

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY MICROFILM COPY

GOING OUT STRONG!



SPORTS: NOVI GYMNASTS TAKE FINAL LEAP! P. 1B

Novi News

Green Sheet Classifieds

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

Thursday, December 21, 2006

www.novinews.com

50 cents

Volume 51 Number 30

Novi, Michigan

What you NEED to KNOW

New Year's Eve at the Rock
It's time to think about New Year's Eve plans. Novi's Rock Financial Showplace will offer its First Annual New Year's Eve Diamond Gala 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 31, with live music, hors d'oeuvres, a four-course dinner and cocktails. An 11:45 p.m. Afterglow Party will include a pizza and snacks buffet, party favors and live broadcast of the 2007 countdown at New York City's Times Square. Cost is \$90 per person. For reservations, call (248) 348-5500, ext. 200.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Happening in town
Check out Novi's official events calendar. Page 12A



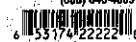
INDEX

- Births.....8A
- Classifieds.....3D
- Class Notes.....4A
- Faith.....12A
- Letters to the Editor.....14A
- Opinion & Letters.....14A
- On Campus.....4A
- Phil Power.....15A
- Rock Financial.....12A
- Santa Finet Call.....9A
- Sports.....11B
- What's Going On?.....12A
- What's Your Story?.....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



Special Information:
NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY
104 W. MAIN RD.
NORTHVILLE, MI 48167
313-241-1522
313-241-1523
313-241-1524
313-241-1525
313-241-1526
313-241-1527
313-241-1528
313-241-1529
313-241-1530
313-241-1531
313-241-1532
313-241-1533
313-241-1534
313-241-1535
313-241-1536
313-241-1537
313-241-1538
313-241-1539
313-241-1540

PHIL POWER: MICHIGAN STILL LACKING A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR A NEW FUTURE, P. 15A

'I wish'

On the long road back to health, Novi seventh grader finds President Bush visit beneath Christmas tree

Adam Angelas was informally dressed three years ago, the day he met the tumor lodged against his spine cord.

Jeans. Polo shirt. Tennis shoes. Looking back, maybe he was underdressed, even for his formal introduction to a benign mass that could have left him paralyzed. Or dead.

Tomorrow, Adam will be dressed up — in a newly purchased black, pinstriped suit, white shirt and Republican red tie with blue polka dots. He and his family will get picked up from their Novi home by a limousine and transported to the airport where a private jet will be waiting to shuttle them to Washington, D.C. for a face-to-face meeting with President George W. Bush.

Now, if the distance between these two events seems stark, just remember it's Christmas.

And know that in March, 2003 Adam wasn't planning his day around a sit-down with the leader of the free world. He simply figured he'd be spending a casual Friday with his father, Peter, shadowing him at his Southfield office where he worked as an attorney. There was a doctor nearby, the father said,



Adam Angelas, 12, glances outside his Novi home. He's looking forward to meeting President George W. Bush at the White House tomorrow, and good health during 2007.

Maybe he could figure out why Adam was suffering lingering neck and back pain and had increasing difficulty lifting his head. "I thought it was a pinched nerve," Adam said Monday night, a 12-year-old Northville Christian School student,

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Water surge: Novi rates could spike 7.6 percent

Novi	7.6%
Warren	7.6%
Westland	4.3%
Detroit	8.5%
Plymouth Twp.	29.1%

Reaction: It could have been worse

By Greg McGiore
STAFF WRITER

Water rates are going up again, but some Novi residents say it's not that bad. Or at least it could have been worse.

Novi residents will likely see their water bills spike 7.6 percent in 2007, according to preliminary rates released last week by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWS&D). The average increase in the area was 5.6 percent.

Although Novi was above the local average, the city's increase was significantly less than some communities, like Plymouth Township, which was hit with a 29.1 percent jump. Novi's increase was also less than

continued on Page 5A



Anna Mary Vollick, 89, a resident of Northville Township's Wynwood community, will enjoy time with her family during the holiday season.

Sensing change

Holiday visits time to check health of elderly relatives

By Maureen Johnston
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Anna Mary Vollick's sons, Ken and Dale, reside only a few minutes away.

"But, for many local families, a Christmas reunion is an overdue update on an elderly parent's condition.

"It's when the family is home for the holidays they see how much the parent has declined," said Marie Pollicelli, owner of Comfort Keepers, an in-home care agency. "They'll be taken aback because Mom or Dad don't complain. They're surprised they need help.

"It's when we get crazy busy."

continued on Page 6A

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- **Brightstar Christian Chorus**
46300 13 Mile Road
(248) 658-7000
Christmas Eve: 9 & 10:45 a.m.; 5 p.m.
- **Christ Covenant Church**
Congreg. Theater, Fountain Walk
44425 W. 12 Mile Road
(248) 515-5750
Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m.
- **Detroit Japanese Christian Services**
First Baptist Church of Novi
45301 W. 11 Mile Road
Pastor: Kami Fuki (248) 344-8744
Christmas Eve: 2:30 p.m. Candlelight
- **First Community Presbyterian**
44400 W. 10 Mile Road
(248) 349-2345
Christmas Eve: 9 & 10:30 a.m.; 5 p.m. Family, 8 & 11 p.m. Candlelight
- **Good Shepherd Lutheran**
41415 W. Nine Mile Road
(248) 349-0565
Christmas Eve: 10 a.m., 7 p.m. Candlelight
Christmas Day: 10 a.m. Festival
- **Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross**
40700 10 Mile Road
(248) 427-1175
Christmas Eve: 9 a.m., 4 p.m. Children's, 8:15-9 a.m.
- **Holy Family Catholic Church**
24305 Meadowbrook Road
(248) 349-8047
Christmas Eve: 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.
Advent Mass: 4, 6, & 11 p.m.
Christmas Eve Masses
(All 8:45 p.m., the Junior Choir and Pageant will be presented)
Christmas Day: 9 & 11:30 a.m.
- **Meadowbrook Congregational Church**
21555 Meadowbrook Road
(248) 548-7157
Christmas Eve: 10 a.m., 5 p.m. Children's, 8 p.m.
- **Novi United Methodist Church**
41871 W. 10 Mile Road
(248) 349-2552
Christmas Eve: 9:45 a.m., 7 p.m. Candlelight
- **Oak Pointe Church**
50200 W. 10 Mile Road
(248) 912-0043
Dec. 23: 5:15 p.m.
Christmas Eve: 8:15 & 11:15 a.m.
- **St. James Catholic Church**
46325 10 Mile Road
(248) 247-7776
Christmas Eve: 6, 8:30 a.m.
Advent Mass: 4, 6, & 8 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass
Christmas Day: 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
- **Crosspointe Meadows**
29200 Meadowbrook Road, In Meadowbrook Elementary
(248) 427-2700
Christmas Eve: 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Carols & Candlelight
- **St. John Lutheran**
23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
(248) 474-5284
Christmas Eve: 10 a.m.
- **First Presbyterian of Northville**
200 E. Main Street, Northville
(248) 349-0511
Christmas Eve: 9:30 & 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. Family, 7, 9, 8:11 p.m. Candlelight
- **Orchard Hills Baptist Church**
23455 Novi Road
(248) 349-5555
Christmas Eve: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Candlelight

Pure Selection

One love.

One diamond.

One place.

Diamond Castle

10958 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48164-1440

313-248-4442

When you go to the E.R. you don't go there to wait.

DMC 29 Minute E.R. Guarantee

Imagine an emergency room designed so you don't have to wait.

On average, a person spends anywhere from 1 to 4 hours in an E.R. waiting room. At Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital you'll see one of Michigan's best doctors in 29 minutes or less. Guaranteed.

Our newly expanded emergency department designed specifically for families and children doubled the size of our treatment area. And, with a team of emergency physicians and a partnership with Children's Hospital, you can rest assured that your family will receive the best care possible.

DMC
Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER / WALKER STATE UNIVERSITY

A better place to get better.

1 William Carls Drive • Commerce, Michigan 48382-2201
248-937-3300 • www.hvsh.org

AT COMMERCE AND COMMERCE IN COMMERCE.

"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!

TELCOM CREDIT UNION
YOU BELONG HERE!

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 Northwestem Hwy.
248.569.1700

telcomcu.com

Dollars and Sense: How the drug money breaks down

City officials sit on \$3.5M; ponder next moves

Novi Drug Money

\$6,472,103	total received
\$3,097,070	total spent
\$3,510,352	total available

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

It's about the money. Slice away the rhetoric. Forget the emotional pleas. More than anything else, the controversial debate over building a gun range for Novi's Police Department is a really straight shot: How should officials spend \$3.5 million in federal drug money?

Supporters say there's no better way to spend the cash — now or in the future. To them, it's a training facility that addresses the top needs of the police department. Critics argue the range will be a heavy, long-term millstone, ultimately hung around the necks of taxpayers.

At the moment, the future of the facility is in limbo. Some money has been allocated for the range, but not enough to build it where officials want it, at the city's Field Services Complex (FSC) off 11 Mile. The plan to allocate more money was asked by city council earlier this month.

By the numbers

While city officials debate if the plan makes sense, the dollars and cents break down this way:

- Novi has exactly \$3,510,352 in federal forfeiture money sitting in the bank as of Dec. 7, which was when the most recent portion of the money, \$739,161, came in.
- It has received a total of \$6.5 million in drug money since the first payment was received in May 2005.
- It has spent \$3.1 million. Of this, \$1 million has already been earmarked for a gun range, and \$1.2 million has been tapped to pay off some of the police department's building debt. The remainder has been spent on more police cars, officers, communications equipment and other items.

The critical number is \$725,300, which combined with earlier allocations would have been enough to start construction on the range at the FSC and have it built in about a year.

Sill, Novi officials are moving forward with plans for a range at the FSC, despite not having the money to actually build it. A contract for architectural services could come before council in January, City Manager Clay Pearson said.

"The first choice has been to do it at the FSC," he said.

Opponents, however, question where money will come from to maintain the facility when the drug funds are gone.

For me, this is not fiscally responsible, long-term financial planning," council member Tom Nagy said.

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

HEARTS ON FIRE®

THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECTLY CUT DIAMOND®

Thrills like no other diamond.

ORIN

Make a Difference
RECYCLE

THINKING ABOUT A NEW FURNACE?

LENNOX
Innovation in air quality

FREE ESTIMATES
(734) 525-1930

- 0% Financing Available
- 5 Years Parts & Labor Warranty

Our 32nd Year!
UNITED TEMPERATURE
8919 MIDDLEBELT • LINDONIA

SOUTH LYON THEATER
Novi Resident's Choice

HAPPY FEET

STARTS Fri, Dec. 22

Rated PG - 105 Min

Fri - 7pm
Saturday 1, 4 & 7pm
Sunday 1pm only
-Closed Christmas -
Tues, Wed & Thurs
4 & 7pm
Evenings

Adults \$4.50 Kids \$4.00
Tuesdays \$3.00

Wednesday
FREE Popcorn
with paid admission

Thursday
FREE Ice Cream
with paid admission

Monday is
Senior Citizen Night
\$3 admission

126 E. Lake St.
437-4545

Make a Difference
RECYCLE

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

Teach correctly. Be an active role player. Call 877-422-5323 for more information. Visit www.sagepublications.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 astronauts back pain and how this accidental discovery has led to the most promising back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery," call 1-800-469-3676 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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 \$25 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 listed in the applicable rate card, copies of which are available from the advertising department, The Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167. (248-349-1700) The Novi News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. The Novi News ad-takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Publication Number USPS 358290

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 1-800-365-SHARE.

Share your life. share your decision.
Michigan Coalition on donation

Organ & Tissue
DONATION

SHOP EARLY. SHOP LATE

NOW THROUGH JANUARY

SPECIAL PRICES ON LAST MINUTE GIFTS INCLUDING OUR OWN CASHMERE

SALE 69.99 AND 79.99
OUR OWN CASHMERE SWEATERS
Turtleneck, V-neck and crewneck cardy. Original \$129.99 & \$149.99 nowhere but Lord & Taylor

SALE 89.99 AND 109.99
OUR OWN CABLED CASHMERE SWEATERS
Turtleneck and crewneck styles. Original \$144 & \$159.99 nowhere but Lord & Taylor

SALE 29.99 AND 59.99
OUR OWN CASHMERE ACCESSORIES
Hats, gloves and mufflers. Original \$50 & \$100. Currently \$29.99 & 69.99 nowhere but Lord & Taylor

SALE 79.99
MEN'S GRANT THOMAS CASHMERE SWEATERS
Crewneck, V-neck, polo and quarter zip mock turtleneck styles. Original \$129.99 nowhere but Lord & Taylor

SALE 279.99
MEN'S GRANT THOMAS CASHMERE SPORT COATS
Original \$500 nowhere but Lord & Taylor

LORD & TAYLOR

Quick click! Shop us online 24/7 at lordandtaylor.com

Save ends Sunday, December 24th, except for clearance items or as noted. Savings Pass not applicable. No adjustments to prior safe purchases. Selected collections, not every style in every store. Our regular and original prices are offered prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Advertised merchandise may be available at sale prices in upcoming sale events. Charge it with your Lord & Taylor Credit Card. We also accept American Express, MasterCard, Visa and the Discover Card.

EXTRA HOLIDAY HOURS. Thursday & Friday 8 am to midnight, Saturday 7 am to midnight, Christmas Eve 7 am to 6 pm

For the Lord & Taylor location nearest you, please visit our website at lordandtaylor.com. Or call 1-800-223-7400 any day, any time.

Open 24 Hours Daily

Open Christmas Day & New Years Day

Novi
24111 Meadowbrook
Just South of 10 Mile
248.349.0711

Wixom
49078 Pontiac Trail
Just East of Wixom Rd.
248.669.3946

Gift cards available!

FREE Grill Item

Limit one per coupon. Novi & Wixom locations only. Must present coupon. Expires 1.31.07.

FREE 20 Ounce Coffee

Limit one per coupon. Novi & Wixom locations only. Must present coupon. Expires 1.31.07.

FREE 22 Ounce Slurpee®

Limit one per coupon. Novi & Wixom locations only. Must present coupon. Expires 1.31.07.

Sweet Dreams - Sweet Prices!

HOLIDAY SALE

SAVE UP TO 65% ON THESE MATTRESSES!

SERTAPEDIC
CARLYE DRIVE
CUSHION COMFORT
\$449
Queen Set

PERFECT SLEEPER
ROYAL GARNET
PILLOW TOP
\$549
Queen Set

PERFECT SLEEPER
BRAZILIAN RUBY
FIBRO TOP
\$799
Queen Set

Twin Set - Full Set - King Set
\$349 - \$399 - \$449

Twin Set - Full Set - King Set
\$449 - \$499 - \$549

Twin Set - Full Set - King Set
\$649 - \$699 - \$799

PERFECT SLEEPER
DESERT LIGHT
EURO TOP or EXTRA FIRM
\$899
Queen Set

Twin Set - Full Set - King Set
\$749 - \$799 - \$1199

QUEEN SET MELISSA
\$549
0% FINANCING FOR 12 MONTHS

FREE Delivery!
All Mattresses \$499 & Up
In Greater Area

FREE Set Up!
Mattresses Only

FREE Removal!
Of your old bedding with a \$499 or more purchase

Special Buy!
0% FINANCING FOR 12 MONTHS

FREE FIREBLOCKER
COLLECTOR'S EDITION FURNITURE PROTECTOR

THE ULTIMATE FUTON SALE!

