at the Novi development.

New bank names executives, aims for December opening

■ Lotus Bank hires two veterans to lead launch

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

A community-oriented bank in Novi is moving towards a December launch, officials say. Lotus Bank, a startup institution led by Salish Jasti, recently announced its two new executive vice presidents and is continuing to raise capital.

"We will have a full-service branch in our temporary location," he said. Gurie has worked for Michigan National Bank, Truist Financial Inc. and the National Bank of Detroit and its successors.

Lotus is aiming towards a fairly affluent crowd, and is looking to cater to specialized groups like physicians and attorneys, as well as the general public, Jasti 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.

Lotus Bank

- To open temp branch at 45650 Grand River Ave. in Dec.
- Permanent site could open in fourth quarter of 2007
- CEO Salish Jasti
- Named Richard Gurie and Richard Bauer executive vice presidents

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EDUCATION

Field Day: Like fathers, like sons at CC



Courtesy photos
Football and frisbee were just two of the activities that brought together nearly 200 fathers and sons for the Dad's Club's annual Field Day event Oct. 1

The morning of Sunday, Oct. 1, was crisp and sunny. It was a perfect day for being outdoors. It just happened to be the day that the Catholic Central Dads' Club held a very successful edition of its annual Father & Son Field Day.

This was the second time that the event was held on the new athletic fields of the Novi campus. Nearly 200 fathers and sons were in attendance.

The day began with an "abbreviated" mass (no homily or collection) in the school's chapel celebrated by Dads' Club moderator, Fr. John Wheeler, and fellow Bostonian teacher, Fr. James O'Neill.

As noontime approached, the hungry competitors were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers fresh off the grill, accompanied by chips and soft drinks.

Submitted by
Father John Wheeler

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Photos by Diane Hanson

Mellophone player Nathan Orlando (left), Alex Bednarek on trumpet and Jeff Kaindl playing baritone, along with fellow Novi marchers, move at times up to nearly three steps per second as they perform their beautiful competition piece, "Fire and Ice," at the Bands of America Regional Championships in Ypsilanti on Saturday.



Timpani player Jon Clarkson keeps his eyes on the drum major for correct timing during the Wildcat marchers' performance at the BOA Regional Championships in Ypsilanti on Saturday.

Novi marchers wow crowd at regionals

"I thought they were fantastic," said an elated Mark Hourigan, director of bands at Novi High School, of his 204-member band as they marched off the gridiron at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium on Saturday.

They had just performed their beautifully melodic and fast-paced 10-minute show, "Fire and Ice," at the Bands of America Regional Championships that featured 26 top bands from seven states.

"We just finished the show," said Hourigan, "so the whole ending is new this week. This was the first time performing the last eight pages of the show and I thought they performed very well. I'm really proud of them."

The audience of some 4,000 appreciated the show as well with cheers punctuating the performance and a standing ovation.

"To have a performance like that and to have a crowd react like that is pretty amazing and very exhilarating," said senior drum major Maggie Hoving. "The adrenaline was going and I got the

chills in a couple of places even though I'm so hot in my uniform."

Senior drum major Bryan Blanchard couldn't agree more. "I thought our performance and being here were both incredible," he said. "It was wonderful to perform for a crowd like that and I think we did a very good job. The energy was very high."

"Every time we're at a BOA event it's great," said junior drum major Bryan Hoag. "It's different from regular competitions. It's not just local bands, but bands from other states. It gives us a chance to see other schools' shows that we wouldn't ordinarily see."

Even though the Wildcat marchers didn't make it to finals this year, participating is something Hourigan considers a most valuable experience for his students.

"This activity to me is about experiences," he said. "It's not about winning or losing. It's about providing opportunities for the kids to have great experiences and creating memories that they otherwise will not have."

Next up for the home-town marchers is homecoming this weekend followed by the Huron Valley Invitational at Lakeland High School in White Lake on Oct. 21 and the State Championships at Ford Field on Oct. 28.

"Plus, the level of competition performance is much, much higher than we're used to seeing on a weekly basis," Hourigan continued. "There are bands from all over the region that are geared toward the national circuit. There are some great groups here, so it's exciting for us to have the opportunity to see some of those groups as well."

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band was named regional champions this year with Lincoln-Way East from Frankfort, Ill. taking second and Northmont from Clayton, Ohio in third place.

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Perussionists Andres Silar (left), Chris Willing, Michelle Fernandes and Rebecca Wicker concentrate on their music during Novi's competition performance, "Fire and Ice," at Saturday's Bands of America Regional Championships at EMU's Rynearson Stadium.

BE SCENE IN NOVI

Call Stone editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113, cstone@gannett.com, www.novinews.com, fax: (248) 949-8832

Old Tyme Carnival

Residents and staff at Fox Run, the premier community for older adults in Oakland County, shared this weekend's spectacular fall weather with family and friends at an "Old Tyme Carnival", which was held at the 110 acre campus on 13 Mile Road between M-5 and Meadowbrook.

The afternoon was filled with mid-way games for kids of all ages, rides like the "Barrel of Fun" and "Scrambler", talented entertainers including a towering juggler who teetered on stilts, and tasty treats such as funnel cakes, caramel apples, cotton candy and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

The event brought together many of the almost 600 people who live at Fox Run to enjoy all the festivities. The residents were particularly thrilled to share all the fun with their families, as well as Fox Run staff and their guests.

1 Megan Steele, Service Coach in Fox Run's Fireside Restaurant, shared the afternoon and cotton candy with her younger sister.

2 The Fox Run "Old Tyme Fall Carnival" featured a variety of entertainers including a talented juggler who amazed the crowd as he balanced on teetering stilts.

3 Madison Moschetti, daughter of Fox Run's sales director, Fred Moschetti, tried her hand at one of the carnival games.

4 Barbara Maniscalco, who lives at Fox Run, took a turn at ringing the bell.

5 Amy Berry, a member of Fox Run's marketing team, shared snow cones with her niece and nephew, Julianna and Alexander Halin.

