

# CHRISTMAS IS IN THE HOUSE!

SPORTS: ALL-AREA, DREAM TEAM SELECTIONS! P. 1B

MICROFILM COPY

Page 19A

GREEN SHEET  
Classifieds

## Novi News

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



Thursday, December 7, 2006

www.novinews.com

50 cents

Volume 51 Number 28

Novi, Michigan

### What you NEED TO KNOW

**In Town: Charlie Brown**  
Those who love the tale cartoonist Charles Schulz' "Peanuts" characters won't want to miss the play "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" this weekend on the Novi Theatres stage at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18 or \$15 for seniors at the Saturday performance only. For more information, call (248) 347-0400 or go to www.novitheatres.com.

### INSIDE



### WHAT'S GOING ON?

**Happening in town**  
Check out Novi's official events calendar, Page 14A

### INDEX

- Business Briefs.....11A
- Classifieds.....3D
- Class Notes.....8A
- Letters to the Editor.....16A
- Military Service.....3A
- On Campus.....11A
- Opinion & Letters.....16A
- Parade Pictures.....2A
- Phil Power.....17A
- Rock Financial.....18A
- Savvy Senior.....12A
- Sports.....1B
- What's Going On?.....14A

### CONTACT US

Novi News  
104 W. Main  
Northville, MI 48167

- Classifieds: (888) 999-1288
- Newsroom: (248) 349-1700
- Fax: (248) 349-9832
- Home Delivery: (888) 840-4809



Postal Information:

NOVI CHRISTMAS PARADE PICTURES, P. 2A; PHIL POWER: CARPING ABOUT GREAT LAKES, P. 17A

# 60 Seconds

NOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE MINUTE YOU SPEND WITH SANTA

## You're on the clock!

Hey parents, kids need help with high-level Xmas meeting

By Maureen Johnston and Victoria Mitchell  
STAFF WRITERS

Let's be real. Santa's a busy guy this time of year. Supervising the workshop elves, streamlining sleigh cargo logistics, evaluating cookies three criteria. So, when it comes time to bend his bowl full of jelly toward the girls and boys scrambling onto his lap to share their gift lists, he's got one twinkling eye on the second hand.

That paper in their hand is really a résumé. The mall cen-

continued on Page 6A

Photo by JOHN HEDBERG/Novi News - Illustration by TARIK WASHILENSKI

Santa Claus meets with sisters Erica, 2, and Shannon Love, 5, during a visit to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

## SHOT DOWN Fire: an uninvited seasonal guest

**Council sinks gun range plan; future murky**

By Greg Migliore  
STAFF WRITER

A bitterly divided Novi City Council shot down a plan Monday to pay for a police gun range, improvements to the department's headquarters and to earmark money for a future payoff of police bonds using federal forfeiture money.

"Council members voted 4-3, one vote shy of the necessary five to spend money, according to city rules. The council fell into two camps. Mayor David Landry, Mayor Pro-Tem Kim Capello and members Bob Gast and Terry Margolis supported the gun range and the potential training opportunities a new facility would have offered. Under the plan, the range would have been located at the city's Field Services Complex.

"This is not frivolous," said Gast, a former police officer. "This is a necessary item that's been on the table two years plus."

Members Lynne Paul, Toni Nagy and Andrew Mutch dissented, questioning the long-term

### Proposed Gun Range



SOURCE: City of Novi

impact the range would have on the city's finances.

"The maintenance of the firing range would be the taxpayers' burden for years to come," Paul said.

The plan would have allocated \$1.2 million to build the gun range and improve police headquarters. The section to set aside \$1.4 million for future payoff of police bonds was a surprise addition by Margolis and was not included on the printed agenda, a possible last-minute attempt to quell financial concerns among council members and residents about building a new facility before paying off previous debts.

The failure to garner the necessary votes was also a rare council

continued on Page 6A

**Holiday fires cause \$930M in damages every year**

By Greg Migliore  
STAFF WRITER

'Tis the season for holiday mishaps.

The number of fires spikes around Thanksgiving and remains elevated through New Year's. The main culprits: cooking accidents and decorations gone awry.

Fires cause \$930 million worth of damage and injure 2,600 people in the United States during the holiday season every year, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) estimates.

A specific figure wasn't available for Novi, but Fire Chief Frank Smith said it's significant. "It's not a huge increase, but it's enough that it's a difference," he said.

In a nutshell, people are doing things they don't do the rest of the year, like cooking large meals and putting up elaborate holiday displays.

And in the kitchen, that's particularly problematic. While fry-

continued on Page 7A



Photo by JOHN HEDBERG/Novi News

Novi Fire Protection Officer Matt Wonnacott checks the connections to an outdoor tree decorated with lights.

One love  
One diamond  
One place

**Diamond Castle**  
Jewelry Since 1927  
3955 Grand River Ave.  
Novi, MI 48162-2449

# Main Street Parade

## Novi residents, businesses turn out for holidays



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Performing Arts Academy students dance to "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" during a pre-parade entertainment even held inside Novi's Main Street development.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Meadowbrook Commons resident Ron Boyke hands out candy during last Thursday's holiday parade on Novi's Main Street.



Novi's Tollgate Cloggers pause for a photo with Santa before last Thursday night's parade



Novi High School marching band member Scott Davis performs on trumpet during last Thursday's holiday parade in Novi.

### Avoid the holiday spending hangover

By Steven B. Smith

The holiday season is in full swing: busy parking lots, crowded stores, countless parties and get-togethers, visits to distant relatives and trips to every retail outlet known to man looking for just the perfect gift for everyone on your list. It can all get pretty hectic and can quickly drain your bank account — or run up your credit card balance.

At the end of it all, far too many of us find ourselves exhausted and frazzled as we hold a credit card bill that we will be paying off until well into next year.

Here are four tips to help save money and cut the stress during the holiday season:

#### Set a budget

Nothing can sour the season like knowing that you'll still be paying for the eggnog and wrapping paper as you watch the fireworks on July 4. Take a look at your finances and decide how much you can really afford to spend, and then, using that amount, decide how much you will spend on each person on your list — not the other way around. As you start your shopping, be sure to keep track of everything you spend so you can stay on track with your budget. Use *Mvelopes Personal* ([www.mvelopes.com](http://www.mvelopes.com)) to save time and automatically track all your purchases.

#### Trim the list

In addition to trimming the tree this year, trim your gift list. Instead of sending batch-locks to everyone you know, send a thoughtful note expressing your appreciation for their friendship. Your sincerity and kind thoughts will mean so much more than that silly travel mug with the flashing lights that say "Merry X-mas" that looked like such a steal on the discount rack.

#### Shop online

You'll save time, money and possibly your sanity as you avoid the crowded parking lots and long lines. Even if you don't actually make your purchases online, the Internet can help you easily find the best prices, read customer reviews and compare products. Plus, you can sit back and sip some hot cocoa while you shop. Check out *Overstock.com*, *Shopzilla* or *PriceGrabber.com* to find good deals. Make sure to shop early, though, to avoid expensive overnight shipping costs.

#### Donate to charity

It's easy to get caught up in the consumption and craziness of the holidays. The remedy? Give to those less fortunate. Giving to charity helps keep needs and wants in perspective during the holiday frenzy. Give gently used clothing and blankets to a local shelter or the Salvation Army, or donate some time wrapping and distributing gifts for Toys for Tots or another organization. You may just rediscover the magic of the season.

Contrary to what *Millionaire* Avenue says, the holiday isn't really isn't about shopping and expensive parties and gifts; it's about giving of yourself, which although certainly not free, doesn't cost a dime.



Call 1-800-485-4415 to learn how your Medicare benefits cover more with a Blues plan.

Choose from a variety of plan options designed to fit your needs and budget that offer:

- Low premiums
- Comprehensive benefits
- Worldwide coverage
- Generics in the coverage gap

Annual Medicare Advantage open enrollment is Nov. 15 through Dec. 31. Call 1-800-485-4415, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. TTY for the hearing impaired is 1-800-481-8704.

source code SLHA

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan are not affiliated with the federal government and are not guarantors, reinsurers, or underwriters of the policies of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan.

## The Medicare coverage you want from the health care company you trust



Medical plans (dental coverage included) with and without Part D prescription drug coverage, including an option that covers generic medications in the coverage gap



Medical plans with Part D prescription drug coverage



Part D prescription drug plans add drug coverage to Original Medicare, or to Medicare Advantage or other plans that do not include drug coverage.

[MiBCN.com/medicare](http://MiBCN.com/medicare)  
[bcbsm.com/medicare](http://bcbsm.com/medicare)



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Take your pick!** Carrie Vacca, left, assists Parkview fourth-grader Sami DeLisle as she makes selections during last week's PTO-sponsored holiday gift shop. The shop allowed students to purchase gifts for \$1.50 and was organized by Maria Mazza and staffed by 100 volunteers.

THE NOVI NEWS  
Published Each Thursday  
By The Novi News  
104 W. Main Street  
Northville, Michigan 48167  
Periodical  
At Northville, Michigan

Subscription Rates:  
Inside Counties \$9 for 13 wks. home delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$20 for 13 wks. prepaid. Out of state, \$25 for 13 wks.

The Novi News is published by Federated Publications, Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary of Gannett Co. Inc. Postmaster, send address changes to: The Novi News, Post Office Box 470, Howell, MI 48844. POLICY STATEMENT: All advertising published in The Novi News is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, The Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167. (248-349-9003). The Novi News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's offer. The Novi News ad-takers have no authority to bind the newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Publication Number USPS 396290

"I'll never own a bank."



Cindy  
Member-Owner

"But I *do* own my credit union."



At Telcom Credit Union, you are a member-owner! We have been serving our member-owners for over 70 years. Telcom Credit Union is a not-for-profit full service financial institution. As a member-owner you share in our profits. You receive quality member service, very competitive interest rates, and you pay less in fees. Join today, and you can "bank" here at your local credit union... Telcom Credit Union!

**Canton**  
44300 Warren Rd.  
734.453.4212

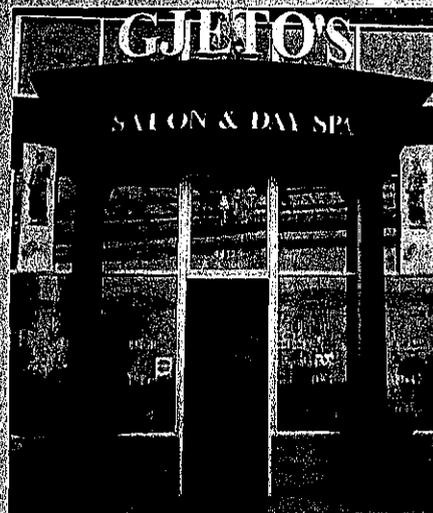
**Novi**  
44575 West 12 Mile Rd.  
248.735.9500

**South Lyon**  
21985 Pontiac Trail  
248.486.1166

**Southfield**  
21100 Northwestern Hwy.  
248.569.1700

[telcomcu.com](http://telcomcu.com)

## Novi's Best Kept Secret



### Gift Certificates Available

- Spa Packages
- Professional Hair Treatments
- Great Lengths Hair Extensions
- Nova Lash Eyelash Extensions
- Kerastase of Paris Hair Products
- Phympomer Skin Care Products

### Holiday Packages

- Holiday Getaway \$350**  
Gjetto's Signature Facial, La Stone Therapy Massage, Ocean Diamond Body Wraps, Express Pedicure, Gjetto's Spa Manicure
- The Royal Treatment \$250**  
12 Stone Massage Therapy, Gjetto's Signature Facial, Express Pedicure, Gjetto's Spa Manicure
- Holiday Escape \$170**  
Swedish Massage, Gjetto's Signature Facial, Gjetto's Spa Manicure
- Holiday Spa Treatment \$150**  
Swedish Therapy Massage, Express Pedicure, Treatment, Gjetto's Spa Manicure
- A Warm Embrace \$100**  
Swedish Massage, Wrench Polish, Gjetto's Spa Manicure Treatment



Located at Fountain Walk in Novi  
44125 12 Mile Rd. • Novi, 48377  
248.349.9003 • [www.gjettosdayspa.com](http://www.gjettosdayspa.com)

Where to  
Eat in  
Novi!



Fondue Style!



## Holiday Party... Fondue Style!

The Melting Pot is the most unique and interactive dining experience for your holiday party of any size. Call today and we'll help you plan the event of the year!

Novi | 26425 Novi Rd. | 248.347.MELT (6358)

The   
**Melting Pot**  
a fondue restaurant

10000 Lakeside Blvd., Novi, MI 48240 • 248.347.6358 • www.meltingpot.com

fondue coast to coast | locally owned and operated | www.meltingpot.com

金翠軒 專業海鮮酒家  
**KIM'S GARDENS**  
Authentic Chinese Seafood • Open 7 Days a Week  
Dim Sum Everyday from 11:00am - 3:00pm

Full Bar • Party room available  
Enjoy Dining in an  
Exotic Chinese Atmosphere

- Almond Chicken
- Sweet & Sour chicken
- General chicken
- Egg Rolls

Please call us  
for party reservations  
and catering

(248) 348-0700  
Fax (248) 348-8709  
26150 Novi Road • Novi, Michigan




Taste of **Bangkok**  
Cuisine

Full Service Bar  
International Beer • Wine • Saki

Daily Lunch  
Special  
**\$5.50**

**1/2 Off  
Entree**

With purchase of an entree  
of equal or lesser value.  
Expires 12/31/06

Taste of Bangkok Cuisine  
1331 Grand River Ave. • Novi  
www.bangkokcuisine.com

Let Us Cater Your  
Holiday Get Together!

cock • Kibb • Gluten & More

**\$5.00 OFF**  
Your Purchase of \$20 or more  
Dine In or Carry out

Percent coupon to receive offer.  
Not to be combined with other offers. Expires 12/31/06



FISH & KIBB  
CATERING & MORE  
26150 Novi Road

# SANTA: Kids need prep help when it comes to crucial Santa sitdown

continued from 1A

ter court is a conference room. And don't let the red sweaters fool you. Turn them into blue shirts and Brooks Brothers suits, and what you have, parents, is your kid's first job interview. And they need your help.

They're facing the Big Guy, who's asking the tough questions — What do you want for Christmas? Have you been naughty or nice? And how have you been treating your little brother? Think Mike Wallace with a white beard.

And that tick, tick, tick you hear when the red velvet and white fur turns in your kids' direction indicates whether they'll get St. Nick's nod as a good girl or boy.

With a jolly 'ol spin on some job-search tips, here's how to make the most of your 60 Seconds with Santa:

## 1. It's OK to be nervous.

Depends on the individual: Some kids race to climb up on the big guy's lap. Others prefer a more demure approach. Experts say it's OK — even natural — to be nervous about an interview. Ask yourself: What's the worst that can happen? No matter how it goes, you can count it as a learning experience. And did we mention the lineup of other kids still waiting their turn? Tame the butterflies, swallow hard and get moving!

## 2. Plan ahead.

According to Mindhook.com, the best way to plan ahead is to make a to-do list. According to the Web site, to-do lists are prioritized lists of all the tasks that you need to carry out. They list everything that you have to do, with the most important tasks at the top of the list and the least important tasks at the bottom. Sounds like good Christmas list advice, too. After all, you don't want your moment to arrive and spend it asking Santa for your least favorite toy. So go ahead. Make the list, even memorize it if you need to. Just remember to prioritize your list from the most important to the thing you want least.

## 3. Prep emotionally.

OK, you know he's a busy guy. Monster.com says preparing emotionally for the interview is as important as researching the company. The right mood helps you perform at your best. Tips include: Go for a walk, sing your favorite song while driving to the interview, repeat an inspirational phrase or simply remember a time when you felt terrific. Tell yourself you're equally important as the sweetly smiling girl in the cute sweater next in line. And, the song: "Up on the rooftop, click, click, click..."

## 4. Face the feedback.

Mike Williams, agent at Keller Williams Realty in Northville, said when it comes to feedback, usually the person already knows it's coming. So if you're sitting on Santa's lap, and you know you've been bad, or you know even Santa can't get his hands on a Playstation 3, don't be surprised when the jolly 'Ol' Soul says "naa." Instead, listen to what Santa says you're more likely to get and adjust your requests accordingly. And definitely don't take any Santa feedback personally. "Take it for what it is," Williams said. "Sometimes feedback is very personal, so you need to take it with a grain of salt."

## 5. Follow up the interview.

Students learning career skills at Northville High School are told to follow every interview with a "thank you" letter addressed to the interviewer. This is also a good approach with the man in red. In fact, with area Santa access so plentiful, a novel approach to wish-listing should include a visit with your scrooling requests followed by a thank you letter to the North Pole. Just remember: Take a little emphasis off the buildup before your most important interview of the season. Dedicating more time to the Santa thank-you letter may be just the way to close the deal.