FREE DESIGNED PILLOWS

FUTON \$199

Includes a Simmons Futon Mattress With Coupon Expires 1-15-07

Seattle FUTON \$299

Includes a Simmons Futon Mattress With Coupon Expires 1-15-07

Bunkbed FUTON \$599

FREE PILLOWS With Purchase Expires 1-15-07

Fashion Bed Group

\$100 off
FUTON PACKAGES \$700 & Up

\$50 off
FUTON PACKAGES \$200 & Up

\$300 Less than Before!
Tempur-Pedic
In Stock for Immediate Delivery!

US Futons
Michigan's Largest Simmons Futon Dealer

Mattress & Futon Shoppe

mattressandfutonshoppe.com

14 METRO LOCATIONS:

- BIRMINGHAM 32767 Woodward (1 block South of 14 Mile) 248.549.1951
- CANTON 42489 Ford Road (At Lilley In Canton Corners) 734.844.0400
- LAKEVILLE 13509 Half Road (Across from Lakeside) 586.532.8055
- LIVONIA 31629 Plymouth Road (1 block West of Merriman) 734.425.1500
- NOVI TOWN CENTER (Near Mervyn's South of I-96) 248.348.5494
- ROSEVILLE 32098 Gratiot (Across from Macomb Mall) 586.294.8360
- ROYAL OAK 28074 N. Woodward (South of 12 Mile) 248.414.6909
- SOUTHGATE 17820 Eureka (Between Reek & Allen Rd.) 734.281.7766
- TAYLOR 22385 Ecorse (1/2 Mile East of Telegraph) 313.291.3603
- TAYLOR 23650 Eureka (Near Southland Mall across from Value City) 734.287.0454
- TROY 3536 Rochester Road (Bet. Big Beaver & Watties) 248.743.1088
- WARREN 26645 Hoover (Hoover & T1 Mile Road) 586.754.1500
- YPSILANTI/ANN ARBOR 4563 Washtenaw (1/4 Mile East of US-23) 734.975.9200
- ANN ARBOR 2131 W. Stadium (South of W. Liberty) 734.222.9472

*Free delivery excludes futons and bunkbeds and applies to orders of \$499 and up. Futon mattresses & covers sold separately.

WATER RATES: Novi jumps 7.6 percent

continued from 1A

The 8.5 percent hike Detroit residents received.

Novi resident Connie Garback wasn't thrilled with the spike, but said services in general are going up.

"Unfortunately, we seem to be in a situation in life where everything is going up," she said.

A member of the city's Beautification Commission, Garback said the group will look to use new plants that rely less on daily watering to help keep costs down.

City Manager Clay Pearson hadn't seen the figures last week, but said he understood the reasoning used by Detroit officials. They determine the rates by weighing distance from Detroit, elevation and other factors.

"There's rationale based on peak demands and where we are in the system," he said.

Clashes over water control have been a flashpoint in recent years as some suburban leaders have clamored for a voice on Detroit's water board or the creation of a regional authority.

But Detroit water rates are lower than in other large metropolitan areas, like New York, Los Angeles and Boston, the DWSB said. Politics aside, Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards said his community has a solid relationship with the water officials.

"There's good dialogue," he said. "It makes sense what they're doing."

Edwards said Detroit officials were open to discussing the rate spike for his community, which was the largest in the area.

And if the numbers add up, getting accommodations like, as Pearson put it, "Water's an essential service."

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

Floors To Your Door

By: Mike Riley

We Do Floors For Businesses, Too!

Up and down Main Street there are businesses looking to put their best foot forward. When it comes time to build or renovate, who better to consider for your floors than your local retailer?

Business to business, we're pros like you. We do one thing, and we do it well: hard-working, good-looking floors.

Not only are we home flooring experts, we also know the special challenges faced by commercial facility designers, builders and managers, and we have the right products at the right price.

That includes the latest in carpet, hardwood, laminate, ceramic tile, vinyl — even area rugs for the corporate suite.

We'll work with you to find the flooring fashion and technology that's most appropriate for your business, floors that will stand up to the kind of traffic you have — or plan to have.

That promise takes expertise. We'll help you select the best flooring option, then install your new floor the right way, taking into consideration seams, joints, subfloors, the correct carpet cushion, underlayment, adhesives, cleaning and maintenance. Talk to us about refurbishing those surfaces for more years of service, too.

Laurel's
COMMERCIAL DESIGN CENTER
810-227-4577
248-640-3397
laurel-flooring.com

The final countdown: Novi nears population target

More people means more money for city

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

It's crunch time for Novi officials as they try to wrap up the city's mid-decade census.

Novi is inching closer to its population target of more than 52,000 people, signifying a 10-percent growth rate from the 2000 census. The city's count is precariously near the final mark and stood at 50,672 earlier this month.

Novi needs to show growth to trigger more state funding, the primary reason cities conduct mid-decade censuses. The city did not say how much money it expected to take in from increased revenue sharing.

The cash is still likely at least a year away, city officials have said. To get the money, the results of the census need to be certified by the state, and the Legislature needs to

appropriate the money — no cinch in the Michigan's current fiscal climate. Gov. Jennifer Granholm would also need to sign off on the bill.

There's little doubt Novi has grown since the 2000 census. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments estimated the city had 54,236 residents as of Dec. 1, a 14-percent increase from six years ago.

The only issue is counting everyone, and there are still about 1,100 households that haven't responded to the census yet, City Clerk Margeanne Cornelius said. Another letter from the city went out Dec. 15.

"We need to make sure we get everybody," Cornelius said.

City officials are hoping to hear from the remaining residents by Jan. 5.

The census has been an ongoing project for Novi. About 50 temporary workers were hired this summer to go door-to-door counting people, and detailed records are required to document everything for the state. Cornelius said the city has two large file cabinets stuffed with census materials, which will take about two weeks to process when the

"We need to make sure we get everybody."

Margeanne Cornelius
City Clerk, City of Novi

counting is complete.

About 11 other communities in Michigan are doing a mid-decade census, hoping to get a bigger slice of the state's revenue. Cities also conduct a census to secure more liquor licenses.

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

THE PARISIAN GIFT CARD

ALWAYS FITS. NEVER EXPIRES. NO FEES.
Available throughout the store for \$5.00 and up.

FREE GIFT WRAPPING FOR ALL PARISIAN GIFT CARDS

GOING ON NOW!

50% OFFSALE

& values

50% OFF
ENTIRE STOCK
LADIES SHOES & BOOTS
Orig. 120.00-95.00 sale \$60.00
www.parisian.com

50% OFF
SLEEPWEAR & ROBES from
Parisian Tailorists and Floral
Shop. Orig. 20.00-50.00 sale 10.00-25.00

50% OFF
ENTIRE STOCK of cold-weather accessories including gloves and scarves. Orig. 18.00-30.00 sale 9.00-15.00

any single sale or clearance item, including fine jewelry

PARISIAN

A0000010FHW

50% OFF
ENTIRE STOCK of menswear & accessories including shirts, sweaters, jackets, and more. Orig. 15.00-30.00 sale 7.50-15.00

50% OFF
SWEATERS & SPORTSHIRTS
Parisian & Meane. Orig. 20.00-60.00 sale 10.00-30.00

FREE GIFT WRAP • PERSONAL SERVICE • DELUXE CONTAINERS • NEW & CLASSIC FRAGRANCES

Lovely HOLIDAY SET
SET includes 3 fragrances
for \$8.00

Cashmere Mist HOLIDAY SET
SET includes 3 fragrances
for \$8.00

Paul Sebastian HOLIDAY SET
SET includes 3 fragrances
for \$8.00

Acqua Di Gio HOLIDAY SET
SET includes 3 fragrances
for \$8.00

PARISIAN

Save an extra 10% when you open a Parisian account.

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

STORE HOURS: The Village of Rochester Hills (248) 276-6705 and Laurel Park Plaza (734) 953-7500 open Thurs.-Fri. 9-11, Sat. 10-11 and Sun. 11-5. CHARGE IT! Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express Card of Discovery. LOCATED AT THE VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS, CORNER OF NORTH ADAMS ROAD AND WALTON STREET; AND LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, CORNER OF NEWBURN ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD. *Restrictions of regular price or special price as shown. Actual savings may exceed stated percentage off. *Regular and Original prices reflect shipping fees which may not be included in actual sale. Some original prices may not have been in effect through the past 90 days. Some restrictions may have been in place. Merchandise selection may vary. Items on sale to be sold.

-OBITUARIES-



CLAYTON H. PERRY

Age 92, passed away on December 12, 2006. He was a resident of Novi Village Oaks Subdivision for 37 years. Beloved husband of Lillian for 59 years. Father of Craig (6 Perry) and Grandfather of Meghan (6 Perry) and Phillip (6 Perry). Clayton worked at Ford Motor Company for 37 years. He started at Ford by attending the Henry Ford Trade School in 1940. He knew Henry Ford and related to an Engine Design Engineer in 1978. He enjoyed watching John Wayne western movies and was an enthusiastic fan of the Detroit Tigers. Clayton spent his retirement traveling and enjoying watching his grandchildren participating in Nova School and Parks & Recreation System activities. Clayton (BINGO) was President of the Novi Swimming Senior Bowling League at Novi Golf in the 1980's. He remained very active at Faith Presbyterian Church authoring a column in the monthly newsletter and assembling the weekly Sunday Services bulletins. Memorial services were held December 17 at Faith Community Presbyterian Church. Any memorial contributions may be made to Faith Community Presbyterian Church (44405 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi MI 48375) or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (286 Park Ave., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10016-8804, www.ccf.org).

OBITUARY POLICY
The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.
*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.
For more information, call 888-999-1288 or contact your funeral home.
*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.



Photos of Anna Mary Vollick's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren adorn her apartment in Wynwood of Northville.

CHANGE: Holidays prompt families to make tough decisions about parents, grandparents

Tough decision
A year ago, Vollick fell in her Redford home, suffering from a diabetic stroke. During her hospital recuperation, her sons decided to move her into the Six Mile Road assisted-care facility.
Vollick said she resisted her son's suggestion to sell her house for years, despite a series of strokes. "I'm really independent," said Vollick, an artist, a former school board member and past president of Wynwood's resident council. "I have been all my life."
Their invitation to dinner turned into a trip to her new home. Her family packed her belongings, moved furniture and filled the apartment walls with her paintings.
"One side of my brain says, 'This is a very good idea,' she said. "The other side says, 'I miss my car and my house.'"
"I took to it," she said. "Everything is done for me."
Mattress Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com.

● Making your first decision...
Comfort Keepers, 145 Cozycenter, suggests the following tips for children to evaluate their elderly loved one's changing needs:
1. **Sight:** Check your loved one's appearance, and that of their home.
Is the house orderly and clean? Mail being managed? Plants watered? Maintaining basic personal grooming habits? Bathing, brushing teeth, hair clean and brushed, wearing clean clothing? Still enjoying extras such as wearing make-up?
2. **Sound:** Take the time to really listen to how your loved one is speaking, whether they're slurring or losing contact. Are they speaking normally? Do they hear you when you speak to them? Do they know and call you and your family by name? Are they aware of local news, world news? Do they still enjoy outside activities? Do they have or talk about friends, future plans or goals?
3. **Smell:** This sense is an accurate indicator of many things — decline in personal grooming habits, home maintenance, proper and safe nutrition. Are there unpleasant odors in the house? Is the refrigerator clean and odor-free? Is all garbage in a proper receptacle outside of the home?
4. **Taste:** Is your elderly loved one properly feeding himself or herself or safely managing medications? Are pantries reasonably stocked? Check expiration dates. Evaluate freshness of anything that looks questionable to you.
Are there new or different prescriptions? Are they from more than one pharmacy? Are they paying attention to expiration dates?
5. **Touch:** A simple hug can alert you to abnormal weight loss or increasing fragility, which can be indicators of declining health, immediate health issues or lack of proper nourishment. Does your loved one look healthy? Does their skin feel soft and appear normal in color? Any unusual bruising or skin abrasions?
Source: www.comfortkeepers.com

executive director, said moving a parent into the assisted-care facility can be an emotional transition.
Consideration may begin when a parent wanders outside or leaves the stove on, rather than waiting to make the decision on the heels of a crisis.
"These are the toughest times... the family members aren't ready, the resident's not ready."
How smooth the move is depends on how well-prepared and educated the family members are, he said.
"I would encourage the families to go do their homework. Have staff, citing children who visit the facility, meet the staff and research the community."
Residents join peers with similar concerns and opportunities to socialize in a safe, comfortable environment, Havens said.
"A lot of the time it is the family members who have a tougher time," he said. "They have a lot of feelings brought on by the decision."
"They have to come to grips with what's the best for their loved ones."

■ Residence options
• **Home, with contracted care.**
• **Assisted living:** promotes maximum independence for each resident through a combination of supportive services and assistance, such as help with eating, bathing, dressing and personal hygiene, supervision of self-administration of medications, laundry service, housekeeping, and 24-hour staffing.
• **Independent living:** residential setting for elderly or senior adults that may or may not provide hospitality or supportive services. Under this living arrangement, the senior adult leads an independent lifestyle, requiring minimal or no extra assistance.
• **Nursing home:** 24-hour medical care.
• **Considerations for deciding on residential options include:** whether assistance is needed for walking, bathing, eating, toileting and medication; memory, pets; oxygen, tube feeding; vision/hearing and budget.
Source: www.seniorliving.com

■ Travel with seniors
Travel agents can help seniors plan their trips.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN RESOURCENOW High & Fern Street, Northville 1,160 Church, Pastor Church 349-3140 School 349-3140 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Service at 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.	WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4300 W. Six Roads, Livonia MI 48150-7000 Worship: Monday 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 9:00 AM Sunday Service 10:00 AM www.wardch.org
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE On Hogarty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. (248) 348-1700 Dr. Don Baker, Pastor	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 200 E. Main St. at Harbor (248) 349-0111 Worship & Church School: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Children's Ministry: 10:30 a.m. Nursing Home Ministry: Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Rev. W. Paul Chan, Senior Pastor Rev. James H. Schaeffer, Associate Pastor
MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 2120 Meadowbrook Rd. in North of 1/2 Mile 248-340-7710 • MCC Church of the Nazarene www.mccchurch.org • Sunday Worship 10:30 am For further information, see in Divine Par. Chaplain, the House of Deacons Ed Whigham, Informal Minister	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 170 Taylor Northville WEEKDAY WORSHIP: Saturday 6:00 am Sunday: 7:30, 9 AM, 11 AM, 12:30, 5:54 Church 349-2971, School 349-3480 Parish Office: 349-2929 Rev. Terence A. Keating, Pastor
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Hogarty Phone 248-427-1170 Sd. 5:30, 7:45 & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 am Rev. James Harris, Pastor www.churchofholycross.com	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship by Lutheran Synod Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 6:30am Worship 10:00am Thomas E. Schaeffer, Pastor: 349-0565
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-347-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Hershberger, Pastor	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 3911 Taylor 8 Mile & Ten Roads Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am, 10:15 am, 11 am & 5:00 pm (free service) Rev. John Rice Rev. Lisa Cook www.fumchannville.org
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4025 W. Main St. Novi, MI 48241 Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Reverend George Chermak, Pastor Phone: 248-349-2330	OAK POINTE CHURCH NOVI 9220 W. 1st Mile Novi Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary live band (248) 914-0049 www.oakpointe.org
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2428 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi MI 48241 Mass: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 10am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm Holy Days: 9 am, 1:30 pm, 7:30 pm Fr. John J. Baska, Pastor Fr. Robert Stone, Associate Pastor Phone: 248-349-2330	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Farmington Hills • 3205 68th St. • 248-0684 Between Grand Blvd & Farmington Hills Worship: Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am 1:00 pm Sunday School & Bible Study Sunday School: 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am Bible Study: 10:30 am No tag service on 10/23 & 11/20
MATTHEW OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 3951 The Middle Rd. (a neighborhood) Farmington, MI 48141 Sunday services Matins (Orthodox) 9:00 am, Liturgy 10:00 am. Rev. Fr. George M. Ntzouris, Pastor www.mvofc.org	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 1st and 2nd roads to Bethlehem on Old Farmington Road This place is open place... June 21st 3000 W. Farmington Hills MI 48149-6620 Dr. E. L. Hogarty, Pastor Sunday Morning Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School: 9 AM-10:45 AM

WHAT'S IN YOUR KETTLE?

