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SPORTS: 'CATS SCRATCH FOR TWO VICTORIES! P. 18A

Novi News

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Volume 51 Number 31

Novi, Michigan

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2006 reprise
Review what happened in Novi during the past year! Page 14A.



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TOM WATKINS: TURNING CHINA'S DIRT INTO AMERICAN 'GREEN,' PAGE 17A

HAPPY RETURNS

WELL, SORT OF ... ARMED WITH GIFT RECEIPTS, SHOPPERS CROWD NOVI STORES FOR BARGAINS



Brothers Dev and Shardul Shah walk out of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi Tuesday morning, one of several local retail outlets that saw thousands of visitors returning gifts they received the day before.

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

OK, you probably don't want the faux leopard skin sweater vest you got from your third cousin.

You didn't ask for it. It's three sizes too small, and your co-workers find it mildly offensive.

Still, it's three days after Christmas, and the malls are jammed. Returning the vest is nearly as chilling a thought as wearing it.

But experts say unloading unwanted gifts can go fairly smoothly if you're patient and follow some common-sense guidelines. You aren't alone. This year, 8.8 percent of holiday gifts will be returned, the National Retail Federation (NRF) estimated.

Most importantly, save the receipt.

"The biggest tip is to have a receipt," said Peggy Hayes, marketing and sponsorship director of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. "Returning things is more and more complicated all the time."

It's also critical to know stores' return policies, Hayes

The Top Three Tips

For shopping in the days after the holidays:

1. Have your receipt
2. Know stores' return policies
3. Don't go if you don't have to



SOURCE: Twelve Oaks Mall

said. For example, Macy's allows shoppers a 180-day period to return items, while Target said most items need to be back in 90 days.

And if you don't have to go out—don't.

Even Hayes, whose job is to stir up publicity and get people to come to Twelve Oaks, said waiting a few extra days isn't a

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NIP-TUCK: Facelift looms for Fountain Walk

Plans call for tearing down, redeveloping half of shopping center

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

Novi's Fountain Walk will be getting a dramatic facelift.

About half of the sprawling outdoor shopping mall will be torn down and redeveloped into a more traditional shopping center, according to plans unveiled recently by HHT Devo.

The demolition would pave the way for new merchants and could

help revitalize center, which has been plagued by vacancy and whose outdoor concept never totally caught on with Metro Detroiters.

The new development would be called Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. The name change would be to distance the new center from what a developer called the "stigma" of the old Fountain Walk.

"Probably the principle driver to this is it's no longer Fountain Walk," said Bruce Reid, a principal with Arthur Hill & Co. LLC, an investor in HHT Devo.

Actual construction is still a ways off, city officials and future merchants could tweak the plans. Currently, Dick's Sporting

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Oakland Hill Memorial Gardens cemetery at Twelve Mile and Novi roads was recently taken over by the State of Michigan.

State seizes Novi cemetery

Officials say owner mishandled trust funds

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The state seized Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi and 27 other Michigan cemeteries last week, alleging their Oklahoma-

based owner mishandled the cemeteries' trust funds.

Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said Clayton Smart, of Okmulgee, Okla., spent \$36.5 million of the cemeteries' trust funds on shifty investments, defying a state law that requires prudent use of the money.

The funds were valued at \$61 million when Smart bought the cemeteries in August 2004. He owns the cemeteries through a Las Vegas company, Indian Nation LLC.

Smart invested \$31.5 million of the trust funds in an Oklahoma company, Quest Minerals & Exploration Inc., that his family members helped run. The investments were in unsecured promissory notes and a loan backed by speculative oil and gas leases, the Attorney General's office said.

Smart also invested \$25 million of the trust funds into high-risk mutual funds.

"Michigan law requires that

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An artist's rendering of Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk.

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HOME & GARDEN

Page 2A

Thursday, December 28, 2006



Debbie Reynolds-Gualco, who specializes in architecture and interior design, in her East Sacramento, Calif. Office, a remodeled firehouse.

"A youthful market is driving us, and they are the ones who are most capricious"

John Turpin
Professor of interior design at
Washington State University, Spokane

Remember...

From the '60s to today, a decade-by-decade look at home décor.

'60s & '70s
• Blow-up furniture: A fun way to explore the possibilities of plastic. The trend faded pretty quickly, save for the occasional dorm-room item.
• Conversation pit: Complete with a gas fire-rock fireplace, the pit was the perfect place for counterculture gatherings. But those flames have died down.
• Harvest gold and olive: Color shades, used for everything from appliances to shag carpeting. Bring out the tie-dyed wall hangings, the macramé plant holders and the rough-finish, reddish paneling. The appeal was initially groovy, but it turned into soggy nostalgia.
• Track lighting: An illuminating way to focus attention.
• Wallpaper borders: They gave rooms more definition, but they lost favor when people realized what a pain they were to put up.
• Wet bars: So high falootin', but they are making a comeback along with the mixed drinks they're suited for.

'80s
• Dark-stained oaks: It was the "natural" look. Now, it just looks dark.
• Hanging halogen lights: The new way to pinpoint style. Now they're considered energy-wasting.
• Southwestern look: Turquoise and terracotta schemes galloped into many homes. The sun has set on this trend.
• Stained-glass look: An easy adornment. Today, they're seen as tacky.
'90s
• Accent walls: The classic setup featured one deep red wall in the dining room. Seemed like a great focal point, now it seems beside the point.
• Stain-resistant coatings: With oversize slipcovers, they seemed so comfortable. These days, they just look sloppy.
• Tuscan look: It enjoyed a renaissance with its burgundy and gold or green and those faux frescoes. The effect sounds a tad medieval to today's ears.
• White: A color that came in to brighten up the home — from walls to appliances to cabinets. Now, it looks washed out.

Today
• Brown with robin's egg blue and white: This of-the-moment color combination is actually a repeat of a '70s motif.
• Disposed steel appliances: New metallic finishes may make them look a little dated.
• Cork and bamboo flooring: They can be put on slab floors and they're ecologically "green." The "natural" appearance will help keep them looking new.
• Energy-efficient lighting: Sourced for ecological reasons and changing regulations, it's here to stay.
• Flat-screen TVs: No one sees these space-savers, going away. Look for lots of new options to show to display them.
• Granite countertops: Will packagers' for the less, more quality will help to give this a some longevity.
• Kitchen islands: These are even multiplying to create a sociable work station. As long as they're used for more than just prep work, they're a kitchen's friend.
• New walling: People are now watching things sum it's actually a trend of a popular 40s feature.
• Solid-surface countertops: These will stick around because no one wants to see kitchen grime. They're a great way to keep your kitchen looking clean.

The fad trap

Can you separate the oh-so-trendy from the tried-and-true timeless?

By Allison Proberts
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

You wash your hands in a vessel sink, pull a bottle of New Zealand sauvignon blanc from a built-in stainless refrigerator and place it on a gleaming granite countertop.

As you stand on an ecologically correct bamboo floor, you fill your wineglass (stemless, of course) and sit back to savor you-of-the-moment style.

Enjoy it now, because it may not last. In 2016, your home may well scream "2006."

What can you do about it?

We asked experts in the design business for advice on separating the soon-to-be-tired trendy from the tried-and-true timeless.

Sacramento, Calif., architect Debbie R. Gualco says it's hard to keep up with the speediest in home updates, especially among younger homeowners.

"Now you're seeing people in their late 20s, 30s and 40s who are buying and selling houses and updating their kitchens every five years," Gualco says. "The prevailing attitude: 'If I don't like it, I'll change it.' You used to think about your choices more if you are going to live with them longer."

The new impetus is fueled in part by a cultural move toward cocooning and by home-improvement TV, Gualco says.

"We've had a big trend of remodeling more since 2001, because level is not (considered) safe, and then there's HGTV," Gualco says.

Those HGTV and other home-style shows that offer total transformation in a half-hour have helped create a demand for instant gratification and an insatiable appetite for the next hot new thing.

"In other words, the biggest trend in trends: There are no sure bets when it comes to what will be 'in' tomorrow."

"A youthful market is driving us, and they are the ones who are most capricious," says John Turpin, a professor of interior design at Washington State University, Spokane.

Still, Gualco and others say there are ways to identify style trends that are likely to have staying power.

Two current themes promise to wear well. One is the Arts and Crafts style, which hews to the traditional, yet its simplicity and use of natural materials make it feel up-to-date and timeless.

Gualco describes the other style as four as "sleek, modern urban loft design." Again, simple designs and natural materials can keep the style from looking dated.

The best way to choose materials that won't wear out their welcome is to stick to the natural, which is also in vogue as the so-called "green" or environmentally sensitive design.

"Natural materials are really big now, and they are the most timeless. You're not going to get tired of them," Gualco says. Bamboo and cork for flooring are among the most popular ways to go natural underfoot.

Kent Eberle of Eberle Remodeling, who has been updating Sacramento-area homes for more than 20 years, echoes Gualco's take on natural materials.

"I think low-maintenance and 'green' types of products are going to be the wave of the future," he says. Eberle also says the need for energy efficiency will dictate design more and more (So long, vaulted ceilings!).

As for updating an older home, it's always fashionable to consider its original style.

"We really stress that people maintain the feel that made those homes so nice: the plaster walls, the hardwood floors, the moldings," he says.

When it comes to kitchen countertops, for instance, no one wants to return to the bad old days of high-maintenance granite. That makes solid-surface counters the favorite. The way to add a touch of tradition

is to put in a tile backsplash reminiscent of the tile counters of yesteryear.

"Those tile products were really typical and give you an opportunity to bring back the original feel," Eberle says.

If you want a preview of what's up and coming in design, Eberle advises looking west: "We're behind the curve compared to the (San Francisco) Bay Area."

On the East Coast, author Lauri Ward, a home consultant and founder of *Use-What-You-Have* Interiors in New York City and Boca Raton, Fla., advises us to go back to the classics to prepare for the future. Ward has made frequent appearances on HGTV programs and has written a slew of books. Her latest is "Home Therapy: Fast, Easy, Affordable Makeovers" (Penguin/Penguin, \$19.95, 330 pages).

"This is the United States, and we're all about fresh ideas, but there's nothing like the classics. They will always be around," she says. "You can't go wrong if you go with a classic shape. An oversized, sloppy-arm sofa won't give you the same longevity as a sofa with a tight, tailored arm."

An example of a trend that veered too far from sleekly classic design was "shabby chic," epitomized by oversized slipcovers.