6 Fox Run staff members took turns at the face painting table which was a hit with all ages.

7 Kim Peragine (standing on right), Fox Run's Move-In Coordinator, shared the day with her daughter, Jen, as well as granddaughters Izzy and Summer.

8 An old fashioned organ grinder performed throughout the afternoon.

9 Gao McCord, who lives at Fox Run, was delighted to share the Old Tyme Carnival with her granddaughter Maria.

10 Delores Gross, who lives at Fox Run with her husband Dr. Fred Gross, shared a photo with Associate Director Jean Landreville and her niece.

11 Jennie Dibeau, who works in Fox Run's general services department, enjoyed the wonderful fall weather with her daughter Sydney.

Photos courtesy of Fox Run

FAITH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@northville.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-8822

Meadowbrook Congregational
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: Rev. Ed Wittingham, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7157, visit www.westhills.net
 Sunday Worship TIME: 10 a.m.

11; (248) 349-8847
 Bible Study DATE: Thursdays
 TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
 CONTACT: Maria, (248) 349-8847, or e-mail at spiritwalk@01.com
 Adult Devotional Networking Meeting
 DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
 TIME: 10:41 a.m.
 DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-5955

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
 LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
 Single Place Ministries
 CONTACT: www.singleplace.org (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
 Thursday Program-Ongoing
 TIME: 7:30, social; 8 p.m. program
 DETAILS: The cost is \$5 per person.
 DATE: Tonight
 DETAILS: Perfect Love, Imperfect Relationships, Part III with Robert Scurlan. It is also Card & Games Night.
 DATE: Oct. 19
 DETAILS: Chat dating with Sadies Beles.
 DATE: Oct. 26
 DETAILS: Perfect Love, Imperfect Relationships, Part IV with Robert Scurlan. Also Card & Games Night.
 Fabulous First Impressions
 TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 11
 DETAILS: This workshop will feature Fran Kachotomoff, a Master Certified Relationship Coach for Singles. Learn how to improve the all-important first impression that can make the difference in your personal and professional relationships. The cost of the workshop is \$35 with registration by Nov. 4, 5:40 afternoon.
 The Holy Bible and How It

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.crosspointemoorings.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Dak Pointe
 LOCATION: Novi High School, 24062 1616 Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.dakpointe.org
 Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran
 LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
 Kinderpartei 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.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
 LOCATION: 4070 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.holycross.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
 TIME/DATE: 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 welcome.

St. James Catholic
 LOCATION: 36325 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

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

The Bahai' Faith
 CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.usbahai.org
 Devotional Gathering
 TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
 LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
 DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

St. Paul Lutheran
 LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
 CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjahn-lutheran.com

Holy Family
 LOCATION: 34515 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-8817 or visit www.holyfamily.org
 Contemporary Music
 DATE: Saturday, Oct. 22
 TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 DETAILS: Given by composer Tim Smith; \$20. Free concert 7 p.m.
 CONTACT: Pat O'Brien by DCL

First United Methodist of Northville
 LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile

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It's a countdown to celebration for church

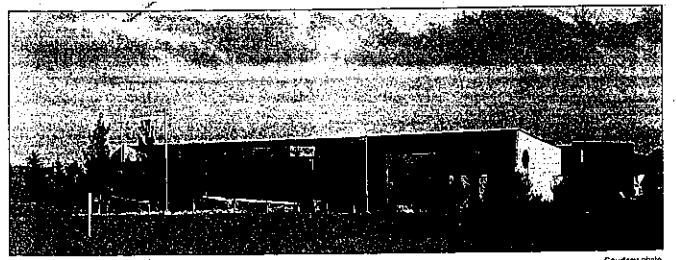
Oak Pointe's new facility ready Oct. 22

Oak Pointe developed its new facility in order to provide a home that could keep up with the steady growth and to allow them to more conveniently serve the community in ways that earned Oak Pointe the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association Community Service Award for 2004 by the Northville Township.

Oak Pointe attendees will continue to enjoy the same alive and energy-filled worship and biblical teaching that has attracted many families to this local church body. The new facility, located on a hill within the Island Lake community, will allow both regular attendees and visitors to connect and build strong relationships with people from their own community.

"One of the key focuses to building a tight-knit community is the church's small groups," said Oak Pointe Pastor Greg Moore.

This inviting community can be witnessed as they give Sunday services after an thousands of people gather after each of the services to enjoy



The new Oak Pointe Church is located on the northwest corner of Wilcox and 10 Mile roads.

each others' company, coffee and of course, bagels and donuts. In addition, the pastoral staff invests their time into people's lives by offering personalized, spiritual care.

A major appeal of the church is the student ministry, which, to date, has attracted hundreds of students and committed volunteers.

The relevant and biblically-based program attracts students from birth through high school. Whether the child blasts off with Adventureland (ages birth to 5th grade), is a part of The Rock (6th, 7th and 8th grade), or is involved in 307 (High School), Oak Pointe has something for children of all ages.

Oak Pointe Church
 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
 Novi, MI 48374
 (248) 912-0043
www.oakpointe.org

FAITH MEETS MENTAL HEALTH

Samaritan Counseling Center opened its doors in 1986, to offer centers of Southeastern Michigan a counseling agency where one's faith perspective is valued as in the clinical process of health and healing.

The Washington Post recently did an article on the role of pastoral counseling and AATC in health and wellness. It can be found on the AATPC website at www.aatpc.org.

Our local center came into being because a group of clergy in the Oakland County area were concerned about the emotional and spiritual wellness of their congregations.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PROVISION OF THE NOV EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, a snow emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever: (1) freezing rain, sleet or snow (4) or more inches of snow has been forecast for the area by a newspaper circulated in the city, or by a radio or television station with a normal operating range covering the city, or (2) freezing rain or sleet has fallen or (4) or more inches of snow have accumulated in the city.