## 6. Be quiet and focus.

Whatever you do, don't squint. You're one of how many kids who played the nosiest on the red velvet since he flew in from the North Pole? And he's got three weeks left before the Christmas Eve gig. So, be gentle. Experts say don't talk too much. Listen to the question asked and answer that question. Monster.com says watch the interviewer's eyes — if they glaze over, you've lost him. And don't step on the black boots or, for goodness' sake, pull the beard in any way.

## 7. Ditch the references.

Gray Eades, 25-year owner of The Letter Writer resume service, said when preparing your package for prospective employers, a printed list of references often isn't needed. "The fact of the matter is, all you need are a few phone numbers in your wallet," she said. Eades said these days references often aren't checked or are used only to verify the basics. So, if references are becoming more and more obsolete in the business world, surely the big man in red won't have enough time for



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Able Cripps, 3, gets her photo taken with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus during last weekend's Michigan Christmas Show, held at the Rock Financial Showplace.

phone calls. Just sit on Santa's lap instead, make a good impression and turn to awaiting parents, if needed. You know they will back up your claims of being good if you find yourself in a pinch.

## 8. Sell yourself.

Leigh Stearns, Northville Public Schools business internship coordinator, said being confident is a great way to sell yourself in an interview. She said Northville High School students also learn rehearsing for an interview with parents is a no-brainer tip: The same advice holds true with Santa. Want to show you are the worthy candidate for an iPod Nano? Just practice with your parents, asking in a confident, positive manner. Let them judge if you are selling yourself to the fullest potential. And Stearns said don't forget a nice firm handshake at the end while making eye contact. Even with Santa, this may give you the edge you need in the tough toy market.

## 9. You get one chance.

No matter how many times you go to the mall between now and Dec. 25 and see the jolly old guy bantering away with people your size, do not get in a line a

second time. Just don't do it. Remember, he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. With only a few days remaining, good behavior is critical. Santa's final decision is often made in these final crucial hours.

## 10. Get to Work!

Remember that Christmas

morning feeling last year? "He can't!" Now remember this: There's plenty of other candidates out there seeking that same satisfaction, vying for the same gifts you covet. So, you better be good. "Aw, Mom."

All those "Aw, Mom," "Crisen, Dad" moans go straight through intra-office mail to the North Pole human resources department to see whether you qualify: "Hired as a gift recipient."

So, you better not pout, you better not cry. Here's telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town. Make the most of it.

Maureen Johnston and Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700 or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com and vemiche1@gannett.com.



Get your hands on the **HOTTEST** gift of the season

Get a **SONY PlayStation® 3** with our special 12-month CD\*

Loyally Program\*\* customers who open a \$25,000 12-month CD can receive a Sony PlayStation® 3 in lieu of interest. Offer begins December 4, 2006. While supplies last.

Convenience you can count on. **Flagstar Bank**

15000 Ford Road, Novi, Michigan 48240

\*Offer begins 12/4/06 and is available only at Flagstar banking centers in Michigan to customers who belong to or enroll in the PlayStation Loyalty Program, and only while supplies last. This annual promotion gives you a PS3 or PS2000 (whichever of choice is 2.0% off, based on PlayStation's cost of providing this special incentive in lieu of interest. Penalty for early withdrawal is \$1,500. This offer may be withdrawn at any time and may not be combined with any coupons or other offers. Account fees could reduce earnings. Limit one per household, not available to business accounts or public units. Offer restrictions may apply. \*\*Loyalty Program: customer must maintain the open and active checking account at Flagstar Bank with at least one automatic recurring transaction monthly. A 100 penalty will be imposed against the CD balance if checking account is closed before CD maturity or if remaining monthly transaction is discontinued. \*PlayStation 3 is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation.



# SAFETY: Holiday tips

continued from 1A

ing a turkey has emerged as a trendy way to prepare a traditional feast. Smith said it's fast becoming one of the top holiday hazards, as inexperienced cooks and free gallons of hot oil make for a recipe for disaster.

"It's a huge danger if someone's not careful," he said.

Candles are also a traditional risk, Smith said, as many people light them and then forget about them. Overloading extension cords and leaving holiday lights on are also frequent fire hazards.

**Common sense is important**

Simple tips, however, can make the holidays go smoother. Smith said taking proper care of the Christmas tree is critical. Watering it and giving it a fresh cut before putting it up can make it last longer and reduce risk. The USFA also recommends limiting the amount of live real trees are on display to two weeks.

Norwalk Township Fire Chief William Zmenda said using quality, laboratory-tested powerstrips and other electrical equipment is important. It's also imperative to have addresses visible from the street so if something does go wrong, the fire department finds the right house.

Basically, seasonal safety boils down to common sense, Zmenda said.

"Just make it enjoyable so that everybody has a safe holiday and we really don't have to visit you unless we're invited," he said.

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

## HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Every year, holiday fires injure 2,800 people and result in \$320 million in damages, according to U.S. Fire Administration. For a safe holiday, NFPA Chief Frank Smith recommends the following tips:

- Take precautions in the kitchen. If you use an microwave, don't lean to fry the family turkey.
- Don't leave seasonal candles unattended.
- Do use laboratory-tested extension cords.
- Properly water and trim your tree.

SOURCE: Now News Research

## MILITARY SERVICE

Andrew J. Axe

Andrew J. Axe graduated from the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science at McChes. Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tenn. and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air National Guard.

The six-week, in-resident course curriculum is designed to prepare the officer candidate for initial assignment as a commissioned officer and to serve as a foundation to build a career in the Air Force reserve components. The major subject areas of instruction included military studies, physical training, academic studies, professional development, communicative skills, leadership and management, international security and defense studies.

After graduation, the lieutenant will either attend further career development training or return to his or her resident state unit of assignment.

Axe is a pilot assigned to the 110th Fighter Wing, Battle Creek.

He is the son of Fred Axe of San Mateo, Calif., and Jackie S. Axe of Kalamazoo. His wife, Michelle, is the daughter of Rick L. and Nancy S. Pantalone of Novi. In 1997, he graduated from Paw Paw High School, Mich., and received a bachelor's degree in 2001 from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

**Army Private Laura A. Kantner**  
Army Private Laura A. Kantner has graduated from the Food Service Specialist Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va.

The course is designed to train servicemembers to perform preliminary food preparation procedures according to Army production schedules and recipes; cook, bake and serve food in large and small quantities; field and garrison kitchen operations; and general operation of Army dining facilities, including cleaning and housekeeping, sanitation measures and storage of subsistence items.

Kantner is the daughter of Timothy and Rebecca Kantner of E. Lake Drive, Novi.

The private is a 2006 graduate of Walley Lake Western High School.

SHOP EARLY THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 10:00 PM AND FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM

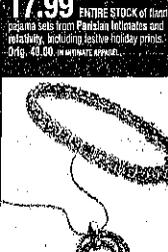
THE PARISIAN GIFT CARD Available throughout the store for 5.00 and up



# GIFT SALE

## EXCEPTIONAL SAVINGS, SPECIAL GIFTS

 <p><b>17.99</b> ENTIRE STOCK of flannel pajama sets from Parisian Intimates and more, including festive holiday prints. Only 43.00 in women's center.</p>	 <p><b>79.99</b> MEN'S CASHMERE SWEATERS from Parisian Signature. Sweater styles available in navy (shown), black, and charcoal. Sizes available in S, M, L, XL. 150.00 in men's &amp; accessories center.</p>	 <p><b>49.99</b> MILANO SWEATERS from Cutter &amp; Buck Collection in ribbed half-zip in colors: Heather, Black, Navy, and more. Sizes available in S, M, L, XL. 69.99 in men's &amp; accessories center.</p>	 <p><b>69.99</b> ENTIRE STOCK of leather handbags from Bell &amp; Stone Mountain. Only 140.00-160.00 in women's center.</p>
---	---	--	---

 <p><b>119.99</b> YOUR CHOICE of diamond jewelry. Choose from 1.0 ct. to 5.0 ct. diamonds in three-scale pendant necklace. Only 230.00-275.00 in accessories.</p>	 <p><b>40% OFF</b> KIDS' HOLIDAY DRESSWEAR in girls' sizes 2-16, boys' sizes 2-20 and lightweight sizes. Only 120.00, 120.00, and 120.00 in accessories.</p>	 <p><b>30% OFF</b> SOCIAL DRESSES &amp; SEPARATES. Choose from a large selection. In ladies' center and Parisian Women's center. Only 60.00-220.00, sale 60.00-220.00, at the Parisian. Selection varies by store. SPECIAL PROMOTION. EXPIRES 12/11.</p>	 <p><b>50% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK of ladies' fall outerwear. Choose from jackets, blazers, and long coats. Only 120.00-650.00, sale 60.00-325.00. In accessories center. Selection varies by store.</p>
--	---	---	---

FREE GIFT WRAP PERSONAL SERVICE DELUXE CONTAINERS NEW & CLASSIC FRAGRANCES

 <p><b>chanel no. 5</b> For Her. 1.7 oz. and 3.3 oz. bottles. 17.50-25.00. In accessories center.</p>	 <p><b>LANCÔME FREE GIFT</b> Yours free with any \$2.00 or more Lancôme purchase. All your Lancôme favorites wrapped up and ready to go in a signature rouge cosmetic bag and coordinating tote. Includes: Rénergie Microcell Active Restoring Treatment, Bi-Facial Eye Makeup Remover, Color Focus EyeColor Quencher, Color Design Sensational Effects LipColour (full-size) and Optimal Mascara. IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CUSTOMER. PLEASE, SHOP RESPONSIBLY.</p>	 <p><b>sean john</b> Holiday set of Unforgivable by Sean John. Set of 3. \$75.00. In accessories center.</p>
--	---	--

## SAVE MORE WITH YOUR COUPONS

**TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF\***

any single REGULAR-priced, sale or clearance item, including fine jewelry

valid Thursday, December 7 thru Monday, December 11

\*THE 10% OFF LAUREL OUTLET ONLY

PARISIAN ACC00010R0W

**TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF\***

any single REGULAR-priced, sale or clearance item, including fine jewelry

valid Thursday, December 7 thru Monday, December 11

\*THE 10% OFF LAUREL OUTLET ONLY

PARISIAN ACC00010R11

YOU'RE SOMEBODY SPECIAL

# PARISIAN

LIMITED TIME OFFER - Save an extra 20% when you open a Parisian account now thru December 11. \*Valid only at Parisian retail and Parisian Outlet stores. See in-store for details. Offer good on purchases of \$25 or more. Excludes gift cards, cash, and other restricted items. See in-store for details. Subject to change without notice. ©2006 Parisian. All rights reserved.

PARISIAN SIGNATURE REWARDS EARN PARISIAN REWARD POINTS WITH EVERY PARISIAN CREDIT CARD PURCHASE. SHOP MORE. EARN MORE. SAVE MORE.

TO ORDER, CALL 1-800-484-8208 MONDAY THRU SATURDAY, 10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM EST, AND SUNDAY, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM EST. American Express not accepted with participating stores.

NYC HEADQUARTERS: The Village of Rockefeller Plaza (212) 276-8700 and Laurel Park Plaza (212) 633-7000 open 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Sat. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sun. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. CHARGE IT! Parisian Credit Card. (Member Card, Visa, the American Express Card or Discover). LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, CORNER OF MORTON AVE. AND WALKER ST. (AT THE VILLAGE) AND LAUREL PARK PLAZA IN LYONIA, CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD. Participating stores may have limited quantities of regular and special items. All items subject to change without notice. \*Regular and special items prices which may not have included tax and shipping. Some original prices may have been in effect during the last 30 days. Information not shown may have been subject to change. Regular and special items prices which may not have included tax and shipping.

**Dining to Donate**

Enjoy a meal that's giving - and helping.

Direct all of your gift tax dollars to the United Way. No need to pay anything.

Free for you. Free for the community.

13 Months, No Payments, Deferred Interest. Expires 12/31/06.

0% Financing Available  
5 Years Parts & Labor Warranty

Our 32nd Year!

**UNITED TEMPERATURE**

6919 MIDDLEBELT 1 LYONIA, OHIO 44128

THINKING ABOUT A NEW FURNACE?

**LENNOX**

Free Estimates (734) 525-1930

13 Months, No Payments, Deferred Interest. Expires 12/31/06.

0% Financing Available  
5 Years Parts & Labor Warranty

Our 32nd Year!

**UNITED TEMPERATURE**

6919 MIDDLEBELT 1 LYONIA, OHIO 44128

**SOUTH LYON THEATER**

STARTS Fri, Dec. 8

**Deck the Halls**

Matthew Broderick & Danny Defino

Rated PG

Fri - 7pm  
Sat, Sun - 1, 4 & 7pm  
Mon-Thurs 9pm

Sat Dec 9th 9pm  
**Drive Key ELVIS**

Evenings  
Adults \$4.50 Kids \$4.00  
Weekdays \$3.00

Wednesday  
FREE sm. Popcorn  
with paid admission

Thursday  
FREE Ice Cream  
with paid admission

Monday is Senior Citizen Night  
\$3 admission

126 E. Lake St.  
437-4545

## CLASS NOTES

### All Night Party Fund-raiser

Area residents dining from 4-9 p.m. every Wednesday this month at Applebee's, 47909 Grand River will help contribute to the Novi High School All Night Party fund. Applebee's will donate 20 percent of each bill party committee. Patrons must present a special Applebee's coupon to each server, which can be obtained at the high school office, or downloaded from the high school web site ([www.novihigh.k12.mi.us](http://www.novihigh.k12.mi.us)).

### New Preschool Program

The Novi Co-op Preschool is introducing a new program for 2-year-old toddlers with a care giver beginning January 9. The program will include crafts, songs, finger plays and more to develop fine motor skills, gross motor skills and sensory and social development. Open enrollment has begun. Contact (248) 349-3223 or go to [www.NoviPreschool.com](http://www.NoviPreschool.com) for more information or to enroll.

### Hickory Woods Elementary

The Hickory Woods Elementary School Scholastic Book Fair will run from Dec. 11-18. Contact the school at (248) 956-2600 or your student's teacher for the exact shopping schedule. Cash donations are also being accepted in the school office for the Holiday Cate Fund through Dec. 15. The donations will be used to help Hickory Woods' families in need.

## ON CAMPUS

### Valparaiso University

Novi resident, Karen Jaak, was named a Lumina Scholar, Juniors in the College of Arts and Sciences are named Lumina Scholars if the cumulative grade

point average for the preceding five semesters is 3.60 or higher. A ceremony to present the award was held on Sunday, Oct. 29. Jaak is a music department major, and is the daughter of Christopher and Nancy Jaak of Novi.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

### Only 17 shopping days left!

Twelve Oaks Mall shoppers dash by a Pottery Barn store display during the busy holiday season shopping.

## VARSITY LINCOLN MERCURY COLLISION CENTER

2 exits west of 12 Oaks Mall at Grand River and Wixom Road  
1-248-449-6901

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER  
"BEST COLLISION SHOP" 2005

It's your choice so choose the best!

Tell your insurance company

"I'm going to Varsity Lincoln Mercury's Collision Center"



- We Repair All Makes & Models
- Direct Repair For All Major Insurance Companies
- Guaranteed On Time Repairs
- 90 Days Same As Cash On Your Collision Deductible\*

### Varsity Collision Center Special\*

Save this in case of an accident for

**FREE TOWING**

Courtesy of Varsity Lincoln Mercury Collision Center

248-896-8888

### Varsity Collision Center Special\*

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT -

CLIP THIS COUPON & SAVE

**FREE Collision Loaner**

Courtesy of Varsity Lincoln Mercury Collision Center

248-449-6901



Expecting Someone?

## THE MERLE AND SHIRLEY HARRIS BIRTHING CENTER AT HURON VALLEY-SINAI HOSPITAL

- Beautiful, all private birthing suites, for labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum (LDRP) care
- Anesthesiologists available 24 hours a day
- Complete-care nursery including full-time neonatology service for infants with special needs
- High-risk pregnancy, infertility and genetics services\*

\*All in conjunction with Hutzel Women's Hospital and Wayne State University.



Expect the Best.  
To schedule a tour of the Merle and Shirley Harris Birthing Center at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, call (248) 937-5120. To schedule an appointment with one of our physicians, call (888) DMC-2500.

**DMC**  
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital  
DETROIT MEDICAL CENTER, FORTNE STATE UNIVERSITY

1 William Carls Drive • Commerce, Michigan • 248-937-3300 • [www.hvsh.org](http://www.hvsh.org)

All Commerce & Commerce in Commerce

# Guernsey FARMS DAIRY

21300 Novi Rd., Just North of 6 Mile  
248-349-1466  
[www.guernseyfarmsdairy.com](http://www.guernseyfarmsdairy.com)  
Family Owned and Operated Since 1940 by John McGuire

## COME & JOIN US FOR OLD FASHIONED EGG NOG & COOKIES WITH SANTA!

On December 22nd from 2pm to 4pm

- Enjoy Egg Nog, Cookies & Ice Cream with Santa in our Dining Room
- Bring your own camera to take pictures
- Reservations are required so call today
- Special gift for every child • \$5.00 per person

Bring in this ad for **15% Off Dinner for 4**  
Dine in only. Offer valid Dec. 25th 2006 - Feb. 28th 2007.