"Everything at some point goes out of favor," he says. "Eventually we just get tired of looking at something we see all over the place."

Take granite countertops. We might be hitting a saturation point that makes them seem ho-hum.

"My wife and I just built a home, and we got so tired of seeing granite countertops," says Jack Beilahn, academic director of interior design at the Art Institute of California in San Diego. In their new Southern California home, they chose a countertop of Avonite, another solid-surface product that doesn't look like all the rest.

"It doesn't look like granite," he says. "It's just got a texture and a translucency to it that's very interesting."

Turpin says you can count on the color wheel to keep spinning.

"Of all the things that are trendy, the color palette is the most vulnerable," he says. But the move away from beige on beige is a plus, he says, even if it makes it hard to keep up.

"We're in a culture right now that appreciates color, and that's good," Turpin says.

In the white-hot-is-now department, the latest color combo is robin's-egg blue with white and dark



Kent Eberle, installed by windows and granite countertops in this kitchen redesign and remodel.

Shabby chic was very big in the late '90s, but it came and went because people got tired of looking sloppy," Ward says.

But even Ward doesn't always know what will last. "I don't know if vessel sinks will look dated, but I think they're fairly classical shapes," she says.

When in doubt, Ward advises keeping your trendy impulses small.

"The shell of your home is like your body and the furniture is like the clothing, and the accessories are like the jewelry," she says. "Just as you can change your necklace for something trendy, there are little things that you can change. (Think throw pillows and oblong decor.)"

But there's no fail-safe way to fad-proof your home or apartment.

The more we like something, the more we are likely to tire of it, says Turpin, the design professor.

brown. Sounds new, but it was also big in the '70s. And hold on to your guacamole: Avocado, olive and other muted greens are back on the scene.

"Harvest gold and olive are coming back," Eberle says. "There are only so many colors under the rainbow."

If being at the pinnacle of hip domestic design is essential to your happiness, you're doomed.

"Some people might have more of a desire to be absolutely fashionable at the moment, and those people are always going to be pulling their hair out," Turpin says.

Long-term style contentment requires learning to live above the fray of fashion.

"It is about finding things that make your living environment comfortable and meaningful to you," Turpin says. "You pick the things you want."

RETURNS: Shoppers flock to malls — are you ready?

continued from 1A

bad idea for crowd-averse consumers.

"That day after, that morning after, will be busy," she said last week in anticipation of Tuesday's crush.

It's always busy, experts said, for many reasons. "I think it's everything — from it doesn't fit correctly to I don't like that color to I just don't like that gift," said Tom Scent, vice president of public affairs and communications for the Michigan Retailers Association.

The first days

But shoppers who do brave the first few shopping days after Christmas can get a better selection, experts said. It's also a good time to snag deals on seasonal items, like decorations or wrapping paper.

"A lot of times, we'll find shoppers that like to stock up on holiday wrap," said Jennifer McNamara, public relations manager for Macy's north division.

Gift cards also draw many to the malls, as consumers try to pick out the presents they really want. Hayes advised shoppers to know how much the cards are worth and understand stores' rules for using them.

Having a general shopping strategy is also helpful. Reading advertisements and knowing store hours

can save consumers time and money.

"Come prepared with ideas," McNamara said.

Concerns loom for retailers

While hard-core shoppers often approach the post-holiday sales period with bargain-hunting glasses, retailers have more than a bit of trepidation.

The NRF said retailers expect to lose \$3.5 billion from return fraud during the holidays and \$9.6 billion this year. The biggest problem: Unsavory shoppers who bring back stolen merchandise. More than 95 percent of retailers said they've dealt with this in the last year.

There's also the unseemly practice of "wardrobing," where consumers buy something, use it and then return it. It's particularly common with special occasion clothing, which consumers often buy this time of year.

"Unfortunately, due to an increase in return fraud, retailers are being forced to strike a delicate balance between servicing loyal customers and discouraging opportunistic criminals," Joseph LaRocca, NRF vice president for loss prevention, said in a statement.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the *Nashville News*. He can be reached at (615) 249-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



Twelve Oaks Mall was teeming Tuesday with shoppers seeking returns and post-holiday bargains.

Food for thought: Family dinners lead to better grades, lower drug use

State Pointe Media
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SERVICE

It's time to drag the kids away from the TV set or computer and to the dining room.

Corraling the whole family to the dinner table several times a week can actually promote better school performance and keep your kids from such risky behaviors as smoking, drinking and using drugs.

Teens who have infrequent family dinners (two or fewer per week) are twice as likely to smoke daily and get drunk monthly, compared to teens who have frequent family dinners (at least five per week), according to a new report from The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.

And academic performance also is enhanced by sitting down regularly to the family dinner table, say the researchers.

Of course, sharing a meal is about more than just sharing the mashed potatoes — it's about sharing the events of the day and communicating with each other.

"This year's findings prove that family dinners and the communication that occurs over the course of a meal are critical in building a relationship with your children and to understanding the world in which they live," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA's chairman and president. "Parents who have frequent family dinners are those who take the time to know their child's friends and the parents of these friends, know their child's teachers and chaperone their parties, and have healthier kids."

Indeed, compared to teens who have five or more family dinners per week, those who have two or fewer are:

- More than twice as likely to have tried cigarettes;
- One-and-a-half times likelier to have tried alcohol;
- Twice as likely to have tried marijuana; and
- More than twice as likely to say future drug use is very or somewhat likely.

And teens who have frequent family dinners are likelier to get better grades in school, and higher academic performance is associated with lower substance abuse risk.

"Of course there are no silver bullets; tea substance abuse can strike any family. But one factor that does more to reduce teens' substance abuse risk is parental engagement, and one of the simplest and most effective ways for parents to be engaged in their teen's lives is by having frequent family dinners," Califano concluded.

For more information about keeping teens safe from drugs, alcohol and other harmful substances, visit www.casaschoolbulb.org or the Internet.

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Novi grad gains life experience helping those less fortunate

■ She plans to join Peace Corps

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Veronica Kirin decided to veer slightly from the four-year goose step called college.

And her choice has rewarded her with life experience she would not have gained as a student.

Kirin, a 20-year-old 2004 graduate of Novi High School and the daughter of Carolyn and Paul Kirin, joined AmeriCorps NCCC, the National Civilian Community Corps, in September 2006.

AmeriCorps is a national corps of committed individuals that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year. The goal is intensive service to meet the country's critical needs in education, public safety, health and the environment.

Members, who must be age 18-24 when they enter, are selected based on prior community service. They serve with more than 2,400 nonprofit organizations, public agencies, faith-based and community organizations.

Since 1994, more than 400,000 people have assisted millions of Americans through their AmeriCorps service.

Kirin learned about AmeriCorps through her cousin, Mary Sheelan, a Michigan resident who is a member of AmeriCorps National, currently building houses for the needy in Orange County, Calif., with Habitat for Humanity.

Now residing at the former McChellan U.S. Air Force base in Sacramento, Calif., Kirin recently assisted Mississippi residents still reeling from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina that hit in August 2005.

These days, she's up at 5 a.m. and has required fitness training

to prepare her for physically-demanding tasks.

Katrina victims still suffering

"People in the northern states think that everything is back to normal along the Gulf Coast, but that's far from the truth," Kirin said.

A lot of people are still living in FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) trailers and have nothing but a concrete slab where their home used to be, said Kirin.

Others, whose houses survived the storm, are becoming sick and even dying from the black mold growing in the walls of their salt-water-drenched houses.

The week before Christmas was a transition week during which AmeriCorps members prepare for their next assignment. Kirin's team will travel to St. Paul, La., next to assist Habitat for Humanity in building homes for hurricane victims.

"The projected estimate for rebuilding along the Gulf Coast is 10 years," Kirin said. "The area that was hit is the size of Great Britain."

An anthropology major at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Kirin will return to school in the fall.

Following completion of her time with AmeriCorps, she will receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725.

She also receives a small stipend for food and other necessities during her 10 months of service.

Fortunately, she was able to come home for the holidays Dec. 23.

"We're really proud of her and her choice to perform service for

"We're really proud of her and her choice to perform service for people who really need help."

Paul Kirin, Novi
Veronica Kirin's father

people who really need help," said her father, Paul.

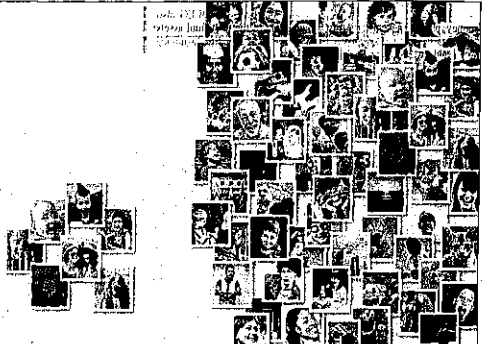
"We miss her, but we're proud of her and glad she'll be proud of Grand Valley in the fall to continue her studies," said her mother, Carolyn. They also have a son, Michael, who's a junior at Novi High School.

Veronica said, "It's important because people need our service, and it's important for me to do it because that's what I want to do — help everyone else," she said. "It's a fabulous program to look into if you're not sure about your next step in life."

Carolyn said none of her daughter's buddies from school are involved in such things, but, that's just the way Veronica is. In fact, she wants to join the Peace Corps after graduation.

"She really wanted to do something to help others," Carolyn said. "And, I think she'd like to have a career in which she's helping others, too."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or by e-mail at pfleming@novinews.com.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trinity worker named IT leader

Novi-based Trinity Health announced last week that Paul Browne, the firm's chief information officer, has been recognized by IDG's Computerworld, the worldwide source for technology and management news, as one of the international business world's Premier 100 IT Leaders.

The award honors individuals who have creatively applied technology to execute their organization's business strategy.

The list of honorees appears online at <http://www.computerworld.com> and in the Dec. 11 issue of Computerworld.

Of the 100 honorees featured on the international list, Browne is the only CIO from the health care industry and one of only three from Michigan-based organizations.

Santino's Explosion returns

Scott Longas, owner of the former Santino's Place Restaurant on Novi Road, has brought his famous dish, the Santino's Explosion, back to town. The popular entree, which features highly breaded chicken seasoned with garlic and parmesan cheese served on angel hair pasta, is now available at the 7-Eleven convenience store at 2411 Meadowbrook Road south of 10 Mile Road and at the Meadowbrook Market at 41360 10 Mile Road west of Meadowbrook Road.