Whenever any vehicle without an operator is found parked or left in violation of any provision of this division, the Director of the Department of Public Services, or his designee, or the Police Department may immediately remove the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be removed to a place of safekeeping at the expense of the registered owner of the vehicle.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

BENNY MCCUSKER, DIRECTOR
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 (10-12-06 NN 316276)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-055

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mark Virena of Campbell/Mank Inc. is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for a temporary construction site for the Stirling Suites hotel project located on the southeast corner of Grand River and Beek Road from November 06, 2006 through November 06, 2007.

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

The request will be considered at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday October 19, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, All written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to October 19, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
 TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
 (248) 347-6950
 (10-12-06 NN 316417)

Oktoberfest NORTHVILLE

October 13 & 14, 2006

Fri 6pm-11pm & Sat Noon-11pm at Millennium Park

Free Admission to Village * Food * Entertainment * Crafts * Music
 Carnival Rides * Oktoberfest Merchandise * Beer Tent

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- German Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Caramel Apple Cake
- Fresh Baked Chocolate Hot Brownies
- Homemade Root Beer

Oktoberfest is catered by **BONFIRE BISTRO** WOOD-FIRED OVEN

Entertainment Schedule

| Day | Time | Event | Location |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Friday, October 13 (6-11pm) | 6:00 - 6:30 pm | Opening Ceremony | Beer Tent |
| | 6:30-10:30 pm | Carnival Rides | Village |
| | 6:30-10:30 pm | Kielbasa Kings | Beer Tent |
| Saturday, October 14 (Noon-11pm) | Throughout the Day | Carnival Rides & Games | Village |
| | | Arts and Crafts Vendors | Village |
| | Noon -4:00 pm | Free Horse and Wagon Rides | |
| | 1:00 -3:00 pm | Oktoberfest German Band | Beer Tent |
| | 1:00 -3:00 pm | Melody Magic | Village |
| | 3:00 -3:30 pm | Wavel Folk Ensemble Dancers | Beer Tent |
| 4:00 -5:00 pm | Oehlein Bavarian Dancers | Village | |
| 6:30-10:30 pm | Dave Slivinski Polka Band | Beer Tent | |

Millennium Park is located on Six Mile (Between Shelton and Beek Roads).

Admission fee to Oktoberfest Beer Tent is \$2.00 and you must be 21 years or older or accompanied by an adult to enter. Free entry for those 16 years and under with adult.

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CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 949-1700, ext. 113 csstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Border Books & Music

LOCATION: 4075 Crescent Blvd., Novi Town Center
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
Drawing Workshop and Book-signing
DATE: Saturday, Oct. 14
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Author and illustrator duo, Karen Bell-Brege and Darin Brege will be hosting a workshop based on the "Mick Morris Motherfucker" series.

Author and Book-signing

DATE: Sunday, Oct. 15
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Author Sandra Magness will present her book, "Living Antifax".
Author and Book-signing
DATE: Saturday, Oct. 21
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Author Tara Smiley will present her book, "What I Know in the Sun".

Illustrator and Author

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 28
TIME: noon
DETAILS: Jane Dorman will be reading a new children's book, "Black Beauty", and will be available to sign copies.

Salwater Fly Fishing

DATE: Tonight
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Hawk's Fly Fishing, 4355 E. Grand River Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Jim Balogh, owner of Dynamis Expeditions, will present instruction and be available for informal discussion.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3677

Detroit Public Television Oktoberfest

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 14
TIME: 2-7 p.m.
LOCATION: Riley Broadcast Center, 1 Clover Court, Wilson, at Grand River Avenue and Napier Road.
DETAILS: This is a benefit for Detroit public television featuring German entertainment, food, games, and activities for all ages. Admission is free. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (313) 376-8375 or go to detroitpublic.org

Canine Campus Autumn Festival

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 14
TIME: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Canine Campus, 24126 Research Drive, Farmington Hills

Hills

DETAILS: Pet photography, a pet psychic, activities, and treats for all members of the family will be available. Reservations are required.
CONTACT: (248) 427-8245

Care and Restoration of Historic Photographs

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 14
TIME: 9 a.m. - noon
LOCATION: Heritage Park, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: The Oakland County Historical Commission is sponsoring a presentation by the Michigan Photographic Historical Society. CONTACT: Advance registration is required. Please call (248) 970-8112

Antique Button Presentation

DATE: Monday, Oct. 16
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Victoria City Hall, #945 Fordia Trail
DETAILS: Sheri DeCew, niche specialist and avid antique button collector will present "The Story and History of the Button." Public is invited, and there is no charge.
CONTACT: Bertha King, (248) 684-2442

Candidate Forum

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 17
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Sovolaki & Kaloh, 3150 Novi Road
DETAILS: Democrats of West Oakland County are sponsoring this forum for the public to meet candidates for Congress, State Senate, the House of Representatives, as well as county offices.
CONTACT: (248) 624-7228

Novi Theatres Princess Character Tea and Lunch

DATE: Sunday, Oct. 15
TIME: noon-1:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Key members of the cast of "Cinderella in New York" will appear at this fun event. Tickets are \$10, and are available at the Parks desk in the Civic Center.

