



# 'CATS STAND TALL

Novi wins rematch of last year's title soccer game ... 1B



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1B

# Novi News

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007

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VOLUME 51 #48 50 CENTS

## Suspected invaders captured

■ Home crime spree halted

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

It was a pretty simple crime spree.

The suspect entered through the side door, took what he could carry — and left.

And for the moment it's over.

Two men police said are responsible for four Novi home invasions over a five-night period earlier this month were arrested and arraigned last week.

Mario Herrera was charged with four counts of first-degree home invasion, receiving and concealing stolen property and possession of marijuana. Jacob DeBoard was charged with one count of receiving and concealing stolen property.

The 22-year-olds, who share an apartment in Novi, pleaded not guilty.

■ **STORY CHAT**  
What do you think? Tell us at [WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM](http://WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM).

Golf clubs and electronic equipment were the most common items stolen. Though Herrera and DeBoard were the only two suspects charged in the mini-crime wave, police believe they had an unwitting accomplice: naive homeowners who left doors unlocked at night.

"I believe it was a crime of opportunity for them," Novi Police Chief David Molloy said.

The crimes took place on the southwest side of the city, police said. They traced the stolen golf clubs to a local sporting goods store and then tracked down Herrera and DeBoard using information from the store manager.

"You kind of have to work backwards a little," said Officer Amanda Kulikowski, who located the clubs.

Marsha Kosmatka, DeBoard's court-appointed attorney, said she did not have information on the case and could not comment. No lawyer was listed for Herrera as of Tuesday morning.

Home invasions tend to spike as

continued on page 3

### School board election and bond vote

The Novi Community School District board of education election is Tuesday, May 8.

Five candidates are on the ballot for two four-year terms ending in 2011. Those candidates are school board incumbent David Brown, George Kortlandt, Bobbie Murphy, Craig Parker and Karl Wizinsky.

Two candidates are running for one two-year term ending in 2009: board trustee Jeff Nielson and write-in candidate Marcy Salemi.

Next week: Novi News candidate endorsements.

## HITTING THE ROAD



Lee Driving School pupil Steven Bills, 15, takes off with instructor Sheryl Alpern riding shotgun during a Tuesday afternoon lesson.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## Parents and students: Buckle up!

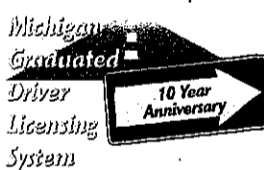
By Renee Gates  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lee Alpern has been teaching Novi students how to drive since 1968.

The Lee Driving School owner said driver's education students are pretty much the same today as they were 10 years ago, even with the new system.

This month marks the 10-year anniversary of state's graduated licensing system — a driver's education program much different than the days where a couple of road hours and a 16th birthday meant a license.

Throughout the last decade, Michigan's driver education program has evolved to



become more consistent and better able to prepare a new generation of young drivers, according to the Michigan Secretary of State.

The system is similar to graduated driver's programs across the country.

### The new system

Northville elementary school teacher Jeff Lightfoot taught summer driver's education courses for 15 years at Northville High School.

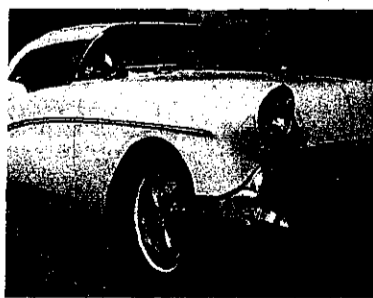
He said the graduated driver licensing system course is a much better program for parents and students.

"Parents have to understand, driver's training is the beginning of the process of learning to drive, not the end all," Lightfoot said.

He said the graduated system

continued on page 3

## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



• **FRIDAY**  
The Skating Club of Novi presents "Ice Revue 2007: Fantasy" this weekend at the Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive. Show times are 7 p.m. today and 1 and 7 p.m. tomorrow. Tickets are \$7. For more information, call (248) 347-1010.

• **SATURDAY**  
The City of Novi Arbor Day recognition event will take place from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April

28, at the Community Sports Park shelter, at the corner of Eight Mile and Napier roads. More than 300 trees will require planting, and the city asks for residents' help. Participants will receive a free seedling, and food, beverages and prizes will be offered. Bring a shovel and gloves, and head out and help.

• **SUNDAY**  
The Michigan International

Spring Classic Car Show & Auction comes to the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., beginning 3 p.m. Friday and ending 6 p.m. today. The cost is \$10 or \$15 for a weekend pass. Parking is \$5. For more information, call (734) 547-2400 or visit [www.rmauctions.com](http://www.rmauctions.com)

• **MY NOVI BULLETIN BOARD**  
Novi's official events calendar. Page 18A.

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# MY BUSINESS

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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## Twelve Oaks reveals 22 new stores

**Construction work continues, opening aims for September**

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Twelve Oaks Mall officials revealed 22 stores that will be part of the shopping center's new wing last week.