The entree is packaged in a microwave-safe container and sells for \$3.99.

Other area food store managers who would like to offer the dish may contact Longas at (248) 929-1779.

Resident moves up ranks

Novi resident Diana Huang has moved up to an executive coordinator level as an independent distributor for Market America, a

produce brokerage and Internet marketing company.

The achievement signifies her success in sales, leadership and management in motivating and training other distributors.

Huang has been a distributor for Market America since March. By attaining the new position, she will be recognized in the company's monthly PowerLink magazine and other listings in the company's profiles of success annual catalog.

A perfect gift for area skiers

For the 13th winter season, the Michigan Snowsports Industries Association has produced a card allowing skiers to ski across Michigan for \$189.

Called the MSIA White Gold Card, purchasers are entitled to ski one time at each of the 23 participating ski areas across the state during the 2006-07 ski season and one free ski tune-up (edge sharpen and wax) at participating MSIA ski retailers.

The card looks like a credit card divided into squares. Each ski area is assigned to a square, and one square is designated for the tune-up.

The purchaser takes the White Gold Card to a ski area's lift ticket window, where the square corresponding to that area is punched out.

White Gold Card skiers are allowed to ski one time at each area, weekdays or weekend. The card is valid for the entire ski season, except Dec. 23, 2006 through Jan. 1, 2007. The cards are non-refundable and nontransferable.

To get the tune-up, White Gold Card purchasers take their skis or boards to one of the more than 40 participating ski shops.

To add a little excitement, MSIA has also created a challenge for White Gold Card participants. The first person to use the White Gold Card at all 23 Michigan ski areas will win a card for the 2007/2008 ski season.

To win, White Gold Card holders send MSIA their punched-out White Gold Card and used lift ticket from each of the ski areas.

For more information, visit www.goskimichigan.com or call (248) 620-4448.

Auto show impact projected

The economic impact of the 2007 North American International Auto Show, the event's 19th year, is projected to be consistent with last year, reaching between \$340-\$350 million, said David Sowerby, C.F.A., portfolio manager and chief market analyst at Loomis Sayles & Co.

"The NAIAS is consistently the number one contributor to business activity in Detroit due to the amount of time spent on its extensive set-up and execution," said Sowerby. "Intense competition in the auto industry has also inspired new display designs for one-third of the exhibits this year."

The motor vehicle industry will unveil more than 45 new models at the show.

Industry Preview Days will be Wednesday, Jan. 10 and Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007. The Charity Preview will be held Friday evening, Jan. 12, 2007. Public Days are Saturday, Jan. 13, through Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007. For more information, visit www.naias.com.

Auto sales forecast gloomy

CSM Worldwide is predicting another lackluster year of auto sales in the United States.

The sales forecasting group at the global automotive forecasting and advisory firm projects sales to decline to a nine-year low of 16.2 million units in 2007.

"Depleted, pent-up demand is at the root of our forecast," said Joseph Barker, senior manager, Global Sales Forecasts.

According to CSM, zero-percent financing and massive



Photo by JOHN HEIDBRUN/Novi News

Thank you!

Novi School superintendent Peter Dion, left, and Novi High principal John Lawrence, right, show their appreciation to Varsity Lincoln Mercury vice-president Mike Stanford for his dealership's donation of a 2005 Mercury Sable to the school's automotive technical facility.

rebates over the past four years pulled demand forward, and the market is now correcting.

Despite more than 60 new-model launches this year and another 40 in the 2007 pipeline, CSM asserts auto companies will be challenged with lining back into dealer showrooms these car owners with five-year, zero-percent loans.

Furthermore, the barrage of new products and General Motors' commitment to profitable sales volume will strengthen new-vehicle pricing.

And finally, engineering and build-quality have improved over the years, resulting in longer vehicle life spans and shrinking replacement demand.

"Higher prices, a shortage of 'goats' have new products, slowing scrappage rates, and the sizable number of consumers with negative equity in their vehicles are all disincentives to re-enter the

market," said Barker.

Trinity Health hospitals merge

Novi-based Trinity Health announced last week that its Mount Carmel Health System in Columbus, Ohio, will merge with New Albany Surgical Hospital.

The goal is to create a nationally-recognized Orthopedic and Neurological Center of Excellence.

Under a letter of agreement signed Dec. 17, ownership of New Albany Surgical Hospital will transfer to Mount Carmel Health System, while New Albany Surgical Hospital physicians will continue to play a lead role.

Fox Run: podiatry care

Fox Run in Novi and Henry Ford Village in Dearborn, cam-

pus for men and women at least 62 years old, now offer on-site podiatry services to their combined 1,900-plus residents.

Dr. Douglas A. Cucher will join the medical staffs at the two retirement communities in early January. Dr. Cucher, a graduate of Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine located in Chicago, did his surgical training at Strath Hospital for Special Surgery in Southfield. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Arizona State University.

Most recently, Cucher has been in private practice in Redford. He also operated a private practice in Waterford and held associate positions in Redford and Taylor.

CEMETERY: State seizes Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens

continued from 1A

money placed in cemetery trusts accounts be "invested prudently," Cox said in a statement. "The investigation determined this clearly was not the case."

A state judge appointed Mark Zaustner to manage the cemeteries' operations and investments.

"The operation of these 28 cemeteries will not be jeopardized," Cox said. "Families and loved ones should be reassured that the conservator will preserve these vital trust assets in order to meet the future needs of the cemeteries."

The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), also filed a six-count complaint against the cemeteries, alleging misuse of their trust

funds and failure to file annual reports on time. The DLEG also said some of the trust's assets were used to buy life insurance for Smart.

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

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THE NOVI NEWS
Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
164 W. Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
Periodical
All Nonville, Michigan

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

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Hometown Novi Photo Contest winners selected - OBITUARIES -

Public invited to special reception

By Pam Fleming
Staff Writer

The judges have met, and the winners have been chosen.

Marsha Valenti, a professional photographer with more than 20 years of teaching and professional photography experience, and Phil Jerome, former editor of the Novi News, have made their decisions in the first Hometown Novi Photo Competition.

The contest was sponsored by the Novi Historical Commission and the Novi News.

Although only three photographers' photos were selected to win cash prizes, all of the entries are worth recognizing, said Kathy Mutch, Novi Historical

Commission chair. "We tried to strike a balance between the theme, 'What is Novi to You?' and technical merit," Jerome said.

"I am excited to see the level of artistic talent and involvement in our community," Valenti said. "It is a real pleasure to be part of this first annual photo competition."

The three winners will be announced and all participants honored at a 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, reception in the Novi Civic Center Auditorium, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. The public is invited to attend to meet the photographers and view the exhibit, which will be on display for a month.

"We hope these images will

"We hope these images will inspire everyone to look at Novi from a new perspective and perhaps motivate them to enter photos of their own next year."

Kathy Mutch
Novi Historical Commission Chair

inspire everyone to look at Novi from a new perspective and perhaps motivate them to enter photos of their own next year," Mutch said.

Those attending the reception will also be able to vote for the "People's Choice" Award for which all exhibited entries are eligible. Rules and information about

the 2007 photo competition will be available at the reception and on the city's Web site, www.cityofnovi.org after Jan. 1, 2007.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 1125, or by e-mail at pfleming@gumcct.com.

Hometown Novi Photo Contest Reception



Come to the Hometown Novi Photo Competition Reception sponsored by the Novi Historical Commission and the Novi News and vote for the "People's Choice" Award. In which all entries are eligible.

- 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6
- Novi Civic Center Auditorium, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
- Winners of the three cash prizes will be announced, and all participants will be honored.

SOURCE: Novi Historical Commission

ROBERTA VALLERAND

Age 76, December 19, 2006. Beloved mother of Bruce (Angie) and Warren (April) and the late Ronald. Mother-in-law of Corrie. Proud grandmother of Jessica, Jeremy, David, Matthew, Benjamin, and Katharine. Great grandmother of Samantha, Jason, Addison, and Kaylyn. Sister of Elmer (Gloria) Beach, Jean (Walter) Hart, Barbara Parless and Mary Bertrand. A memorial service was held at Novi United Methodist Church officiated by Rev. Jacqueline Holdsworth. Donations in Roberta's memory can be made to Karmaros Cancer Institute 4100 John R, Detroit MI, 48201. On line sympathy message at www.ohfunerals.com.

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 508-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. *Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

MILITARY SERVICE

Airman 1st Class Eric W. Hinkley

An National Guard Airman 1st Class Eric W. Hinkley has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During his six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, military customs and courtesies. He performed drill and ceremony marches, received physical training, rifle mark-

smanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations.

In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits towards an Associate's Degree at the Community College of the Air Force.

Hinkley is the son of Kevin and Linda Hinkley of Briarwood Court, Wixom, Mich. He is a 2004 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School, Mich.

ON CAMPUS

Spring Arbor University

Spring Arbor University is pleased to announce that Nancy Janik of Novi received the degree of Master of Arts in Counseling during commencement exercises held Saturday, Oct. 7.

Albion College

Halle Gaurizian of Novi has been accepted into the Albion College Carl A. Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute for Professional Management program.

Students chosen annually for the Gerstaecker Institute must complete degree requirements in economics and management, ethics, writing, speaking, and fulfill at least two internships in a wide range of business settings.

Samuel Prentice and Elizabeth Schultoff, both of Novi, have been accepted this fall into the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Institute. Honors students are required to enroll in four "Great Issues" seminars in humanities, sciences, social studies, and fine arts, as well as achieve a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

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- Joe's Mexicali Dip \$3.99 lb.
- Murphy-Goode Pin Noir Sauvignon Blanc \$7.99 750 ml. Beautiful wine, nice citrus flavors & aromas with a little more zip in the mix. Great for Holiday Party!
- Henri Hutin Valrais Herb or Rosemary French Green Beans \$2.99 each (Great for Holiday Party)
- Geary's Hampshire Special Ale \$8.99 6 Pack (4 & 2 deposit)
- Joe's Zesty Rotini & Garlic Salad \$4.99 lb.
- Friendship Farmers Cheese \$4.49 lb. Great for Pierogies!
- Joe's Greek Shell Pasta Salad \$5.49 lb.
- Haagen Dazs Pint Size Ice Cream 2/\$5.00
- Chicago Flats Gourmet Flatbread \$2.29 each (All Varieties)
- Bareman's Old Fashioned Egg Nog \$1.99 qt.

Byrd's Choice Meats!