# Taorello's

Sale Dates: SUNDAY, DEC. 3rd thru SAT., DEC. 9th, 2006

Store Hours: Mon. - Sat. • 8 - 8 and Sunday • 9 - 6

## MARKETPLACE

For The Connoisseur Of Good Taste!

FRESH PICKED GREEN BEANS <b>89¢</b>	FLORIDA • SWEET RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT <b>5/\$1</b>
5 lb. BAG YUKON GOLD POTATOES <b>\$1.99</b>	RED RIPE CUT SEEDLESS WATERMELON <b>49¢</b>
U.S.D.A. CHOICE BONELESS SIRLOIN STEAK <b>\$3.99</b>	OUR OWN GOURMET STUFFED CHICKEN PARMESAN <b>\$3.99</b>
	EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF FROM CHUCK <b>\$1.79</b>
	26 - 30 CL. CERTIFIED ORGANIC JUMBO SHRIMP <b>\$9.99</b>
DELALLO MILD PROVOLONE CHEESE <b>\$3.99</b>	SAHLEN'S LEMON PEPPER CHICKEN <b>\$6.99</b>
	DIETZ & WATSON CORNED BEEF <b>\$9.49</b>
IMPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA GOOD EARTH BANROC STATION MERLOT <b>\$5.99</b>	FROM ROGUE VALLEY, OREGON 2004 FORIS PINOT NOIR <b>\$15.99</b>
50% MERLOT • 35% BONAARDA • 15% SANGIOVESE BODEGA DON CRISTOBAL "1492" <b>\$6.99</b>	

1007 E. GRAND RIVER • BRIGHTON (810) 225-8900

# Kickoff the holidays with 'The Nutcracker'

■ **Timeless classic returns this weekend to Novi High School**

By Greg Migliore  
STAFF WRITER

It's the signature holiday performance — "The Nutcracker" — and it's coming to Novi. The Metropolitan Ballet Academy & Theatre will perform the 19th Century classic at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday at Novi High School. Tickets are \$12.

The ballet features more than 40 area dancers ages 6-17. Thirteen of the dancers are from Novi, a portion of the gate receipts will be donated to the Novi Youth Assistance Program.

It's designed to be family friendly, said Michelle Streicher, administrative director of Metropolitan Ballet.

**"The Nutcracker"**  
WHERE: Novi High School  
WHEN: Saturday and 6 p.m.  
TICKETS: Are \$12 available in advance at the door.  
MORE INFORMATION: The Sports Club of Novi (248) 735-6850

Performances of "The Nutcracker" can exceed two and a half hours, but this version is streamlined to about an hour and 15 minutes with an intermission. "It's really geared to families," said Streicher, a 37-year-old mother of two, who juggles her kids, the Metropolitan Ballet and her day job as a law professor at the University of Detroit Mercy.

This is the third year that the group, which is based at The Sports Club of Novi, has put on "The Nutcracker." It also performs different ballets in the spring.

## Novi Residents in "The Nutcracker"

Name	Age
Pierre Hage	11
Dana Czarkaj	16
Amy Spitz	14
Katharine Ferriss	12
Kalston Michalski	9
Jessica Hamilton	11
Emily Seung	9
Krista Yee	13
Maria Giampà	11
Ashley Samuelsen	8
Haleema Haddad	8
Maggie Kubacki	11
Rhianna Tamara	8

SOURCE: Metropolitan Ballet Theatre & Academy

## Talented dancers

The dancers train several days a week and many play multiple roles in "The Nutcracker." "It's sort of like you're playing offense, defense and special teams," Streicher said.

While it's a youth performance that's family oriented, Streicher said the group has plenty of future potential. The dancers are classified as intermediate to pro-professional, which is ballet jargon for talented.

Future careers aside, the dancers say they simply enjoy the show, being on stage and getting into the performance.

"It's sort of the flowing movement that I enjoy," said Elyse Brusler, gesturing with her hands to illustrate her point.

The fair-haired 12-year-old has been performing ballet for eight years, and "The Nutcracker" was one of her favorite childhood tales. She said the hours of training are worth it at showtime.

"It takes discipline, but when the performance comes together, it's really rewarding," said Brusler, a Novi middle school student.

Dana Czarkaj, a 16-year-old Novi High School junior, plays the shepherdess whose sheep are taken by a wolf. She said her

**"It takes discipline, but when the performance comes together, it's really rewarding."**

Elyse Brusler, 12  
Student, Novi Middle School

character spends much of the ballet plotting to get the sheep back.

"It's just a really cute, fun little piece," said Czarkaj, who has done ballet for three years and also dances and golfs for the Wildcats.

She said the hours of training are worth it at showtime.

**International instructors**  
The story and the veteran instructors Jay Kim and Victoria Stock-Kim directed 12-year-old Katherine Ferriss to "The Nutcracker."

"I just really like the ballet, and the instructors are really nice," said Ferriss, who attends Novi

Middle School. They're nice — and also experienced. The husband-and-wife team have performed in the United States and internationally, including extensive stints in Korea.

The Kims are also prolific teachers and hold ranking positions with the Ford Center for Arts and Learning at the Detroit Opera House.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 167 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

## 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 astronaut 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 1-800-469-3638 and listen to the toll free 24 hr recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: [www.midsherniation.com](http://www.midsherniation.com)

<b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN</b> WILMOUTH WYOMING High & Elm Streets, Northville Lutheran Pastor Church 347-3140 School 349-1346 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.	<b>WARD EVANGELICAL</b> <b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4200 E. Main Street, Northville, MI 248-224-7402 Morning Worship 9:00-10:20 & 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery Provided Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m. <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a>
<b>FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> On Haggerty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration 10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m. (248) 248-1700 Dr. Ron Baker, Pastor	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</b> <b>CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 221 West Park Highway, (248) 349-9711 Worship & Church School - 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Children's Respite Care - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Youth Group (ages 13-18) 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Single Adults - Thurs. 7:00 p.m. New Members Class Seminar Pastor Ronald Baker, Executive Pastor
<b>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 2138 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at S 172 Mile 248-348-7757 <a href="http://www.congchurch.org">www.congchurch.org</a> Sunday Worship 10 a.m. For further information, call Dr. Denise Ross, Churchwide, the Board of Deacons, Ed Wittington, Interim Minister	<b>GUN LADY OF VICTORY</b> <b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 170 Tower Northville WENDELL HUBBARD, Pastor 248-349-6000 Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. 12:30 PM Church School, School 349-3910 Rectory: 349-3910 Rev. Janice Terrell, Pastor
<b>HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL</b> 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty Phone 248-427-1155 Sat. 5 p.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. Rev. Nancy Henry, Pastor <a href="http://www.churchofholycross.com">www.churchofholycross.com</a>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD</b> <b>LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 7 Miles & Meadowbrook Wicacran Ev. Lutheran Synod Adult Bible Class 8:45am Worship 10:00am Thomas E. Schaefer, Pastor, 349-0565

## Oakland Community College Get ANYWHERE from here...

- University Transfer programs in Liberal Arts, Science, Business Administration, Music and Theater
- Two convenient campus sites in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford
- More than 130 Certificate and Degree programs in high-demand professions
- Affordable tuition - \$56.80 per credit hour for district residents
- Thousands of courses from which to choose
- Register on campus, online, or by phone
- No charge to apply

Enroll NOW for WINTER Classes EASY!

Teach, Take & Web Registration Now through January 5, 2007

Final Registration January 3, 4 & 5, 2007

Classes begin Monday, January 8, 2007

Register for classes on the [www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu)

248.341.2350  
[www.oakland.edu](http://www.oakland.edu)

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 349-1147 4 Miles & Meadowbrook Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. (new service) Rev. John Hee Rev. Life Coach <a href="http://www.fumchurch.org">www.fumchurch.org</a>	<b>OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> 5200 W. 16th Mile Novi Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Catholic contemporary live band (248) 919-8203 <a href="http://www.oakpointe.org">www.oakpointe.org</a>
<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Huntington Hills - 2525 24th Rd. - 248-410-0561 Sisterhood: Rev. & Irenaeus Sabbath School 8:30 a.m. Scripture Study: 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. (Bible Study) 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary Bible Study) at 11:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. (Novi) 10:30 a.m. (Novi) & 12:15 p.m. (Novi) at 10:30 a.m.	<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 5205 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi MI 48215 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. 10:30 a.m. Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Sun. Holy Days: 9 a.m., 10:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m. Fr. John R. Backus, Pastor Fr. Robert Stebbins, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 348-8841

Your church could be here. Call Lisa Tincu 248-349-1700 ext. 118

Your church could be here. Call Lisa Tincu 248-349-1700 ext. 118

## We're Flexible!

Custom-Build a Flex Certificate that fits your needs

**5.450% APY\*** with checking

**5.200% APY\*** without checking

**Pick Your Rate & Term!**

Discover how easy it is to build your savings with Community Financial's new insured **Flex Certificate**. We've set the rate, now you decide the term! It's that simple.

- You pick the term; from 90 days to 5 years
- Accounts insured to \$350,000
- Friendly, professional service at an office near you

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

**Ad Council**

## WHAT A CHILD LEARNS ABOUT VIOLENCE A CHILD LEARNS FOR LIFE.

Teach carefully. We can show you how. Call 877-ACT-WISE for a free brochure or visit [www.actagainstviolence.org](http://www.actagainstviolence.org).

**OC** **OPERATIONAL CRISIS**

**COMMUNITY FINANCIAL**

Thinking forward. Banking right.

Call or stop by a Community Financial office today!

(734) 453-1200 (877) 937-2328 toll free [www.cfu.org](http://www.cfu.org)

<b>PLYMOUTH</b> 500 S. Harvey	<b>CANTON</b> 6355 N. Canton Center	<b>NORTHVILLE</b> 400 E. Main	<b>NOVI</b> 43350 Arena Dr.
----------------------------------	--	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

\*The 5.45% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) requires an active checking account and is available on deposits of \$1,000 or more with new money not currently on deposit at Community Financial. Subject to our traditional term certificate from 90 days to 5 years. Rate effective 11/15/06. Rate can not be combined with any other bonus rate offer and are subject to change without notice. Subject to penalty for early withdrawal, fees, if any, may reduce earnings.

NCAA: Your savings federally insured to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the U.S. Government. IRAs are insured to \$250,000 by the NCUA. Your savings also privately insured up to an additional \$250,000 by Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI). ESI is a subsidiary of American Share Insurance Co. Equal Housing Lender. ©2006 Community Financial.

# Better Health hosts craft show, Cookies with Santa festivities

Parents can shop while children enjoy sweets.

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

All of the healthy cookie ingredients are also available at the Novi Better Health Store.

### Candles, pottery, gift baskets

While the children talk to Santa and get creative with cookies, four area women will have candles, ceramics, pottery, gift baskets and other holiday items for sale.

"Mom and Dad can shop for holiday gifts while the children decorate their cookies," Handelsman said.

"It's something fun and healthy that parents can do with their kids," he said. "It's a great family activity."

The Better Health store carries everything from nutritional supplements to healthy snacks, organic produce, natural meat and poultry, natural remedies, organic wine, specialty beers, a cafe with an organic salad bar and literature on healthy living.

Handelsman said the event will give parents the chance to adopt some healthy eating into their holiday traditions.

"A lot of time people associate healthy with 'doesn't taste good,'" he said. "This event is an opportunity for families to see that healthy can taste good."

### Craft Show and Cookies with Santa



1-3 p.m. Saturday  
Novi Better Health Store  
42675 Grand River Ave.

Crafts will include candles, ceramics, pottery, truffles, gift baskets and more. For \$7, children receive a dozen healthy cookies to decorate, a healthy snack and beverage and get to meet Santa.

Parents need to register their children for the event by calling (248) 735-8100.

Parents need to register their children for the event by calling (248) 735-8100.

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@novinews.com.



Kristin Bagdasarian, 4, selects a cookie from a pile of snickerdoodles held by Better Health Store's David Tomczak. The store will host Cookies with Santa 1-3 p.m. Dec. 9.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Toys for Tots drive set

Once again, during the holiday season, Two Men and a Truck will partner with the United States Marine Corps Reserves in their annual Toys for Tots holiday toy drive.

The 10 southeast Michigan Two Men and a Truck franchises will help collect and transport donated toys from local malls and other collection points for distribution to local communities.

Local toy collection campaigns last until Dec. 22. Toy distribution normally takes place on Dec. 23 and 24.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program began in 1947 when Major Bill Hentfield, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys each winter and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

### Novi teen helps Toys effort

Mikhail George of Novi, a junior at Detroit Country Day School, has been assisting the Toys for Tots effort this season.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 500 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

For more information, visit www.toysfortots2006.com.

### Connemara residents to meet

The Connemara Hills Homeowners Association in Novi recently elected a new board of directors.

Bev Kingsbury is president, with Jeff Boggio as vice president, Joan Bryson as treasurer and Sue Arnold as secretary.

At large board members include Ron Jacobson, Judy Lombardo and Mark Merlanti.

The next board meeting is at 7 p.m. tonight at the Novi Civic Center. All Connemara Hills homeowners are welcome to attend.

### Bright House spreads cheer

In the spirit of the season, Bright House Networks will bring a lot of good cheer to customers and community members.

The local cable, Internet and phone service provider will have its video e-mail and digital phone kiosks available for free at Laurel Park there at 37709 W. Six Mile Road west of Newburgh Road in Livonia during regular mall business hours (10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-6 p.m. Sunday) through the first week in January.

Located near the Parisian entrance, these kiosks will allow Metro Detroiters to reach out to their family and loved ones in time for the holidays, whether they are in Michigan, across the country or anywhere in the world.

Video e-mail services, powered by Road Runner, will allow visitors to send their own personal video greetings to their family members.

Others can take advantage of the opportunity to use the company's digital phone service to call their loved ones for free to say hello, anywhere in the U.S., Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands or N. Mariana Islands.

### Pamela's Salon needs help

It's not too late to make a donation to help needy children this holiday season.

The West Oakland County Toys for Tots area covers the communi-

### needs gifts for children at the

Gifts Center for Children in Detroit.

The salon, located on the west side of Novi Road just south of 10 Mile Road, has ornaments on a Christmas Giving Tree with each child's name from the organization and a small description of the child, the child's hobbies and a wish list.

These children are either in foster homes or are in the foster care system awaiting placement.

Most of them are teenagers, who are often forgotten this time of year. Many of the teens have been in the system but can't find a home in which to be placed.

People can either stop by the salon to get a star off the tree or call (248) 349-9925. Gifts have to be returned to the salon no later than Monday.

### Pet lovers in buying mood

Even high gas prices haven't dampened the holiday spirit when it comes to pets.

According to a shamelessly insensitive survey conducted by the Pet Supplies "Plus" chain in September, 84 percent of pet owners said that they will not cut back on buying gifts for their pets this year despite the pain at the pump, worries about the economy, and other concerns.

Pet Supplies "Plus" polled 724 pet owners, 96 percent of whom said they will be buying gifts for their four-footed friends this holiday season.

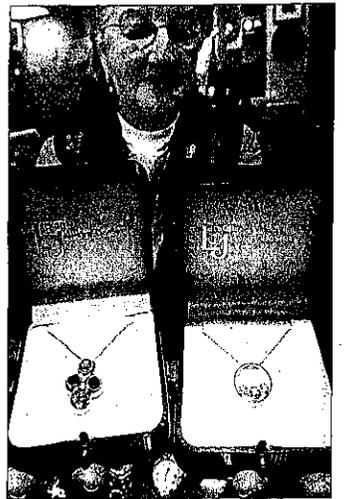
Other favorites are plush dog beds, deluxe "Kitty Kowalski" scratching posts, pet drinking fountains and fancy collars. The Novi Pet Supplies "Plus" store is located on 10 Mile Road just west of Meadowbrook Road.

### New physicians in town

Derek Einhorn, M.D., and Daniel Rosenberg, M.D., recently purchased Novi Internal Medicine and Pediatrics from William

Reamont Hospital. The office is located at 42450 W. 12 Mile in Novi.

Both physicians are board certified in both internal medicine and pediatrics. They offer evening, weekend, and same-day appointments. Flu and pneumonia vaccines are also available. For more information, call (248) 374-0502 or visit www.novidoes.com.