WHEN YOU GIVE to a Red Kettle, it's not just coins and bills landing inside — you're putting JOY into that kettle, helping The Salvation Army provide Christmas toys to thousands of children this holiday season. Give now at 1-877-SAL-MICH.

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

1-877-SAL-MICH - RED KETTLE CHRISTMAS TOYS DRIVE

WISH: Novi youth meets president tomorrow

continued from 1A

eyes looking forward like laser lights burning a hole into the future.

He talked openly about a three-year medical odyssey that has included three surgeries, multiple hospital stays, six months of chemotherapy and another six months waiting a neck brace.

"At the time, I just thought I hurt myself in (gym) class," he said.

But in 2003, when a CAT Scan and an MRI revealed a tumor, Adam and his parents were immediately rushed to Children's Hospital in Detroit, where a nurse was awaiting their arrival. Adam was 10.

News from attending doctors came quickly: Adam was suffering from histiocytosis, a rare disease that acts out in spillo personality — as an auto-immune disease attacking Adam's bone and tissue structure and as cancer, manifesting itself in tumors.

The tumor lodged against Adam's spinal cord is what concerned doctors most. It's what caused his fingers to begin curling during the next 48 hours, and it's

what would ultimately lead to a break-neck charge toward paralysis. If something wasn't done soon. Steroid injections reversed some of the symptoms, but a major decision loomed: Not whether to perform a delicate operation so near Adam's spinal cord, but how quickly?

The good news was that the tumor was benign. But like a bad real estate deal, it was the tumor's location that put Adam in greatest peril.

He had only two questions for surgeons who quickly prepared to intervene: Does this mean I am going to miss any winter party tonight? And is there any medication I can take, rather than performing surgery?

Brace yourself

"The road back hasn't been easy. Surgeons removed most of the tumor, but six months of chemotherapy was needed to eradicate what remained. Its placement cost Adam a T1 vertebrae — and about an inch in height — and resulted in his wearing a neck brace for six months.

Two additional surgeries followed, and recently, while undergoing a routine ultrasound, it was discovered that Adam also has a rare kidney disease that will likely require a transplant when he's older.

"I didn't really feel sorry for myself then," Adam said matter-of-factly. "And I don't think there is any reason for me to feel sorry for myself now."

He fell worse, he said, about missing so much of his fourth-grade year, though he credits teacher Sandy Culp for helping him avoid summer school. Still, hospital visits piled up, and friendships wilted from neglect. Some nights, his mother, Nikki, slept beside him in the hospital, on a cot.

She stayed silently, as her eldest son slept.

"After they said it was a tumor, I didn't hear anything else," Nikki said. "We relied on our (Greek-Orthodox) faith and put it in God's hands."

Road to glory

Those hands are now pointing to the White House.

Thanks to the Rainbow Connection, a Rochester-based nonprofit organization that since 1985 has been helping Michigan children with life-threatening illnesses make personal wishes come true, Adam will meet President Bush tomorrow. The family will return home Christmas Eve, in time to share the experience with family and friends.

Specific details about the visit have not been disclosed (security reasons and all), but Adam and his family have been invited to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue where they will meet privately with the president, then take a two-hour White House tour. The entire trip has been coordinated by the Rainbow Connection, which grants about 100 wishes per year.

■ Rainbow Connection
For more information about the Rainbow Connection, visit our website online at www.rainbowconnection.org.

Adam isn't sure yet what he will ask President Bush. "I'm really excited," he said. "I can't wait. I started packing Saturday."

He thought about asking about the War in Iraq, then reconsidered, thinking it would be inappropriate to the man on whose behalf he once worked his school bus into a fast-forwarding. "Let's go Dush!" fervor.

"He's the first president I've ever known," Adam said. "So I think he's the coolest president ever... It's a tough job because not everyone always likes his decisions, but they don't want to run for president."

He said meeting the president was his No. 1 Rainbow Connection wish — but for a short time a companion dog for Snickers, the Angelas family's Labrador, came within a whisker of topping the list.

Adam 12

Now Adam has his own sights set on the president's job. That is, after a University of Michigan education trains him to be an inventor ("Why not a freeze-ray wave?" he asks. "You know, something that acts like a microwave, but in reverse. It gets things cold, quick.")

The seventh-grader who's tested in the 99th percentile of his class said he'd like to attend law school and one day get elected president of the United States. And what kind of president would he be?

"I'd be the person that if a country needed help, I'd help them," Adam said. "There's so much poverty in the world, and so many people who need help..."

For now, though, he's having fun getting back to normal, playing baseball and basketball and



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Niki Angelas stands with two of her sons, Adam, 12, left, and Dimitri, 10.

whipping up favorite dishes in the family kitchen — cheesy potatoes, omelets and twist pancakes. "I'm feeling great," he said. "I'm back to normal... But it still feels like it all just happened yesterday."

"That's music to his mother's ears, who first found comfort again this year when she watched from the bleachers as Adam took the field for his Little League baseball team. Recently, she opened the distance between two faraway points. And wept.

"Time has flattened the rocky hillside. But the up-down journey continues. Catching the disease by age 10 was crucial, Nikki said, but there's no guarantee remission will last.

"I used to worry about it," she said, thanking Children's Hospital doctors, the Rainbow Connection and well-wishers who supported her family throughout the ordeal. "But I've put it with God. I know he's my good hunter!"

She's grateful to have Adam back. "It's changed our focus completely," she said. "Enjoy your family and your children on a daily basis. It's a gift, and you never know when it will be taken from you."

"Take a moment every day to

be thankful and to be at peace." Adam said the experience has made him less squeamish, and more appreciative, of the work that goes on inside hospitals. He said he's even a fiercer big brother to younger siblings Dimitri, 10, and Alexander 8. The steps.

"Well, sometimes," he said, snorting like an alligator.

Then someone asks him [from experience] has laugh, hugging, hugging. You know, about how...

"Dedicate life can be?" he said. "So quickly it can happen. You can think it's going to be a normal day, then suddenly you have something, and you're in surgery."

He looked into the distance, then began again. "Be grateful for your health, because that's not something everyone has." "Your health is like your allowance. God takes it away and gives it back."

"Why did he take it away from you?" Adam is asked. "Probably to make me stronger. Everything in life has trials... maybe that's something I needed to work on."

David Arntler is the Novi News columnist. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at dgarular@sunbelt.com.



In a photo, Adam Angelas, center, embraces his brothers, Alexander, left, and Dimitri, right.

100% OFF

The Best Gift Idea For Anybody On Your List!

Renew your subscription & get a 2nd for \$18 for a Friend!

One Year Subscription \$26

Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
South Lyon Herald
888-840-4809

Oakland Community College

Get ANYWHERE from here...

- University Transfer programs in Education, Business Administration, Music and Theater
- Five convenient campuses serving Oakland, Farmington Hills, Farmington, Eastland, Royal Oak, Southfield and Waterford
- More than 1,800 certificates and degree programs taught by award-winning professionals
- Affordable tuition: \$365 per credit hour (including books and fees)
- Thousands of classes for adult learners
- Register in campus, web or mail
- No application fee

Enroll NOW for WINTER Classes EASY!

Final Registration: January 3-5, 2007

Class begins: Monday, January 8, 2007

Register for classes: www.oaklandcc.edu

Phone: 248-341-2350
Website: www.oaklandcc.edu

Sandi Patty

810/299-4130

Brighton Center for the Performing Arts

The office will be open during the holidays on 12/28 and 12/29 from 9am - 4pm. Tickets will also be available at the door one hour before the performance if not sold out.

The Brighton Center for the Performing Arts is located on the campus of Brighton High, 7878 Brighton Road, 810/299-4130.

Premiere sponsor: **Jeanne Darnell's Lynn's Cafe**

Diamond sponsor: **The Marketeer**

Platinum sponsors: **PresSARGUS**, **AsahiKASEI**

Gold sponsors: **Cox Enterprises, Ltd. Collision Center**, **Green Oak Village Place**, **Snedcar's**

Other sponsors: **Abram-Brighton**, **Brighton Commerce Bank**, **Coll Park Agency, Inc.**, **Corrigan Oil Co.**, **Silvherer Grill**, **Lindouth Associates Architects**, **The Pursall Team/Real Estate One**, **Superior Cadillac/GMC/Brighton Honda**, **Tanger Outlet Center-Howell**, **Tetra Tech Inc.**, **R.W. Welch Company**

Real Christmas tree sales rise in Michigan for last two years

It's an environmental-ly-friendly practice

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Marsha Gray can tell you that some traditions never die.

And, believe it or not, in this age of faux furs and plastic-like materials, the choice to celebrate Christmas with a real tree is on the rise.

Gray, executive director of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association in Howell, said Christmas tree sales in the state have increased for the consecutive seasons.

The number of real Christmas trees sold rose 15.8 percent in 2004 and 21.1 percent in 2005, according to Gray.

"By selecting a real Christmas tree as the centerpiece of their holiday celebration, families can recycle old family traditions or create new ones," Gray said.

Contrary to what many consumers think, "unlike artificial trees, which are made of plastic, real

Christmas trees are renewable and recyclable," said Dr. Mel Koelling, forestry professor at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

"However, many people still perceive cutting trees down as bad for the environment, and that's not the case," Koelling said. "Real Christmas trees no longer come from the forest. They are grown on farms throughout North America."

In fact, for every Christmas tree harvested on a tree farm, up to three more trees are planted the following spring, according to Koelling. Christmas trees take seven-10 years to grow to a harvestable size, he said.

By planting new trees for seven-10 years in the future, Christmas tree farmers are creating an environment that helps counteract possible greenhouse effects on the earth, producing oxygen and clean water plus providing a habitat for wildlife.

Every year, Michigan supplies about three million fresh Christmas trees to the national market. So, by purchasing a fresh Christmas tree, consumers are supporting Michigan's economy and its agricultural heritage.

Michigan Christmas tree growers also donated 1,000 trees to the Trees for Troops program this year.

Where to find fresh trees

The Michigan Christmas Tree Association has a 2006 Choice & Cut Directory, call (800) 589-6723 for a printed copy or visit www.mctz.org.
Locally, consumers can cut their own tree at the Huron Christmas Farm, 32120 King Road in New Hudson, open 9 a.m. to dark daily, or at the Walcott Tree Farm, 3090 Outdoor Road in Howell, open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays only.

Uses For Recycled Real Christmas Trees

Michigan ranks third in the U.S. in the number of Christmas trees harvested each year.

- Chip the trees and use the chipplings for mulch, hitting trails, playground areas, animal stalls or landscaping.
- Use whole trees for river shoreline stabilization, sand dune erosion prevention, marshland sedimentation, fish habitat, water garden decoration, wild bird feeders, hazardous chemical cleanups.

SOURCE: Michigan Christmas Tree Association

Fed Ex employees sent about 11,000 trees to military bases in the U.S. and overseas.

She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pffleming@gemnet.com.

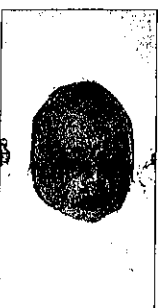
Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News.

BIRTHS

Serena Angelina Wilhelm

Todd and Carrie Wilhelm of South Lyon are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Serena Angelina Wilhelm, on Oct. 14, 2006 at Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Township. Serena was 6 pounds, 1 ounce, and 20 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Robert and Angeline Trinka of Saker Township, formerly of Novi, and Francis and Wendy Wilhelm of Brighton. Great-grandparents are Leonard and Iris Smith of Sterling Heights.



December to Remember SALES EVENT

\$419*

*MSRP. Includes destination, tax, license, dealer fees, and \$500 cash rebate. See dealer for details.

LEXUS of ANN ARBOR

(866) 645-3987

www.lexusannarbor.net

LEXUS of LANSING

(800) 539-8748

www.lexuslansing.net

Log-on & Save So Habla Español
OPEN Mon & Thurs 9-6, Tues, Wed, Fri 9-6, Sat 10-5
*2009 MSRP. MSRP, plus tax, license, dealer fees, and \$500 cash rebate. See dealer for details.

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 05, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Novi Civic Center 45175 W. Ten-Mile Road to consider:

Case No. 06-585 Filed by Triangle Main Street LLC for Novi Main Street located east of Novi Road
Triangle Main Street is requesting two variances for the construction of a four-story retail/commercial building in the Novi Main Street corridor side-walk #3 5022-23-178-026, 5022-23-151-035 and 5022-23-161-013. Applicant is requesting a 10-foot off street parking setback variance and a 1,786 square foot loading space requirement variance. Property is zoned TC-1 and located on the northeast corner of Novi Road and Main Street.

Case No. 06-586 Filed by Accost Signs for Ellison Technologies located at 28050 Cabot Drive
Accost Signs, Inc. is requesting one (1) 24.96 square foot wall sign variance to erect an additional wall sign specifically for Ellison Technologies at 28050 Cabot Drive (Mount Carmel Building). The property is zoned OST and is located south of Thirteen Mile Road and east of M-5.

Case No. 06-587 Filed by ITC Holdings for ITC Transmission Concrete Pipe Structures
ITC Holdings is requesting five (5) variances for the construction of two (2) pipe buildings and two (2) parking decks on ITC's Quarter Substation property (located at 22-19-200-028, 22-19-200-035, & 22-19-276-001). Applicant is requesting a one hundred elevated (111) foot east yard building setback variance, a variance to allow an accessory structure (Round House) to be placed in the front yard, a variance to allow a refuse bin (Dumpster, Trash Recipients) to be located in an elevated yard and two (2) variance requests for road design standards to allow parking along a major drive and to allow the centerline angle of the drive to be less than one hundred feet.

Property is 83.63 acres, zoned OST, Planned Office Service Technology and located south of Twelve Mile Road and east of Haggerty. ITC's Quarter Substation is to remain along with overhead electric transmission lines and associated DTB Building.

Case No. 06-528 Filed by Home Works CO., Inc. for 22649 Shadow Pine Way in the Heatherbark Subdivision
Home Works CO., Inc. is requesting one (1) minimum lot coverage variance for the construction of a 335 square foot home addition located at 22649 Shadow Pine Way in the Heatherbark Subdivision. The property is zoned R-4 and is located east of Meadowbrook and north of Nine Mile Roads.

Case No. 06-529 Filed by Planet Home Signs for Miralco, located at 56200 Grand River Avenue
Planet Home Signs, Inc. is requesting one (1) sign variance to erect a 30.75 square foot ground sign with a changeable copy message center for Miralco located at 56200 Grand River Avenue.

The property is zoned T-1 and is located west of Tall Road and south of Grand River Avenue.