- Large Corned Beef \$4.99 lb.
- Choice Porterhouse or T Bone Steaks \$9.99 lb.
- Choice New York Steaks \$12.99 lb.
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WHAT'S GOING ON, NOW?

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

EVENTS

Novi Chamberlains 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 Tuesday evenings and holds a series of Christmas concerts as well as a Spring Concert.
 CONTACT: Dick Bayerl, (248) 349-3267

Lakes Area Opiumist 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 Opiumist International Essay Contest. Winners will receive local recognition and the essay 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

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 Muth, (248) 224-4211

Gardeners of Northville & Novi Meeting

DATE: Monday, Jan. 8
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Library, 212 W. Cady St.
DETAILS: Ornithologist John Nowicki of the Lion Oaks Mature Center will present a program on "Our Fine Feathered Friends". This is free, and all are welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 348-1946

American Association of University Women Luncheon

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 13
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Vista Tech Center, Schoolcraft College, Livonia
DETAILS: The Northville/Novi chapter of the AAUW will hold their New Year Luncheon with a presentation by Dr. Craig Reynolds on the art of family storytelling. The deadline for reservations is Jan. 6, and the cost is \$23 per person.
 CONTACT: Beth Ann, (248) 305-8992

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: 8 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 600 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, pro-active advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area. We are business and professional people working together to enhance the life of our community and the businesses in it. For more information, visit www.novitchamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-7343.

40th Anniversary 7 2007 Board Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: noon

LOCATION: Fox Run, 41000 Thirteen Mile Road

DETAILS: The special guest speaker will be David Brandon, Chairman & CEO of Domino's Pizza, Inc. The cost is \$10 for members, and \$15 for non-members. Please RSVP by 11:30 a.m., Jan. 17.

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

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

Save-the-Dates

January 10: Luncheon sponsored by member Lakes Bank
 January 18: EZB Breakfast sponsored by member Rock Financial Showplace
 January 25: State of the City address held by member City of Novi, at the Rock Financial Showplace.

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, serving the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wolverine Lake, and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a unified voice on behalf of the business community; provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest; serve as a source of information and develop programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
 CONTACT: (248) 628-2326

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Ability Group
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 9
TIME: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
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, noncompetitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: Joan Hubbard, e-mail jhubbard@valhcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providentia Center for the Hearing Arts
DATE: Thursday, every month
LOCATION: Assarian Center, 47691 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
MAKING WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS
DETAILS: 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) 465-5456 if interested.

Paper Basket Weaving

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Jan. 9
DETAILS: Learn how to create baskets with paper, in a range of styles. There will be 5 materials fee.

Colored Pencil Workshop

TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Friday of every month
DETAILS: Beginners are welcome. Art in Residence
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month
DETAILS: Joint Artist-in-Residence May Ora Tevens and experiment with drawing, pastel, watercolor, Chinese brush painting, mixed media and collage. Beginners are welcome; there is a \$5 materials fee.

Creative Scrapbooking

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesday on-going
DETAILS: Combine various embellishments with your photos to preserve memories. There is a \$5 materials fee.

Ceramics Class

TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
DETAILS: There is a \$10 materials fee.

Tai Chi Class

TIME/DATE: 10:15-11 a.m., Thursday
DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$5.

Yoga Class

TIME/DATE: 7:30-1:15 p.m., Monday, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday
DETAILS: The cost is \$10 for walk-in/\$20 for 10-class card and \$70 for seven-week evening session. Pre-registration required.

Massage

TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician's referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is \$50 for a 45 minute session.

Line Dancing

DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

Note: The library will be closed Dec. 30, 31, and Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday. Closed Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King Day.

CONTACT: (248) 349-0722

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Jan. 3
STORY TIMES
DATE: Session 3 Preschool Story Times, Jan. 9-10; Star Light Story Time 7-7:30 p.m. Jan. 16 and Feb. 13. Brochures available in the library for further information.

Battle of the Books Registration

DETAILS: This program is offered for all 4th and 6th grade students that live or attend school in Novi. They can participate by organizing teams of three to six students, plus and adult coach, to compete in a test of their knowledge of books they read that will be selected by the library. The first 12 teams to return their registration forms will be eligible to participate. The Battle of the Books will be held in March, 2007. For more information, please contact the library at jenjens@novipubliclibrary.com or (248) 349-0722.

Drum the Explorer

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 9
TIME: 6:30-7:15 p.m.
DETAILS: Enjoy fun songs, lively music, and interaction with Dr. There. There will be photo opportunities after the show. All ages are welcome. No registration required.

Novi Knitlers

DATE: Monday, Jan. 8
TIME: 9:30-9 p.m.
DETAILS: This is an informal knitting group that meets in the youth area of the library most second and fourth Mondays of the month. Children, teens, and adults of all knitting levels are welcome. Woolgathers Knitting Guild member will be in attendance at most sessions to answer knitting questions.

Reading Maniacs

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 10
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: This program is for children in third and fourth grades. Read one, or more, books from the following series: "A Series of Unfortunate Events"; "Mighty McGonagall Children"; or "Splatnick Chronicles". Come and help defend which series you think is best.

Novi Senior Center

Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Friday

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength cancelled
 noon: Lunch
 12:30 p.m.: Duplicate Bridge 12:45 p.m.: Bingo
 2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
Monday
 Christmas Day
 Senior Center, Lunch Service, & Transportation Closed
Tuesday
 Senior Center, Lunch Service, & Transportation Closed
Wednesday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
 10 a.m.: Body Recall
 11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
 11 a.m.-12 p.m.: Making Oil Pounds Sensibly class
 11:30 a.m.: "Clogging" noon: Lunch
 2-2:30 p.m.: Wednesday, 11 a.m. weight-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
COMONS: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership

Novi Toastmasters

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

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (NTPS) Chapter

TIME/DATE: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. weight-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
COMONS: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership

Thursday

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: "Line Dance (Beginner)"
 noon: Lunch
 12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge 2 and 2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance cancelled

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 25405 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) 334-5555

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0398

Friendship Circle

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Tall and Beck Roads.
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert, Monson, (248) 851-5730, Florence Voight, (248) 477-9392 or Joy Lovell, (248) 348-9138, joylovell@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or are homebound.
CONTACT: jenjens@novipubliclibrary.com or (248) 349-0722

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Wally's Hot Depot, 300 Derby St., South Lytton, WI.
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference area all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, (248) 437-5435.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49292 Postville Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 626-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinclair Hospital, Commerce Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5917

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: Educate facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: For more information call Al Riggs (313) 806-7605, or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters

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

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (NTPS) Chapter

TIME/DATE: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. weight-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
COMONS: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: \$24 per annual membership

bership: includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke, (248) 305-8646

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational

LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Ed Williamson, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7757, www.mbcoc.org or gmscc@northdetroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Novi

LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 348-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Sunday Schedule
 Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
 Family Worship: 11 a.m.
 Bible Study: 6 p.m.
 Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., the fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross

LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m., Sunday School
TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 7-10 a.m. All ages
TIME: 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
WEDNESDAY, ONGOING
DETAILS: The services will include scripture and Holy Communion.
TIME: 7 p.m., second and third Sunday of every month
CONTACT: 14 youth welcome
Alzheimer's Support Group
DATE: Saturdays
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: This group will meet on the second Saturday of each month, offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimers.

Holy Family

LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8647 or www.holyfamilynovi.org
Bible Study
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 10 a.m., and 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
CONTACT: Maria, (248) 348-8847, or e-mail at spiritwalk@comcast.com

Adoptive Parent Networking

DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Childcare is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-5555

Catholic Update: Announcements

TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15
LOCATION: In the Family Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Monsignor Bass, current pastor at Prince of Peace and former moderator of the Marriage Tribunal, will hold this informational session to clarify the Catholic position on annulments.

Dak Poline

LOCATION: 50200 W. Ten Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 812-0043 or www.dakpoline.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

St. James Catholic

LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

Novi United Methodist

LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2632
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

First United Methodist of Northville

LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15, 11 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Community Healing Service
DATE: First Monday of every month
DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life, or that of someone close to them.

Cross in the Meadows

LOCATION: 28200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crossinthemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran

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

kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baby's Faith

CONTACT: (248) 472-0355 or www.babysfaith.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 28003 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville

LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 348-0911
Sing & Praise Ministries
CONTACT: www.singandpraise.org or www.singandpraise.org
Diocese-Light & Live! Concert-Games
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tonight
DETAILS: A casual dinner will be followed with a concert by Julia Smith. Reservations for the dinner must be made by noon on 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.

Diocese Recovery Workshop

TIME/DATE: 7:30 a.m. Thursday
LOCATION: Emeritus Room
DETAILS: This seven week workshop will cover a range of topics presented by a variety of speakers. The cost is \$35 per person including the book "Growing Through Divorce". Childcare will be available for toddlers through children in sixth grade with registration at least two weeks before the workshop begins. Upcoming topics are:
 Networking/Middle Crisis, Jan. 11, presented by Pastor Jim Russel
 Stages of Grief, Jan. 18, presented by J. Harold Glass, Ph.D., Purdue Univ. E-C in Focus, Jan. 25, presented by Dr. Deaton.
Walking Group

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FOUNTAIN WALK: Demolition, then rebirth, developers say

continued from 1A

Goods, Modern Skate Park and Chuck E. Cheese's are among the merchants that occupy the 350,000-square-foot area to be torn down. Much of the remaining space has never been leased. Reid declined to say which retailers would remain.

The center's trademark fountains are also likely to disappear to improve visibility, Reid said.

"Shoppers need to be able to see what's available at a retail center," he said.

Plans also call for sidewalk, road and parking improvements. Costs for the project weren't revealed.

The center hopes to attract small and mid-sized national retailers, Reid said. Though the north side of Fountain Walk has had problems, other merchants, including Buffalo Wild Wings and the Imagine Theatre, have been able to gain a foothold in the city.