Up for auction! Simone Larson holds two necklaces on display and will for silent auction to benefit Novi's Goodfellows at Main Street's Larson's Jewelry. The necklace, left, features citrine and garnet and the other peridot and blue topaz.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**GREAT LAKES DERMATOLOGY**  
MICHAEL R. COHEN, D.O.  
Board Certified Dermatologist  
Specializing in Diseases of the Skin, Hair & Nails  
Invites you to visit his new location and get the care you deserve.  
• Skin Cancer • Eczema  
• Moles • Warts  
• Psoriasis • Hair Loss  
• Acne • Botox • Much More  
Accepting New Patients • All Ages  
Call for Appointment 248-324-2222 Evening appts. available  
Lewis Medical Office Centre, 39475 Lewis Drive, Suite 150, Novi, Michigan 48377  
arnafk@greatlakesdermatology.com

**Oh-So-Good Oatmeal Cookies**  
Most people love the soothing aroma of freshly-baked oatmeal cookies, especially when they're made from scratch. With healthful nutrients from rolled oats, toasted pecans and real butter, these cookies are little morsels of organic, wholesome goodness.  
4 tablespoons organic butter, softened  
3 tablespoons organic canola oil  
1/2 cup organic Sucanat evaporated cane juice  
1 organic egg  
2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
1 cup organic rolled oats, either quick-cooking or regular (Quick cooking will make a finer textured cookie.)  
1/4 cup organic wheat germ, preferably toasted  
1 cup organic whole wheat pastry flour  
3/4 t. baking powder  
1/2 cup organic raisins or chocolate chips or cranberry chips  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.  
With a wire whisk, combine the softened butter with the canola oil until completely blended. Whisk in the Sucanat, egg, vanilla and salt. Set aside. In a separate bowl, combine the oats, wheat germ, pastry flour and baking powder.  
Add the dry ingredients to the liquid ingredients and stir well to combine thoroughly. Stir in the raisins or chips and the pecans.  
Drop by rounded spoonfuls onto lined baking sheets, either sprayed or lined with parchment paper. Bake the cookies on a sheet at a time, 10-12 minutes. Cool on wire racks. Makes approximately 24-30 cookies.  
**Nutrition Information**  
Per serving (about two cookies): 200 calories (110 from fat), 32 grams total fat, 3 grams saturated fat, 3 grams dietary fiber, 4 grams protein, 21 grams carbohydrate, 92 milligrams cholesterol, 85 milligrams sodium.

**Handcrafters ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW**  
December 8, 9, & 10  
Fri. 6-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-4  
NORTHVILLE RECREATION CENTER at Hillside Middle School  
8 Mile Rd. at Sheldon/Center St. NORTHVILLE  
Admission \$2.00  
No Baby Strollers, Please  
Promoters: Megan O'Sullivan, Colleen O'Sullivan & Molly Penberton  
P.O. Box 87444 • Canton, MI 48187  
(734) 459-0050  
handcraftersunited@yahoo.com  
www.handcraftersunited.com

**WHAT'S IN YOUR KETTLE?**  
WARMTH  
WHEN YOU GIVE to a Red Kettle, it's not just coins and bills landing inside — you're putting WARMTH into that kettle, helping The Salvation Army shelter, clothe and comfort tens of thousands of men, women and children who have nowhere else to go. Give now at 1-877-SAL-MICH.

You've just found a way to protect your money from inflation for the next 30 years.  
(Almost qualifies you as a visionary.)  
Finding a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball. To find out more about Series I Bonds from the U.S. Treasury, check out www.savingsbonds.gov.  
Visit our Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov  
A public service of the newspaper

**TRUCK LOAD SALE**  
BEAT THE 2007 PRICE INCREASES!  
K-Life SODIUM FREE WATER SOFTENER CRYSTALS clear water. KINETICO  
1-800-342-0405  
MARTLAND • BRIGHTON • ANN ARBOR  
Are you an organ & tissue donor?  
Ask your family today, and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no questions later. For a free brochure, call 1-800-356-SHARE. Share your life, share your decision. Michigan Coalition on donation  
EXTRA HOLIDAY HOURS. Now through Friday, December 8th, 9 am to 11 pm\*  
\*Now through Friday, December 8th, Prudential Center 9 am to 10 pm. For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, visit lordandtaylor.com. Or call 1-800-222-7440 any day, any time.

**Benjamin Franklin**  
THE PUNCTUAL PLUMBER.  
TOLL FREE 866-867-5309  
Phones answered live 24/7

**TRUCK LOAD SALE**  
BEAT THE 2007 PRICE INCREASES!  
K-Life SODIUM FREE WATER SOFTENER CRYSTALS clear water. KINETICO  
1-800-342-0405  
MARTLAND • BRIGHTON • ANN ARBOR

**Are you an organ & tissue donor?**  
Ask your family today, and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no questions later. For a free brochure, call 1-800-356-SHARE. Share your life, share your decision. Michigan Coalition on donation  
EXTRA HOLIDAY HOURS. Now through Friday, December 8th, 9 am to 11 pm\*  
\*Now through Friday, December 8th, Prudential Center 9 am to 10 pm. For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, visit lordandtaylor.com. Or call 1-800-222-7440 any day, any time.

it's a gift  
THE ALL  
THROUGH TUESDAY!  
EXTRA 20% OFF EVERY SWEATER FOR HER FOR HIM & FOR KIDS  
AND MORE SAVINGS STOREWIDE:  
40% OFF FAUX SHEARLING & LONG WOOL COATS FOR HER  
30% OFF COLD WEATHER ACCESSORIES FOR HER, FOR HIM & FOR KIDS  
SALE 17.99 TO 49.99 SLEEPWEAR, ROBES & SLIPPERS FOR HER, HIM & KIDS  
50% OFF CUBIC ZIRCONIA, STERLING SILVER & MARCASITE JEWELRY  
40% OFF OUTERWEAR & TOPCOATS FOR HIM  
NOW THROUGH SUNDAY TAKE AN EXTRA 15% OFF  
Sole merchandise when you use your Lord & Taylor credit card!  
Don't have a Lord & Taylor account? Open one instantly and get an extra 15% off your first days purchases\* in addition to your Great Gift Sale savings.  
\*Subject to normal credit approval; some exclusions apply. See your Sales Associate for details.  
EXTRA HOLIDAY HOURS. Now through Friday, December 8th, 9 am to 11 pm\*  
\*Now through Friday, December 8th, Prudential Center 9 am to 10 pm. For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, visit lordandtaylor.com. Or call 1-800-222-7440 any day, any time.

# Seniors

## SAVVY SENIOR

### Energy Saving Tips

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
Can you give me some tips on how to make a home more energy efficient? My 74-year-old mother lives in an old home, and her utility bills are extremely high. What all can we do to cut her cost without spending a fortune?  
—Cari Collins, Ken

*Dear Ken,*  
High energy prices over the past few years have caused millions of Americans to evaluate their homes' energy efficiency. But by making just a few simple changes, you can significantly reduce your mother's energy bills. Here's what you should know.

#### Energy Audit

A good first step in making an older home more energy-efficient is to do or get an energy audit. That evaluates how much energy the home uses, pinpoints problem areas where the house is losing or wasting energy and what you can do to correct it. Energy audits cost up to \$400, but some energy companies provide free audits for low-income households. To locate an energy auditor, call your local utility companies or state energy department (see [www.naeo.org](http://www.naeo.org) for a list). Here are some other resources that can help.

• Residential Energy Services Network: A nonprofit organization that provides an online directory of certified home energy auditors at [www.natesnet.org](http://www.natesnet.org).

• Department of Energy: Offers great information and resources, including a do-it-yourself home energy audit checklist that can help you spot problems. Visit [www.eere.energy.gov/conservation](http://www.eere.energy.gov/conservation).

• Home Energy Saver: A government-sponsored site (<http://files.10.gov>) that offers a

### Free online energy auditing tool

Free online energy auditing tool. Comprehensive list of home improvement products and where to get them, or call (888) 782-7937.

#### Energy Saving Tips

- **Weatherize:** Plug leaks around windows, doors, ducts, pipes and electrical outlets with caulking and weather-stripping, and close the fireplace damper when not in use. Installing window films are also an inexpensive way to help seal drafty, old windows.
- **Insulate:** Add insulation to attic, walls and basement. Also make sure air ducts are insulated and sealed. See [www.simplyinsulate.com](http://www.simplyinsulate.com).
- **Tune-up:** Get a professional to service her heating and cooling systems every year and change the filters. Costs range between \$50 and \$100.
- **Smart thermostat:** Invest in a programmable thermostat (\$50 to \$125), which can be set to lower temperatures at night or when she's away.
- **Vent check:** Be sure furniture and drapes don't block the air flow from the floor vent.
- **Water heater:** Reduce the hot water heater to warm or 120 degrees Fahrenheit — and make sure it has an insulating blanket.
- **Light for less:** Replace your light bulbs with new compact fluorescent (CFL), which use 75 percent less energy. And don't forget to turn off everything (lights, television, computer, etc.) not in use.
- **Free heat:** In the winter, keep blinds or drapes open on sun-exposed windows during the day and closed at night to conserve heat. Also, close off all unoccupied areas of the house.
- **Home upgrades:** If your mom's house has leaky single-pane windows, old appliances, an outdated furnace and more, consider upgrading with efficient, money-saving products that have the Energy Star label — the government-backed symbol for energy efficiency. See [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for a com-

### prehensive list of home improvement products and where to get them, or call (888) 782-7937.

#### Savvy Tips

For more energy-saving tips get the Department of Energy's free booklet "Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy & Money at Home" by calling (877) 337-3463. Also, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy offers good information on energy efficiency tax incentives, rebates and more at [www.eere.org](http://www.eere.org).

#### Energy Assistance

If your mom lives on a tight budget there are several resources that may be able to help her with her utility bills, including:

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:** A federally-funded program that helps eligible, low-income homeowners and renters meet their home heating and/or cooling needs. Visit [www.aef.dhhs.gov/programs/liehap](http://www.aef.dhhs.gov/programs/liehap) or call 866-674-6337.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** Helps lower-income people make their homes more energy-efficient. Visit [www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization](http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization) or call 800-363-3332.
- **National Fuel Funds Network:** Offers assistance from a group of 300 nonprofit agencies, utilities and government agencies. See [www.nationalfuelfund.org](http://www.nationalfuelfund.org).

### Medicare Advantage: An option all seniors should consider

*Dear Savvy Senior,*  
I will be eligible for Medicare next year, and I have been hear-

### ing a lot about the Medicare's private plans called Medicare Advantage. What can you tell me about this option?

#### Seeking an Advantage

*Dear Seeking,*  
Medicare Advantage (MA) is an option of Medicare beneficiaries should consider, and depending on your coverage needs and where you live, it may be your best option.

#### Medicare Advantage

MA plans (formerly known as Medicare+Choice) are health plans sold by private companies that are an alternative to the traditional Medicare Part A and B but are still part of the Medicare program. Over the past few years MA plans have improved dramatically (due to increased government-subsidies) offering beneficiaries better benefits with fewer restrictions at much lower prices. Here are some key points on how they work:

- **Eligibility:** All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for MA.
- **Costs:** After paying the monthly Part B premium, you may have to pay a small additional premium depending on the plan and extra benefits you choose. There may also be some additional out-of-pocket costs for co-pays and deductibles for hospital stays, doctor's visits and other benefits. (Note: MA plans on average are cheaper than what you would pay for traditional Medicare, Medicaid supplemental policy, and stand-

### alone Medicare prescription drug plan.)

• **Shopping:** MA plans are available almost everywhere, however, the plans and services will vary depending on where you live. To search for and compare plans, visit [www.medicare.gov/napp](http://www.medicare.gov/napp).

• **Enrollment:** If you currently have traditional Medicare (A and B) you can sign up for a MA plan during the open enrollment period from Nov. 15-Dec. 31. Those new to Medicare can sign up anytime.

#### Things to Know

• **Special Needs Plans:** These plans offer health coverage to people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, those in nursing homes and with chronic conditions.

#### Better Options

A concern many people have had with Medicare's private plans over the years is the managed care (HMO) factor, which limits the doctors and hospitals you have to use. But today's MA plans offer some new options that provide a lot more flexibility. The options include:

- **HMO (for managed care plan):** This is the least expensive but also the most restrictive type of plan. With an HMO you must get your health care from a group of doctors and hospitals within the plan's network, except in an emergency.
- **PPO (Preferred provider organization):** This improved option gives you access to a network of doctors and hospitals (just like an HMO), but it also allows you to seek care outside network, but it usually costs extra.
- **PFFS (Private fee for service):** This is a popular type of plan that gives you the flexibility of using any doctor or hospi-

### tal in any part of the country that accepts Medicare. These plans usually cost more than HMO or PPO plans.

• **Special Needs Plans:** These plans offer health coverage to people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, those in nursing homes and with chronic conditions.

• **Special Needs Plans:** These plans offer health coverage to people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, those in nursing homes and with chronic conditions.

#### How it works

Back in the late 1990s, an inventor (known as) Dean Kamen was complaining that the universities were getting plenty of applicants, but few were American students," said Susan Lawrence, director of FIRST for the Midwest. "Businesses were complaining they were seeing a declining interest in the field of science."

#### Save money, see your

To learn more, see your "Medicare & You 2007" handbook or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). And to get help, contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) which offers free Medicare counseling. Call 800-633-4227 or visit [www.shiplink.org](http://www.shiplink.org) to find your local SHIP.

# Saving science

## LEGO helps kids jump on the science bandwagon

By Tracy Mishler  
SPECIAL WRITER

Sachin Padmanabhan wants to be a cardiologist. And though he's only 11 years old, he's already studied the heart enough to know he's on the right path.

Padmanabhan is among nine other kids from Novi who make up the Novi Nano Force, a team put together to compete in the FIRST LEGO League program.

The FIRST LEGO League is an international program for children 9-14 that combines a hands-on, interactive robotics program with a sports-like atmosphere.

"I like this program a lot," 11-year-old Sachin said. "It's helped my computer programming skills, and it's been really interesting."

The Novi Nano Force recently competed with several other teams in Sterling Heights for a spot in the state championship Dec. 9 at the Rock Financial Showplace.

About 343 teams have competed across the state, and only 61 will show off their robotic skills and knowledge in the area of nanotechnology.

"Basically, the goal is to build a

"It's an opportunity to step out and explore the world of science and technology."

Walk Hiekkok  
Co-Director, FIRST LEGO League of Michigan

robot and do research in order to learn about technology and how it will benefit the future," said Novi Force Coach Kiran Singh. "We're not just here to win but to have fun."

Lawrence said after much planning, Kamen, along with several other scientists, spoke with the LEGO Company and thus formed FIRST. For inspiration and recognition of Science and Technology, to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

The FIRST LEGO League is one of several programs available to young people, including the Junior FIRST LEGO League and the FIRST Vex Challenge.

Each year in September, FIRST issues challenges to teams across

the world. According to FIRST, teams must then determine a strategy to accomplish various missions and accumulate points.

With only eight weeks to pre-



PHOTO BY TRACY MISHLER  
PICTURED: Kiran Singh, Kim Dwyer and Venkat Panyam. Mentors: Vrikka Chitla, Vikas Kodali and Alex Pyden. Team: Shashank Chitla, Chaitanya Kamkar, Sachin Padmanabhan, Vivek Panyam, Jay Raina, Raj Raina, Vedant Ram, Abhimanyu Singh, David Smith and Steven Smith.

pare, meeting six to eight hours a week, the Novi Nano Force was among 14 teams chosen to compete at the state level tournament in Novi. If they win at the state level, the team will move on to the World Festival in April in Atlanta.

Hiekkok said 45 judges would be selecting the winner of the state level tournament.

"We'll be judging four areas," he said. "The first year costs about \$500 to buy the LEGO Mindstorms kit, then the cost

drops to about \$250." Hiekkok said more kids are getting involved with FIRST as the years pass by.

"It's not about trophies, winning or losing," he said. "The best time line is we want to change life in general and have people look up to scientists."

"Everything is science. If we take away science, you take away almost everything we have."

Getting started  
Hiekkok said becoming involved with FIRST is not something that has to be done through school.

"Anyone can form a team," he said. "The first year costs about \$500 to buy the LEGO Mindstorms kit, then the cost

**RANKED TOP 5% BY HEALTHGRADES**  
of hospitals nationwide for Treatment of Stroke 2005

**RATED FIVE STAR BY HEALTHGRADES**  
for Treatment of Stroke

Now you don't have to go far to get the stroke care you need. For nationally recognized care, choose the award-winning doctors and nurses of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. And feel better... close to home.

**AWARD WINNING STROKE CARE IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD**

**ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL**  
Livonia, MI  
Physician Referral: Call 1.888.464.WELL  
[www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org)

A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH

HEALTHGRADES is a nationally recognized independent hospital rating board.