"Cinderella in New York"

TIME/DATES: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28; 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: This is a new version of the Cinderella story set in

LOCATION: S.W.O.C.C. Building, Nine Mile Road, just east of Farmington Road

DETAILS: Tour the facility, and learn about the video production of local programming. The open house will have a Halloween theme, and the whole family is invited. There will be a costume contest for the kids.
CONTACT: Melissa Cahn, (248) 473-2840

Metropolitan Single Professionals Events

Halloween Party
DATE: Friday, Oct. 27
TIME: 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Citrus Plaza Hotel (Former Doubletree)
DETAILS: Admission will be \$15. Costumes are optional. A Taste of the Town
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 9
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Andiamo, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Everyone is welcome to meet, socialize, and dine.
CONTACT: (248) 541-6554, or www.mspspc.com

Manhattan during the Roaring 20s and Swing-era late 30s. The cast is made up of performers seven to 18 years of age. Tickets are available at the Parks Desk, in the Civic Center, for \$10. Tickets purchased at a performance are \$12. There will be a discounted student price of \$8 per ticket for the Friday, Oct. 27 performance.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

Art Van and Clear Magazine Party

DATE: Saturday, Oct. 21
TIME: 9 p.m. - midnight
LOCATION: Art Van Furniture Store, Novi
DETAILS: This is the introduction of the EQ3 (fashionable and affordable furniture line. Food and drink. Must be over 21.
CONTACT: (248) 348-8922

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission 5th Annual Open House

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 24
TIME: 4-7 p.m.

continued on page 20A

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Novi Fire Department OPEN HOUSE
The Novi Fire Department invites you to our open house on October 14th, 2006
Fire Station 1, located at 42975 Grand River Avenue • Novi
Open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
• Meet Sparky the fire safety dog
• Fire Safety Fun
• Tour the Fire Station
• Fire Sale House
• Demonstrations
• Rescue Boat
• Food & Refreshments
• Child ID Kit
Oct. 13 all fire Stations will be open from 2-4pm for visitors to see their fire station, trucks and get fire safety information.
Talk to recruiters and learn more about becoming a paid-on-call fire fighter or call Human Resources at 248-347-3275
How to become a Novi Firefighter Oct. 21 @ Fire Station 4 (Tan Mile & Wilson) 8:00am - Noon

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MICHIGAN, CANDEL, De Sigh, HERMAN, BOOKER

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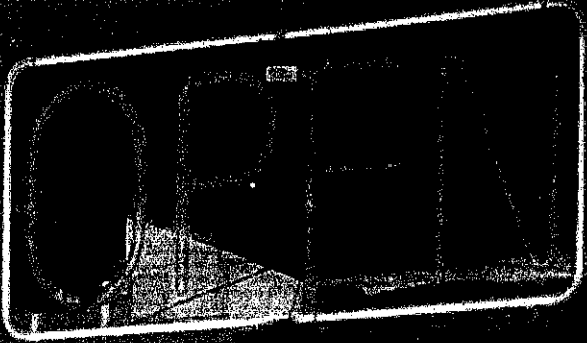
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GET CREATIVE! Decorative Touches & Household Learning Theater (See quick informative presentations from the nationally known diva of decorative finishes, Teresa Van Devere Primm. There will also be daily presentations on a wide variety of home improvement, financial and educational topics geared to maximize the value and enjoyment of your home or living space)
On the Road - Traveling Culinary Theater sponsored by Trevarrow, Inc. (Enjoy a hand of poker, or check out updates on the big weekend games! The "Fan Zone" will also feature live broadcasts and appearances from WDFN & WNIG hosts.)
Fan Zone, Tailgate and Home Improvement Pavilion - Sponsored by 1130 WDFN & 100.3 WNIG Radio (A tribute to everything that is tailgate-worthy... The "Fan Zone" is a must visit feature offering the ideal atmosphere to have some tailgating fun! The "Tailgate Pavilion" inside the "Fan Zone" is where you will have the opportunity to win prizes, play a hand of poker, or check out updates on the big weekend games! The "Fan Zone" will also feature live broadcasts and appearances from WDFN & WNIG hosts.)
AM 910 Radio Disney - Disney Cooking Cents (Kids 14 and under can register to win a complete prize pack including the Disney Ice Cream Maker, Popcorn Maker, and Waffle Maker & More! AM 910 Radio Disney, Rock Crew will host the "Disney Score It" challenge where families compete against each other to win COOL Disney Prizes!
FIBERFEST Carousel Across Children's Exhibit (See alpaca, angora goats, angora rabbits & sheep. Spinning Demonstrations and special children's area to create an individual craft with wool from the sheep)
Crafts & Unique Seasonal Product Displays in the Grammys Angels Craft Corner! (Purchase one-of-a-kind hand made items from all sorts of vendors.)
Financial Planning Seminar on Saturday with local Radio Host Rick Bloom from WDTK (This is a rare opportunity to attend a special financial seminar on Saturday, October 14 from the well known and respected asset and financial expert, Rick Bloom)
Cabinet Door Art Showcase - painted by Novi High School Art Students
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Novi boys XC wins Oakland County title
Mike Wheat leads top five runners that all placed in top 22. Area high school roundup.

— Page 2H

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SPORTS

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Wildcats come out on fire. South Lyon responds with final 28 points. Shamrocks score 42 first-half points in rout.

— Page 3H

Thursday, October 12, 2006

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

WADING FOR NO ONE



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Wildcat Julie Schramm's specialty is backstroke.

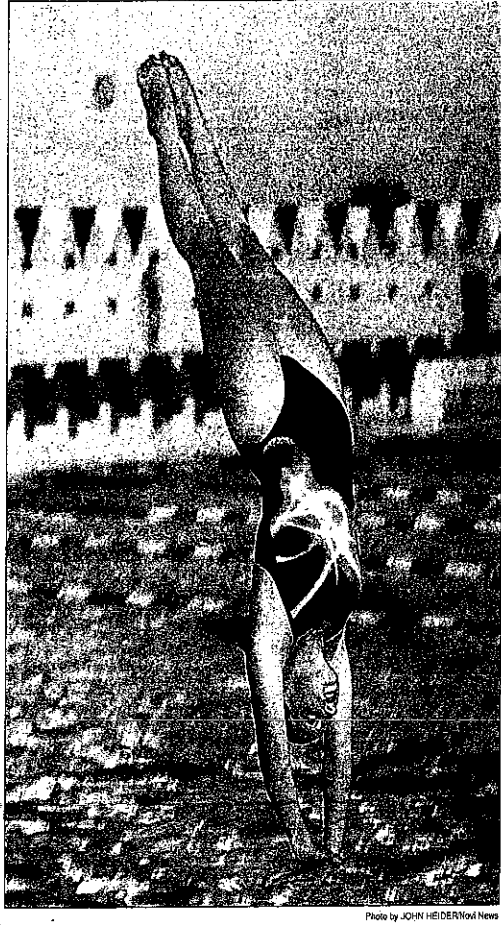


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Amy Glutzinski shows off the form that got her to the State finals last year during a Wildcat practice.