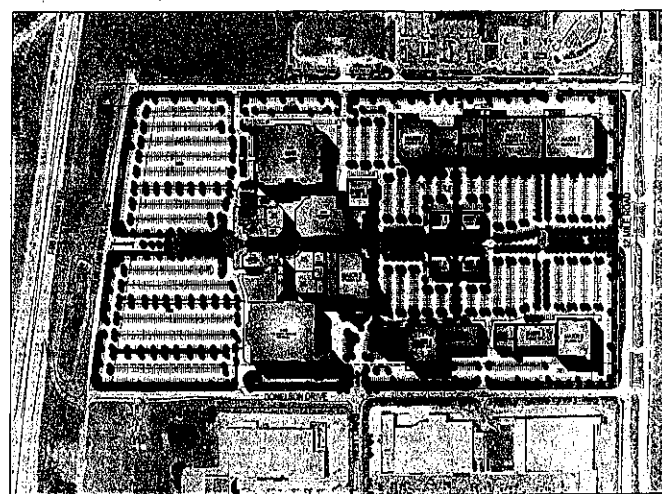
A successful revitalization of the center would plug one of the few holes in Novi's mostly flourishing shopping landscape.

"Fountain Walk's success is Novi's success," council member Andrew Much said.

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

"Shoppers need to be able to see what's available at a retail center."

Bruce Reid
Arthur Hill & Co. LLC



An aerial rendering of Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk.

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Signature

Read... Then Recycle This Newspaper



Holiday fun!

First-graders made gingerbread houses Dec. 15 at Novi Woods Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Jamie Gulstilus, parent Susan Watson, Brynna Kitzline and Valerie Watson.

CLASS NOTES

All Night Party Fund-raiser

Area residents dining from 4-9 p.m. every Wednesday this month at Applebee's, 47900 Grand River Ave., 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.

Academic state champions

The Novi High School Boys' Varsity Cross Country Team was recognized recently as the Academic State Champions for the State of Michigan. Their cumulative grade point average of 3.967 was the highest in the state.

Chorale scholarship auditions

The Beck-Ridge Chorale scholarship auditions are 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the First United Methodist Church located at 45201 N. Territorial Road in Plymouth. The group will award six \$300 scholarships to college and high school students ages 16 and over who are interested in vocal performance.

Novi Woods Elementary

Candid photos for the Novi Woods Elementary yearbook are wanted. Photographers 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.

New preschool program

The Novi Co-op Preschool is introducing a new program for 2-year-old toddlers with a care giver beginning Jan. 9. The program will include crafts, songs, finger plays and more to develop fine

Quick tips for packing a safe school lunch

State Pointe Media

Whether you're rushing to get the kids out the door in the morning or preparing tomorrow's school lunches the night before, following some simple advice and "tricks of the lunchbox trade" can help keep your children's meals safe. The experts at the Partnership for Food Safety Education use seeping up these helpful tips when preparing school lunches.

As meat, poultry, or egg sandwiches are eaten at lunch should be discarded. If your child carries a brown paper bag to carry lunch, it's especially important to include a cold source. A freezer gel pack or a frozen sandwich works well.

'Annie' auditions next week

The Novi Theatres is having auditions for "Annie Get Your Gun" 7-10 p.m. Jan. 3 and Jan. 4 at the Novi Civic Center. The group has roles for children, teenagers and adults. Performances will be March 8-10. For more information, call (248) 347-0400.

AMENDED PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 W. Ten Mile Road to consider:

- Case No. 06-995 filed by Triangle Main Street LLC for Novi Main Street located east of Novi Road. Case No. 06-996 filed by Accent Signs for Ellison Technologies located at 28050 Canton. Case No. 06-997 filed by ITC Holdings for ITC Transmission Corporate Headquarters. ITC Holdings is requesting five (5) variances for the construction of two (2) office buildings and two (2) parking decks on ITC's Quality Substation property.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.212. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.212, to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, various sections, to incorporate requirements of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of the Public Acts of 2006.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 18.210. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.210, to amend Ordinance No. 97-18, as amended, the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, Section 3904, Temporary Use Permits, to amend the process for temporary uses to streamline the review and approval of these applications.

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Take a spin!

Parkview Elementary School kindergartner Ryan Gessler of Novi demonstrates his hula-hooping skills at the 50th day of school party last month. Portions of the party will be aired at 5 a.m., 6 a.m. and noon on Monday, Feb. 5, on WXYZ-TV, Channel 7's "School Shout Out."

Kindergartners' 50th day party will be broadcast on Channel 7

Parkview students rock, roll for TV cameras

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

There's no doubt about it: Kindergartners at Novi's Parkview Elementary School know how to shake, rattle and roll. On Nov. 8, kindergarten teachers and parents threw students a party to celebrate their 50th day of class. Appropriately enough, a 1950s-theme party was planned, complete with poodle skirts, rolled-up jeans and a sock hop.

To 5-year-olds, plus they would not have to wait so long to have a party," she said. Ferguson's idea was enthusiastically accepted by her fellow kindergarten teachers, who are making sure that the event remains a tradition at Parkview. "Celebrating the 50th day in class allows children to investigate the meaning of 50 as it applies to math — making a chain of 50 links, counting by tens and ones to 50, graphing 50 cents while counting coins and counting 50 steps to the gym," Ferguson said.

"I felt this day would be more meaningful to 5-year-olds, plus they would not have to wait so long to have a party."

Michele Ferguson Kindergarten Teacher, Parkview Elementary School

"Our 50's sock hop was the funnest day, and I will remember it when I'm a first-grader," said kindergartner Kirsten Kroetsch.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1760, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@novinews.com.

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2006 YEAR

'06 rung in several new city officials, soccer champs, more...

Top stories included a mid-decade census, the election and defeat of a proposed gun range

By Pam Fleming
SIX-Footer

As one of Metro Detroit's largest western suburbs, the city of Novi contained its rapid growth pattern, including the announcement of several new projects — and the departure of a few long-time officials who stepped down after decades of service.

Here's a brief roundup of some of the items that made headlines in the year 2006.

A New Year's celebration: January-March

The first quarter of 2006 started with the birth of Novi's first baby, Madison Nicole Armstrong, who was born 10 weeks premature at 1:01 p.m. Jan. 1 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. She weighed only 3 pounds, 6 ounces.

The proud parents were Jason and Elizabeth Armstrong.

At city hall, the search began for a new city manager, with the announcement that Richard Helwig would retire Feb. 3.

Michael Kallan of West Bloomfield's Singh Development received approval for a preliminary site plan for Uptown Place on the south side of 12 Mile Road near Twelve Oaks Mall. The development will include 22,000 square feet of retail space and 148 luxury apartments.

The Novi Public Library board reported that \$170,000 had been collected in the capital campaign, which the Charles Walker family in Novi had agreed to match dollar-for-dollar to help expand the library. The late philanthropist signed an agreement in 2004 that he would match donations up to \$1 million before the end of 2005.

In police news, longtime officer Thomas Lundberg was named the new deputy chief Jan. 13.

In sports, the Novi Wildcats boys' basketball team lost 47-37 to the Northville Mustangs in January — the first time in seven seasons.

On Jan. 23, Ford Motor Company announced the closing of the Wixom Assembly Plant in June 2007 as part of its Way Forward restructuring plan. Although the plant's closing had been rumored for years, the announcement still sent shock waves through the western suburbs and across the state.

Novi got in on some of the Super Bowl XL festivities when Rock Financial Showplace hosted the 15th annual Taste of the NFL fund-raiser for area food banks on Feb. 4, the day before the big game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks.

In February, after much controversy, the Novi School Board voted to reaffirm, making every K-4 school, including Deerfield Elementary, a neighborhood school and have its new attendance area beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

Meanwhile, the school board approved Chinese language classes at Novi High School in the next school year.

In more news from city hall, Novi Fire Chief Art Lennaghan retired in February after 27 years.

In March, city flags were flown at half-mast after the death of retired Novi Police Capt. Robert Staras March 20 in Rogers City.

In other sports news, Novi High School diver Clark Alberty rewon high school records once held by his brothers, Mike and Steve.

City officials voted in March to conduct a mid-decade census starting in May, which will hopefully bring additional state funding.

Second quarter highlights: April-June

In April, the Novi Chamber of Commerce officials announced proposed changes to the organization's bylaws.

The Novi High School robotics team, who won the national competition in 2005, won the Western Michigan Regional Championship and the 2006 Chairman's Award after being



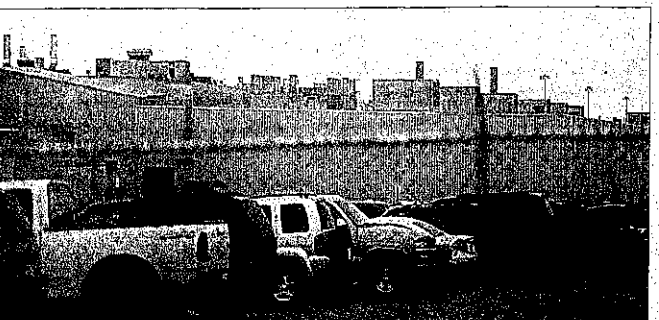
Wildcats Shannon Cody, left, and Rachel Barndt celebrate their 3-1 victory against the Northville Mustangs.



Kansas City "40 Sardines" chef Debbie Goldscoops a bowl of lobster chowder during an event held at the Rock Financial Showplace.



In the atrium of the Novi Civic Center, steps from his office, city manager Richard Helwig talks about his pending retirement.



The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant, planned for closure as part of the company's "Way Forward" restructuring plan.

ranked 44 out of 47 teams.

Michigan State University's Tollgate Farms shared that its maple syrup production set a new record with 61 gallons, compared to 44 the previous year.

In police news, former Northville Police Chief Jim Petras announced his retirement after 34 years and his move to the Novi Police Department as an analyst and planner.

In sports, the Novi High School boys track team won its ninth straight relays title.

In April, city officials began

the arduous task of tackling priorities in the proposed \$32.6 million 2006-07 budget. Mayor David Landry suggests moving up goal-setting discussions for the 2007-08 budget to September, instead of January.

In school news, a candidate forum took place in April, prior to the May 2 school board election. George Kortlandt and Katie Raean were seeking to fill the vacant seat.

On April 20, a statewide deal was announced between Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Senate

Majority Leader Ken Sikoma, included funding of the I-96/Wixom Road interchange.

On the crime front, Kevin Mykoulaitis of Farmington Hills goes to trial in Oakland Circuit Court for the April 2003 murder of his former friend and fellow inmate, Novi resident Cameron Sanders.

On May 2, Katie Raean beat George Kortlandt for a seat on the Novi School Board.

A new chamber of commerce, the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, is established; its first

meeting was held May 11 at the Dirty Martini Lounge.

City council passes the 2006-07 budget, with the required five votes, suggesting about \$95,000 above and beyond targeted expenditures.