**Joe's Produce**  
Michigan's Finest

**Joe's Finest Selections**

Florida Grape Tomatoes 99¢ full pint	California Cauliflower 2/\$3.00 1.50 per head	Florida Green Beans 99¢ lb.
Large Texas Ruby Red Grapefruit 69¢ each	Washington Extra Fancy Honey Crisp Apples	Large Tommy Adkin's Mangos 69¢ ea.
Anime Pinot Grigio '06 11.99 750 ml	Valpolicella or Nero d'Avola Cheese Spread 3.19 16 oz. 4.4 oz.	Anime Valpolicella '04 13.99 750 ml
Joe's Homemade Applesauce 1.99	Striped Jack Cheese from Great Britain 11.69 16 oz.	Joe's Homemade Tuna Pasta Salad 4.49
Special Introductory Offer Grass Point Milk 2.89 each 1/2 gallon 2% Whole & Fat Free	Flowering Poinsettias 7.99 - 14.99	Chuck & Dave's Fresh Salsa 2.29 each All Varieties

**Byrd's Choice Meats!**

It's almost GIB Ginting Season! Send a beautiful Gourmet Fruit Basket filled with Joe's high quality fruit, gourmet cheese, crackers, jam & candy. Available in a variety of sizes. Choose one of their Traditional or Specialty Baskets: Turkey, Italian, Breakfast Lovers & Sweet-n-Savory Gift Box Set! Joe's members will be happy to customize your basket to your needs! Call us at (248) 477-4338 or visit us on our website at [www.joesproduce.com](http://www.joesproduce.com). You'd like you can place your order on our website! Order today for the Holidays!

Hours: Mon-Sat. 9am to 7pm and Sundays 9am to 6pm.  
Prices Good Through December 10, 2006

**Joe's Produce**  
33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia, MI 48150 [www.joesproduce.com](http://www.joesproduce.com) (248) 477-4338

**Reserve Your Ticket Today!**

**Live Band**  
with a Variety of Styles!

Watch the Ball drop from Times Square!  
An Elaborate Display of Hor d'oeuvres from 7-8 pm  
Premium Bar-Wine Served with Dinner  
Individually Plated Combination Dinner  
Filet Mignon & Chicken or Vegetarian Entree  
(Dessert cost extra - \$10.00 per person)

Accompanied by... Salad, Vegetable & Potato,  
with a Pasta served Family Style  
Specialty Dessert Table  
Afterglow at 12:05 am  
Pizza, Mini Sandwiches, and Danish

Ticket Sales \$85 per person  
All Reserved Seating • No admittance after 8:30 pm  
Must be 21 years or older. Acceptable Posture:  
VISA, MC, Discover, American Express, Cash or Check with valid ID  
30000 Schoolcraft Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150  
[www.starline.com](http://www.starline.com)  
For all questions regarding reservations, contact Live Band at 734-779-4525

**Kitchen To Stock Inc.**

**SALE ON**

**STARMARK**  
Laminated Solid Surface Counter Tops

248-477-1515

Open till 9 pm Tues. & Thurs.

Go to [shopLocal.com](http://shopLocal.com)

holding on to the best deals on everything you need for your home.

**shopLocal.com**

It's all about the deals. The best prices on everything you need for your home. From groceries to home improvement, we've got it all. And the best part? It's all in one place. So you can save time and money. Visit [shopLocal.com](http://shopLocal.com) today!

# WHAT'S GOING ON, NOVI?

Novi's Official Events Calendar • For a complete local events calendar, visit [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com).

## EVENTS

### Lakes Area Optimist Club Essay Contest

DETAILS: Area students are encouraged to submit essays based on the theme, "I Want to Make a Difference Because..." for the 2007 Optimist International Essay Contest. Winners will receive local recognition and the essays will be sent to compete at the district level. College scholarships are available to the top winners at district and international level.

CONTACT: Kevin Terry, (248) 345-6437

### Deck the House Competition

DETAILS: The SouthWest Oakland Cable Commission invites you to enter your home in a holiday fighting competition. To learn more and register your home in the competition, go to [www.swo.com](http://www.swo.com). The deadline for entry is Monday.

### Meatloaf Volunteers Needed

DETAILS: The Oakland County Youth Assistance is looking for volunteers for their Meatloaf Plus program. Training and orientation sessions will be held at the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 M. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac.

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., Saturday  
CONTACT: (248) 859-0941

### Natracreer Ballet

TIME/DATE: 2, 6 p.m., Saturday  
LOCATION: Novi High School Auditorium

DETAILS: The ballet performed by the Metropolitan Ballet Company will feature two local ballerinas, Brooke Worthing and Zoe Oue, as Daria. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the door or by phone.

CONTACT: (248) 726-8852, ext. 3112

### Novi Theatres "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown"

TIME/DATES: 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday  
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: This musical production features a day in the life of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and other beloved "Peanuts" characters. The cast will perform songs from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" 20 minutes before each performance in the Civic Center atrium. At 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, the Senior Variety Series ensembles will make a special appearance to perform with the cast. Tickets are \$18, and now available at the Parks Desk in the Civic Center. Students tickets are \$15 for the Friday evening performance, and senior tickets are \$15 for the Saturday performance.

CONTACT: (248) 347-6400

### American Association of University Women Holiday Program

DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 12  
TIME: 6:45 p.m.

LOCATION: Plymouth Historical Society, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth

DETAILS: The Northville/Novi branch of the AAUW Holiday meeting will feature entertainment by the Plymouth/Canton Festival Singers as well as hot beverages and desserts.

CONTACT: Beth Ann, (248) 305-8932

### Novi Concert Band Holiday Concert

DATE: Sunday, Dec. 17  
TIME: 3 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: The Concert Band will perform traditional and new songs and include an audience sing-a-long.

CONTACT: Brian Koehy, (248) 348-5135

## SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

### Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, Dec. 18  
TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 347-6470

### Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 2  
TIME: 6 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 347-6410

### Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Tonight  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Novi Woods Elementary

## NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, pro-active advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area. We are business and professional people working together to enhance the life of our community and the businesses in it. For more information, visit [www.novitchamber.com](http://www.novitchamber.com) or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-3743.

DATE: Monday, Dec. 18  
TIME: 11:30 a.m. Registration; noon Lunch

LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace

Member Reception-Networking Event

DATE: Thursday, Dec. 14  
TIME: 8 a.m.

LOCATION: Franklin Bank, 17300 Hagerty Road

NOTE: Please RSVP to the



Ashley Blair, 3, decorates a gingerbread man made by Mary Dunning's Cake Shoppe during the Michigan Christmas Show held at the Rock Financial Showplace.

## GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a non-profit business association. We provide enjoyable networking opportunities for our members; act as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay abreast of other member's services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact Whitney MacCallan, Executive Director, at (248) 347-4622 or [wmgnc@yaho.com](mailto:wmgnc@yaho.com).

Holiday Party  
DATE: Tonight  
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: MIXX Lounge

DETAILS: Event will feature wonderful food that will be provided. Bring, or become, a new member; and admission is free. The person who signs up the most new members between now and up to the party wins a pair of tickets to a Pistons game. Non-members are welcome; admission is only \$10. Healthy Lifestyles Round Table  
DATE: Monday, Dec. 18  
TIME: 8 a.m.

## LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, serving the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, William, Wixom, and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes Area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community, provide information and review topics of interest, serve as

## CLASSES

Previdencia Center for the Healing Arts  
LOCATION: Assarian Center, 47801 Grand River Avenue, Novi

CONTACT: (248) 455-5455

WEDDING ART WORKSHOP  
INSTRUCTIONS: We are looking for people who have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops. Please call (248) 455-5455 if interested.

Colorful Parade Workshop  
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month

DETAILS: The cost is \$2. Beginners are welcome.

## BUSINESS

Females In the Family Business Alliance Group  
TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m., Third Thursday of every month  
LOCATION: Wash College, Troy Campus

DETAILS: Wash Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues and share solutions in a non-threatening, non-competitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.

CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, e-mail [jhubbard@washcollege.edu](mailto:jhubbard@washcollege.edu)

Novi Rotary James Bond Holiday Party  
DATE: Friday, Dec. 15  
TIME: 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Meadowbrook Country Club, 8 Mile Road, Northville

DETAILS: This is a fund-raiser for the Rotary's humanitarian efforts. The event will feature live entertainment, fabulous food and James Bond-themed activities. Block tickets are \$50 per person, and reservations are required.

CONTACT: Miranda Frost or Christmas Jones at (248) 320-5877

## LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library  
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road

HOURS: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday

DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Story Times  
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing  
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-8:30 p.m., intermediate

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this play-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for 15 residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.

## PARENTAL ADVICE: How can I tell if my child is using drugs?

State Pointe Media  
SPECIAL TO THE NOV NEWS

Several signs may indicate drug involvement, said Paul Saxe, author of Parenting Your Teens with TLC.

- Decline in school performance: drop in grades, inability to follow through and has excuses for poor performance, absenteeism, resentment toward teachers, sleeping in class, or being non-responsive.
- Change in personal appearance: change in clothing style, poor hygiene, change in weight, unsteady gait, smell of alcohol or pot, slurred speech, or blood-shot eyes.
- Variations in behavior: angry or hostile, short temper, verbally or physically abusive, apathetic, unmotivated or sleeping more.
- More secretive and private: aloofness, withdrawal from responsibilities and family, less contact with old friends, more time spent alone.
- Change in peers: replaces life-long friends with new friends you don't know, no longer introduces friends, receives mysterious phone calls, associates with known drug users, is suddenly popular with older kids, talks of drugs or parties.
- Unusual patterns of behavior: vague physical symptoms and complaints, headaches, nausea, up late, excessive sleeping, secretive phone calls, preoccupation with death and suicide, reduced memory or attention span, over-tired or has excessive energy, selling of possessions, uses eye-drops or room deodorizers, unexplained money or merchandise from unknown sources or drug par-

For more information, visit [www.StatePointeMedia.com](http://www.StatePointeMedia.com).

NOTE: "Defensive and guarded attitude about drugs; tells you everybody is doing it, says it is 'natural,' or asks, 'Didn't you use?'"

## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider BECK NORTH CORPORATE PARK PHASE 2, LOTS 28 & 30. SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-45 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 4, EAST OF HUDSON DRIVE BETWEEN MADRID COURT AND PEARY COURT, IN THE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately 4.18 acres.

LOCATION MAP NOT TO SCALE

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

Published December 7, 2006

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARK PERHSON, SECRETARY  
(12-7-06 NN 327187)

## WISHES... DREAMS... HOME HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENTS

Check it out!

Make the day!

D&D Promotions  
Walled Lake Western  
Holiday  
Craft and Art Show

Over 200 Exhibitors  
Walled Lake Western High School  
600 Beck Rd • Commerce Township

Saturday, December 9  
10am - 4pm  
\$2.00 Admission

Gift Certificate Drawings every 30 Minutes  
248 627 3363

## WHAT'S GOING ON? (CONT'D)

continued from 14A

Artist in Residence  
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month

DETAILS: John Artich-Hastings and May Diaz-Tevens and experiment with drawing, pastels, watercolor, Chinese brush painting, mixed media and collage. Beginners are welcome; there is a \$5 materials fee.

Creative Scrapbooking  
TIME/DATE: 10a m-noon, Tuesday on-going

DETAILS: Combine various embellishments with your photos to create serve memories. There is a \$3 materials fee.

Ceramics Class  
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

DETAILS: There is a \$10 materials fee.

Chil Chil Class  
TIME/DATE: 10-11:15 a.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: 12:30-1:15 p.m., Monday; 6-7 p.m., Wednesday; 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday

DETAILS: The cost is \$10 for walk-ins. For 15 classes and \$70 for seven-week evening session. Preregistration required.

Massage  
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's referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is \$50 for a 90-minute session.

Line Dancing  
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing  
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-8:30 p.m., intermediate

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this play-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for 15 residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.

### Artist in Residence

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road

CONTACT: (248) 824-3772

Annual Tea Party  
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Tuesday

DETAILS: The expert Pat Sagert, manager of the tea room in Rochester's Royal Park Hotel, will present tea customs and etiquette. Light refreshments will be provided. The tea party is free to the public, but reservations are required. Please call the library.

Reader Story Time  
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday

DETAILS: Children ages 2-3 are invited to participate in this program that includes finger plays, music, games and puppets. Registration is appreciated.

## NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Friday  
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength  
10 a.m.: Body Recall  
12:45 p.m.: Lunch  
1:25 p.m.: Duplicate Bridge  
2:45 p.m.: Bingo  
1 p.m.: Body Recall Holiday Lunch  
2-3:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Saturday  
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength  
10 a.m.: Body Recall  
12:30 p.m.: "Finnish"  
2-3:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Sunday  
6:30 p.m.: "Clogging"  
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread  
9 a.m.: Line Dance  
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific  
noon: Lunch  
12:30-3 p.m.: Focus Hope  
12:45 p.m.: Bingo in Activities Room  
1-3 p.m.: "Ask the Lawyer" by appointment  
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Wednesday  
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength  
10 a.m.: Body Recall  
10 a.m.-noon: Medicate Part D by appointment

\* Activities will be held at the Novi



Fox Run resident Chet Tarczynski places candy decorations on a full-sized gingerbread home created by Dining Room Services director Kevin Cunningham. The gingerbread home was built around the frame of a storage shed.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

10:30-noon: Quilting  
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure  
11 a.m.: Taking Oil Pounds Sensory class  
11:30 a.m.: "Clogging"  
noon: Lunch  
1:30-2:30 p.m.: Holiday Sing-a-Long  
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment  
2-4 a.m.: Estate Planning by appointment

Thursday  
9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Intermediate  
11 a.m.-noon: Computer Lab Open  
11:15 a.m.: Line Dance-Beginner  
noon: Lunch  
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge  
1-2 p.m.: Computer Lab Open  
1-2 p.m.: Line Dance  
1:30-3:30 p.m.: "The Bookworm" Reading Group  
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-6414.

Friendship Circle  
DATE: Second Thursday of each month  
TIME: 1 p.m.

LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 45325 10 Mile Road, between 18th and Back Roads.

DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.

CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 851-8730, Florence Voght, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Duvick, (248) 348-9138, [joyovick@earthlink.net](mailto:joyovick@earthlink.net)

NOMS Club at Novi  
DATE: First Thursday of each month  
TIME: 9 a.m.

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes.

CONTACT: [jensunglem@yaho.com](mailto:jensunglem@yaho.com)

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op  
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing  
TIME: 10-11 a.m.

LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24535 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 Moley, (248) 334-3595

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op  
DATE: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the life stress in law. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.

CONTACT: Sue Trac, (248) 380-0398.

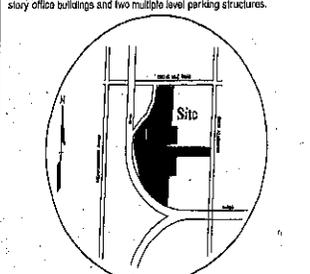
## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ITC TRANSMISSION COMPANY HEADQUARTERS, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-53 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 13, SOUTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD BETWEEN MADRID ROAD AND THE I-75 CORRIDOR, IN THE OST PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The subject property is approximately 63.63 acres and the applicant is proposing to construct two six-story office buildings and two multiple level parking structures.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

Published December 7, 2006

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARK PERHSON, SECRETARY  
(12-7-06 NN 327188)



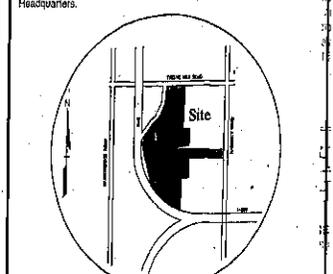
## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ITC TRANSMISSION COMPANY HEADQUARTERS, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-53 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 13, SOUTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD BETWEEN MADRID ROAD AND THE I-75 CORRIDOR, IN THE OST PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The applicant is proposing a location for the headquarter in conjunction with the ITC Transmission Company Headquarters.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

Published December 7, 2006

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARK PERHSON, SECRETARY  
(12-7-06 NN 327189)



## Lose Weight for Life!

Michigan Bariatric Institute... a Minimally Invasive Approach to Treating Obesity

The Michigan Bariatric Institute at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers weight loss surgery, performed laparoscopically, resulting in minimal pain - less scarring - shorter hospitalization and recovery time. Gain control of your health and prolong your life!

- Team approach to treatment and care
- Specially trained registered nurses, dietitians, behavioral specialists and exercise physiologists.

WHY WEIGHT? Learn more at one of our FREE educational seminars:  
December 14 • January 24 • February 28  
6:30 p.m. • St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium  
Meet Dr. Zenl and the Program Director  
Call 734.655.2692 to register NOW!

Talal Zenl, MD, Bariatric Center Director  
Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery  
• Fellowship, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, Chicago, IL  
• Experienced in advanced laparoscopic gastric bypass surgical techniques

Paula Meier, Bariatric Program Director  
• Program Manager of the Year Award - 2004  
• A post-op patient happy to share her experience

Michigan Bariatric Institute, a Minimally Invasive Approach to Treating Obesity  
11555 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375  
Call 734.655.2692 (toll free 877.WH.V.B.I.D.) [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org)

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE  
Great Doctors and Staff  
Great Location and Facilities  
Great Patient Care

## Controlling diabetes makes a huge difference

The exciting new discovery we've arranged for my family... for my friends... for me.