Senior tri-captains help guide Wildcats to 9-0 start

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Every ship needs a captain. Since the Novi swim team is so big, it has three in seniors Julie Schramm, Nicole Patton and Amy Glutzinski.

The girls have helped guide the team to a perfect 9-0 record in dual meets.

"It's the best start to the season that any of us have had since my four years on the team," Patton said. "A lot of the attitudes have changed this year. We all came in ready to swim this year, and everybody started off in pretty good shape."

Schramm says returnees mixed in with solid newcomers have launched the team to success.

"This year we only gained swimmers. We didn't lose anyone that had a huge impact on our team so that made us stronger," she said. "The second, third and fourth swimmers have really stepped up. That's what's been winning meets — the depth."

"We can't win meets with just one person winning events. If girls get second and third or first

and third, that's a huge difference in them getting fourth."

Taking on the captain's role means more than just putting up some of the best times in the pool during meets.

"It gives you a lot of motivation to come to practice because you are a leader of the team," Patton said. "If people see you not at practice and not coming then it

doesn't set a good example.

During meets, Patton said she turns into a motivator. "A lot of cheering. You try to encourage all of the girls. Instead of just sitting on the bench doing their homework, (she tells them) to get up and go cheer for their teammates. That helps a lot when you are swimming."

For Schramm, it's a chance to

help out her teammates.

"I like the responsibilities of it. I like being able to share what I've learned over the years," she said. "I like them being able to look up to me and know that if you work hard you can do well and set a positive tone."

Glutzinski is enjoying her senior year as a captain.

continued on 3B

Oakland County's best

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

The Novi boys cross country team topped the 42-team Oakland County meet Saturday at Kensington Park. Novi also handed No. 10 Brighton a 19-44 loss Sept. 3 at Cass Benton.

At the Oakland County meet, Mike Wheat led the Wildcats with a third-place finish in 16:44. Alex Prasad was next in 16:50, followed by Josh Lumley in 14th (16:53), Kenny MacDonough in 21st (17:06) and Scott Wagner in 22nd (17:07).

All five Novi runners received medals.

"They ran their best race of the year," Novi head coach Robert Smith said. "This is a big meet. In 1999, we were state champs and didn't win this meet."

It's the third time in nine years the Wildcats have claimed the Oakland County trophy.

The Novi junior varsity also won the Oakland County meet with T.J. Butler, Mike Dlaszozky and Aaron Crowd finishing 1-2-3.

Against Brighton, the Wildcats placed seven runners in the top eight with Mike Wheat crossing the finish line first in 16:48.

A Brighton runner finished one second behind Wheat, but the Wildcats placed the next seven runners to close out the win.

Prasad was third at 17:14, followed closely by teammates Lumley (17:15) and MacDonough (17:16).

Mike Beard finished out the scoring with a sixth-place finish in 17:20.

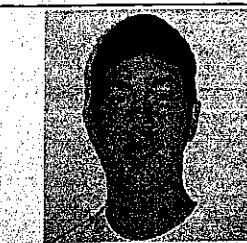
Alfredo Caceriano placed seventh in 17:28, and Scott Wagner was eighth in 17:48.

Jeff Thelsen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jthelsen@gannett.com.



Submitted photo

The Novi varsity cross country team shows off their trophies after winning the Oakland County Invite on Saturday at Kensington Park.



Novi News Athlete of the Week

Mike Wheat
Novi senior cross country runner

Wheat led five Wildcat runners that finished in the top 22 to win the Oakland County Invitational. Wheat placed third overall in 16:44. He also finished first against Brighton in 16:48.

Coaches: The Athlete of the Week will now run every week. Please make nominations known by Monday to Jeff Thelsen at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or to jthelsen@gannett.com.

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Shamrocks roll Saginaw with 42 first-half points

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

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Catholic Central's football schedule finally lightened up, and the Shamrocks took full advantage.

After playing several top teams in and out of the state, the Shamrocks (3-4) dropped Saginaw to 0-7 with a 49-0 shutout Saturday on the road.

"I was happy with our guys. They prepared very well," Shamrock head coach Tom Mach said. "We knew that was a game that we should win. We played a great, solid football game."

The Shamrocks wasted little time getting on the scoreboard. Joe Kinville scored from two yards out for a 7-0 lead with 8:10 left in the first.

Cory Ambie scored the next touchdown on a three yard run with 4:11 left in the first.

Ryan Cebula added a third touchdown in the first on a two yard run with 1:48 left for a 21-0 lead.

Quarterback Chris Cagle looked up for a pair of scores in the second quarter. He found Dustin Hess for a 64-yard score

extra points.

The final score came in the fourth quarter when Joe Maria scored on a two yard run with 1:38 left. Chris Singer kicked the extra point.

While the offense was busy scoring touchdowns, the defense made sure Saginaw stayed off the board.

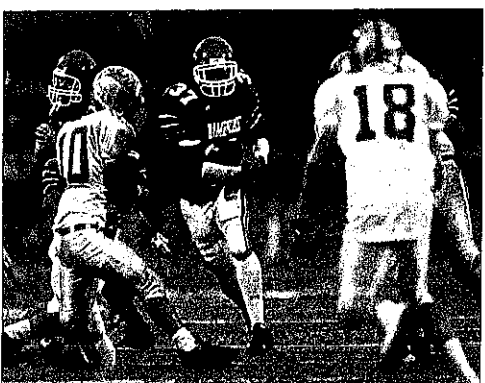
"We're always pleased when you shut someone out," Mach said. "We emphasized better techniques all week long and raising the bar a little bit with our work ethic."