Det. Mark Body was named Officer of the Year, and Communications Manager Joseph Burchett was selected as Civilian Employee of the Year.

Kevin Mykoulaitis is convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his friend and business

partner, Cameron Sanders of Novi.

Novi High School chemistry teacher Jim Hanson is named the district's Teacher of the Year. The award gave him a one-year lease on a vehicle; he chose a red Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo.

On May 16, Providence Hospital broke ground on Providence Park Hospital in Novi.

Triangle Development announces plans to build a \$220 million project on 17 acres of vacant land east of Novi Road and south of Grand River Avenue, called Main Street Novi.

In June, Clay Pearson, who was formerly assistant city manager, was selected as the new city manager.

Novi High School girls soccer team wins the state championship.

Novi Public Library board members said the city needs to increase the public library millage rate to fund a 40,000-square-foot expansion. City council members decide the proposal should go on the 2007 ballot instead of 2006.

Third quarter highlights: July-September

Detroit Public Television announced a \$22 million dollar capital campaign to fund the station's new headquarters in Wixom. Farmington Hills resident George Riley donated \$5 million from his foundation, and the station names its new building the Riley Broadcast Center.

Novi Community School District custodian John Calhoun was dismissed when his name appeared on a state legislature-generated list of convicted felons working in schools.

A handful of homeowners who live next door to the Novi Police Department express noise and pollution concerns about a freeway interchange the department wants to construct next to the station. As proposed, the interchange would be built with federal drug forfeiture funds.

"Showcase Wixom" draws a crowd to the newly developed downtown area of this Novi neighbor to the west.

Owners of the abandoned Novi Expo Center sue lessee Blair Bowman and a company that plans to sublease the space, claiming they owe about \$300,000 in back rent.

In July, the city explores video streaming city council meetings on its Web site, enabling visitors to catch the live action via the Internet.

Council approves new City Manager Clay Pearson's contract, giving him an annual base salary of \$121,000, surpassing retiring city manager Rick Helwig's \$116,000 base pay.

Novi soldier Duane Drasky's funeral takes place in July at Walled Lake Western High School. In January after he was injured by an explosive device Nov. 24, 2005, in Iraq while stationed with the Michigan National Guard.

In sports, the West takes the annual East-West All-Star Baseball Game, 8-5. The roster is made up of seniors from Northville, Lakeland, Milford, Novi and South Lyon high schools.

Kevin Mykoulaitis is sentenced July 19 to 35-100 years in prison for killing Novi resident Cameron Sanders.

The Novi 50's Festival celebrated its 19th year in the city and was moved from Fountain Walk to Novi Town Center.

City council approves preliminary plans for four new buildings and enhancements to Novi Town Center.

Novi voters headed to the polls in August for the primary in the 2006 general election.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit against the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce because of the similarity in the names of the organizations.

In August, automotive logistics company Ryder System, Inc. announced it is considering building a 120,000-150,000 square foot office facility in Novi. The structure would displace Nov. 24 Farmington Hills and Ann Arbor offices, bringing about 500 jobs to Novi.

Continued on 15A

IN REVIEW



2006 Novi High Homecoming King and Queen: Robert Parkins and Kylie Spears.



Retiring Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan shakes hands with Novi dispatch official Joe Burchett at a luncheon honoring Lenaghan's 28 years of service.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED

Continued from 14A

- The Republican State Convention took place in August for the first time in Novi, bringing more than 3,500 members of the Grand Old Party to Rock Financial Showplace to nominate state candidates for the 2006 general election.
- The long-standing Performing Arts Academy in Novi announced it will move to the Novi Ice Arena in a collaborative effort with the city.
- ITC Holdings Corp., an electrical transmission company, announced that it is considering a Novi site for its expanded headquarters.
- City council voted to start video streaming council meetings on the city of Novi Web site.
- Paul Antil, assistant city administrator for Ann Arbor, is selected from 75 applicants at the new assistant city manager.

Fourth quarter highlights: October-December

- Novi named a new fire chief, veteran Bloomfield Township firefighter Frank Smith. Jeff Johnson will stay on as deputy chief.
- Novi Community Schools' unaudited student count day resulted in only 32 additional students this year, 61 students fewer than anticipated. The reduction cost the district \$331,316 in state funding.
- Novi High School's girls tennis

team advanced to the state finals.

- City officials ponder what type of improvements to make on Beck Road, with the 200-bed Providence Hospital scheduled to open in 2008.
- The safety of traffic circles planned at the proposed new Main Street Novi project is questioned, when the city's traffic engineer publicly criticized architects on the job.
- David Aguilar, formerly editor of the Northville Record, became editor of the Novi News in October.
- The Novi Police Department gained another \$2.6 million in federal forfeiture funds.
- Robert Parkins and Kylie Spears are named Novi High School Homecoming King and Queen.
- Novi High School football team beat Northville 27-17 to keep the Baseline Jug trophy for another year.
- The \$15.5-million Oakpointe Church opened Oct. 22 at 10 Mile and Wilcom roads. The church attracts about 1,800 to its two weekend services.
- Novi gets a new 13-acre park, to be named Meadowbrook Park, after the state approves a \$864,000 grant.
- ITC Holdings, the parent company of ITC Transmission, announced that it will build its new headquarters on E3 acres in Novi on Haggerty Road south of 12 Mile Road. This represents \$30-\$40 to the Novi economy.
- Novi's cross country team fin-

ished second to Pinckney in the state meet.

- State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) and Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Nowi) are both re-elected in the November general election. And though Republicans retain a narrow Senate majority, Democrats win the House, effectively removing DeRoche as Speaker of the House.
- A federal judge ruled in favor of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, claiming it's similarity to the Novi Chamber of Commerce's name does not create confusion.
- Novi City Council member shot down a plan to build a fireworks ring in Novi Deer 4, meaning that the issue may become a political football in the next council election.
- Brenda Lussier, formerly Novi City Clerk, announced her retirement from the Novi Public Library after 27 years on the job. Her last day will be Feb. 28, 2007.
- Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius reported that about 1,100 residents have not responded in the mid-decade census, meaning that the city is shy of the necessary 52,000 population mark needed to obtain extra dollars from the state. The city hopes to hear from the uncounted residents by Jan. 5, 2007.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1781, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Tollgate Farm manager Roy Prentice used this shed and stainless steel tanks to boil down sap harvested at the MSU education center to make maple syrup.



More year in review photos on P. 21A



The Novi Wildcats celebrate their 27-17 victory over Baseline Jug rival Northville.



Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith, on the first day of his new job.

OPINION & LETTERS

PAGE 15A

www.novinews.com

Thursday, December 28, 2006

Novi News

David Aguilar
EDITOR

Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Penberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramboff
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.

IN OUR OPINION:

Make the Right Call at Last Call

It's three days before New Year's Eve. Americans are in the midst of one of the most joyful times of the year — but it's also one of the most dangerous. Drunk driving fatalities peak during the holidays. The celebrations are seemingly non-stop, and office and family parties and simple get-togethers with friends almost always feature alcohol. The result are a definite buzz-kill. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said 45.2 percent of accidents were alcohol-related on New Year's Eve in 2004, the most recent figure available. In other words, almost half of the accidents on New Year's are the direct result of someone having

an extra few drinks. So what does this mean? It's simple. Be more careful. If you've had a few too many, call a cab. Catch a ride with a sober friend. If necessary, crash on someone's couch. It's definitely more comfortable than a jail cell. It's the holidays. It's unrealistic to think people aren't going to drink. But by using common sense, that gaudy NHTSA accident total could shrink considerably. The term accident is a bit of a misnomer. Accident implies that something just happened, almost beyond control. Driving drunk is most definitely a choice. Don't make "last call" a fatal decision.

Serving up the holidays!



Novi Senior Center coordinator Jan McAlpine, right, serves lunch last week to Ann Costello during the senior center holiday party. More than 128 seniors enjoyed lunch together, a visit from Santa and a live band.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

LETTERS

Share the Facility, Share the Expense

I have nothing but respect for Chief Molloy and the Novi Police Department. Any drug forfeiture money should be used to ensure that they have the finest training, equipment and weapons they need to carry out their mission of protecting our citizens. But good fiscal principals require that future expenditures and their resultant taxes be weighed in any spending situation. Some needs for moderate sized police departments are best met by cost and facility sharing with other neighboring departments. Has any real consideration been given to applying some of that drug forfeiture money to improving the shared facilities with Farmington and Canaan? Even if our current firing range cost sharing with Canton and Farmington went from the present \$10,000-\$20,000 per year, that \$1.2 million expenditure which the city council is considering would cover the next 600 years of firing range costs for our police department. Neighboring police departments help each other out in times of crisis. Everyone would benefit from an improved

shared facility: police, communities, and taxpayers.

John A. Kuenzel
Novi

Giving a Wrestler His Recognition

I was disappointed in your page three Sports section coverage of Novi Wrestler John Lichorob's first-place victory at the Oakland County Wrestling Tournament. You clearly don't understand the magnitude of John's accomplishment. This year, 46 Oakland County schools competed in this tournament, which has a storied history dating back to 1950. Former tournament champions have gone on to become NCAA Division I Champions, an Olympic gold medalist, and members of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. And not only was John the champion of this tournament in his weight class, he dominated by pinning every opponent. He is also just a terrific kid. I realize that John received front page Sports sec-

What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Letters to the Editor, David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 249-9832. E-mail: daguilar@annett.com. Letters submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

tion coverage the previous week. But you should not have diminished his remarkable achievement in the name of balanced coverage. Congratulations "Lich." You rock!

Ross Ridenour
Novi

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 Aguilar at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at daguilar@annett.com.

GUEST COLUMN: STATE SEN. NANCY CASSIS

Important issues face Michigan Legislature

Promoting early learning success, repealing the SBT, strengthening the building industry top accomplishments for Sen. Cassis

Michigan residents have faced many challenges in the last four years. But we are a resilient people with solid values and determination.

Helping our youngest children get a strong start in school, repealing the state's Single Business Tax and protecting consumers from bad builders and contractors were among the highlights of my first term in the Senate.

In April, the governor signed my S.A.V.E. the Children package, which creates a statewide Early Intervention Grant Program for schools. The program focuses on giving children in grades 1-3 a good foundation for the rest of their educational experience. Northville schools have a successful



State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)

early intervention model, one that could serve as a pattern for the rest of the state. The next challenge is continuing to work with the Department of Education and local schools to take advantage of the money-saving and educational-enhancing grants.