Control your diabetes. For life.

For more information, please call 1-800-436-4363. Or visit us at [www.bariatricinstitute.com](http://www.bariatricinstitute.com).

Michigan Bariatric Institute, a Minimally Invasive Approach to Treating Obesity  
11555 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375  
Call 734.655.2692 (toll free 877.WH.V.B.I.D.) [www.stmarymercy.org](http://www.stmarymercy.org)

# OPINION & LETTERS

PAGE 16A

www.novinews.com

Thursday, December 7, 2006

## Novi News

David Aguilar  
EDITOR

Grace Pezz Perry  
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Periberg  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramhoff  
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.

## History will judge Novi leaders

It's time to come up with a plan for the federal forfeiture money.

The gun range plan in its current form clearly isn't going to get through this city council. Police and city administrators need to accept this and try to build a scaled-down version of the range, junk it all together or try to tweak it to appease dissenters.

But Novi needs a plan. It's sitting on a pile of money that even council members have said basically fell out of the sky. Do something with this money that will shape the Novi Police Department for years to come. If that means a gun range — fine. If that means coming up with an alternative — do it now.

Years from now, Novi residents will look back at this time and realize there was a chance to do something truly remarkable with this money. Other cash-strapped police departments in economically depressed Michigan would beg to be in this position.

The true regrets in life usually come from things you don't do, the chances you don't take and the opportunities you let slip away. Novi leaders have a chance to do something historic with this money, and they better figure something out quickly, or history will be the harshest critic of all.

## Novi Community: Catch the holiday spirit

If you're seeking the true meaning of the holidays, try making a contribution to one of the local organizations or companies whose members' goal is to brighten the lives of those less fortunate. Whether it's Toys for Tots, the Salvation Army, the Novi Rotary Club, the Novi Lions Club, local scout troops, churches, or Pamela's Station in Novi, whose staff has a Christmas Giving Tree each year, there are many worthy causes. This is also a good time of year to think about making charitable contributions before the end of the 2006 tax season. It's a win-win for both recipients and donors.

## NEWS SOURCES

### What's your story, Novi?

- We're looking for you! The Novi News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:
  - Are you a high school student who receives an allowance from your parents?
  - Are you a high school student with an interesting job or hobby?
  - Are you a Novi senior citizen with an interesting job or hobby?
  - Are you a working woman who has recently returned to work?
  - Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
  - During the past six

- months, have you moved into a newly constructed home?
- Do you spend more than \$100 per week on gasoline?
- Are you a single parent?
- Has your home been for sale for more than one year?
- Are you planning a unique holiday party or family get-together?
- Is there something specific about Novi you would change, update or eliminate?
- Are you planning a unique holiday party or family get-together?
- Is there someone on your street who needs a helping hand?

Contact Novi News editor David Aguilar at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at [daguilar@gannett.com](mailto:daguilar@gannett.com).

## Scouting a good cause!



Orchard Hills Elementary School's Scout Pack No. 240 collects personal care products to donate to a local homeless shelter administered by Our Lady of Good Shepherd. From left: Principal Paul LePine, Shane, Scott and Jack McClure and Blake Sappell take a look at their donations.

## LETTERS

### Amend HB 6456 for Fair Competition

I couldn't help but recognize the paradox occurring in Michigan when I heard Google Inc., one of Michigan's newest and most exciting employers, had to ask the Michigan Legislature to amend HB 6456, the video service bill. You see, policy makers say they want the great-breaking, high-tech companies of tomorrow, like Google, to take root in Michigan. Yet, in the same breath, many of them support a bill that does not ensure these businesses receive fair and equal treatment.

Make no mistake, this bill is not about competition. It's about AT&T, a multi-billion-dollar company, wanting a leg up in the industry — and apparently the legislature would rather know to a monopoly than help a business of the future. We, the people of Michigan, should be demanding that legislators bend over backwards to get stakeholders to see past Michigan's reputation of making it difficult for leading-edge businesses to look past the gate. Do you think Google would be the success story it is today if its ability to reach users had been limited by Internet providers?

As Michigan's newest high-tech employer, it simply wants to ensure that its services, and the services of other promising young companies, are treated equally. This is a legitimate concern, and the legislature must not be allowed to ignore it and pass this bill without pre-competition and consumer protection provisions. I encourage all residents to contact their state representatives and senators today and demand that they support amendments to HB 6456 that will ensure a level playing field, encourage competition from emerging new businesses and provide equal access to service to all residents of our community and state. If we fail to do so, then we are all responsible for

putting our state of jobs and businesses.

Robert Staltary Jr.  
Mayor, City of Mt. Morris

### Our Government and Insurance Coverage

About this time last year our government sent an ominous warning through the media that there would be dire consequences if you did not choose and sign up for prescription coverage insurance. If you did not enroll by such and such a date the cost would escalate. As dumb as we are, we presumed that signing up as recommended, we would be protected from increased costs. How naive!

One year later — renewal time. A 20 percent increase in our coverage.

It makes me think that our government as well as the media are in the employ of the insurance and pharmaceutical companies. Am I alone in my suspicion?

Patrick M. Downey  
Novi

### Support the Novi High School Ski Team

The Novi High School Ski Team is now a reality. We want to thank Principal John Lawrence, Athletic Director Curt Ellis and the Novi Board of Education, including Superintendent Peter Dien, for their support. The Novi News was also supportive, including publishing an article, "Ski Patrol: Novi

### What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Letters to the Editor, David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9932. E-mail: [daguilar@gannett.com](mailto:daguilar@gannett.com). Letters submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

Student Wants Ski Team" in the May 11, 2006 edition. The ski team was approved as a non-funded varsity, non-cut sport in May.

The 23-member team is holding its only fund-raiser, a Ski Swap, this Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Anyone may buy or sell both new and used ski equipment, snowboards and clothing. It is a great opportunity for families to obtain holiday presents for their growing children (or adults) at a very reasonable price.

It is also an outlet for passing on outgrown equipment and winter clothing. The Ski Swap is being co-sponsored by Shumaker's Ski Shop. The ski team receives 15 percent of each transaction. Equipment and clothing can be dropped off at 10 a.m. and Shumaker's will help people price their items.

We encourage you to support the new ski team by attending Novi High School's first annual Ski Swap. For more information, contact coach Wendy McFriede at (248) 449-1600 or [wmcfride@novi.k12.mi.us](mailto:wmcfride@novi.k12.mi.us).

Bernard & Peggy Shinkai  
Novi

## COLUMN

### As a good Irish lass would say, 'Safe home, Dad'...

I guess you could say I was a "Daddy's Girl" from day one.

He's always been the main man in my life ever since I can remember.

So, although I wasn't totally unexpected, it wasn't easy when my father, Francis J. Fleming, passed away at 10:25 on the evening of Nov. 14 in my hometown of Greenville, Ind.

He was 96 years young, and a lot of us hoped he would make it to that century mark so we could see his picture on a Snickers jelly label during weatherman Willard Scott's segment on the NBC Today Show.

But, when I visited him in early October, I knew that was not to be, as I could see that congestive heart failure was starting to take its toll on his worn-out body.

Although I didn't make it to his bedside before he died, my two older sisters told me he peacefully and was only home from the hospital about seven hours before he died.

I know he must have been pleased to spend his final moments in the familiar surroundings of his apartment rather than a hospital room or nursing home. He always said he hoped he'd go before he had to go "next door" to the high-level-care facility in his retirement village.

My Dad and I had the closest of father-daughter relationships. But it was more than that.

I remember growing up when I would have a sudden crisis, such as an automobile accident, and would have to phone home. If Mom answered, I'd ask her to put Dad on. Years later, she asked me why I did that. I just said, "I don't know, Mom. I guess sometimes a girl just needs to talk to her Dad."

I have to share a funny story about my Dad that anyone who knew him can relate to.

He loved sweets, and I used to joke with him that he'd put whipped cream on his steak if Mom would let him.

One day, he decided to hide a chess pie, one of his favorites, under the sofa so he could have it all to himself rather than having to share it with the family.

But, our blind dog found it and ate the whole pie. We sure got the last laugh that time.

Hopefully, he's sharing some chess pie with some angels right now.

As he used to say to me whenever I was off to wherever: "Safe home, Dad."

# COMMENT

David Aguilar, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 [daguilar@gannett.com](mailto:daguilar@gannett.com)

## Carping about Great Lakes: Congress has gone fishing

Anyone who cares about fish, take note: Sport and commercial fishing throughout the entire Great Lakes is at total risk because of politics and gridlock in Washington. This is an industry worth more than \$7 billion annually — and involves four million recreational boats.

The main culprits are carp — and Congress, specifically, Asian Carp, originally imported from China to eat the muck from fish farm ponds. These fish are now working their way up the Mississippi River toward Lake Michigan. They consume as much as 20 percent of their weight in plankton per day, and grow to more than 100 pounds. Every fishery expert agrees that if they ever get into the Great Lakes, they could completely wipe out the ecosystem that supports trout, salmon and virtually everything else living in the largest body of pure fresh water on the globe.

The only thing standing between the carp and the Great Lakes is an experimental electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, about 25 miles downstream from Lake Michigan.

Installed four years ago, it repels fish by firing pulses of electricity through cables strung along the bottom. But the original barrier is failing and prone to blackouts. A new one was supposed to be in place last year. But engineers are worried that so much electricity plumped into the canal might set off explosions in the heavy barge and shipping traffic. While they struggled with the problem, money to finish the new electronic barrier ran out. The price tag to complete the project is now estimated at around \$10 million.

That's all it would cost to save the Great Lakes. To put it in perspective — \$10 million is 1 percent of what the government spends in Iraq per day! And everybody — the U.S. government, the Senate and the House, Great Lakes governors and countless environmentalists and fishermen — has known about this for years!

"This is our Katrina," says Andy Buchsbaum, the director of the Great Lakes office of the National Wildlife Federation.

"We can see it coming. And we can actually stop it. It would be absolute folly to do nothing."

But, alas, nothing is what's been going on in a bizarre and outrageous tangle of science, engineering, money, politics and Washington gridlock.

Nothing could happen until the Army Corps of Engineers figured out how to solve the electricity problem.

Nothing can be done until the \$10 million to pay for design, construction and operation of barriers against the carp can be authorized and appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

The legislative vehicle for the money is the gigantic, pork-laden Water Resources Development Bill (WRDA), which has been sitting around for years, untouched by any prospect of passage.

Meanwhile, the bill is under the jurisdiction of the House Transportation Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, the author of the "bridge to nowhere" appropriation.

He's the man who fought to build a \$315 million bridge to an Alaskan island with fewer than 50 people, while \$10 million in Congress stalls on \$10 million to save the Great Lakes.

I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

The congressional Great Lakes Task Force, made up of members from the states around the lakes, has been urging the committee for four years to authorize money to fix the old barrier, design and build the new one and operate both.

Nothing has happened. How come? Because language authorizing the money is part of the WRDA bill, which, in turn, is stalled because of disagreement between the House and the Senate.

I'm told there is no chance whatsoever that this bill will be passed by the lame-duck Congress this year.

U.S. Rep. John Dingell, (D-Dearborn) himself an avid fisherman, is furious. "I am outraged that the permanent Asian Carp barrier has been held hostage for the past few years," Dingell told me. "We simply cannot afford to have this creature get into our precious Great Lakes and create havoc. We must see that the barrier becomes a reality just as soon as possible."

So what to do? His fellow Democrat, U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak, who represents the Upper Peninsula and much of northern lower Michigan, is drafting a bill that would gain the authorization to spend the \$10 million needed to put the barrier in place.

Maybe it passes; maybe it doesn't.

The National Wildlife Federation's Buchsbaum says the current thought is to separate the carp barrier from the stalled bill by introducing new legislation.

Democrats will control Congress next year, giving Dingell and Stupak more clout. And the new chairman of the Transportation Committee will be Minnesota Democrat Jim Oberstar, whose district borders Lake Superior. He understands the implications of doing nothing.

Here's hoping. But there is a deeper meaning in stories like this, where an obvious problem could be fixed by an equally obvious solution. This story demonstrates that we have created a political system in this country that is simply unable to work effectively.

It's a sad state of affairs, but it's all very much in our hands.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-tank. His views and opinions are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at [ppower@bcmet.com](mailto:ppower@bcmet.com).

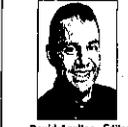


Phil Power  
Political Columnist

## NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - General Manager  
[gperry@gannett.com](mailto:gperry@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120



David Aguilar - Editor  
[daguilar@gannett.com](mailto:daguilar@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102



Lisa Trucu - Account Executive  
[ltruclu@gannett.com](mailto:ltruclu@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 118



Greg Migliore - Staff Writer  
[gmigliore@gannett.com](mailto:gmigliore@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 107



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer  
[pfleming@gannett.com](mailto:pfleming@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 105



Renee Saunders - Staff Writer  
[rsaunders@gannett.com](mailto:rsaunders@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 110



Jeff Theisen - Sports Writer  
[jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



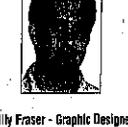
John Helder - Staff Photographer  
[jhelder@gannett.com](mailto:jhelder@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 108



Beth Hinman - Office Asst.  
[hinman@gannett.com](mailto:hinman@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700



Margery Taurainen - Office Asst.  
[mtaurainen@gannett.com](mailto:mtaurainen@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700



Billy Fraser - Graphic Designer  
[bfraser@gannett.com](mailto:bfraser@gannett.com)  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 116

**CLEAN YOUR CLOSET FOR CASH!!!**  
BEBE • DANA BUCHMAN • ST. JOHN • DKNY  
K. COLE • SEVEN • JUSTICE  
KAREN KRANE • ARMANI • COACH  
CONSIGNMENT  
600-800 Beautiful Women's Like-New  
Fashion & Accessories Arriving Daily!  
20% off Total Purchase  
Highland Lakes Shopping Center  
4247 W. 7 Mile  
Northville  
Open 7 days  
248-347-4570

**SPOTLIGHT**  
**ALLERGY & ASTHMA**  
Presented by  
Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.  
OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA  
People who have a long history as a result of inhaling fumes, gas, dust, or other allergens while in work settings from occupational asthma. Many of the symptoms over the years and provide a comfortable and enjoyable environment. We are currently located at 2410 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi, MI 48167. Call (248) 424-6600. New patients are welcome. The Caregiver's Choice Who Cares Really!  
Call us at 248-424-6600 or visit our United States website.  
www.allergyinfo.org

**O'BRIEN SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME**  
Annual Holiday Memorial Program  
December 12, 2006 at 7:30 pm  
Novi Civic Center  
41575 W. Ten Mile, Novi  
Refreshments Provided  
Please RSVP to the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home  
248-348-1800  
By December 11, 2006

Now Offering Early Morning, Evening & Saturday Appointments  
Jeffrey Jaghab, D.D.S.  
Stephanie Jaghab, D.D.S.  
General - Cosmetic Dentistry  
Serving the Northville Community since 1949  
Voted Best Dental Office in Northville  
MEMBERS:  
• American Dental Association • Michigan Dental Association  
• Detroit District Dental Association  
• Past Presidents of Detroit Dental Clinic Club  
• Plane Fauchard Academy • Chicago Dental Society  
416 South Main St. Northville  
248-349-2750  
[www.jaghab.com](http://www.jaghab.com)

Enhance your natural beauty  
Liposuction  
Breast Augmentation  
Tummy Tuck  
Nose Reshaping  
Face Lift  
Eyelids  
Restylane  
Botox  
Aesthetic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
248-449-4848 Andrew Lofman, MD  
23975 Novi Road, Suite A102, Novi, MI 48375 [alofman.com](mailto:alofman.com)

For breaking news in Novi, click [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)

Letters to the Editor  
We welcome your comments regarding editorials, columns and other topics discussed in the Novi News. Only submissions arriving by 5 p.m. Monday and including the author's full name, address and daytime and evening phone numbers — for verification by the Novi News — will be considered for publication. Letters to the editor of 400 or fewer words have the best chance of being published. All submissions may be edited for length, accuracy and clarity. Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns, and articles submitted to the Novi News, may be published or distributed to print, electronic or other forms. Mail Letters to the Editor: David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9932. E-mail: [daguilar@gannett.com](mailto:daguilar@gannett.com).