Saginaw managed just 99 total yards and turned the ball over twice.

Cagle had a strong day throwing the ball, completing 26 of 69 passes for 137 yards and two scores. The Shamrock rushing game totaled 169 yards on 38 carries.

"Anyone that you can smile after the game, I think it's a good thing," Mach said. "We were able to do that. We were happy with our performance. We want to keep it going now."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheisen@gannett.com.



Catholic Central's Jeremy Bednarz-Gray carries the ball against Notre Dame Prep.

CC looks to advance to Prep Bowl

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

Friday's game:

Who: U of D Jesuit (3-4)
Where: Home
When: 7 p.m. Friday

Catholic Central has a chance to pull to the .500 mark and keep its playoff hopes alive.

The Shamrocks (3-4) will host U of D Jesuit (3-4) at home on Friday for the first game in the Catholic League Prep Bowl.

Head coach Tom Mach knows what is at stake, but he doesn't look beyond the next Friday night.

"We're just worried about winning the game," Mach said. "If we do that, we'll get to play in the Prep Bowl. There's a lot in the line."

Jesuit is coming off a pair of losses to Brother Rice and Orchard Lake St. Mary's. But the loss to Rice was especially close

at 16-14, and the Cubs probably should have won the game.

"They fumbled it on the 3-yard line ... they would've won the game," Mach said of Jesuit.

"They missed two field goals and lost 16-14. They played an excellent ball game."

Mach said the Cubs' offense is similar to Orchard Lake St. Mary's — they like to run the spread along with a conventional back system.

"The quarterback is very talented. He's young, a freshman," Mach said. "He's been improving every game. He has a lot of problems that can cause you a lot of problems."

Mach said at this time of the year, he expects his seniors to really step up their game.

"His philosophy has always been you win with the seniors," Mach said. "We talk about senior leadership every week in our meetings. We want them to step up and lead the team. We want them to step up and push the team ... and do the things that are going to make us winners."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheisen@gannett.com.

JV Wildcats tame the Lions

Novi JV improves to 5-2; freshmen fall

Stories submitted to the Novi News

Under the full moon at Wildcat Stadium, the South Lyon Lions were no match for the fierce Novi JV Wildcats. Novi earned their fourth KVC victory by way of a winning score of 23-8.

Fumble recoveries by the Wildcats were one of the keys to locking up the Lions. On the third play of the game, Brad Kotylo helped start Novi's first possession with a fumble recovery. Eight plays later, Kotylo himself ran 5 yards to score the first Wildcat touchdown.

The second quarter started out with another fumble recovery. This time it was Paul Favorito who stopped an aggressive South Lyon drive. And in the 4th quarter, Justin Carr came up with the ball on yet another Lion fumble.

Penalties also cost the Lions multiple yards — holding, pass interference, and offside mistakes were all committed by South Lyon players. The Wildcats capitalized on these opportunities, scoring two more touchdowns, one by Andy Donato in the third quarter and the by Paul Favorito in the fourth.

Nathan Haynes kept the Lions caged by kicking for two extra points and a field goal.

Great field position was maintained through outstanding offensive gains by Chris Bellamy, Archibald Hall II, Garrett Green, Favorite, Kotylo, Haynes and Donato. Through the den of Lions, the Wildcats carried and passed the ball for numerous first downs.

The O-Line was impeccable this game, led by Tom Wright, Jack Peroseky, Sana Volkman, Shane Lemere, Armani Stonewacker, and Tyler Wessau. The defense with Kody Tipton and Jeff Sebastian was tough.

The JV Wildcats play in Harland next Thursday and will be looking to finish their tough KVC season with an impressive 5-2 record.

Novi JV improves to 5-2; freshmen fall

Novi JV improves to 5-2; freshmen fall

Early punch falls short

Novi leads 7-0 early, falls 28-7 to Lions

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

Novi punched the big bully in the face to start Friday's game, but couldn't deliver the knockout punch. South Lyon, was able to pick itself up and stay unbeaten by scoring 28 unanswered points for a 28-7 win.

The Wildcats' Stefan Figurski received the opening kickoff and reced through the first wave of players on his way to a 61-yard return. Novi (3-4) capitalized on the great field position four plays later.

Quarterback Adam Chandler took a keeper to the right side and seemed as though he bounced off a hit from every one of the South Lyon defenders before somehow finding the right corner of the end zone from eight yards out.

"This Novi squad is a good squad," Novi head coach Tab Kelleppoury said. "We were able to put points up in a hurry which that offense because of the good return. Our offense kept the momentum going."

"Of course, that team over there had an answer."

Pat Sijan easily booted the extra point, and the Wildcats were leading 7-0 just 1:32 into the game.

"We know that we had what we consider a good week of practice for our kids," Kelleppoury said. "The realities was there. I'm very proud of how our kids really put this game out there like they did. They really gave it everything they had."

"We knew this was a game that we needed to get into the playoffs."

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Wildcats play host to Hartland for homecoming

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

Homecoming:

Who: Hartland (1-6)
When: 7 p.m. Friday
Where: Home

With playoff hopes fading after Friday's loss to South Lyon, Novi still has a lot to play for Friday night against Hartland. Not only will the Wildcats be fighting for pride, but it's also homecoming.

"Every year homecoming is important," Novi head coach Tab Kelleppoury said. "You're going to get all the alumni, all the kids that have been away to college for the first time. They're all interested in seeing their classmates. It's one of those things that pulls your community together."

"I know the players really look forward to homecoming game. Our kids do have pride in the program."