As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, I have worked for years to lessen the burdensome effects of the state's Single Business Tax. In March a petition drive was launched calling for the repeal of the SBT. The drive was successful and a citizen repeal of the SBT was delivered to the Legislature.

This means that job one in the New Year is a restructuring of Michigan's business taxes. We must have a tax structure, replacing the SBT, which fosters economic growth and job cre-

We will be called upon to exercise budget restraint while protecting the health and safety of our residents. Just as with your family budget, reducing spending is never easy, but it is necessary. Our communities will benefit from the resulting economic activity and job growth.

For those of you who plan to build or remodel this year, my "Good Builders" bills will give you greater confidence and security in those you hire. The legislation protects consumers from bad, unlicensed builders who prey on the unsuspecting and vulnerable while it rewards reputable contractors.

Thank you for giving my staff and me the opportunity to serve you for the last four years. We all have worked hard to represent you faithfully, knowing there is still more work to do.

If there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 888-38NANCY or by email at senncassis@senate.michigan.gov

SPORTS

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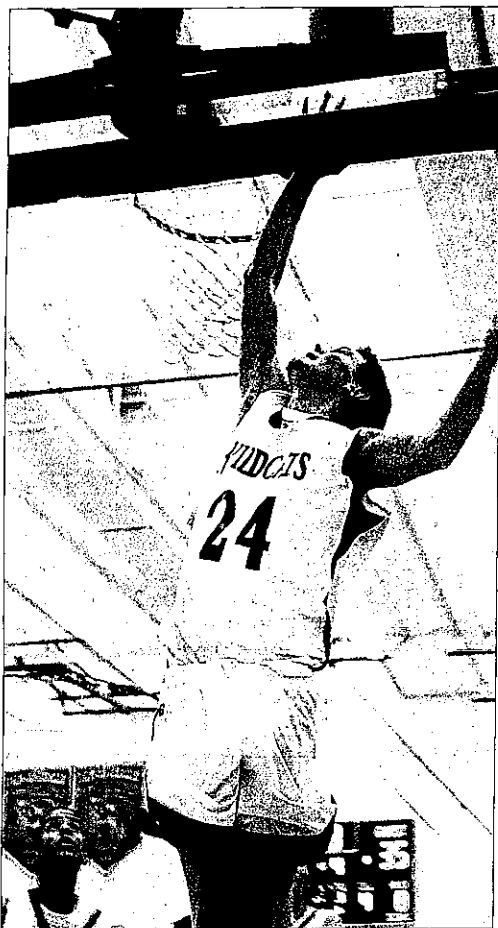


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

With 22 seconds to go and the score tied at 35, Novi's Mike Longo puts this layup in for two points to seal the Wildcats' victory over Plymouth.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's 5-11 guard Brandon Bradford runs into 6-3 Plymouth Wildcat Kurlaj Sandhu during last week's game at Novi. The Wildcats picked up the win, 37-35.

Novi knocks off Plymouth with a two-point win

By Jeff Theisen
NOV NEWS

Novi came out on top in a tough battle with Plymouth, 37-35, Dec. 20 at home.

Wildcat senior Mike Longo scored the game-winner with just more than 20 seconds left to play. Junior forward Caleb Denn led

Novi (1-1) with 13 points. Novi plays one more game (Dec. 29 at Livonia Stevenson) before closing the books on the 2006 portion of the schedule.

Novi Volleyball

Wildcat volleyball improved to 7-1, 2-0 with a pair of wins

against Milford and Piquette. Novi was pushed to five games against Milford, winning 18-25, 25-22, 25-23, 21-25, 15-8.

Leading the way for the Wildcats were Stephanie Cripps, with 19 solo blocks (25 overall), 14 kills and two aces. Paige Jamer had seven solo blocks and seven kills and Lauren Purdy had seven

solo blocks and five kills. "They all played really well, very impressive," Novi head coach Julie Fiesite said. "Milford has a lot of height and a lot of skill. They've got a great team."

"The next win came in four against Piquette, 25-16, 20-25, 25-20, 25-21. Meghan Goldsmith had 11 kills

and nine digs. Cripps supplied 10 kills, five solo blocks and two aces and Natalie Frask notched 21 assists to lead the way. Jacque Longe and Jamer each had eight kills and two solo blocks.

"Their hard work and teamwork in practice, it's really showing on the court," Fiesite said. "Everyone got in and got to play.

That's great when you can have 13 kids switching in and out and still dominate the court." The Wildcats are off until Jan. 6 when they head to the Walpole Lake Central tournament.

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



Submitted photo

Regional Champs!

The Waza FC 95 Boys Blue soccer team, ranked No. 2, knocked off the four other teams ranked in the top five to win the National Indoor Championship Detroit Regional Tournament and qualify for the National Indoor Championship Tournament which will be held the last weekend in February, again at Total Soccer in Wixom and Fraser. Front row (left to right) Matt McAuliffe, Collin Warner (Northville), Danny Meitser, Aaron Krupa, Tommy O'Connor (Northville), Jason Carmack, Matt Wilson (Novi), Waza FC Club President Mario Scicluna, Valentino Scicluna, back row: Coach Chris King (Livonia), Trevor Nessel (Novi), Alex Arlin, David Braxton, Brent Winkler, Ron Basin, Ian Fox, Donald Payne, Rocco Milkov.



Big Kicker!

Novi's Mariah Smythe helped propel her U8 girls soccer team to a regional tournament title Dec. 3. The team is now qualified for the National Indoor Tournament in Wixom and Fraser the last weekend in February. The team is made up of girls from all over the area. Front row (left to right) Danielle Kluz, Mariah Smythe (Novi), Julianna Ulla (Northville), Emily McGuire, Elena Lippert (Northville), Jennifer Richmond, Haylee Renick. Back row: Karen Roggenkamp, Katarina Santavy, Tara Arlin, Emily Debolak, Madeleine Lucus, Natalie Nowicki, Mollie Barnard. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Spotlight on Business

Accountants make taxes easier

Yokum & Co. of Novi takes the confusion out of tax time. Getting tax filings done doesn't have to be a dreaded chore. It could actually be pleasant.

"We make taxes fairly painless," said accountant Beth Yarmak. "We sit down with our clients and answer all their questions and explain everything so they can understand it."



Jim Yokum and some of his staff from Yokum Tax Services.

Things are simpler at Yokum because the work is done right there. There's nothing more troubling than the prospect of incorrectly filed taxes, or a possible audit. It's not worth trying out a seasonal tax preparation service if the job isn't done well.

"At Yokum & Co. the staff of experienced accountants attend seminars each year to learn about updates to the tax code. They are experts that are dedicated to staying on top of the latest information."

"We educate ourselves, and it pays off for our clients," said firm owner Jim Yokum, CPA.

And some people are surprised that Yokum & Co. charges comparable fees — or less — than big name discount preparers. It's worth checking out the price. Plus all new clients will receive 20 percent off tax preparation fees.

The year starts about getting prepared with Yokum & Co. is that the accountants will be around all year to help out with questions and problems. If a client needs another copy of the documents, Yokum takes care of it. If they have a question about withholding for next year or tax consequences of buying or leasing a car, it just takes a quick phone call. Yokum normally provides brief services to tax clients at no charge.

Senior citizens really benefit from teaming up with Yokum. Not only do they get prepared with a 20 percent off senior discount, but they get the information they need and the service they love. Yokum can make sure that seniors know how much they need to withdraw from retirement accounts, and how to continue to preserve assets with tax-free opportunities. An annual meeting, or even just a quick call can enable seniors to get the information that is important to them and save money.

With this kind of service, the accountants quickly get to know families and businesses. Once they get to know the people and their businesses, they can provide better accounting advice and even better tax preparation.

This pays off for those needing good advice on lowering taxes, and for those needing to give accounting services.

"We know our clients and we know our taxes," said Tammy Morrison, an accountant. "We look at the whole picture and help our clients figure out what would be the best decisions throughout the entire year."

"It's really simple, we know them so well that we can provide the kind of, thorough service."

Yokum & Co. provides full-service accounting services to small to medium sized businesses. Everything from payroll, bookkeeping and record keeping can be handled by professionals at Yokum & Co.

They also help out new businesses to set up good accounting practices, or established businesses to go computerized, or just streamlining their process.

There are businesses big or too small to come from some of the shops to businesses with a hundred employees. The firm is careful to provide just the right kind of service to each client, and to be seen as a valuable service.

"We're not just a number. If a person wants to talk to us about their accounting and tax services, or when people are in a hurry, we can make it quick and easy."

Yokum & Co. is located at 40500 Grand River Avenue, between Grand and Michigan roads in Novi. To make an appointment, call 248-349-9500.

By Kristi Zunich

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2006 Year in Review continued ...

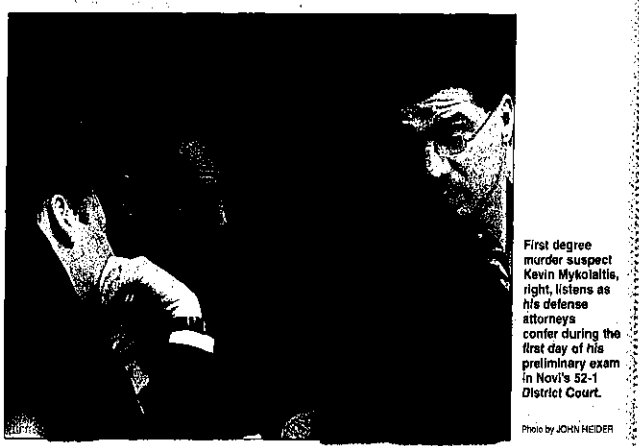


Sheryl Walsh, Novi's community relations manager, joins audio-visual room coordinator Dave Reinhardt, right, and production specialist Nate Hartwick in the city council video studio.

Almee Bailey looks at children's books with her daughter Lauren, 3, at the Novi Public Library. Due to lack of space, the library was forced to stack books on top of shelves. In 2007, Novi voters will consider a millage increase to pay for a library expansion.



Kristi Zunich and Marvin Yussell display their sharp 1950s hair-stylings outside Novi's Salone Nadwa.



First degree murder suspect Kevin Mykolaitis, right, listens as his defense attorneys confer during the first day of his preliminary exam in Novi's 52-1 District Court.

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Home Owners...Do you use your fireplace?