(12-21-08 NN 328955)

verizon wireless

Now's your last chance!

NO MATTER WHO'S ON YOUR LIST, GIVE THEM WHAT'S ON THEIR LIST.

They'll Be Lost Without Them

LG V300 Bluetooth™ Headset & Navigation Ready Phones

Buy any phone

get 3 LG 5300s FREE

Phones starting at \$29.99. With new 2 year activation per phone.

\$49.99

\$99.99 2 year price - \$50.00 Mail-in Rebate.
With new 2 year activation per phone.

Not sure? Gift Cards are always perfect!

Music, Navigation & Bluetooth Headset Ready.

Pink or Silver Motorola RAZR V3m

\$49.99

\$99.99 2 year price - \$50.00 Mail-in Rebate.
With new 2 year activation.

America's Most Reliable Wireless Network.

CALL 1.877.2BUY.VZW CLICK verizonwireless.com

NOW OPEN IN MONROE!

2161 Mall Road (in front of Kohl's) - 734.241.4099

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES

<p>COMING SOON</p> <p>ALLIEN FARM 3128 Fallstone Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48106 248-253-7999</p> <p>ANN ARBOR 2155 Chubb, Ste. C (at Grand River) 319-225-4725</p> <p>CANTON 42647 Ford Rd. (center of Ford & Livay Rds. Canton Center) 734-944-0181</p> <p>GOLETTA 26417 Ford Rd. (just west of Telegraph) 313-279-9191</p> <p>Plymouth 5422 Rose east to South 313-444-8168</p>	<p>BENTON 11128 Woodward (Midco T-Plaza) 313-809-7322</p> <p>BRIMMINGTON HILLS 31011 Orchard Lake Rd. (southeast corner of Coburn Lake Rd. & 11 Mile Rd.) 248-538-9900</p> <p>EVANSTON 17243 Silver Pines (at West of Telegraph) 313-269-2025</p> <p>FLORISSANT 4120 24th Ave. 618-385-1631</p> <p>LANE ORBIT 2031 S. Lipman Rd. (61840 Rd & 2 miles south of the Palace) 248-269-5800</p> <p>WARREN 31261 Mail Rd. (at front of Kofers) 248-844-1020</p> <p>WESTVILLE Three Greenhollow Plaza 28200 Hurwitz Rd. 734-779-4178</p> <p>WINDY 42303 E. 12 Mile Rd. (Twelve Oaks Service Ctr. east of South) 248-265-8500</p> <p>Troy Twelve Oaks Mall (Dover Court, just area)</p>	<p>WYANDOTCH HERRING 454 Telegraph Rd. (Suncoast from Inter 96) 248-225-6040</p> <p>BODIPETER HILLS 3035 S. Rochester Rd. (at Anthony Rd.) 248-843-0559</p> <p>BRYAN 31521 Woodland Ave. (at Morris road) 248-549-4177</p> <p>ST. CLAIR SHORES 8601 Parer Ave. (at 101 St. Clair) 585-777-4010</p> <p>STERLING HILLS 28117 Telegraph Rd. (south of 12 Mile Rd) 248-755-2070</p> <p>SUNSHINE 4511 Park Ave. (at 48 & 46 St.) (West Park Plaza) 585-937-4520</p> <p>Lakeville Mall (Kowalewicz, across Ctl.)</p> <p>LYNCH 28033 Eureka Rd. across from Suncoast Mall 734-267-1747</p> <p>Southland Mall 23000 Eureka Way (at the Kofers way)</p>	<p>TROY 1912 E. Big Beaver Rd. (Troy Sports Center) 484-225-6040</p> <p>DUBLIN 3025 Main Entrance, next to food court)</p> <p>WESTLAND 2155 Warren Rd. (Southwest Corner of Warren & Wagner Rds) 734-762-7930</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR VISIT THE VERIZON WIRELESS STORE AT CIRCUIT CITY</p> <p>ANN ARBOR HILLS BERRYBURN SUNNY WOODS</p> <p>LANESBORO EVANSTON</p> <p>LYNCH LAKESHORE</p> <p>LYNCH LYNCH</p> <p>LYNCH WESTLAND</p> <p>LANSING</p> <p>M Prud' sponsor of the University of Michigan</p> <p>Site for Sale or Refinance/Exchange Policy.</p>	<p>AUTHORIZED RETAILERS (Equipment sales, service & repair only. Service & repair subject to manufacturer's approved service center policies. Commission fee excluded.)</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM HILLS Saba Wireless 7-150-0310-1000</p> <p>CANTON Cellular and More 248-253-7999</p> <p>EVANSTON Sullivan Technologies 319-225-4725</p> <p>GOLETTA Cellular Service 248-269-5100</p> <p>GRAND RAPIDS Wireless Universe 248-635-1200</p> <p>LYNCH 2161 West 12th St. 734-762-7930</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH 2161 West 12th St. 734-762-7930</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Wireless Universe 248-635-1200</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p> <p>LYNCH Cellular Debits 248-934-8001</p>
--	--	---	---	---

Authorized Retailers may be subject to change without notice. Commission fee excluded. Service & repair subject to manufacturer's approved service center policies. Commission fee excluded. Service & repair subject to manufacturer's approved service center policies. Commission fee excluded. Service & repair subject to manufacturer's approved service center policies. Commission fee excluded.

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.SM
Michigan Coalition on donation

Ad Council

Organ & Tissue Donor

Novi Girl Scouts assist elderly in 'Be a Santa to a Senior' effort

Community service badges ordered

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi residents Heather Gregory and Emily Hocking learned what it's like to play Santa this year.

The two Girl Scouts from Troop 2318 participated in the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program at the Kroger store at Grand River Avenue and Beck Road in Novi. "Be a Santa to a Senior" is an annual holiday gift program developed and sponsored by the global company Home Instead Senior Care as a way to brighten the lives of North America's older adults during the holiday season.

Each year, thousands of lonely and financially challenged seniors struggle with the holiday blues. Often, they dread facing the holiday season without family or friends, when the isolation of being a widow or widower, abandoned or away from their family members, produces extreme loneliness exacerbated by festivities of the season.

To address the issue, Home Instead Senior Care partners with local nonprofit and community organizations to identify financially challenged and isolated seniors.

The company also partners with local businesses and retail stores to enlist their involvement in purchasing and distributing the gifts.

Gifts delivered last week

Each senior gift request is written on a "Be a Santa to a Senior" paper tree ornament. Volunteers place each ornament on a Christmas tree located in a local business or retail store.

Area residents remove an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift or gifts requested and return the ornament and unwrapped gift to the specified store location.

Volunteers then collect the gifts, take them to a storage facility, then wrap and deliver the gifts to area seniors. The gifts were delivered to area seniors last week.

Connie Gregory, leader of Novi Girl Scout Troop 2318, said the girls enjoyed passing out the ornaments with seniors' names on them at Kroger and look forward to helping the effort again next year.

Gregory said next year Home Instead Senior Care wants to partner with the Girl Scouts and develop a badge for the scouts that will feature the "Santa to a Senior" logo.

"I'm actually ordering 45 community service badges for the Girl Scouts that worked at the program at Kroger," she said.

Gregory said her mother-in-law

You feel for these people who are without their families over the holidays. It can be a sad time.

Connie Gregory

Leader, Novi Girl Scout Troop 2318

was just placed in a senior facility in August. "You feel for these people who are without their families over the holidays," she said. "It can be a sad time."

Nationwide, the goal is to provide gifts and holiday cheer to more than 100,000 seniors annually.

This year, about 6,000 seniors in Oakland County nursing homes received gifts through the program, Gregory said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 305, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.



Submitted Photo

Girl Scouts Emily Hocking, left, and Heather Gregory of Troop 2318 in Novi recently volunteered at the West Market Square Kroger on Grand River Avenue and Beck Road in the "Be a Santa to a Senior" program run by Home Instead Senior Care. More than 6,000 gifts were delivered to Oakland County seniors in the program last week.

SANTA'S FINAL CALL

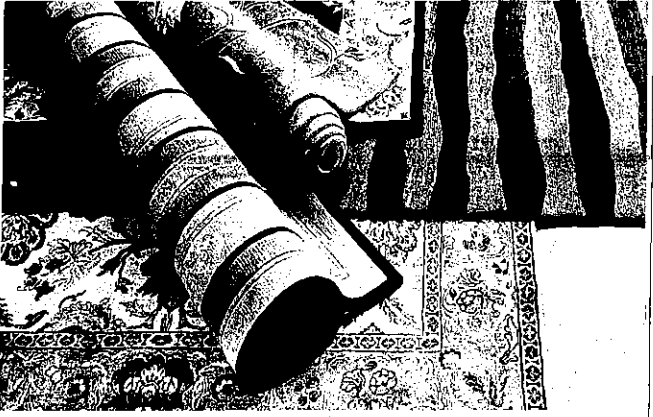
Santa is having one last Saturday party at the Fountain Walk of Novi shopping area.

He'll be there again from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 23. You can sit on his lap, get a free photo, make a craft and even see some of his reindeer. And at 4:30 p.m., Radio Disney will arrive with music, games and prizes.

Santa also is asking families to help him get toys to needy children. Your family should bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate for a kid up to age 12.

ORIENTAL RUG TRUNK SALE

GOING ON NOW AT TWELVE OAKS
LAST WEEK TO SAVE



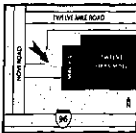
60% PLUS EXTRA 10% OFF

THOUSANDS OF HANDMADE ORIENTAL RUGS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

With thousands of rugs to choose from, you'll discover a wide selection of traditional, contemporary and transitional styles. Our experts will be available to assist you in finding the right style, color, size and dimensions for any room.

75% OFF CLEARANCE RUGS

- COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME SHOWINGS
- FULL-SERVICE RUG CLEANING AND REPAIR—CALL 1-800-552-5020
- UNMATCHED SERVICE AND COMMITMENT FOR THE LIFE OF THE RUG



The Trunk Sale is in the Macy's Twelve Oaks parking lot, 27550 Novi Road.

★ macy's
way to shop!™

Visit macy's.com or call 1-800-634-3537 for store hours. Sale ends January 7, 2007. Savings are off our regular or original prices. Extra 10% off taken after 60% markdown. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. No adjustments on prior purchases. Not valid with any other promotional offers, discounts or coupons. All rugs are labeled to show country of origin.

© Macy's North 2006. MNO 062-01459A-1221

Proud to be a part of this great community

O'BRIEN SULLIVAN

FUNERALS, CREMATIONS, PREARRANGEMENTS

41555 Grand River Avenue
Novi, Michigan 48375-1822
(248)348-1800

John J. O'Brien John P. O'Brien
Michael D. Watt

State Licensed/Board Certified Funeral Directors
Family owned

www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

Offering Prearrangements & Pre financing

CATCH THE WAVE
WINDSOR SPITFIRES
THUR. DEC. 28TH, 2:00PM
KIDS DAY

STORM GUELPH STORM
SAT. DEC. 30TH, 7:05PM
COLLEGE NIGHT

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

SEASON or GROUP TICKETS
Call 734-453-8400
www.plymouthwhalers.com

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

COMPUWARE SPORTS ARENA
14900 BECK ROAD • PLYMOUTH TWP, MI 48170

Novi resident says Christmas is a time to celebrate miracles

■ Cancer survivor beat odds twice

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Like many people, Christmas brings a multitude of emotions for Novi resident Linda McGuigan. That's because the two-time can-

cer survivor considers just being able to celebrate the holiday a miracle. And miracles can make one laugh and cry.

McGuigan, a paraprofessional who has worked with special needs children at Village Oaks Elementary for almost a decade, thought cancer was behind her. She even had a party to celebrate being cancer-free in August 2003, with more than 200 people showing for the event at her Novi home.

Earlier this month, she was lis-

tening to Christmas music on the radio while driving home. The classic "I'll Be Home for Christmas" brought tears of joy to her eyes as she sang along. The tune was her theme song just two years ago.

"I remember singing it to my family, friends and hospital staff during my stay at Providence Hospital in Southfield from Dec. 3-Dec. 12, 2004," she said. "God blessed me with the miracle of being able to be home for Christmas after having brain surgery on Dec. 10."

McGuigan had experienced in her words, "an awesome year of the God's grace and miraculous healing" after eighth months of chemotherapy.

She hoped that was the end of hospital stays and treatments for life. But little did she know that on May 26, 2006, her journey with cancer would resume. The lymphoma had returned.

Fearful outcome

Her doctor at Providence Hospital warned that the next round of chemotherapy treatments might not work as well as the first time since her body may have built up resistance to the same type of chemotherapy she had undergone in 2005.

But, with her faith backing her, she had a peace that she said surpassed all understanding.

"I heard the news, but also knew that God only wanted the best for me, whatever that was. For that reason, I could only rejoice in what God was about to do in my life," McGuigan said.

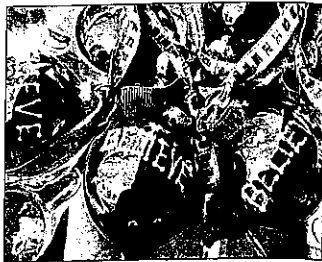
McGuigan received her final chemotherapy treatment in September 2006 and was well after only six weeks.

A second celebration

Last Saturday evening, McGuigan had an open house to celebrate overcoming cancer for the second time.

"I know now that I've been a miracle from day one."

Linda McGuigan
Novi



Two-time cancer survivor Linda McGuigan gave away Christmas ornaments bearing the word, "Believe."

Although details weren't provided in invitations, she surprised guests with a sleigh ride, horses and driver adorned in holiday attire. She said she wanted to share her story to show others that God still answers prayers, and that He is the Great Physician.

McGuigan believes she's one lucky lady. An active member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Northville, she attends the women's Bible study group on Tuesday evenings and enjoys crochets, planning parties and gardening.

"I am not only alive, but well," she said.

During her two bouts with cancer, she fulfilled those around her with her tolerance of cancer-fighting medications.

"I never even lost my hair and believe it was because I had a friend who actually prayed that I would not lose my hair," she said. "Go fig-

ure," she joked. "God does more than we can imagine."

McGuigan used to sign off on her personal correspondence with the words, "Believing in His Miracles." But, after beating cancer again, she's changed her closing phrase to "Still Believing in His Miracles."

"My hope was and is that I made a difference in someone's life as I was on my journey," she said. "I know that friends' and family members' love and prayers made a difference in mine."

McGuigan said 2006 has proven to be miraculous for more than just beating cancer for the second time.

For two daughters and sons-in-law, Stacie and Jason Brown of Novi and Julie and Joe Musallam of Flat Rock, are both expecting their first child in March 2007 within only four days of each other.

"The new year is already looking like it is going to be pretty exciting," she said. "I know now that I've been a miracle from day one," she said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@novinews.com.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Cancer survivor Linda McGuigan is happy to celebrate Christmas with her friends and family this year.

Celebrate Christmas Eve & New Years in style!

Tirami Su
RISTORANTE ITALIANO

Make Your Reservations Now Appearing New Year's Eve

Jeanine
with the Vince Shander Trio

Open Christmas Eve Noon-5, New Year's Eve Noon-1am

146 South Center St.
Downtown Northville
(248) 735-0101

Coming Soon
Martini Night
Thursdays

The Best Gift Idea for anybody on your list!

One Year Subscription **\$26**

Renew your subscription & get a 2nd for **\$18** for a friend!