Novi (3-4) can also finish with

Jeff Theisen can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at jtheisen@gannett.com.

High school sports schedules

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Novi | 10/17 Hartland, 4:30 p.m. | Catholic Central | 10/13 U of D Jesuit, 7 p.m. |
| Football | Boys Bull | Football | Girls Swimming and Diving |
| 10/13 Hartland, 7 p.m. | 10/12 at Oak Point GC, TBA | 10/13 D of Jesuit, 7 p.m. | 10/12 Brighton, 5 p.m. |
| Girls Basketball | Girls Basketball | Cross Country | Boys Soccer |
| 10/12 at South Lyon, 7 p.m. | 10/12 at Hartland, 7 p.m. | 10/14 at Sturges HS, Noon | Boys Golf |
| 10/17 Millard, 7 p.m. | 10/16 Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m. | 10/12 at Oak Point GC, TBA | Boys Soccer |
| Cross Country | | 10/16 Northville, 7 p.m. | |
| 10/14 at Gabriel Richard Inville, Noon | | | |

2006 MHSAA Boys Soccer District 11-1

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Farmington | 10/19 @ 7:00 PM | Northville | 10/21 @ 1:00 PM |
| Churchill | 10/19 @ 5:00 PM | at Walled Lake Western High School | |
| Catholic Central | 10/16 @ 7:00 PM | W.L. Western | 10/16 @ 7:00 PM |
| Northville | 10/16 @ 7:00 PM | N. Farmington | 10/19 @ 7:00 PM |
| Novi | 10/16 @ 7:00 PM | at Walled Lake Western High School | |
| Stevenson | | | |

Sports Shorts

Cats Basketball Tryouts
All fifth-eight grade boys attending Novi Schools are invited to tryout for the Novi Cats travel basketball team.
Players will be competing at the highest level of area competition. This AAU program is very competitive and the volunteer coaches will be focused on developing player skills within a positive coaching environment.
5th Grades: Oct. 18, 7:30-9:30pm at Meadows 5th Grade gym (call backs on Oct. 19)
6th Grades: Oct. 16, 7:30-9:30pm at Meadows 6th Grade gym (call backs on Oct. 17)
7th Grades: Oct. 16, 7:30-9:30pm at Meadows 5th Grade gym (call backs on Oct. 17)
8th Grades: Oct. 18, 7:30-9:30pm at Meadows 6th Grade gym (call backs on Oct. 19)
Contact Todd Bayer at bayer@travelteam.com for more information.

FOOD



Breads RISE Again

Americans decide they can't live without it

Bread is back. Like a pop star re-emerging from public hiatus, popularity of the soft stuff has returned with its innovative, reinvented self image.

Americans are leaving the low-carb craze behind and embracing their undeniable urge for the ultimate comfort food. In fact, 98 percent of households nationwide include bread at the center of the table. Today consumers are clamoring for "quality" carbs. With the new dietary guidelines emphasizing whole grain, a higher caliber of products — from white to wheat — are available for a wide range of tastes. That means there's something for everyone.

Good Ol' Fashioned White
No longer is guilt associated with enjoying the taste of white bread. More people are finding solace in the fact that white bread is not devoid of nutrients, but enriched with a bevy of beneficial nutrients. Minerals, such as iron, and B-vitamins like folic acid, niacin, and riboflavin are baked right into white bread. Even with the underdog but top that white bread has sustained in the past, market research has shown white bread products to be top sellers — earning 57 percent of total bread sales last year.

White Meets Wheat
Now, white breads are going beyond the status quo with the introduction of breads that combine whole grain with white bread flour. The blending of a "special white whole-grain flour" with traditional white flour allows the authentic taste, texture, and softness of white bread to remain — with the added health benefits that come from whole grain. The popularity of Sara Lee Soft & Smooth made with Whole Grain White Bread prompted the introduction of white hamburger and hot dog buns made with a whole grain blend. "Consumers are searching for a way to get more whole grain into their diet," says Frances Colotta, Ph.D., R.D. and director of product nutrition for Sara Lee Food & Beverage. "Products made with a blend of whole-grain and white flour will help many white bread lovers make the transition to whole-grain foods without shocking their taste buds."

Whole Grain Virtues
For some consumers, it's whole grain or nothing. Is it the nutty taste, hearty texture, or health benefits that make whole-grain breads so appealing? Perhaps it's all of the above. With more than 400 whole-grain foods introduced last year, according to ProductScan, there is no denying that whole grains are in.

New dietary guidelines encourage consumers to aim for a daily dose of three or more one-ounce servings of whole-grain products, and shoppers are urged to get at least half of their grains from whole grain sources. Not only does whole grain bread aid in weight loss and management, but studies have shown it to reduce high cholesterol levels, stave off type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and normalize blood pressure levels.

For more straight-forward, no-nonsense nutritional information about bread, visit www.breadworks.com.

Vegetarian Bagel Sandwich
Makes: 1 sandwich
1 Sara Lee Made With Whole Grain Plain Bagel
3 tablespoons hummus
4 slices cucumber
2 leaves lettuce
2 slices tomato
2 thin slices red onion
1 slice pepperoncini
Spread hummus over both halves of bagel. Layer on cucumber slices, lettuce leaves, tomato slices, onion and pepperoncini.

Better-for-your-health TIPS
In addition to opting for breads that are made with whole grain, try these tips to make your next sandwich a healthier one:
Do some crunches: Add sliced, fresh bell peppers to your sandwich for an extra crunch and a healthy dose of vitamin C.
Fire up the grill: Toss some veggies over the flame, then slice and pile them on top of your sandwich for added flavor and nutrients.
Spread your nuts: Spoon on a tablespoon of natural almond butter and all-fruit spread for a delicious, cholesterol-lowering treat.

Whole grain in white bread? Absolutely.