If you do read this article for helpful information and gaining knowledge.

TRADITIONAL FIREPLACES - The fire burns in a firebox lined with firebrick (or heavy metal liners). The heat creates a draft that is drawn up through the throat to a smoke chamber above the fire, which is drawn into the flue. The flue is a masonry chimney. A flue damper regulates the draft and keeps air from escaping up the flue when the fireplace is not in use. The smoke keeps air from coming up the flue when the fireplace is not in use. A noncirculating fireplace produces some radiant heat, but mostly warms the air that circulates around the firebox. Some have a fan that circulates the air flow. They achieve a high efficiency by enclosing the fireplace with glass doors and are equipped with an outside air intake.

FIREPLACE GAS INSERT - These units can fit into an existing fireplace. They operate at efficiencies of 70 to 80% compared to a traditional fireplace. The space around the unit must be covered with steel sheet piling all around with a cement grout of mortar. A flue from the unit extends above the fireplace through the roof. The flue pipe is not in use. A noncirculating fireplace produces some radiant heat, but mostly warms the air that circulates around the firebox. Some have a fan that circulates the air flow. They achieve a high efficiency by enclosing the fireplace with glass doors and are equipped with an outside air intake.



Ronald Peterson

WOOD STOVE - A masonry wood stove is more efficient than a standard fireplace. Some only radiate heat while others also heat air passing around the firebox in a convection chamber. Wood stoves create conditions to burn combustible gases without the use of catalysts. With catalysts, a catalytic combustor (a ceramic honeycomb) extracts heat from the gases. Puffed stoves use manufactured pellets that are fed into the combustion chamber by a blower. Clearance requirements from Walls and Floor Wood stoves must sit on a non-combustible hearth which must extend a least eight inches beyond the sides, front and back and 18 inches in front of it and be at least 24 inches from side walls and 30 inches from back wall (check your local building or fire code). Only block steel supports (24 gauge min.) should be used between a wood stove and chimney. The overall run of stove pipe should be under 10 feet with no more than two elbows.

RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE ITEMS:

CLEAN THE CHIMNEY - creosote can start fires. Chimney should be cleaned when creosote buildup reaches 1/8 inch thickness.

FIREBOX AND MASONRY REPAIRS - any cracks can pose a fire hazard and should be filled with refractory mortar. Reputable masonry joins an masonry repair service.

SAFETY TIPS - **DO NOT BURN TRASH OR CHARRED MEAT IN WOOD-BURNING UNIT** - **DO NOT BURN PRESSURE-TREATED OR PAINTED WOOD** - **DO NOT PRODUCE DANGEROUS FIRES** - **DO NOT BURN PINE OR SOFT WOOD, CAUSE RAPID CREOSOTE BUILDUP** - **NEVER OVERLOAD FIREPLACE OR WOOD STOVE - REDUCE AIR FLOW/COMBUSTION** - **REMOVE ASHES - FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES PERFORM BETTER IF CLEAN** - **OLD CHIMNEYS SHOULD BE LINED WITH TILE OR METAL LINER (FIREPLACE FULLY INSULATED FOR 6000 BTU HAVE LINERS)** - **PURCHASE ONLY DIRECT VENT FIREPLACES RATED BY UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY - THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION AIA**

CHARACTERISTICS OF WOOD WHEN BURNING:
 Type - Apple
 Ease of Starting - Poor
 Heat Value - Good
 Fragrance - Excellent
 Type - Ash
 Ease of Starting - Fair
 Heat Value - Good
 Fragrance - Slight
 Type - Birch
 Ease of Starting - Good
 Heat Value - Good
 Fragrance - Slight
 Type - Cherry
 Ease of Starting - Poor
 Heat Value - Good
 Fragrance - Excellent
 Type - Cedar
 Ease of Starting - Excellent
 Heat Value - Fair
 Fragrance - Good
 Type - Elm
 Ease of Starting - Fair
 Heat Value - Good
 Fragrance - Fair
 Type - Hickory
 Ease of Starting - Fair
 Heat Value - Excellent
 Fragrance - Slight

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ADVERTISING:

Total Sports Complex

Wixom facility now offering drop-in art and art classes, inflatables — in addition to standard athletic fare

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

TOTAL SPORTS COMPLEX
 Location: 30990 Wixom Road, north of I-96 in Wixom
 Phone: (248) 669-9317
 Web: www.totalsportscomplex.com

Total Sports Complex in Wixom has long been known as the best place for sports. There's something for the entire family, with sports leagues, lessons and field rentals.

Now that a new drop-in art studio and art classes are starting up, Total Sports is the place for total family fun. "We are now more 'well sports,'" said Laura Hicks, event coordinator.

Creative Arts Studio, formerly located in Novi, has opened up a fine art studio inside Total Sports. There will be all sorts of drop-in art classes available.

Sports capital

Recreational and competitive sports leagues and classes abound at Total Sports Complex. There are both adult and children's leagues in nearly every sport, including — soccer, lacrosse, softball, baseball, flag football and roller hockey.

With professional staff and experienced instructors, kids can get a good start on the sport they love. Classes and leagues are offered during the day and evening seven days a week and fit in every schedule and every skill level.

To take the workout one step further, professional training is available at the Total Sports

Performance Training Center. Trainers can work with everyone in the family to increase core strength and enhance performance by gearing the workout specifically to a particular sport.

Art for everyone

Now kids can spend time creating art when they come to Total Sports. The drop-in studio is open seven days a week for art projects. It's perfect for siblings that come to watch a game every week. Now they'll have a couple hours of enrichment as well.

A variety of art projects are available to suit every age level — from toddlers to teenagers and even adults. And the types of art offered are meaningful creations that parents will want to keep forever, or kids can make as gifts for grandparents and other family members.

Everyone will love giving painted plates and mugs they've designed. And kids and adults will have the chance to make glass fusion bowls that

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Kyle Dowd, 3, paints a ceramic soccer ball at the Total Sports Complex in Wixom, located at 30990 Wixom Rd.

are colorful works of art right out of an art gallery. Even toddlers will enjoy create-a-bear workshops. Special holiday workshops will allow kids the chance to make beaded necklaces for mother's day, and special creations for Valentine's Day, Easter and Father's Day.

Birthday parties

Total sports is the perfect place for birthday parties. Kids can get their energy out on the field — instead of cooped up inside a house, and mom doesn't have to worry about anything. Kids can choose a birthday party with either art, soccer, soccer, inflatables or baseball. The sky is the limit.

The party assistants will keep the kids busy and make sure that everyone has a super time. Everything is taken care of, and when the party is over, there's no mess to clean up.

Prices are actually lower at Total Sports than other nearby venues. Planners can help fit an awesome party into any budget. "This is the best place for a birthday party," said Laura Hicks. "We have everything you can imagine — and stuff you would never think of."

Memorable corporate events

Those planning a company picnic or corporate team building event will be surprised by the possibilities at Total Sports Complex.

"Our planners can come up with an event that suits your corporate needs," said Hicks. "Even planners have creative minds that can turn an ordinary event into something unforgettable."

The Total Sports Bar and Grill offers delicious food, from steaks and burgers to fruit and sandwiches. The grill can customize a menu to fit each event. And adults can enjoy beer, wine and full bar services. Once spring arrives, picnics will abound at Total Sports. Company parties can be held in the beautiful park-like setting. Plus, if there is a thunderstorm, the whole party can be moved inside without changing any of the planned activities.

Many companies come every summer for a softball game with beer and burgers afterwards.

Or gala affairs can be held under a tent, with a scrumptious buffet and inflatable bouncers for the kids.

And it's the perfect place for adult birthday parties, anniversaries and other special occasions. A sporting event makes a retirement or 40th birthday party more fun. And ladies are in heaven at an artsy bachelorette party, while they celebrate over wine and appetizers.

Start with Lil' Kickers

Even toddlers and preschoolers can get active with Lil' Kickers classes. They're the perfect chance for little ones to get exercise while learning soccer basics in a fun, non-competitive environment.

The class was actually developed by a child psychologist so that it nurtures the young children and provides skills in movement. And mascot Happy the Bunny gets kids really excited about playing.

"It's a child development program that teaches kids life skills through soccer," said Lil' Kickers' Coordinator Jen D'Amazio. "It helps with coordination, social skills, learning how to take turns and wait in lines, plus showing respect for the other players and coaches."

"And the kids love it. They walk off the field with huge smiles on their faces." Families can try out the first Lil' Kickers class at no charge, and can start the ongoing class at any time. Kids as young as one and a half can play with help from a parent, or youngsters through age eight can play independently. Classes are available during the day on both weekdays and weekends.

Big kids love day camp

During spring break and summer vacation, there's nothing kids would like better than to go to sports camp. Parents can have the peace of mind that their children are being well cared for while they work, and kids can spend time somewhere

they love — instead of feeling like they are in daycare.

What child doesn't want to go to sports camp? Even parents that don't work send kids to the skills camps.

Kids can choose one sport for morning, one sport for afternoon, or they can also try art, science, music and dance. It's perfect for a child that wants to improve their game in a favorite sport, like soccer, but also learn something new, like lacrosse. And with all the selections, each sibling will find something they like so parents can bring all their children to one camp. The large grounds mean that kids can spend time indoors and outdoors in the sunshine, without leaving the facility.

The camps are half-day or full-day, with lunch. Latecity programs are available before and afterwards to fit the schedules of busy parents. Kids can come for a fun-packed week or can spend the entire summer learning and playing at Total Sports.

Awesome facility

Total Sports Complex in Wixom is the largest sports complex in the country, and has been leading the industry since it opened in 1997.

The 220,000 square foot indoor facility includes four soccer fields, a roller hockey rink, in-line skating track and three batting cages. The facility also includes instructional space, a training center, party space and a full restaurant. The outdoor area includes softball and baseball fields, soccer field and large picnic space.

With new turf installed earlier this year, the indoor fields are covered with a softer surface that wards off injuries and knee problems. And it works well with all types of cleats and athletic shoes. Owners continue to invest heavily in the facility, keeping it constantly updated so that it is a safe, state-of-the-art play area and work-out facility.

To get started, call Total Sports Complex at (248) 669-9817 or go to www.totalsportscomplex.com.



Samantha Pomporio, 4, kicks a ball inside the Total Sports Complex in Wixom, under the watchful eye of coach Matt Stolz.

TOTAL SPORTS COMPLEX

We're More Than Just Sports

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