Retailers hawking Armani clothes, Skechers shoes, Lucky Brand jeans and Oakley sunglasses will headline the expansion, which will also include a two-story Nordstrom department store. Macy's is also adding an 80,000-square-foot store to its existing store. In total, the renovations will tack on 322,000 square feet to the mall, increasing it to about 1.5 million square feet.

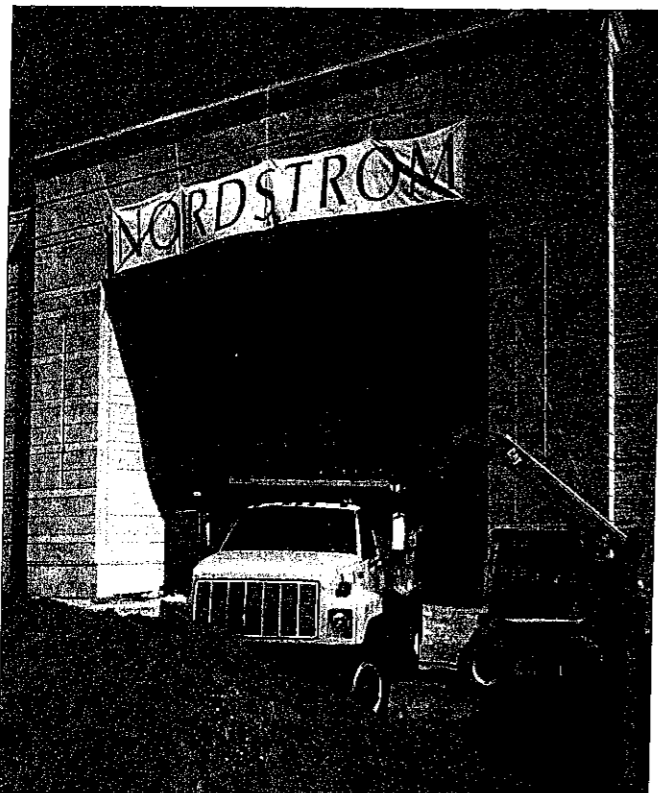
The expansion started early last year and is expected to wrap up in September. It will have about 30 new stores. Mall officials expect to announce another round of new retailers later this year.

"Obviously, we try and have a wide variety of stores to meet all our customers' needs," said Peggy Hayes, Twelve Oaks marketing director. "We're such a strong regional center, a lot of people want to be here. We'll be stronger than ever before."

The expansion of the Novi landmark is also creating jobs for the local economy at a time when they're sorely needed, Hayes noted. New stores in the mall plan to hire 825 permanent and 275 seasonal workers. The construction work also created 1,150 jobs.

"That's kind of a positive statement in Michigan's economy," Hayes said.

The stores pump fresh blood into the 30-year-old mall, a critical move that comes as some shopping centers are struggling to stay on top of ever-changing consumer tastes.



Renovations continue at Twelve Oaks Mall. The new stores are expected to open in September.

Work goes on outside the new Nordstrom department store at Twelve Oaks Mall last week. The shopping center is increasing to about 1.5 million square feet.

Photo by Mike Shuster/Special to the Novi News

"Many malls have the same department stores. If you can bring in small specialty retailers that aren't in every mall across the state, across the country — you're ahead of the game," said Tom Scott, vice president of public affairs and communications for the Michigan Retailers Association.

Other new retailers include Martin + Osa, a clothing store aimed at 20-and-30-somethings; Forever 21, an accessories arm of Forever 21; and Clarks, which sells footwear.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

### Twelve Oaks expands

WHAT: Novi mall adds 22 new retailers, including Nordstrom, Armani, Oakley and Lucky Brand  
WHEN: Expansion opens in September  
UP NEXT: About eight more stores will be unveiled later this year



Instructor Sheryl Alpern directs driver's education student Steven Bilis at Lee Driving School. Steven is the third member of the Bilis family to attend the Novi driving school.

Photo by Mike Shuster/Special to the Novi News

### Tips for parents

- 1) Parents should visit the Secretary of State and pick up two booklets: Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing: A Guide for Parents and Road Skills Test Study Guide. By reading both guides parents will be better able to support their child's success in completing the driver's education program.
- 2) Learn along with students — Some of what the child is learning in driver's education might not be what you, the parent, is doing when driving. It is important for parents to support what the teacher is telling students to learn. Parents should use this opportunity to review driving laws and practices along with their kids.
- 3) Practice makes perfect — When students have completed segment 1 and have their segment 1 license, parents should continue taking them on 20-30 minute driving sessions in low impact areas, two to three times a week. Students will learn technique better with long stretches of driving two to three times a week versus brief five to six minutes driving lessons. Try to incorporate the longer segments and at the end of six months, they will have met the 50 hours required to apply for Segment 2.
- 4) Not so fast — Have students train on the streets rather than the freeway, there is not enough of a challenge to freeway driving. Take them driving around someplace they are familiar like their neighborhood. But also expose them to a wide range of situations that are appropriate for their experience level.