White or brown, enriched or whole wheat — what is the real difference? Whole wheat flour is made from the "whole" wheat grain or all three parts — the bran, germ, and endosperm. White flour is made just from the soft endosperm of the wheat grain and is typically bleached for a whiter color. But white whole wheat is made from all three parts of a special variety of wheat that is milder in taste, lighter in color, and softer in texture.

For years, shoppers have associated brown bread with health. Then, the paradigm shifted when whole-grain white breads hit the shelves in 2005. The question on everyone's mind is, how is it possible for a white bread to be made with whole grain, even if it is blended with regular white flour, while white bread contains more nutrients than wheat, thanks to the addition of whole grain. "We're using a blend of enriched white flour and white whole wheat flour to create breads, buns, bagels, and English muffins that taste, look, and have the appearance of traditional products, but offer the nutrition of whole grain," says Frances Colotta, Ph.D., R.D. and director of product nutrition for Sara Lee Food & Beverage. Consumers are responding favorably, as Sara Lee's Whole Grain White Bread is the No. 1 selling bread in the country.

Whole grain in white bread? Absolutely.

Whole grain in white bread? Absolutely.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Novi News

Thursday, October 12, 2006

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At Davis Auto Care, at 807 Doherty Road in Northville, quality auto care and customer service are the primary goals.

Davis Auto Care: We fix it right

Quality work, customer service, key

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

There's a good reason why Davis Auto Care of Northville has earned the "People's Choice" award four years running. Owner Jim Davis and his staff have put customers at the center of their auto repair business.

"Our main purpose is solving people's problems," said Davis. "We want to make people's lives easier."

Davis Auto Care does it all, so cars and light trucks can get all maintenance and repairs done in one place. Everything from brakes, mufflers, tune-ups, electrical, tires and heavy repairs to oil changes and detailing can be done at the full-service shop.

Preventing break-downs

Jim Davis and the technicians at Davis Auto Care make lives easier by trying to prevent break-downs in the first place. The established garage takes the time to perform a 21-point safety check each time a customer steps in for service. Any mechanical issues are written up, and thoroughly explained, so customers can make an informed decision about whether to go ahead with the repair. The work is carefully prioritized, so those on a budget can fix the most urgent concerns first.

Davis also helps teach customers how to take care of their cars. He uses technology to remind customers when maintenance suggested by the manufacturer is due. This kind of personalized care makes it a little like having a mechanic in the family.

"The bottom line is, if we do the service right, people won't have a break-down," said Davis.

Not only do customers receive a 21-point inspection at Davis Auto Care, but it is also a part of every

DAVIS AUTO CARE

What: Complete maintenance and repair for all makes and models of cars, light trucks, vans and SUVs.

Where: 807 Doherty Road, just east of Northville Road in Northville.

Phone: (248) 349-5115

Web: davisautocare.com

oil change, next door, at Jim's Oil Depot. The depot provides quick, drive-through oil changes while still taking the time to make sure vehicles are in good working order.

"People want to take good care of their car, so it won't break down," said Davis. "We help them with routine maintenance so it will stay running for a long time."

In the same building as Davis Auto Care, Ultimate Image Auto Spa provides detailing work on the inside and outside of each car. It's the perfect place for a car to get cleaned up, which protects the vehicle's value, while making the vehicle look show room new.

Making it easier

Davis Auto Care stops at nothing to make sure that customers are treated well. A courtesy shuttle is always ready to pick up or drop off customers who need a ride. Davis even provides a cell phone to keep track of progress, for those who need it.

For those spending some time in the waiting room, Davis provides free high-speed Internet service, and even a computer for surfing the Web. A large TV, hot coffee, bottled water and pleasant waiting room make the time pass quickly.

"It's all those little things that make a big difference," said Davis. "We want to make it easier for you."

A part of the commitment to serving customers is getting vehicles repaired as quickly as possible, often days before other mechanics might. Staff will actually travel to pick up parts for vehi-

cles, instead of waiting for parts to come in later the next day. It's a matter of trying to get the cars and trucks fixed quickly so customers can get back on the road.

The right mechanic

Finding an auto repair business is often a matter of trust. Davis Auto Care has served customers well for over 26 years. During that time, Davis has built a solid reputation for good honest work. Customers continue to come back, even driving in after they've moved away. New customers come mostly as a result of referrals from other satisfied customers.

No repair at Davis is finished until the customer is satisfied. Davis will see to it that technicians continue to work on the car until the problem is completely solved. All repairs come with a one year warranty, good for 12,000 miles or longer, in addition to manufacturer's warranties on parts.

Having the owner on-site makes a difference to cautious consumers. Jim Davis handles all problems himself, with help from staff members April Rice, Dave Mascal and Kristy Yee. Customers who stop in regularly will quickly get to know the friendly staff.

Having a friendly, reliable staff makes a big difference in the auto care business. At Davis Auto Care, the staff takes the time to explain what is wrong with a vehicle, what is causing the problem and what would solve the problem. Just performing the action without talking it through could leave an issue hidden, or keep questions from getting answered.

"Good communication is an important part of any repair," said Davis. "It's important for customers to know 'Why do I have to spend all of this money on my car?'"

"Customers are generally more satisfied, if they understand where the money is going, and why."

The technicians are the most important part of the staff. All five are state and ASE nationally licensed Master Technicians with supplemental education in every



Davis Auto Care Master Technician Dennis Rau inspects the suspension system of a Ford van, one of many vehicle types the award-winning auto care facility is capable of repairing.

system of the car, and how those systems interface. The technicians can also get help in a sticky spot from technical subscription services.

Davis Auto Care is centrally located in Northville. Many consumers drive to Davis Auto Care,

even if they live or work a ways away. Davis Auto Care is located at 807 Doherty Road, just east of Northville Road in Northville. Coupons and special are available online at www.davisautocare.com. For more information call (248) 349-5115.

Winter Ready Specials

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