## WHAT'S GOING ON? (CONT'D)

**continued from 15A**

**Bible Study**  
DATE: Thursdays  
TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, chanting and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.  
CONTACT: Maria, (248) 349-8847, or e-mail at [spiritual@novi.com](mailto:spiritual@novi.com) or [AdoptiveParentNetworking@novi.com](mailto:AdoptiveParentNetworking@novi.com)

**Adoptive Parent Networking**  
Meeting  
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing  
TIME: 10-11 a.m.  
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare is available. Registration is required.  
CONTACT: Lisa McVey, (248) 334-2565

**Oh! Pokie**  
LOCATION: 5020 W. Iron Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit [www.ohpokie.org](http://www.ohpokie.org)  
Sunday Worship  
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

**St. James Catholic**  
LOCATION: 4825 10 Mile Road  
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

**Novi United Methodist**  
LOCATION: 4167 W. 10 Mile  
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652  
Sunday Worship  
TIME: 9:15 a.m.

**First United Methodist of Northville**  
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville  
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit [www.firstunitedmethodist.org](http://www.firstunitedmethodist.org)  
Sunday Worship

**The Bahai Faith**  
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit [www.usbahai.org](http://www.usbahai.org)  
Devotional Gatherings  
TIME: 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.

**First Presbyterian Church of Northville**  
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911  
Single Place Ministries  
CONTACT: [www.singleplace.org](http://www.singleplace.org) (248) 349-0911 or visit [www.singleplace.org](http://www.singleplace.org)

**Grace Pointe Presbyterian Worship and the Arts Ministry**  
CONTACT: (248) 497-3176 or e-mail: [gracepointe@mac.com](mailto:gracepointe@mac.com)  
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.  
DATES: biweekly  
LOCATION: Panera Bread, Novi Road and Grand River Avenue  
DETAILS: This is a biblically based forum for those interested in the arts in the Novi area.  
Inaugural Worship Service  
TIME: 7 p.m., Sunday  
LOCATION: Home of Pastor Brian Steath (please call or e-mail for directions)  
DETAILS: Please join us for the first inaugural worship service, and celebration of Advent and Christmas. Fellowship and refreshments following the service.

**Smart cookie!**  
Fox Run resident Delores Grose decorates a gingerbread man last Friday.

## Letters To Santa

Santa wants to know what kids want for Christmas.

Mail your Letters To Santa to us so he can read them in the Novi News!

Cost is \$22 per Letter To Santa. Approx. 50 words.

All letters will be published in the December 21 Novi News.

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a new bike.  
I have been a very good boy.  
Your Friend  
Kevin Mouse

Send your letters and photos to:  
Santa  
c/o Novi News  
104 W. Main St.  
Northville, MI 48167

Letters must be received by Dec. 15 for additional information call Lisa 248-349-1700

**Divorce Recovery Workshop**  
TIME/DATES: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursdays  
DETAILS: A variety of speakers and topics will be covered to assist those working through the divorce process. The cost of the workshop is \$35, and includes the book, *Becoming Through Divorce*.  
Working Group  
TIME: 11:30 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.

**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.  
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140

**Novi United Methodist**  
LOCATION: 4167 W. 10 Mile  
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652  
Sunday Worship  
TIME: 9:15 a.m.

**Novi Concert Band Rehearsals**  
TIME/DATES: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays  
LOCATION: Novi High School, Tait Road  
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.  
CONTACT: Orian Kochyjan, (248) 348-5155

**Diamond Center New Year's Eve Gala**  
TIME/DATES: 8 p.m., Dec. 31  
DETAILS: Persons 21 and older are invited to celebrate New Year's Eve with this evening complete with

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

**Novi Town Hall Lecture Series**  
TIME/DATES: 11:30 a.m., Today  
DETAILS: Michigan author and artist Mary Blockema will be the guest speaker. Mary's passion for Lake Michigan is reflected in her non-fiction. Her books, paintings, posters, stationery and jewelry are featured in over 35 galleries and gift shops within the Great Lakes states. A large selection of her artistic and literary work will be available.  
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 349-1922 for ticket information and reservation form.

## Goodman Orthodontics donates gingerbread houses to children

### Contest held between dental offices

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Cindy Goodman decided to do something a little different this year on the corporate gift-giving scene. Along with her husband, Robert, the co-owner of Goodman Orthodontics in Novi decided to sponsor a gingerbread house decorating contest for area dentists who refer patients to the practice.

The top three winners will receive restaurant gift certificates of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively. "Everybody gives gifts at the holidays. We decided this year to do something to benefit children in the area," said Mary Myers, patient coordinator for the practice.

After the judging is complete, the gingerbread houses will be delivered today to Children's Hospital in Detroit and Mont's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and possibly the pediatric unit at Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

Some of the houses are so elaborate that they have working lights and landscaping. One house even features a rock candy pond.

The houses were put together by dental office staff members or patients' family members. One house was decorated by a 2-year-old and a 10-year-old.

All of the gingerbread houses came from a kit, and



Orthodontists Robert and Cindy Goodman stand near a gingerbread house on display in their Novi office. The Goodmans sent out gingerbread house kits to dentists who then customized them. The houses will be sent to Mont Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and Children's Hospital in Detroit before Christmas. This gingerbread home features dental crowns placed along its roof and a rotating tooth-cleaning brush in its front yard.

**don't believe everything you feel.**

**TREAT DEPRESSION**

www.santapill.com • 888.511.SAVE

**Jim Seghi Renovations**  
248-437-2454  
www.jimseghirenovations.com

- Additions
- Decks
- Kitchens
- Basements
- Bathrooms

## Are you an organ & tissue donor?

Ask your family today, and let them know your decision, too. That way you'll know, they'll know, and there will be no question later. For a free brochure, call 1-800-355-SHARE. Share your life. share your decision.™

Michigan Coalition on donation

**PANDORA Jewelry**

## TRUNK SHOW

Sunday, December 10  
10am - 4pm

**Free Silver Pandora Bracelet**

Offer Sunday, Dec. 10th • 10am-4pm only

**Larson Jewelry Design**  
Largest in stock Pandora selection in Michigan!  
43155 Main St., Suite 304  
Novi, MI 48375 • (248) 347-6653

## ROCK FINANCIAL SHOW-PLACE

# BBS 1ST HIT!

Is someone in your family celebrating their first Christmas?

Share the happy news with our readers!

Send us a photo of your baby along with the baby's name, date and the parents' name. We'll print all photos in our Dec. 21st edition.

Send a photo and \$20 to:  
Livingston Press & Argus  
Attn: Leslie  
P.O. Box 230P  
Howell, MI 48844

All entries must be received by Feb. 15, 2007. Include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

**Oh 2006! Baby**

Calling All Proud Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Brothers & Sisters! Don't miss your chance to be a part of 2006 "Oh Baby!"

Babies born in 2006 will be presented March 1, 2007. Submit your baby's photo today!

**Gavin Schonfeld**  
June 23, 2006  
Wyandotte Hospital  
Bryce & Angela

**Oh 2006! Baby**

Calling All Proud Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Brothers & Sisters! Don't miss your chance to be a part of 2006 "Oh Baby!"

Babies born in 2006 will be presented March 1, 2007. Submit your baby's photo today!

**Gavin Schonfeld**  
June 23, 2006  
Wyandotte Hospital  
Bryce & Angela

Send a photo and \$20 to:  
Livingston Press & Argus  
Attn: Leslie  
P.O. Box 230P  
Howell, MI 48844

All entries must be received by Feb. 15, 2007. Include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

Please Print:  
Child's Name (First, Middle & Last)  
Date of Birth  
Hospital  
Parents' Name (First & Last)  
Address  
City, State, Zip  
Phone

Check for \$20 enclosed.  
Please bill my Visa/MasterCard/American Express or Discover card.  
Credit card number  
Exp. Date

Signature

## Shop at Home this Holiday.

Give back to the community when you stay at home & shop locally!

**Main Dish CATERING**  
Living Simple...Cooking Smart!  
Holiday Appetizers & Cookies now available for pick up!  
Handmade with love and dedication!  
GIJ Certificates Available  
www.mainsdishcatering.com  
24877 Novi Road  
248.348.9900

**CALL OWEN! CALL OWEN!**  
SALES  
Toll-free 1-800-888-8888  
www.owen.com

**metroPCS**  
Sprint  
www.metroPCS.com

**Oxford CLOTHING**  
Fine Men's Casual and Dress Apparel  
By Ballin, Bugzetti & S. Cohen  
TUXEDO RENTALS & SALES  
EXPRESS ALTERATIONS (For Men & Ladies)  
39653 Grand River (248) 474-1904  
Open Mon-Fri 10-7; Sat 10-5

**Journey Diamond Pendant**  
White or yellow gold  
\$299  
Diamonds by Journey  
www.journeydiamond.com

**20% Off Any Item**  
Healthy Jones  
Located in:  
Novi Town Center  
248-349-5558

**BY THE BOTTLE**  
\$5.00 Off  
with your purchase of \$25 or more.  
Five wines, gourmet food, gift baskets & more!  
Located at Southern corner of Howell & Grand River at Power  
248-344-9999  
Open Mon-Fri 10-7; Sat 10-5

**Paradise Park**  
Call for Reservations  
248-371-0201

**Dog Centers of America**  
247 attended kennel care  
• Daycare from 7am - 7pm  
• K-9, 5am-4pm Sat.  
• Training • Grooming  
38231 Hightower  
Novi • 248.476.0880  
www.dogcenterofamerica.com

**248 889 7760**  
The Perfect Fish for Any Special Occasion

**4 Off**  
with your purchase of \$20 or more on used and collectible books  
GIJ Certificates Available  
New Books 20% Off

**Holiday Decorating and Gift Center**  
Custom Holiday Event Arrangements  
• PINSETTES • WREATHS  
• ROPING • GRAVE BLANKETS  
• CENTERPIECES • AND MORE  
Delivery Available  
Open everyday till Christmas  
25151 Disher Dr.  
Livonia • 248.476.0880  
248-349-1130

**4 Off**  
with your purchase of \$20 or more on used and collectible books  
GIJ Certificates Available  
New Books 20% Off

**4 Off**  
with your purchase of \$20 or more on used and collectible books  
GIJ Certificates Available  
New Books 20% Off





**\$10 off  
Your Next  
Grocery  
Purchase!**

**Get Your Flu Shot  
for Only \$25 and  
Receive \$10 off  
Your Next Grocery  
Purchase!**

**Stop By  
Kroger Today**  
See Pharmacist for Details.

Not valid for items or services paid for in whole or part by Medicaid, Medicare D or any other government program. Quantities Limited.

**A Gift  
Too Good  
to Wrap!**

Look for the gift card display in store.



**Hunger Knows No Season**

Help feed people in our community by making a donation at your neighborhood Kroger. Your contribution will help replenish your local food bank. See any cashier for details.





# 'It's a girl thing'

## Female youth hockey a hit at Suburban Ice

Ten-year-old Marisa Hackett of Northville is facing a new year of skating this season. The former figure skater joined the "It's a Girl Thing" hockey league at Suburban Ice - Farmington Hills.

Hackett is one of over 100 girls to participate in the first and only girls house program in Michigan, which provides a fun and comfortable atmosphere for girls to learn the fundamentals of hockey. In just two years, the girls program has grown from 22 players to over a 100 participants.

The "It's a Girl Thing" schedule is set up to maximize ice time, teach positioning, strategy and the rules of the game to ensure that each player has the opportunity to compete, improve and enjoy the game. With two one-hour skates a week for the league, the girls get a chance to practice weekly and participate in a game for the other one hour slot after the five-week training camp is completed.

"It's really good stuff," said 11-year-old Kelly Hecker, who has been playing for two years. "You need to have practice to play well in a game. All the coaches are very helpful. They work with you one-on-one and give you advice on how to improve your game."

Offering this all-girls environment where the limitations factor is leveled by competing against similar skill levels also enhances that improvement.

"Parents here, it's a Girl Thing to helping boost their daughter's self-confidence."

"This program has built my girls' confidence up so much for just skating for a year and a half," said Ellen Hackett, whose two girls play hockey. "I think it helps, especially with the right coaching, that they learn team building and work as a team."

For 13-year-old goalie Allie Carter, that camaraderie is her favorite part of playing with the girls.

"I like getting close to the people on my team and how they become your friends, almost like family to you. You get to experience being a part of something and being committed to a team," said Carter, a Canton native. "Winning a game with my team and going to a tournament and hanging out at the hotel is always fun too."

Creating friendships and memories like those playing hockey last a lifetime and have served as a reason why 12-and-under forward assistant coach Rick Murray has three daughters playing.

"I had some of my best memories growing up playing hockey," said Murray, whose family resides in Berkley. "I just want my kids to have great memories like that, too. Not to mention, doing sporting activities and being active is good for them in every aspect."

For Marisa Hackett's mom Nancy, it was a bit trickier her daughter scored one of her first games that she will always remember.

"Her coach went out and got her a pin," said Nancy. "It was really big deal. It really got her motivated to want to continue to play."

And going from a boys' team to girls like those playing hockey last a lifetime and have served as a reason why 12-and-under forward assistant coach Rick Murray has three daughters playing.

"I had some of my best memories growing up playing hockey," said Murray, whose family resides in Berkley. "I just want my kids to have great memories like that, too. Not to mention, doing sporting activities and being active is good for them in every aspect."

For Marisa Hackett's mom Nancy, it was a bit trickier her daughter scored one of her first games that she will always remember.

"Her coach went out and got her a pin," said Nancy. "It was really big deal. It really got her motivated to want to continue to play."

And going from a boys' team to girls like those playing hockey last a lifetime and have served as a reason why 12-and-under forward assistant coach Rick Murray has three daughters playing.

playing with the girls has also made it more fun when heading to the rink.

"It's nice (for Alison) to not have to go to a different locker room," said Jeanne Tractor, Alison's mom. "Just walking in the locker room and seeing her sit next to her friend and seeing her laughing and having a great time. She had friends on the team last year (with the boys) but it's just different when it's all girls and they're yapping and yapping like that. She's having fun and it's really when it's all about."

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

Each girl had her own reasons for picking up the sport, from being invited with their current activity to seeing family members having fun while playing hockey.

"My brother started playing, my younger sister started playing so then I decided that it would be fun because they were already having so much fun playing," said Alison Tractor of Novi. "Even my mom started playing."

For Carter, it was a combination of her father playing and being loved with a chance that got her on the ice.

"It was the perfect opportunity," said Carter, who says her biggest goal is to try and play college hockey. "I tried it out and after the first session I loved it so much I wanted to do it again."

All it took was one shot at a new sport to get hooked and help dissolve the perception that hockey is only for boys.

"A lot of my friends never thought I'd be a hockey player," said Carly Howell, whose goal is to play varsity high school hockey for Northville. "It's really fun and it doesn't matter if you are good or bad because it's all about learning."

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

## Sport Shorts

**Novi Athletic Boosters Club Meeting**

The Novi Athletic Boosters Club will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 13 in the media center forum (room 108).

**Crawford tabbed High School Scholar Athlete of the Week**

Stephanie Crawford has been chosen as "High School Scholar Athlete of the Week" by a panel from WXYZ and McDonald's.

**Michigan Motion tryouts**

The Michigan Motion girls basketball teams will hold tryouts Dec. 9-10 at the Novi Middle School gym.

**Wolfpack tryouts start in December**

The Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU girls basketball team is holding its tryouts in December.

**Ski swap fund-raiser**

The Novi High School ski team fund-raiser takes place Dec. 9.

**Tigers sign at DC Sports**

Former Tiger Mickey Lulich and current Tiger Brandon Inge will be signing autographs at DC Sports on the Twelve Oaks Mall.

**Ferriman selected for soccer honor**

Senior defender Justin Ferriman (Northville) was one

**CC to host baseball camp**

Catholic Central High School will host a baseball camp 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17 at the media center forum (room 108).

**Michigan Motion tryouts**

The Michigan Motion girls basketball teams will hold tryouts Dec. 9-10 at the Novi Middle School gym.

**Wolfpack tryouts start in December**

The Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU girls basketball team is holding its tryouts in December.

**Ski swap fund-raiser**

The Novi High School ski team fund-raiser takes place Dec. 9.

**Tigers sign at DC Sports**

Former Tiger Mickey Lulich and current Tiger Brandon Inge will be signing autographs at DC Sports on the Twelve Oaks Mall.

**Ferriman selected for soccer honor**

Senior defender Justin Ferriman (Northville) was one

**Wildcats' Graybiel, Crawford make First Team**

By John Mueller and Jeff Thelen

While her four years of playing basketball at Lakeland High School have resulted into one long road of memorable times and valuable experience, Megan Bouwens' sophomore season sticks out in her mind as a major turning point.

It was a sophomore I had... "I was getting better, but since we had a really good varsity team already, I had to play on JV," she said.

"That was all the motivation it took. Determined to earn her way up to the higher level, she worked harder than ever at her game and eventually made the varsity roster.

For her efforts, Bouwens has been awarded the All-Area Dream Team's Player of the Year honor. The All-Area Dream Team is chosen by the sports staffs of the Herald Times, the South Lyon Herald, the Novi News and the Northville Record and is comprised of the best players from Lakeland, Milford, South Lyon, Novi and Northville.