Milford Times
Northville Record
Novi News
South Lyon Herald

888-840-4809

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

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BY HEALTHGRADES
TWO YEARS IN A ROW
• Clinical Excellence • Patient Safety

INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
UP 12%*

BIRTHS
UP 16%*

EMERGENCY VISITS
UP 6%*

Only one hospital is growing this strongly to serve you better every day. St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. For nationally recognized care, choose St. Mary Mercy. Where award-winning doctors and nurses are ready to care for you ... close to home.

ST. MARY MERCY IS THE
FASTEST GROWING
HOSPITAL IN THE MICHIGAN AREA

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL
Livonia, MI
Physician Referral
Call 1.888.464.WELL
www.stmarymercy.org

Jaspal Singh, MD
Internal Medicine

A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH

HEALTHGRADES is a nationally recognized independent hospital rating board



Courtesy photo

Spreading holiday cheer!
Deerfield Elementary School fourth-grader Aditya Sanunur met Whitehall Health Care Center of Novi resident Irene Jekacki during the school's Dec. 2 visit to the nursing home. About 100 students sang carols and went room to room distributing hand-made cards to the residents.

Kitchen Top Shop Inc.

SALE ON

STARMARK
Laminate Solid Surface Counter Tops

248-477-1515

Open till 8 pm Tues. & Thurs.

ON CAMPUS

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Brett Anderson of Novi has been named to the Dean's List for the spring quarter at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.3 or better to be named to the Dean's List. Anderson is a Chemistry major, and the son of Bruce and Karen Anderson of Novi.

Northwood University
Joshua Freeman and Lance Sault, both of Novi, have been named to the Dean's List for the fall term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by John D. Grether, academic dean of the university. A student must achieve a grade point average of 3.25 or higher to be named to the Dean's List.

Oh Baby 2006!

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. 18, 2007.

Includes a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

Please Print
Child's Name (First, Middle & Last)
Date of Birth _____, 2006 Hospital _____
Parents' Name (First & Last)
Address _____
Check for \$20 enclosed.
Please bill my Visa Mastercard American Express or Discover card.
Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ (Required) Phone _____

Local deals at your fingertips with ShopLocal.com

Go to ShopLocal.com this holiday season and find the best prices on everything you need - fast.

At ShopLocal.com you can compare online and local deals with the click of your mouse. It's that simple. ShopLocal.com helps you find the best price anywhere - online or at your local retailer. Save time and money this holiday season with ShopLocal.com!

shopLocal.com

Novi News
WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

WHAT'S GOING ON, NOVI?

Novi's Official Events Calendar • For a complete local events calendar visit www.novi.com

EVENTS

Novi Chorale's Auditions
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 9
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
DETAILS: All voice parts are welcome to audition for this chorus that is made up of men and women from Novi, Northville, and the surrounding community. The group rehearses September through May on Tuesdays and holds a series of Christmas concerts as well as a spring concert.
CONTACT: Dick Bayer, (248) 349-3267

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

HomeTown Photo Contest Reception
DATE: Jan. 6
TIME: 6-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, Atrium
DETAILS: The winners of the "HomeTown Novi" photo competition, sponsored by the Novi News and the Novi Historical Commission, will be announced at this reception. This is also the opening of a month long exhibit of the entries in this year's competition. The public is invited to attend and submit their vote for a People's Choice Award among all of the photos exhibited. Entry forms and rules for the 2007 competition will be available at the reception, and at the city's web site beginning Jan. 1.
CONTACT: Kathy Much, (248) 224-4211

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, Jan. 8
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

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) 347-0410

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 11
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.novichamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-3743

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a non-profit business association. We provide enjoyable networking opportunities for our members as well as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay aware of other members' services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact Whitney McCrean, Executive Director at (248) 347-8622 or wmc@gnovico.com

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

Save-the-Dates
January 10: Luncheon sponsored by member Lotus Bank
January 18: B2B Breakfast sponsored by member Rock Financial Showcase
January 25: State of the City address held by member City of Novi at the Rock Financial Showcase.

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Alliance Group
TIME/DATE: 9-30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Walsh College, Troy Campus
DETAILS: Walsh 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 jhubba@walshcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Hearing Arts
LOCATION: Assanien Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
WANTED-ART WORKSHOP
INSTRUCTIONS: We are looking for people that have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops. Please call (248) 465-5455 if interested.
Interested Parent Networking Meeting: 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Tuesday of every month. DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$2.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-3595

Neighborhood Baby-Sitting Co-op
CONTACT: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Inez, (248) 380-0988

Friendship Circle
DATE: Second Thursday of each month
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 45325 10 Mile Road, between Tall and Beck Roads
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Robert Monson, (248) 851-6730, Florence Volgotz, (248) 949-3102 or Joy Vogel, (248) 349-9108. jvolgotz@earthlink.net

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Note: The library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 25.
DETAILS: Lines noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Westland Valley Mothers of Multiples
DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Which's Her Dept. 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Westland Valley school conference area are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, (248) 437-5436

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Saturdays, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 48329 Pontiac Trail, Westland
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for 95 minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

will be held in March, 2007. For more

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

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group
DATES: First and Third Wednesdays of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: For more information call Al Biggs (313) 805-7605, or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Novi United Methodist Hospital-Nov Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Catholic Education
CONTACT: A one-time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breastfeeding. Baby Care Basics
CONTACT: A one-time class with practical information about how to adjust to life with a baby. Infant Massage
CONTACT: The two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children turned 5-years-old before Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day Kindergarten at St. Pauls Lutheran School.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140

The Bohal's Book
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.usbah.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Rippel 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., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sings in Place Worldwide
CONTACT: www.singsinplace.org (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singsinplace.org
TIME: 10 a.m.

St. Mary Hospital
TIME/DATE: 5 p.m. Dec. 21
DETAILS: A special Single Place dinner will be held in the cafeteria at St. Mary's. The cost is \$5, and reservations must be made by noon Tuesday, Dec. 19. By calling the church office, a sign-up sheet will be available at Single Place, and all reservations must be honored. Christmas caroling through the halls of St. Mary's will begin at 7 p.m., starting at the Five Mile Road entrance.
Dinner-Light & Lively Concert-Games
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Dec. 28
DETAILS: A casual dinner will be followed with a concert by Julie Faith. Reservations for the dinner must be made by noon Dec. 28 by calling the church office. Donations for the dinner and concert are suggested at \$10, or just \$5 if only attending the concert.
Card and game playing will also be held in the Gathering area by the Christian Life Center.

Novi Town Hall Lecture Series
TIME/DATE: Thursday, Jan. 11
DETAILS: Cardiologist, Wendy Savas, M.D. will present "Little Known Medical Facts."
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 348-1822 for ticket information and reservation form.

Grail Support for Widows
DATE: Sunday, Jan. 7
TIME: 2-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Prince of Peace Parish, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, Westland
DETAILS: The Archdiocese of Detroit group *Widowed Friends* is offering a six-week program covering the phases of grief, dealing with loneliness and coping with the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee payable at the first meeting covers all materials. Register before Jan. 4.
CONTACT: Mary Ann, (248) 681-9124

St. James Catholic
Gracia Pointe Presbyrian

Novi United Methodist Hospital-Nov Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Catholic Education
CONTACT: A one-time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breastfeeding. Baby Care Basics
CONTACT: A one-time class with practical information about how to adjust to life with a baby. Infant Massage
CONTACT: The two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children turned 5-years-old before Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day Kindergarten at St. Pauls Lutheran School.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140

The Bohal's Book
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.usbah.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Rippel 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., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sings in Place Worldwide
CONTACT: www.singsinplace.org (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singsinplace.org
TIME: 10 a.m.

St. Mary Hospital
TIME/DATE: 5 p.m. Dec. 21
DETAILS: A special Single Place dinner will be held in the cafeteria at St. Mary's. The cost is \$5, and reservations must be made by noon Tuesday, Dec. 19. By calling the church office, a sign-up sheet will be available at Single Place, and all reservations must be honored. Christmas caroling through the halls of St. Mary's will begin at 7 p.m., starting at the Five Mile Road entrance.
Dinner-Light & Lively Concert-Games
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Dec. 28
DETAILS: A casual dinner will be followed with a concert by Julie Faith. Reservations for the dinner must be made by noon Dec. 28 by calling the church office. Donations for the dinner and concert are suggested at \$10, or just \$5 if only attending the concert.
Card and game playing will also be held in the Gathering area by the Christian Life Center.

Novi Town Hall Lecture Series
TIME/DATE: Thursday, Jan. 11
DETAILS: Cardiologist, Wendy Savas, M.D. will present "Little Known Medical Facts."
CONTACT: Kathy Crawford, (248) 349-5079 or Diana Camp, (248) 348-1822 for ticket information and reservation form.

Grail Support for Widows
DATE: Sunday, Jan. 7
TIME: 2-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Prince of Peace Parish, 4300 Walnut Lake Road, Westland
DETAILS: The Archdiocese of Detroit group *Widowed Friends* is offering a six-week program covering the phases of grief, dealing with loneliness and coping with the loss of a spouse. A \$20 fee payable at the first meeting covers all materials. Register before Jan. 4.
CONTACT: Mary Ann, (248) 681-9124

St. John Lutheran
LOCATION: 23225 Gil Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8:30 p.m.
SUNDAY WORSHIP
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.fpcnovi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Gracia Pointe Presbyrian

Send your calendar items to *Carol Apuz, editor, Novi News*, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; e-mail to apuz@novinews.com.

Break Dance!

Local students hip hop into the holidays — a 12-day waltz from routine
SOURCE: Northville Public Schools & Novi Community Schools



Time off? It's Time To Get Moving!

Who cares?
"They're going to remember the time that you spent with them."
Light-Tour Line Dance
"Time to swing through the neighborhood before the holiday lights are doused for the season, and don't overlook the Midwest's largest holiday light show in your own back yard."
"Losing through Jan. 1, the 7-10 p.m. daily (except on Christmas Day) Wayne County Lightfest is a 4.5-mile spectacle of giant, animated displays and nearly 1 million lights along I-75 Drive. Motorists enter at Hines Drive and Merriman Road, 2.5 miles south of I-96 in Westland.
As the working characters dance, drivers and passengers bend for a better view, hand and applique the seasonal treat.
Creative Cha-Cha
For the days after Christmas, kids can get crafty with the new-pass greeting cards.
With so many arriving embellished with photos, get little fingers to work resting the smiling faces in a memory book. The standard variety can be trimmed and recycled as next year's gift tags.
Or for an outing, Bee's Knees on Main Street in downtown Northville will be open through the break, except Monday, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Children can enjoy ice cream and massages 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Movie/Mail Manbo
An avalanche of new releases always accompanies Christmas. Sifting between movie art films provides opportunities to spend the one-size-fits-all gift. "Everyone gets a ton of gift cards," said Jessica Bogart, 18. "We go to the mall. I have spent a lot of break time shopping and going to the movies."
For the car buff in the family, Twelve Oaks Mall is offering a DaimlerChrysler auto display through Dec. 30. The latest styles and colors will be parked on the lower level near Lord & Taylor.
Novi's outdoor mall, Fountain Walk, offers a variety of child-appropriate attractions from the rush of indoor skateboarding to the racket of Chuck E. Cheese. There's also Family of Paws, video games during the day at Lucky's and Putting Edge, at the center of 12 Mile and Novi roads in Novi.
During Christmas break, the indoor 18-hole glow-in-the-dark miniature golf course is closed only on Christmas Day. New Year's Day hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Visit www.putting-edge.com.

Library Limbo
Students who stroll into their local public libraries during break will find familiar favorites and fresh options, too. Newly arrived books propped up for inspection, at full-length film presentation and special collection of holiday books ripe for checkout or reading on the spot.
On Dec. 27, the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., will host "Curious George: Show Me the Monkey" at noon. All ages are invited; munchies will be provided.
On Dec. 28, the Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, will host "Ani Bullly" at 1 p.m. School-age children are invited to bring a blanket and pillow, and enjoy the popcorn.
"We find that a tremendous amount of people go out of town," said Magy Kamp-Oppler, head of youth and teen services at the Novi Public Library. "It's a calm time to take a break, take time to come and relax."
"We have a wonderful selection of books."
Kamp-Oppler can direct students to age-appropriate materials — paperbacks, hardcovers, DVDs, music CDs or books on CD. A rear corner in the library is a dedicated space for youngsters to relax.
"It's just a nice little cozy area," she said. "The kids just love it. They can flip through and pull out what they want."
Maureen Johnson can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or via e-mail at mjohnson@gannet.com.

It doesn't matter how many cookies or if they're homemade. They're going to remember the time that you spent with them.
Susan Hatch
Northville estate

OPINION & LETTERS

PAGE 14A

www.novinews.com

Thursday, December 21, 2006

Novi News

David Agullar
EDITOR

Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Perlberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramthol
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.

Counting On You, Novi

It's that form that came in the mail awhile ago. It's sitting on your coffee table underneath the holiday cards. You probably forgot about it.

That form is most likely Novi's mid-decade census — and it's worth money.

Here's why: A city that conducts its own census and demonstrates growth is eligible for an increase in state revenue.

Novi is almost there. The population stood at 50,672 earlier this month — a tick under the slightly more than 52,000 residents the city needs to count to be eligible for more cash.

Here's the kicker: Novi has enough people to secure more state revenue. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments thinks the city has more than enough, 54,236 to be exact.

It's just a matter of counting everybody. And there's plenty of people

waiting to count. The city estimates there are 1,100 households that haven't responded. And since households usually have more than one person,

Novi should glide in comfortably to the finish line.

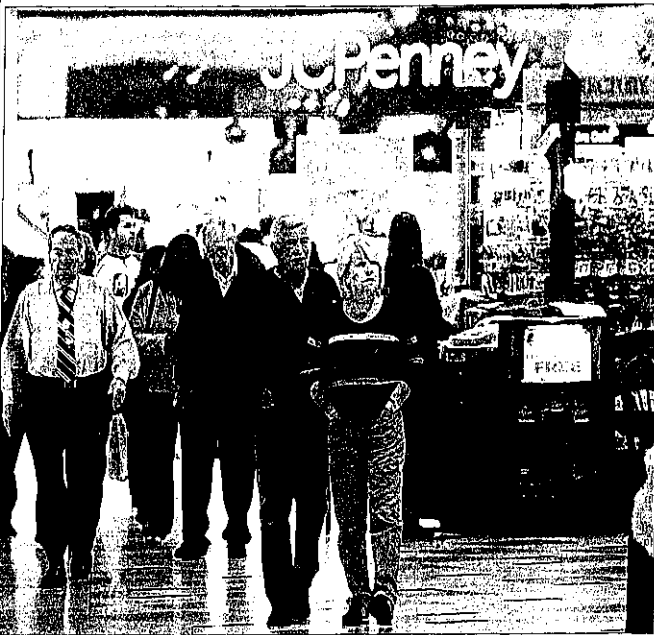
Still, it's December. This census has been going on since the summer. The city actually hired 50 people to go door-to-door and count people.

This is serious. Find the form. It's probably on the coffee table. Maybe the dog is sleeping on it. Get it. Send it in.

Novi officials know this is a risk. Money has been spent now in the hopes the city can secure a long-term financial advantage later. But it's not a stupid gamble. And it could be an investment in the city's future.

As City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius put it, "In order for this to be successful — we're counting on you."

Last chance!



Twelve Oaks Mall shoppers have one final weekend to finish their Christmas shopping.