Bouwens takes the honor after a tremendous senior season in which she averaged 15.3 points a game and 9.5 rebounds per game. She also set a new Lakeland High School single-season scoring record with 332 total points, finishing her varsity career with 633 points and almost 400 rebounds.

Megan's high school career is that she did it the right way," Lakeland head basketball coach Mike Heald said. "She played on the freshmen team, then the JV team, then two years of varsity. She's a great example of working hard, improving one's skills and waiting patiently for one's turn."

Her impact was obvious to everyone who saw her play. "Megan Bouwens was the heart and soul of her team, and we know just so it. So I started getting points and working hard, and I got better."

"The Eagles ended up going 8-6 in league play this season, finishing fourth in the final Kennington Valley Conference standings.

"I just wanted our team to be successful as a whole, and I wanted to do the best I could," said Bouwens, who hopes to continue playing basketball as a college student next year. "I just wanted to do better than the year before. It was a very valuable experience, being a part of this team."

Her graduation this June will without a doubt leave a big hole to fill in Lakeland's varsity roster. "Obviously, I'll miss having Megan in our program," coach Heald said. "However, I'm comforted by the knowledge that she and I will continue to see and communicate with each other in the future. She's a wonderful young lady who'll make positive contributions to the future."

**First Team All-Area**

Novi enjoyed a record-breaking season for wins at 19-5, while also claiming its first district title in Class A competition.

Two of the major reasons for success came in senior guard Stephanie Crawford and senior forward Taylor Graybiel.

Crawford controlled the game at the point. She averaged 8.9 points and 4.4 rebounds a game while dishing out a team-high 31 assists on the year. She also was second in steals with 42 and voted All-KVC.

"Stephanie developed not only into one of the best point guards around but also one of the best help side defenders we have ever had," Novi head coach Bill Kelp said. "She was a leader on the court and did a phenomenal job running our back."

Graybiel fought through a leg injury throughout the year and still managed to be the rock inside. She averaged 5.9 points and 6.7 rebounds to go with a team-high 52 blocks.

"After missing most of last year with a broken bone in her leg, Taylor got better and better as the year went on," Kelp said. "The strength of her game was on the defensive end. She changed the game by not only shutting down

the other team's post player but also by challenging or blocking the shots from the help side."

The rest of the All-Area Dream Team is comprised of Lakeland's Meghan Kunze and Laura Ward, Milford's Cherrise Anderson and Britni Hutten, South Lyon's Danielle Godham and Sarah Stern, Chelsea Azzinger and Northville's Allison Azzinger and Katelyn Veeceke, West Lyon's Stephanie Sijchar, Amanda Thomas, Katie Williams and Kim Fix, and Northville's Jessica Boeger.

Novi girls hockey coach Bill Holden is excited to see youth programs spring up.

"The 'It's a Girl Thing' is the first opportunity that I know of for girls between the ages of 6-12 years of age to play hockey with minimal cost to the parents," he said. "Another clinic coming up is sponsored by the Lyons Hockey Association, which is running its first beginners hockey clinic for girls between the ages of 6-12 on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Jan. 7th through February 25th for only \$40 for all eight sessions at the Eddie Edgar rink."

To find out more about the program, call LHA at (734) 422-5172.

# QUEEN OF THE COURT



Lakeland's Megan Bouwens is the 2006 All-Area basketball MVP.

Photo by HAL GOULD/Gannett News Services

## All-Area Basketball

- MVP**  
Megan Bouwens, Lakeland
- First Team**  
Stephanie Crawford, Taylor Graybiel, Northville  
Cherrise Anderson, Britni Hutten, South Lyon  
Sarah Stern, Chelsea Azzinger, Northville  
Moghan Kunze, Laura Ward, Lakeland  
Cherrise Anderson, Britni Hutten, South Lyon  
Danielle Godham, Northville

## Honorable Mention

- Caroline Johnson, Novi  
Kris Chalkos, Katie Chalkos, Northville  
Jessica Boeger, Lakeland  
Katie O'Leary, Rachel Wojtowicz, Lisa Maxwell, Kelly Miller, Hannah Stocker, Northville  
Katy Westenberg, Kelly Verebeck, South Lyon  
Stephanie Sijchar, Amanda Thomas, Katie Williams, Kim Fix, Northville  
Jessica Boeger, Northville

## How to become a financial visionary.

Find a way to protect your money from inflation doesn't require a crystal ball. Check out [www.savingsbond.gov](http://www.savingsbond.gov) to find out more about Series I Bonds from the U.S. Treasury.

**I Bonds**  
www.savingsbond.gov  
A public service of our newspaper

## "A TRIUMPH!"

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "GLORY" AND "THE LAST SAMURAI"

**BLOOD DIAMOND**

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:00 PM

## "YOUR FAMILY WILL LOVE THIS INSPIRATIONAL FILM FOR THE HOLIDAYS!"

KEISHA CASTLE-HUGHES, OSCAR ISAAC, SHOHREH AGHDASHLOO

**THE NATIVITY STORY**

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:00 PM

## CATER THE WAVE

**SUBURBY WOLVES**

FRI. DEC. 8TH, 7:05PM

LADIES' NIGHT

STANLEY CUP at COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA FROM 7:30PM - 11:00PM FRIDAY, DEC. 8TH!

## BARRIE COLTS

SAT. DEC. 9TH, 7:05PM

TEDDY BEAR TOSS

Center Ice Seating \$14 • Executive Reserved \$10

## SEASON or GROUP TICKETS

Call 734-453-8400  
[www.plymouthwhalers.com](http://www.plymouthwhalers.com)

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS  
www.ticketmaster.com  
Call 248-645-6666

COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA  
14900 BECK ROAD PLYMOUTH TWP, MI 48170

## "PURE ADRENALINE!"

BREATHTAKING, "APOCALYPTO" BRINGS OUT WHAT'S UNIQUE AND GRIPPING IN GIBSON AS A DIRECTOR.

**"ONCE AGAIN, MEL GIBSON PROVES WHY HE IS ONE OF THE BEST FILMMAKERS AROUND."**

Identify a fearless director who knows how to grab an audience and let go for a minute and you'll be hooked. "Apocalypse" ought to stand for adrenaline excitement—and we mean adrenaline. Are you looking for an action movie that will give you goosebumps and make you want to go to the gym? "Apocalypse" is the movie for you. A fierce and visceral slasher that will leave you breathless!

Age Hammond, MAMM

## "A DAZZLING, POWERFUL AND COMPELLING MASTERWORK!"

MEL GIBSON'S APOCALYPTO

NO ONE CAN OUTFRIN THEIR DESTINY.

STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:00 PM

## It's not simply mind over matter.

You can't be talked out of heart disease, diabetes, asthma...or depression. Depression is a serious illness that needs medical treatment. Ask your doctor for a depression screening today.

**Depression**  
Treat it as if your life depended on it.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 1.800.511.SAVE OR VISIT [www.SAVE.ORG](http://www.SAVE.ORG)

## ALL-AREA SOCCER: Novi puts 4 on 1st Team

Continued from 1B

sports staffs of the Herald Times, the South Lyon Herald, the Novi News and the Northville Record.

Wood knocked in seven goals and dished out 10 assists for the 15-2-5 Mustangs.

Northville likes to play a ball-control style of game versus a run up and down, high-scoring type of game. Wood was one of the best guys that allowed Klimes to play that style. The Mustangs finished with a 72-22 advantage in goals scored.

"We like keeping the ball and I need someone in the middle who can always do that rotation and distribute the ball," Klimes said. "He has tremendous vision and (can see) both his left and right foot."

While his play on the field kept the Mustangs going in the right direction, it was his off-field abilities that kept ahead of the team throughout the year.

"He instills that positive attitude, and everybody seems to want to play for him and work hard with him when he's out there," Klimes said.

Wood has shown his ability to help lead a top-notch high school program, and Klimes describes what he wants the future Mustangs to learn from his play: "Whether you really want something you really love to earn it, you have to really have the desire and heart to succeed in life, and Alex definitely shows what can be accomplished with that."

Wood has been invited to try out for the Michigan soccer team.

## ALL-AREA GOLF: Snow falls on top of list

Continued from 1B

struggled on the first day, but instead of putting pressure on himself, Snow realized everyone struggled and he relaxed for the first 18 holes.

"I think it helped a great deal. I think Phil realized he wasn't alone," Stetson said.

On day two: "He got going early. He got a couple of early birdies and rode the momentum the rest of the round."

For the season, Snow averaged a 75.2 for 18 holes and 36.8 on nine. He was medalist in nine of the 11 Northville matches, including medalist at districts (72), medalist at the WLA conference tournament (72) and a second-place finish at regionals.

Snow was out of the state in the early part of the season, but he returned to put an exclamation point on an already good year.

"Once conference season started, it was nice having that score you could count on," Stetson said. "We just always know we were going to have a 36, or 37 coming from Phil. When you are counting four of your six scores, having one you could guarantee is very nice."

Snow only played two years at Northville after moving to the area, but Stetson saw a lot of improvement from his junior to senior seasons.

"He matured a lot. He truly wanted to be an excellent golfer," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "These accomplishments place him among the elite players in Michigan and in the history of Novi golf."

Prokop averaged a 78.3 for 18 holes. He tied for second at regionals and placed in the top 25 at state.

Prokop's honors include being named First Team All-KVC, Second Team All-County and honorable mention All-State.

Catholic Central senior, Mike Murray finishes his season with First Team All-Area honors.

Murray finished with a course-

## All-Area Soccer

**MVP**  
Alex Wood, Senior, Northville

**First Team**  
Northville: Alex Rickett, John Junca, Chris Leonetti, Jeff Cheslik  
Novi: Robert Parkins, Sean Simey, Nathan Robinson, Adam Ballantyne  
Catholic Central: Brian Hale  
Milford: Matt Cunningham, Matt Nelson  
Lakeland: Joe Duolo, Justin Janssen, Tim Knight  
South Lyon: Mike Tolman, Drew Crank, Ryan Deters, Nick Wade, Nick Wades, Nick Wade  
South Lyon: Kevin Costa

**Honorable Mention**  
Northville: Ryan Burdette, Senior (Masao Morioka, Junior, Alex Marley, Sophomore)  
Novi: Cortlan White, Senior  
Catholic Central: Nick Pelen, Junior, Nick Kristock, Sophomore  
Milford: Erik Ogeirsson, Zach Sprinkle, Pieter Devries  
Lakeland: Joe Duolo, Justin Janssen, Tim Knight  
South Lyon: Mike Tolman, Drew Crank, Ryan Deters, Nick Wade, Nick Wades, Nick Wade  
South Lyon: Kevin Costa

## All-Area Golf

**MVP**  
Phil Snow, Senior, Northville

**First Team**  
Nick Prokop, Junior  
Alex Lyall, Junior  
Northville: Wes Gates, Sophomore  
Taylor Grigg, Freshman  
Catholic Central: Mike Murray, Senior  
South Lyon: Richard Welschenberger, Mitch Swanson  
Milford: Ryan Blazy, Kevin Emry  
Lakeland: Jayson Grant

**Honorable Mention**  
Joe Franzstedt, Sophomore  
Jos Szemczinski, Sophomore  
Northville: Chase Detrie, Freshman  
Alex Bernstein, Freshman  
Scott Czekaj, Senior  
South Lyon: Ryan Tubbs  
Milford: Derek Estrada, Tommy Saragi  
Lakeland: Travis Lynch

Nick Prokop fired their way onto the All-Area First Team. Lyall carried a 74.3 average for his first 10 starts and finished with an 18-hole average of 75.8 in all 12 tournaments. He finished in the top ten nine times and was medalist twice. Lyall was second at districts and regionals.

Lyall was named First Team All-KVC, All-County and All-State.

"Alex had a great junior year," Novi head coach Brad Huss said. "These accomplishments place him among the elite players in Michigan and in the history of Novi golf."

Prokop averaged a 78.3 for 18 holes. He tied for second at regionals and placed in the top 25 at state.

Prokop's honors include being named First Team All-KVC, Second Team All-County and honorable mention All-State.

Catholic Central senior, Mike Murray finishes his season with First Team All-Area honors.

Murray finished with a course-

## Other First Teamers

Novi juniors Alex Lyall and

Make a Difference  
**RECYCLE**  
The Earth is Counting on You!



# HAPPY HOLIDAY Hints

**South Lyon Lumber**  
 Visit with Santa on December 16th from 1-3 pm and tell him all your Christmas wishes!  
 Get your holiday shopping done at South Lyon Lumber, located at 415 East Lake Street.

**South Lyon Cycle**  
 Serving our community since 1994. Family owned & operated.  
 We have high-quality bikes for the entire family at great values. Indoor trainers and a large selection of bike accessories are in stock for the bicyclist on your gift list.  
 www.southlyoncycle.com

**Scappari**  
 We are a full service salon designed with you in mind. For the ultimate pampering experience you have to experience Scappari,  
*"Where Beauty Lives"*

**Selective Heating**  
 Selective Heating has 29 years experience servicing & installing furnaces, boilers, air conditioners & radiant heating. They are a Bryant dealer but service and install all makes & models.

**Perfect Floors**  
 We offer a large selection of carpeting in our showroom, which includes a Mohawk Color Center. We also offer a variety of ceramic, hardwood, laminate and vinyl floor-covering products. Most orders are installed within seven days, which means there is still time to replace your flooring before the holidays arrive. Stop by and visit our showroom today.

Kids  SANTA would like to visit with you on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 1-3, to find out your Christmas Wishes!!!  
 Video With Santa Available for only \$1.49

Please join us at:  
**South Lyon Lumber**  
 415 E. Lake St. (10 Mile) • South Lyon  
 (248) 437-1751  




**Scappari**  
 A FULL SERVICE SALON

Ho Ho Ho  
 Gift from \$10 to \$50

Oh Christmas  
 Gift from \$10 to \$50

**Screwie Louie's**  
 The original management has returned to Screwie Louie's. We offer a full dinner menu with great tasting food. Be sure to book your Holiday parties with us. Catering & carry out are available. We have karaoke every Thursday and a DJ on Friday & Saturday.

BRING IN THIS AD & RECEIVE  
**FREE INSTALLATION!**  
 WITH ANY CARPET AND

FREE CREDIT  
 NO. AMERT  
 NO INTEREST  
 12 MONTHS  
 \$0 DOWN

IF WE PAY YOUR SALES TAX! WITH ANY PURCHASE!

South Lyon Showroom  
 1944 Pontiac Trail  
 South of 10 Mile Rd.  
 Mon-Fri 10-6  
 Sat & Sun 10-5  
 248-437-2638

Rochester Hills Showroom  
 1916 John R  
 corner of John & 19th  
 Mon-Fri 10-6  
 Sat & Sun 10-5  
 248-656-9199

**SOUTH LYON CYCLE**  
 209 S. Lafayette (Pontiac Trail)  
 2 blocks south of Ten Mile  
 Downtown South Lyon  
 Life is good: (248) 437-0500

TREK GIANT HARD ~~COMP~~ ~~DOWN~~ ~~TOWNIE~~  
 Large Selection of High-Quality Bikes for the Entire Family at Great Values

Tricycles	From \$89.00
Kids	\$119.00
BMX	\$159.00
Cruiser	\$219.00
Mountain	\$239.00
Comfort	\$299.00
Hybrid	\$299.00
Road	\$449.00
Adult Tri-Wheeler	\$349.00

Seasons can be harsh. Especially when it comes to your heating system. This year, make sure they're prepared for what's ahead by calling your local Bryant dealer.

**Selective Heating**  
 for a check up. With Bryant by your side, you can rest assured both you and your units will survive the upcoming weather.

**MAKE E BRYANT VISITS YOUR FURNACE BEFORE WINTER DOES.**

**Selective Heating**  
 servicing all makes & models  
 201 Harrison Rd. • Wixom, MI 48393  
 248-486-4640

**SCREWIE LOUIE'S**  
 BAR & SPORTS GRILL  
 106 S. Lafayette • South Lyon, MI  
 All Friday & Saturday

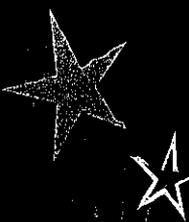
Monday Night Football  
 FREE Halftime Buffet  
 Kids eat FREE Monday w/ 2 adult entrees

Tuesday is Mexican Night  
 Wednesday Mediterranean Night  
 Greek & Italian Specialties  
 Thurs, Fri & Sat Dinner Specials

Buy any 2 Entrees and 2 Drinks & receive  
**\$5.00 off**  
 with this coupon

Cannot be combined with any other coupon or special. Expires 12/31/06.

Gift Certificates & Layaway Available  
 also Great Accessory Gift Ideas



Book Your Office Holiday Parties Today!  
 Carry Out and Catering Available!  
 106 S. Lafayette • South Lyon, MI 48178  
 248-446-9670 www.screwielouies.com