Photo by JOHN HEIDORN/Novi News

LETTERS

Novi Retirees Association

The City of Novi Retirees Association, many of whom are retired Novi Police Officers, would like to alert Novi residents of a critical situation among their elected officials on the Novi City Council.

The City of Novi spends a great deal of effort and money to search for and hire the brightest and best employees, who are considered experts in their field.

The Novi Police Department is recognized as one of the most professional police departments in this state and perhaps the nation.

In 2004, the Novi Police Department officers were able to make a huge drug bust that resulted in the capture, not only of the dealers, but also an amazing amount of money. This drug bust was the result of courageous and difficult effort. This money did not just fall in their laps. It was difficult and dangerous work on evenings, weekends and holidays. As a result of their Herculean effort, the city of Novi was rewarded with a portion of the drug money (in excess of \$5 million) to be used exclusively for the Novi Police Department.

City Council asked our hired professionals in the police department, along with other city administrators to prepare a plan for the use of these funds. Staff analyzed and studied the issues of the Novi Police Department and came to the Council with their recommendations. Number one priority was the building of a gun range. Four of our council members listened and concurred with the administration's plan. Three of the council members had their own plans for the distribution of the funds.

Last Monday night's council meeting was very disappointing to many people in this city. The Novi Police Department's plan for the for-

feiture funds needed five votes, and though Mayor Landry pleaded for compromise, the same three council members voted against the recommendation of the police professionals and city administration.

The City of Novi Retirees Association believes that the Novi Police Department plan is most assuredly in the best interests of the citizens of Novi. It is critical for our officers to practice on a gun range, and they need to do it more frequently and closer to Novi.

Why should the city of Novi officials continue to search nationwide, hire top professionals, ask for their studied input, then disregard their recommendations?

Mayor Landry was very correct in stating "The system breaks down when council members make commitments and then vote differently." It is impossible for any department in this city to get things done if council members don't trust their employee's professional judgment.

Our City of Novi Retirees Association supports the Novi Police Department recommendations for the use of the forfeiture funds and strongly encourage the three council members who voted against the plan to reconsider their actions.

Kathy Crawford, President

Dick Faulkner, Past President

Bill Charles, Vice President

Gerry Stipp Hochstetler, Secretary

Jack Grubb, Treasurer

Evelyn Matzel, Esther Molins and John Zimmer, Trustees

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 Agullar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: dagullar@gannett.com. Letters submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

Thank-you, Kim Tice

The Friends of the Novi Theatres would like to thank our outgoing president, Kim Tice, for her dedication and leadership over the past three years. With her guidance our organization has raised over \$20,000 which was used to purchase much-needed axes for the theatre, including curtains, cameras, sound equipment, and a new programmable keyboard. Kim has been a creative and fearless advocate for the Novi Theatres. We are grateful for all she has done to promote and enhance the performing arts in the Novi community. Thank's Kim!

Kathy Hagenian, President

Friends of the Novi Theatres

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 who has an interesting job?
- 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?
- 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 Agullar at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at dagullar@gannett.com.

ABWA holiday party!



Photo by PAM FLEISING

Members of the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association had their annual Christmas Carole and Gift Exchange Dec. 18 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Novi. Pictured, from left, are officers Pam Burns of Novi, vice president; Margaret Latala of Livonia, secretary; Chris Struwe of Keego Harbor, treasurer; and Marcia Applegate of Pontiac, president. The club's 6:15 p.m., Jan. 10, meeting will feature Lisa Beedon of Ensure Technologies Inc. in Ann Arbor, who will speak on "Understanding Generation Y." For more information, e-mail Struwe at christinstruwe@huntington.com or call (248) 269-2035.

COMMENT

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

Michigan future depends on building solid foundation

Does Michigan's constitution, which celebrated its 43rd birthday this year, need a face lift? Citizens for Michigan, a newly reborn bipartisan group, thinks so — and last week called for a series of mostly sensible constitutional changes.

These suggestions include:

- Increasing legislative term limits, currently set at six years for Representatives and eight years for Senators, to 12 years.
- This makes perfect sense — although abolishing the limits altogether would be even better. Term limits have turned out to be a bad idea from the time the voters adopted them in 1992.
- Their net effects have been to destroy institutional memory, eliminate the wisdom of experience, trigger a frenzy of campaigning for higher offices and encourage silly short-term thinking in Lansing on long-term issues.
- Banning out-of-state interests from proposing amendments to the constitution. Or, failing that, requiring that any such proposals be approved in two successive general elections.

native action. That, in fact, is also exactly how U. S. Term Limits, a Glenview, Ill.-based outfit, shored term-limits down on threats, putting it on a statewide ballot back in 1992.

In addition to those points, Citizens for Michigan also called for gubernatorial instead of direct election, of members of the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State universities.

I'm somewhat conflicted about this proposal, having been elected years ago to serve on the U of M board. But over those years it's become increasingly tough for candidates to avoid damaging and irrelevant litmus tests imposed on them by the political conventions that select these nominees. Republicans must be anti-abortion, for example. Democrats, acceptable to the big unions.

This, Citizens for Michigan notes, really becomes a farce when electing members of higher educational boards. Voters know virtually nothing about the candidates, their backgrounds and their stances on the issues. The result is an electoral crashout.

As for my opinion — on balance, appointing members of governing boards makes sense. There are a number of other suggestions made by the Citizens for Michigan group — most of them perfectly reasonable — including allowing local governments, the ability to levy taxes for roads and mass transit systems. This introduces the possibility of multi-county or regional transportation departments instead of county road commissions.

But the larger question is whether actually to call a constitutional convention. The constitution approved in 1963 says that voters must be asked every 16 years whether they want a new constitutional convention. That next will be on the ballot in 2010. The Citizens for Michigan report says it is time for a convention and argues that the existing constitution needs a wholesale

revolver that can only be done in full convention.

"This, in my opinion, would be a bad idea."

Back in 1962, when delegates to the last constitutional convention were chosen, Michigan politics were managed by a set of very powerful and relatively reasonable god-fathers: Walter Reuther, then president of the United Auto Workers union; and Neil Staebler and John Peikens, chairmen, respectively of the state Democratic and Republican parties.

There were also various powerful business leaders and others who belonged there. There were a few crazies back then, but they were effectively marginalized.

Things are vastly different today, tugging ideologues from all sides into the Michigan political environment. There are ultra-liberals and hard right-wingers. Right to Life and those who want reparations paid to the descendants of slaves. Worse, we lack powerful, centrist political leaders who can shut them down and keep them from doing damage at any constitutional convention.

The amount of mischief that could be done to our relatively benign constitution is enormous. Far better to persuade the legislature to put the sensible amendments Citizens for Michigan is promoting on the ballot without risking a no-holds-barred convention.

That said, the Citizens for Michigan report is a valuable contribution to our public dialogue in that it goes well beyond mere baby steps and speaks to consequential matters.

We need far more such discussions if we are to invent and adopt a far-reaching restructuring plan that can help lay the foundation for a vibrant and more prosperous Michigan in the future. Which is exactly what we have to do.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a member of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1989. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns 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 power@cmel.com.



Phil Power
Political Columnist

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - General Manager
goerry@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120



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



Lisa Tinnu - Account Executive
ltinnu@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 118



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



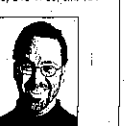
Pam Fleming - Staff Writer
pfleming@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 105



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



Jeff Thelisen - Sports Writer
jthelisen@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



John Helder - Staff Photographer
jhelder@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106



Beth Hinman - Office Asst.
bhinman@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700



Margery Taurainen - Office Asst.
mtaurainen@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700



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

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

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update
by Dennis Engerer, P.T.
BACK ON YOUR FEET!
When suffering injury due to disease or trauma, patients should seek the services of a physical therapist. It is the best choice of treatment for a variety of orthopedic conditions and injuries, including sports injuries, neck and back pain, arthritis, and lymphatic drainage. Our purpose is to inform and educate you, the public, about the variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative techniques and services available. They may be of considerable value in restoring confidence, strength and function in body and mind. In simple terms, physical therapy offers patients their best assurance that they will "get back on their feet" after a physical setback. The column will also be useful in providing information that can help you play in the first place.
Welcome to our new physical therapy column.

www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA
Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.C., C.C.R.I.
MANAGING WHEAT ALLERGY
If you or a family member suffers from wheat allergies, you know how often wheat is used in many baked goods. But did you know that it is also an ingredient in less obvious items such as some hot dogs and ice cream? Check food labels carefully as wheat or wheat products will be listed. Although many people think that ingredients such as yeast or leavening are safe alternatives to wheat, they usually are not and will cause a reaction in many people. Wheat is also in certain kinds of protein supplements. Some companies use wheat flour in shakes favored and shared by kids like beef, pork, or shrimp, especially in Asian dishes. This special column is important for all who suffer with allergies. Call the ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN for assistance for a consultation. We are caring, not just professional, and offer knowledgeable and sound advice. If you have an allergic reaction, we'll have you back in 30 minutes.

www.allergyinfo.org

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 1948
Voted Best Dental Office in Northville
MEMBERS:
• American Dental Association • Michigan Dental Association
• Detroit District Dental Association
• Past Presidents of Detroit Dental Club
• Pierre Fauchard Academy • Chicago Dental Society

416 South Main St. Northville
248-349-2750
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 drlofman.com

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

-First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

For breaking news in Novi, click 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 in print, electronic or other forms.
Write Letters to the Editor to: David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: daguilar@gannett.com.



Volunteer Tammy Harris helps in a Northville Co-op Preschool classroom at the Church of the Nazarene.

Room at the inn

■ Co-op preschool seeking new home

By Maureen Johnston
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Annette McGowan wants to keep her education enclave alive. In the midst of Christmas preparations, the Northville mom is sand-wiching school search committee time between a flight attendant job and volunteer classroom duty. But showing up is the foundation on which the 56-year-old Northville Co-op Preschool is built. And she has her 2-year-old Cary's next two school years to consider.

"I just love the preschool, the whole concept of the co-op, being able to be involved," said McGowan, who also ushered her son, Patrick, now in kindergarten, through the program.

McGowan's parent committee has self-imposed a January deadline to relocate the school or watch the tradition crumble.

Time to move on
The non-profit co-op preschool, run too lean to own a home, is historically mobile, according to Susan Collins, director and teacher.

The current five-year stay inside the First Church of the Nazarene on Haggerty Road will expire in May due to expansion of the church programming, said pastor Ronald Blake. Collins said the three classrooms leased from the church — divided for 2-, 3- and 4-year-old programs — was convenient for families of the 60 pupils from Northville, Novi and the surrounding area. But the clock is ticking.

Hands-on transition
School board president Tammy Harris, also a relocation committee member, has been a fixture in the classrooms seven years while three of her children learned through the co-op. Harris said children and adults, who commit to involvement when they register, develop relationships through the school.

Collins said in exchange for a hands-on transition to a child's school experience, parents pay less than traditional pre-school programs.

"That's why we have to have fund-raisers for extra," she said. "Sincerely tuition is how we operate." Wherever the program lands, the

"They're working on staying in the Northville area, but they're having a difficult time."

Susan Collins
Director, Northville Co-op Preschool

three-teacher staff — supported by moms, dads, grandparents — will make the children feel at home. Collins said. The relocation committee has looked at three potential sites so far, she said, adding the site selected needs to meet stringent state requirements.

"It has to be licensed, up-to-code and something we can afford," she said. "If we can't find a place, the co-op has to close."

'Not the building'
Collins said the state's sluggish economy has impacted the school's enrollment, typically 100 pupils.

She has stood alongside parents committed to the cooperative environment in the past, helping pack up the school's belongings and hanging on after the move.

"I believe in what we do for the families — and families as a whole — not just the children," Collins said. "These days, families need a lot of support."

"They're working on staying in the Northville area, but they're hav-

CLASS NOTES

All Night Party Fundraiser

Area residents dining from 4-9 p.m. every Wednesday this month at Applebee's, 43900 Grand River, will help contribute to the Novi High School All Night Party fund. Applebee's will donate 20 percent of each bill to the party committee. Patrons must present a special Applebee's coupon in each server, which can be obtained at the high school office, or downloaded from the high school web site www.novik12.mil.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 gross motor development. Open enrollment has begun. Contact (248) 349-2223 or go to www.NoviPreschool.com for more information or to enroll.

Michigan Apples School Sweepstakes

The Michigan Apple

Committee is introducing a new school sweepstakes program. Students can collect proof-of-purchase identification from bags of Michigan apples and send them in for a chance to win money for their school. The program will run through April, with a random drawing to take place in May. Six schools will be chosen to win a total of \$12,000 in prize money. Information on the program and official contest rules can be found at MichiganApples.com/school-sweepstakes.

Foundation for Excellence-Walled Lake Schools, 850 Ladd Road, Building D, Walled Lake, MI 48390. To purchase tickets with a Visa or MasterCard, call (248) 936-2117.

Novi Woods Elementary

Candid photos for the Novi Woods Elementary yearbook are wanted. Photographs for possible inclusion in the 2006-07 book may be submitted by sending high quality prints, labeled with student's name, teacher's name, grade and activity, in an envelope marked "Yearbook" to the school office. You may also send in a high resolution file on compact disc or e-mail photos as a high resolution file attachment to noviwdsyearbook@yahoo.com. Please include your name, phone number, and e-mail address for all submissions. All photo submissions will be accepted through mid-January. Call Marie Malecki, (248) 348-1460, or e-mail noviwdsyearbook@yahoo.com, with questions.

An After-Hours Urgent Care Exclusively Dedicated to Children



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF MICHIGAN
AFTER-HOURS URGENT CARE
NOVI

Urgent Care Exclusively for Kids

Your children can get urgent care in a single location. After-Hours Urgent Care - Novi, is exclusively dedicated to children. Doctors from Children's Hospital of Michigan are available to help your children on a speedy path to recovery.

You don't have to wait until your physician's office is open for your child to be seen. When a sore throat, ear infection, sprained ankle or other minor emergency happens, there's a specialist waiting here to see your kids.

After-Hours Urgent Care - Novi

41935 W. 12 Mile Road
Between Meadowbrook and Novi Roads, just east of Twelve Oaks Mall

1-888-DMC-2800
No appointment necessary

Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun./Holidays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Children's Hospital of Michigan

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES
A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

Introducing...

www.MetroAlive.com

Featuring Local Merchants and Organizations

Check out "Metro to Go" for holiday gift ideas!!

For information call...
248-765-5495

Very special arrangements for Charter Members!

Featuring Live Band
with a Variety of Stylish
Watch the Ball drop from Times Square!
An Elaborate Display of
Hot & Savory from 7-8 pm
From Lunch Star-Wins
Served with Dinner
Individually Plated Combination Dinner
Filet Mignon & Chicken or Vegetarian Entrée
(Available upon request at the time of ticket purchase only)
Specially Dessert Table
After 10 pm (at 2:00 pm)
Pizza, Mini Sandwiches, and Danish
\$85 per person
All Reserved Seating • No admittance after 8:30 pm
To make your reservation call
(734) 462-0770
Must be 21 years or older. Aggravate Payments...
Visa, MC, Discover, American Express, Gift or Check with valid ID
30000 Schoolors Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150
Partnership with the Hilton Garden Inn of Plymouth
for overnight stay with shuttle service
visit www.plymouthstar.com ask for code NYE
For all your holiday or office catering
Contact **Mark & Dole**
734-779-4525

Celebrate New Years aboard the...

Enjoy one of six entertainment packages including our:

- Top Two Murder Mysteries
- Two of our Best Musical Performers
- DJ & Dance Package
- Overnight Package

You will receive a five course dinner, souvenir photo, party favors & champagne toast at midnight.

Reserve early as these trains sell out!
Receive a \$10 per person bar credit when you reserve by Dec. 16th

For additional information call or visit our website
248.960.9440 www.rail-road.com

steve & rocky's

New Year's Eve

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Steve & Rocky's
Enjoy selections from our regular menu all day long from 2:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m!

Steve & Rocky's will be featuring all of your favorite items from our critically acclaimed 4 Star Fare, including Lobster, King Crab Filet Mignon, Ribeye Steaks, and select fresh seafood.

Enjoy Live Entertainment All Night!

SPECIAL FEATURE!
Reserve a room at the Novi Wyndham Garden Hotel for New Year's Eve and receive the Steve & Rocky's exclusive discounted quest rate of **\$79.00** per room, two at the hotel!

Enjoy safe and hassle-free car service between the Wyndham Garden and Steve & Rocky's all night long and receive two complimentary bottles of champagne!

and your special New Year's Eve celebration will be safe and fun and be out on the town to 2007!

For Reservations Call 248 344 8800

Your reward for switching to Flagstar

Simply transfer your checking account to Flagstar and become eligible for:

6-month CD at 10% APY*

*Maximum deposit \$2,500

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

(800) 642-5139 www.flagstar.com
Member FDIC

Taorello's A Celebration Of Good Taste!

SALE DATES: Sunday, DECEMBER 17th thru Sunday, DECEMBER 24th, 2006
STORE HOURS: Sunday 9-6 • Mon. thru Sat. 8-8
CHRISTMAS EVE 8-4 • CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

MARKETPLACE
Why Cook? TAORELLO'S CATERS!

FRESH CRISP CELERY 99¢ EACH	PUMIP GRAPE TOMATOES 2/\$3	SWEET CORED PINEAPPLE \$2.99 EACH	4 LB. BAG NAVEL ORANGES \$1.99 BAG
EXTRA LEAN GROUND BEEF FROM CHUCK 3 lb. or more \$1.79 lb.	DEARBORN HOLIDAY KIELBASA \$3.99 lb.	U.S.D.A. CHOICE • BONE-IN BLACK ANGUS PRIME RIB ROAST \$7.99 lb.	WOW!
JUMBO KING CRAB LEGS \$9.99 lb.	26-30 CT. JUMBO COCKTAIL SHRIMP \$9.99 lb.	FROM CALIFORNIA 2005 MARK WEST PINOT NOIR \$11.99 750 ml. BTL.	FROM SONOMA COUNTY 2004 SEBASTIANI CHARDONNAY \$14.49 750 ml. BTL.

TAORELLO'S GOURMET FRUIT or GIFT BASKETS
Customize Your Own From Over 20,000 Products
CORPORATE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

TAORELLO'S GOURMET GIFT CERTIFICATES
GIVE THE GIFT OF GOOD TASTE!

1007 E. Grand River Avenue • Brighton • (810) 225-8900

Spotlight on Business

Jonathan Brateman: Integrity and creativity lead to results

When he started helping business people find the best location for their stores and offices in 1984, Jonathan Brateman was determined to do the following: treat people the way he would like to be treated, take the mystery out of the real estate process for people who don't work in it every day and commit himself to learning and growing each day as a professional.



Novi developer Jonathan Brateman stands with blueprints in his hands outside his Brateman Medical Center office on Grand River in Novi.

During the last two decades he's fulfilled this personal commitment to the community. He's actually completing nearly 400 commercial real estate transactions over a twenty four year career.

"While the real estate business has changed dramatically over the last two decades, with the appearance of commercial multi-list programs on the Internet, new municipal ordinances, globalization and big-box retailing, the most important thing that has not changed is the market's response to a broker who provides accurate information in a timely manner, acting with creative solutions and approaches in a positive manner," said Jonathan. "I am dedicated and committed to pursuing my vocation in this manner."

"What really matters to people when they are looking for space is functionality, price and a working relationship with their landlord. I work hard to find a good fit for the parties."

Jonathan started working on leasing buildings and then added the sale of vacant land for office, commercial and retail to his portfolio, along with the sale of commercial buildings. In Novi, he has found a strong bond with the people who live and work here.

"I enjoy spending time with people I have worked with on committees, as well as those I have worked with in business and I Jonathan. This is a great place to be."

The broker is a founding member of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce.

Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc. is located at 4000 Grand River Avenue, Suite 205, between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads in Novi. Commercial properties available go to www.bratemanproperties.com or call (248) 477-5000.

Novi News

Laura M. Kelly
248-447-0793
4229 Parkside Trail, Suite 101
Warren
Laura@lydellstate.com

Allstate
Multi-Plan Insurance

2006 Allstate Insurance Company
www.allstate.com

Flowers of Novi 10% OFF with this ad

24261 Novi Rd., Voted Best Flower Shop
Just N of 10 Mile 248.390.8250 In Novi, MI
flowersofnovi.com
Licensing and Sales License 123886

Novi
DENTAL ARTISTRY
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Reconstructive & Implant Dentistry
Periodontal Treatment
Emergency Dental Care
Dr. Alton Tucholski, DDS
42410 W. Yonkers Rd., Novi
www.novidental.com
248.348.3100

Sam Rosenberg MD, PC
Chief of Urology
Huron Valley - Sinai Hospital
Affiliated with Providence Hospital
• New Patients welcome
• Same day appts. available
Novi Commerce Bldg.
248.735.2441 248.368.8677
www.srsosberg.com

Radar To Post
Randall Patterson
Certified Home Inspector
248.755.3422
Residential, Commercial & Industrial
• Home • Wall • Siding

Main Dish
CATERING
Using Simple...Cooking Smart.
Holiday Appetizers & Cocktails
now available for pick up
Gift Certificates available
Check our website for details
www.mindiskitchen.com
54277 Novi Road
248.348.9900

Novi Printing
Printing & Design
Business Cards
Flyers & Brochures
Posters & Banners
Signage & Displays

Diamond Castle
Jewelers Since 1962
2005 People's Choice
Best Jewelry Store
39955 Grand River Ave.
Novi 248-442-2440
www.diamondcastlejewelry.com

STATE FARM
INSURANCE
Mike Gabriel
41390 W. Ten Mile • Novi, MI 48275
248-477-8383
mike.gabriel@statefarm.com

Novi Fine Wine & Liquors
Voted Best Wine & Beer Selection 3 Years in a Row!
42340 W. 10 Mile Rd.
(at 10 Mile)
248.349.9600

PIZZA MARVELOUS
Voted Novi's Best Pizza!
Pasta • Bread • Breadsticks
Cakes • Pies
Free Delivery • Catering
248.348.1000

\$8.00 Off
Any regular price
Shoe or Pair Purchase
Hersey's Too
Comfort Shoes
(248) 347.7838
47750 Grand River • Novi
In the Novi Medical Center at Grand River
between Target & Home Depot
with coupon Expires 12-31-06

Novi News
43156 West Street, Box 304
Novi 248.347.4833

Novi's Best Mortgage
Providing A Personalized Experience
TELCOM
CREDIT UNION
Anyone Can Join!
Novi Branch
44575 W. Twelve Mile Road
248.735.9500
telcomcu.com

JAROLD'S FRAME SHOP
Since 1978 • NOVI
• Wheel Balance/Alignment
• Tire • Brake Service
• Truck & Car Frame
& much more
44170 Grand River • Novi
248.349.7550

Our Clients are
good in public because
they train in private.
Call about our
complimentary session.
FT
Personal Training
248.448.9230

Yokum & Co.
Accounting &
Tax Professionals
(248) 473-5566
40900 E. Grand River • Novi

Novi Carpets
Your Floor
Covering
Specialists
(248) 477-0640

VACANT LAND
JB
Jonathan Brateman
Properties
(248) 477-5000
www.bratemanproperties.com

Novi News
GO FREE!



Anything left?
A shopper strolls along the second floor of Twelve Oaks Mall.

2 minutes on DSL
2 minutes on EarthLink High Speed Cable

Picture your life on EarthLink High Speed Cable Internet.

Sign up for EarthLink High Speed Cable and you'll get Internet speed that's up to 6x faster than DSL. So whether you're downloading pictures or music, watching movies, shopping or emailing, everything you do online is much faster and more fun.

That's not all. Only EarthLink High Speed Cable offers:

- Free WebLife™ online storage of up to 1GB
- Free Protection Control Center™ including advanced Antivirus, Firewall and Spyware protection
- Free award-winning customer support, 24/7

Plus, FREE Standard installation, FREE activations, and NO annual commitment.

\$29.95/mo.
for 6 months!

What are you waiting for?
Sign up for EarthLink High-Speed Cable Internet today!

1-866-898-9101
Visit: www.mybrighthouse.com

EarthLink High Speed Internet

\$29.95/mo.
for 6 months!

Plus, FREE Standard installation, FREE activations, and NO annual commitment.

What are you waiting for?
Sign up for EarthLink High-Speed Cable Internet today!

1-866-898-9101
Visit: www.mybrighthouse.com

EarthLink CABLE INTERNET **bright house**

Baby's 1st Christmas

Look who's celebrating their very first Christmas!

PAUL JOHN SLINEY BORN 5/20/06 TO CHERYL & PATRICK SLINEY	CHARLOTTE JULIANNE MCGUIRE BORN 11/26/06 TO CHRISTINA & ANDY MCGUIRE
SERENA ANGELINE WILHELM BORN 10/14/06 TO CARRIE & TODD WILHELM	ISAAC JOHN PACE BORN 5/11/06 TO KRISTIN & JOE PACE
CHASE ROBINSON BORN 7/16/06 TO AMBER, THRETT & MIKE ROBINSON	SYDNEY HUGHES BORN 2/6/06 TO KAREN & MIKE HUGHES
TAYLOR QUINN BORN 2/17/06 TO KIM & ROB QUINN	Merry Christmas Everyone!

GRAND OPENING!

Save 50% on a Charter Membership!

Now Open - Stop In For A Tour - Give The Gift of Health This Year!
We Offer Message and Personal Training Gift Certificates

WANT TO FEEL GREAT? JOIN THE CLUB!

Where Your Total Health Comes First

BOTSFORD
Center for Health Improvement

- Fitness Programs Supervised by Health Professionals
- Aquatics Center With Warm-Water Therapy and Lap Pools
- A Variety of Group Classes Available, Including Tai Chi, Yoga and Pilates

39750 Grand River Avenue • (Just West of Haggerty) In Novi, MI 48275
ph: 248-473-3100 • www.botsford.org/tch

Make a Difference
RECYCLE The Earth is Counting on You!



If you are looking for that Special Gift for the Wine Lover in Your Life Check Out Our Fine Wine Cellar for some of the most sought after wines around

As Always we have a 10% Discount when you purchase 6 or more Bottles of Regularly Priced Wine. Now is the time to Stock-Up. New Years is just around the Corner.

All of Us at Joe's Produce Wish You A Happy and Safe Holiday! Thanks You for Your Patronage!

Holiday Favorite!

California Navel Oranges \$3.99 8 lb. bag

Ocean Spray Golden Ripe Pineapples \$2.99 ea. Whole Only

Dole California Pascal Celery 2/\$3.00

Florida Grape Tomatoes 2/\$3.00

Hot Price! Monterey Jack Cheese \$2.59 lb. Great for Snacking

Order Your Holiday Party Trays! We have Fruit, Vegetable & Cheese Trays!

Winter's Fire Glazed Spiral Hams \$3.49 lb. 1/2 Ham 7-8 lb. Whole Ham 14-18 lb. Ready to Serve While Quantities Last!

Joe's Fresh Fruit Gourmet Specialty Baskets \$19.99 & up

Great Gift Ideas!

Old Type Deli Low Cholesterol & Low Sodium Mozzarella Chunk Only \$3.59 lb.

Murphy Goode Tin Roof Sauvignon Blanc '04 Hot Price! \$7.49 750 ml. Bold Citrus Notes abound in this Delicious Wine.

Alpine Lace Cheddar Muenster & Swiss Chunk Only \$4.99 lb. Great for Your Holiday Parties!

Chateau La Marquisa This is Simply one of the Best Valves from Bordeaux \$10.49 750 ml. Great for Your Holiday Parties!

Stella Aged Asiago \$5.49 lb. Great for Greeting Friends & Family!

Assorted Varieties!

Joe's Homemade 9" High Top Pies Starting \$6.99 & up At

Joe's Homemade Crabmeat Salad \$5.99 lb.

Joe's Spinach & Artichoke Dip \$5.49 lb. Great for Your Holiday Parties!

Homemade Bread & Butter Sweet Pickles \$1.99

All Varieties!

Bareman's Gallon Milk \$2.39 ea.

Bareman's Old Fashioned Egg Nog \$1.99 qt. A Great Christmas Treat!

A Family Favorite Edy's Ice Cream 2/\$6.00

All Flavors

Byrd's Choice Meats Happy Holidays!

Order Your Favorites! Homemade Fresh or Smoked Keilbasa, Lean Crown Pork Roast, Tender Choice Standing Rib Roast, Dearborn Spiral or Classic Hams
Holiday Hours: Monday thru Saturday 9am-7pm, Sunday Dec. 24 9am-4pm Closed Christmas Day!

Bell & Evans Fresh Turkeys

Byrd's Deli Trays & Complete Seafood Counter!

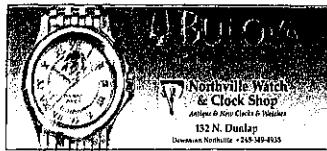
Joe's Produce

33152 W. Seven Mile • Livonia, MI 48150
www.joesproduce.com
(248) 477-4333

Lowering Poinsettias 1M \$5.99, 2M \$14.99, 3M \$19.99 Extra Large Hanging Basket/Centerpiece \$19.99

Assorted Decorated Mini Trees! Assorted Sizes

Hours: Sun. 9am-5pm, Mon.-Sat. 9am-7pm, Christmas Eve 9am-5pm, Closed Christmas Day, Prices Good through Dec. 24, 2006



THE FINAL SCENE

Novi seniors will be end of the road for Wildcat gymnastics

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Novi dropped the gymnastic program after the co-op with Northville had to end because of the size of the schools.

But the show still goes on for two Novi seniors — Jacqueline Gazette and Jill Guffey.

The two Wildcats practice with the Farmington High School team but compete as Novi athletes.

Falcons coach Jeff Dwyer had worked with the two Novi girls in the past and wanted them to be able to finish out their high school careers.

As a senior, I would've been a little bummed out if I was on a sport that my school had dropped," Dwyer said. "It's all good. So far there hasn't been any problems at all, and I don't foresee any."

Dwyer thinks both girls have a shot at a lengthy postseason run.

Gazette has already shown this year that she is able to put up big numbers, scoring in the 9s during an early-season meet in more than one event.

"Jacqueline is capable of overcoming in the low nines on any event," Dwyer said.

Guffey has shown that she is a solid competitor in all of the events. Dwyer said he expects her to be in the eighties all season. But as good as she can be on the mat, she helps keep the atmosphere light.

"She's got quite a sense of humor," Dwyer said. "I'm just enjoying having her in the gym."

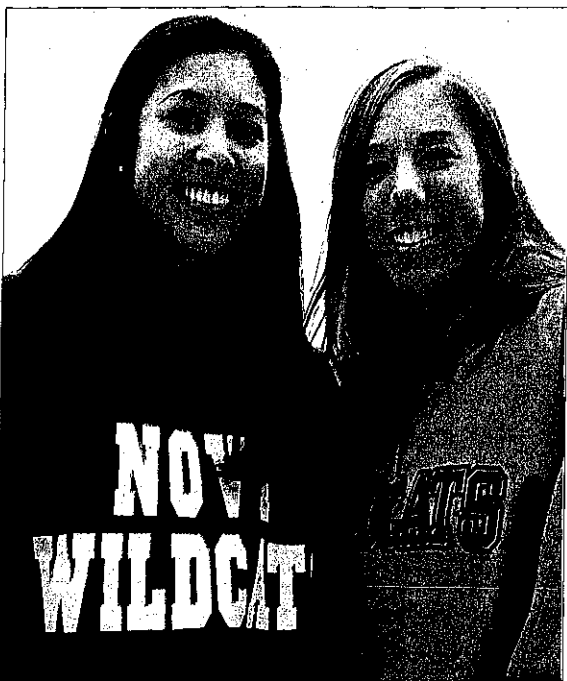
One of Guffey's goals is to qualify for regionals. One of her higher goals is to make it to state.

Dwyer said her top event is the balance beam.

Gazette's goals include the same as Guffey's but her highest goal would include placing at state.

Dwyer said he takes just as much pride in watching the two compete as he does his own team.

"I wish they were on our team," Dwyer said. "They're a pleasure to have."



Novi High gymnasts Jacqueline Gazette, left, and Jill Guffey are the final chapter for the Wildcat gymnastic program.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

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

Planet Fitness

Popcorn, movie and some insight

I have had many feelings and thoughts after watching a family movie in the past, including but not limited to...

What a waste of time, but that was unrealistic. I could have written that, etc. but I don't recall a feeling of guilt being one of them until recently after watching "Over the Hedge".

Chris Klebba assure you, I am not making an attempt at reviewing movies here, rather just sharing a self-examination and some humorous examples of the relationship between the typical American's daily activity and food (as so blatantly depicted in this movie) in hopes of shedding more light on why so many of us typical Americans face this lifetime battle of the bulge.

It was a cold, snowy, windy, dark night about 7 p.m.; it felt like bedtime since the sun had set what seemed like forever ago. Typically, in summer at this same time, the kids would be outside, and we would be active on some summer project (such as the Michigan winters). We didn't feel like driving to a movie or even getting in the car and driving two miles to rent one, too much work, so the wonderful world of technology allowed us to fit a little quick-and-the-easy fireplace kicked on instantly, push two buttons on our magic little black box from our cable company and...

press "Over the Hedge" appeared on our screen. Once the movie began, we of course instantly paused the movie (well not instantly — it took us 20 minutes to figure out how to pause it) to get our snacks, drinks, and everyone in their right seat on the couch. This snack preparation consisted of pushing more buttons and waiting for the popcorn to pop, and grabbing a cool drink from the fridge. Never mind the fact we just ate dinner, never mind the question of if we were hungry or not, we were programmed to have snacks while watching a movie.

All was well with life until the star of the movie (a little raccoon) had some trouble with a very large bear. The story is based on the fact he had stolen the bear's food and had to replace it prior to the bear coming out of hibernation. The raccoon found foraging the forest for common animal tid-bits the "old fashion way" — too much work and decides to visit typical suburban America and gets a quick education on how convenience and technology has affected the way food and humans interact in today's culture. He then has to recruit some other forest friends to help, however they have not yet been exposed to this culture and the raccoon sets out to educate them on the real facts of food and the humans.

Here is the education in a nutshell... This is the car that brings the food, this is the large box that keeps the food cold, this is the little box that heats...

Continued on 3B

Novi loses late to Mustangs

Technical with :08.5 to play seals fate

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Northville senior guard Alvin Storms slammed the door shut on a border-war classic at home against Novi on Friday.

Northville (2-0) pulled out a 51-45 victory, dropping the Wildcats to 2-2.

Storms scored 14 of his game-high 27 points in the fourth quarter, sending the Mustang crowd at one point with a dunk off a turnover.

"It was a beautiful thing to be a part of," Storms said. "It's fun to win. It's fun to beat anybody."

Novi led by five at the half, but the Mustangs outscored the Wildcats 14-6, taking a 29-26 lead into the fourth.

The game came down to a thrilling finish, after Brandon Bradford hit a 3-pointer to tie the game with about 45 seconds left.

Mike Rogers retaliated with a bucket for Northville before the game took a wild twist in the final seconds.



Photo submitted by DIANA BIRDELL.

Novi junior Caleb Dean pulls down a rebound Friday against Northville.

Continued on 3B

Alley 'Cats

Novi bowlers led by seniors

By Jeff Thelsen
NOVI NEWS

Consistency, fundamentals and working on the mental edge are three things that Novi bowling head coach John Osborne is trying to teach the boys team.

"We have a wide span of teaching going on and so many different levels of where kids are at," Osborne said. "We're rebuilding up again, hopefully."

Novi seniors Evan Danielson and Kyle Jones are the early leaders for the squad. Danielson is averaging over 200 with Jones in the 160s. Both have been in the program for four years.

"Evan was involved in cross country, and he went to a meet down in Florida in the beginning of the year," Osborne said. "He's still mounting into shape. He's really gotten off to a nice start since he's been back."

"Kyle's going at about a 185 clip and has a 258 game to his credit."

Other bowlers stepping to the front are Nick Zaroya and George Reigal. Zaroya, a senior, has been a much-improved

bowler in his second year with the team. Reigal is a newcomer showing early talent as a junior.

"Zaroya is pretty much a guy that started from zero a year ago," Osborne said. "He's up in the 170s. He works hard at his game."

Bryan Bivens and Evan Giampa are up from the JV program to add depth.

"We're an emerging program, but the KVC 'Holy cow,'" Osborne said. "There's some great players. They have some great programs."

Novi Girls Bowling

Wildcat junior Alex Dinsler leads a group of eight girls on varsity with an average in the 160s. Dinsler has been in the program all three years.

Sophomore Leslie Brown has been just behind in the 150s to help lead the team.

Other contributors include senior Danielle Capello, junior Alyssa Fraser, senior Danielle Antons and junior Kendra Hay.

"They've made some great strides," Osborne said. "Hopefully we're getting ourselves where we can compete."

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

Athlete of the week

Sean Bugbee
Novi senior swimmer

Bugbee won all four events he entered during Novi's first meet of the year. He won the 50 freestyle (23.78), 100 freestyle (50.20), was on the winning 400 freestyle relay (3:44.40) and was part of the winning 200 medley relay team (1:51.76).

Rated Novi's Best Mortgage Provider & Financial Institution

TELCOM CREDIT UNION

Anyone Can Join!

Novi Branch
44575 W. Twelve Mile Road
248.735.9500 • telcomcu.com

Proud Sponsors of Novi Schools & Catholic Central

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 1B

Thursday, December 21, 2006

Subscribe today to your Local Newspaper



- The Best in Local News, Advertising and Sports
- Ever popular Creative Living Section
- Fabulous Green Sheet Classifieds
- Your best source for local news, including: Community Events, School & Neighborhood News & Local Politics

12 Months Only \$26.00

FILL OUT THIS COUPON TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY & ENJOY YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Check which papers you wish to receive:

- Nov News
- Northville Record
- South Lyon Herald
- Milford Times

Mail payment to:
P.O. Box 470
Holland, MI 48426-0470
or Fax to (517) 546-6801
or call 1-888-440-4809

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Day Phone _____

Today's Date _____

Email Address _____

- Payment enclosed
 - Please bill me
 - Charge my credit card
 - Visa
 - Mastercard
- Appt. no. # _____
Exp. Date _____
Customer Signature _____

La Casa del Rio Grande:

NEW HUDSON: Where good friends meet for good food

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

La Casa del Rio Grande has always been known as the best Mexican restaurant in the area, but now it's also a popular place to watch sporting events.

The restaurant is just finishing up renovations that include a larger bar area with lots of seating, newly designed booths, and TVs in both the bar and the dining room.

"We wanted to make this a really fun place to come watch sports," said owner Dawn Salvati. "Now you can hang out in our new bar and watch the big game."

"Or you can sit with your family and enjoy a great meal, and still watch the game. Then the whole family is happy."

Along with the updated look, Salvati is now operating the restaurant with help from a new manager, so the legendary customer service is now even better.

"There's a lot of new things at Rio Grande, but the food is still the same — we're not going to change that," explained Salvati.

Authentic food

After one bite of the food at La Casa del Rio Grande customers never go back to chain restaurants. The authentic Mexican flavor at Rio Grande is nothing like other restaurants, which often serve spicy Tex-Mex. The recipes were actually imported directly from central and southern Mexico.

"There's nowhere else in the area where you can get this type of food," said owner Dawn Salvati. "It's real Mexican food, not Americanized Tex-Mex."

La Casa Del Rio Grande offers something for every member of the family. It serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. There are a variety of Mexican appetizers, lunch and dinner specials, unique desserts and a full-service bar.

Lunch specials offered Monday through Friday include favorites like Mexican Pizza. It's made from two fried flour tortillas with a choice of meats inside and topped with cheese and vegetables.

"The food is not overly spicy or hot, but we'll make it hot upon request," said Salvati.

The restaurant is home to several groups of regulars who like the fast lunch-time service. For those looking for a quick lunch, Salvati suggests calling in orders ahead of time. Those who place phone orders can carry-out or dine in the restaurant.

Of all the appetizers, a customer favorite is the Mexican flaming cheese. The restaurant also has brought back a chicken Tortilla Soup. The hearty chicken soup includes black beans and vegetables.

The selection of entrees features chinchichanga platters, fajitas, enchiladas and burritos.

"We have the best fajitas

LA CASA DEL RIO

At a glance

La Casa del Rio Grande is located at 5721 Grand River Ave., just west of Milford Road in New Hudson. Follow the Lyon Center Drive loop from Wal-Mart to Grand River Avenue.

• Call (248) 446-7700 or Fax orders to (248) 446-7701

• Go online at www.riogrande-restaurant.com

• Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week

• Sports are always on TVs in the bar and the restaurant

• Reservations available but not needed. Carry-out and call-ahead can save time.

• All major credit cards accepted.

Celebrate the holidays

• Christmas Eve: open noon to 9 p.m.

• Christmas Day: closed

• New Year's Eve: open noon to 9 p.m.

• New Year's Day: noon to 9 p.m.

• La Casa del Rio Grande: good food and favorite sports around," said Salvati.

Pedro's stacked sandwich is another recommended dish. It starts with three flour tortillas layered with rice, refried beans and your choice of tender sliced pork, ground beef, shredded beef or chicken. It's topped with melted mozzarella cheese and jalapenos by request.

On Monday there is a dine-in all-you-can-eat taco special for \$7.25. Hungry guests can order as many tacos as they like, filled with ground beef, shredded beef, chicken or traditional bean and potato. Some try one of each. For only \$8.25 chefs will fry soft flour tortillas into crispy taco shells for the all-you-can-eat special.

"The flour fried taco shells are absolutely amazing," said Salvati.

Since plenty of people can't choose just one item, sampler platters provide a taste of several. A Don Pedro sampler comes with a ground beef taco, enchilada, shredded beef fajita, ground beef tostada, beans and rice.

Or the Rio Grande sampler includes a chicken taco, ground beef enchilada, pork chinchichanga, beans and rice.

Early birds that come in for dinner between 3 and 5 p.m. can cash in with a "buy one get the second dinner half-off," deal by request.

Party down

"The festive atmosphere at Rio Grande sets the tone for fun, casual dining. Colorful blankets, wooden benches and sombreros are part of the cheerful decor.

"Don't be afraid to use your

ADVERTISEMENT



Friends and families love to gather at La Casa del Rio Grande in New Hudson.



La Casa Del Rio Grande, located at 5721 Grand River Ave., just west of Milford Road in New Hudson.

low-carb diet," said Salvati. "We can just cut down on the beans, rice and tortillas."

The restaurant also offers smoke-free nights in the dining room on Friday and Saturday. On those nights patrons are allowed to smoke in the bar or on the patio when weather permits.

Special nights

Families pack the place on clown night. A side-splitting clown known as Janice Annie entertains the kids and adults, too. Annie comes one Saturday a month — which is Spanish in honor of La Casa del Rio Grande.

The restaurant is ready for fun, holiday meals, staying open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Treating you right

Affordable pricing makes Rio Grande a great place to bring the entire family. Adult diners average about \$7.5, and kids' meals are \$3.50, including beverage.

Tuesday and Saturday are kids' days, with meals for just \$2.99, including a beverage and dessert.

The restaurant is happy to accommodate special requests and allergy concerns. No lard or chicken stock is used in the beans and rice to provide a vegetarian-friendly experience.

Most items are easily adaptable to a low-carb diet.

"Mexican food is great for a

finger," the menu explains. It's about having a good time.

"It's family dining that's fun and casual," said Salvati. "You can dress up if you want, or come as you are and bring the whole family."

With the first basket of chips and salsa free, the fun starts as soon as the family takes a seat.

The dining room keeps the atmosphere moving with festive Mexican music, while the bar plays classic rock.

The entire community is invited to come home for the holidays, to the home on Grand River — which is Spanish in honor of La Casa del Rio Grande.

The restaurant is ready for fun, holiday meals, staying open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

There are always running beer specials. In December, Miller Light and Miller Genuine Draft are on special for \$2 a bottle.

There are also ongoing drink specials. Wednesday and Sunday are "margarita days" with all in-house margaritas at happy hour prices.

The Spicy Margarita is Salvati's own secret recipe, made with citrus and jalapeno.

There are even Spicy parties to celebrate every month. The Spicy Margarita is specially priced at \$5, plus bar items, like T-shirts, are given away as prizes.

Check out the Web site at

www.riogrande-restaurant.com

for more information on special promotions. Diners can also sign up for a e-mail club to receive a free dinner on their birthday and wedding anniversary, plus valuable coupons. Sign up for the club at Rio Grande.

A family effort

Owner Dawn Salvati actually operates the restaurant in the home where she lived as a child. Her father bought the house more than 37 years ago. New Hudson is Salvati's beloved hometown, through and through.

After operating Don Pedro's Restaurant in Detroit with ex-husband, Tom Salvati, she saw how much folks loved the food and decided that New Hudson would be the perfect place to open another restaurant.

Since the house on Grand River was still in the family, Salvati decided to transform the building into a homestyle restaurant — hence the Spanish name for "The house on Grand River."

The food at Don Pedro's and La Casa Del Rio Grande is the same, so many local customers drive out to Rio Grande now that Don Pedro's has closed.

Most of the staff are close friends or family members, including Salvati's two daughters, Samantha and Corinna.

"It's a small-town family atmosphere," said Salvati. "You can feel the love of family here."

COME SEE OUR NEW LOOK!

248.446.7700

Call for hours: www.riogrande-restaurant.com

1124 Grand River Ave. New Hudson, MI 48165

Open Monday - Sunday 11am - 10pm

Early Bird Special
2-5 pm

Buy one dinner, get the second **50% OFF**

Equal or lesser value. Ask your server.

Margarita Special

Wear or Sun Margarita Special

KIDS DAY
Tues & Sat
11am - 2pm
\$2.99

Buy One Dinner Entree get the Second Dinner Entree 1/2 price with purchase of 2 drinks.

Equal or lesser value entree. Not valid on Fri. 11am - 5pm. Not to be combined with other specials.

Expires 1-31-07