### Parents and students: Buckle up

continued from front

actually, "forces parents to look at the needs of the students to being better drivers, not the minimal amount they can do to get them driving."

Lightfoot said the biggest influence on student drivers is their parents.

"They are the role models to how their kids will drive," he said.

"Many parents misunderstand the purpose of driver's education. They feel when their child graduates they should be ready to drive," Lightfoot said. "It's mainly to give students the tools to start driving."

licensing requirements of the past includes the addition of two separate segments of instruction.

In order to progress from a segment 1 driver to a segment 2 driver in the graduated system, parents or their representatives must supervise their child's driving a minimum of 30 hours, plus 10 hours driving at night throughout a six-month period.

That aspect of the system gives parents more confidence in knowing their children are ready to progress in the licensing process, said Kelly Chesebney, Michigan Secretary of State spokeswoman.

If parents feel their children are not ready to progress they can halt the process until their children are ready.

Even after a student moves to a segment 2 license, if they are not being responsible, parents can make a request at the Secretary of State to restrict it to a segment 1.

then and the ones today are good too," Alpern said. "There are bad ones today and bad ones then, probably their parents."

### Results of the program

The program is continuing to evolve but is affecting third-party schools that teach students to drive. The state is requiring all driving schools to become certified to teach driver's education.

But fewer public schools are teaching driver's education, both Alpern and Lightfoot said. Fewer students are waiting to take driver's education in the summer and a lack of state funding has made the program too expensive for many public schools to offer.

Novi High School stopped teaching driver's education two years ago. Northville High School did not offer it last year and will not offer it this year.

### The ins and outs

The biggest change in the graduated system compared to

### Home crime spree halted

continued from front

the weather warms, and this year has been no different in Novi. First-degree home invasion is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison — but police said an even better deterrent is locking doors and windows.

Novi also offers free inspections to home and business owners to help safeguard against home invasions and breaking and entering.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

### IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Airman Megan L. Ridley has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Frank Ridley of Novi and granddaughter of Eleta Oswald of Bay City. Ridley is a 2003 graduate of Novi High School.

PHOTO GALLERIES: See more of photographer John Heider's work at www.novinews.com

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# MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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## Volunteers fix up Novi homes for seniors

Charity will tackle two local projects on Saturday

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Well-manicured homes and leafy subdivisions abound in Novi — and a non-profit charity, Rebuilding Together, is trying to keep it that way. The group revitalizes area homes for seniors and low-income families. This Saturday, Rebuilding Together will tackle 31 projects with 1,500 volunteers in Oakland County, including fixing up two homes in Novi. “The main issue is to help homeowners stay in their home and make sure they’re safe and comfortable,” said Rick Bloomfield, treasurer of the group’s Oakland County Chapter. Rebuilding Together is a national volunteer organization based in Washington. It refurbished 8,900 buildings last year. Locally, volunteers have refurbished the Cass Community Center in Detroit, as well as a historical building in Highland. The group is making exten-

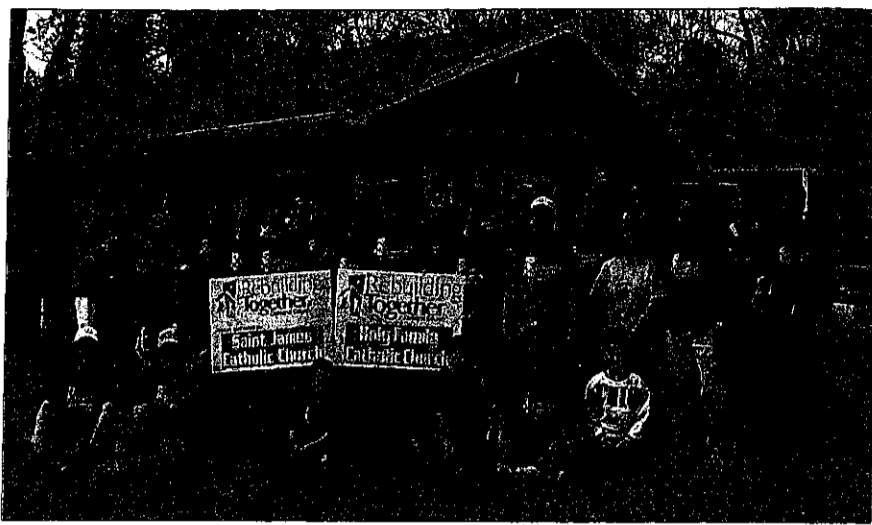
### A Day of Work

**WHO:** Rebuilding Together, a national volunteer organization  
**WHAT:** Volunteers will fix up 31 homes in Oakland County, including two in Novi  
**WHEN:** Saturday  
**MORE INFO:** Go to [www.rebuildingtogether.org](http://www.rebuildingtogether.org)

diverse improvements for a pair of Novi residents. One project will involve installing a ramp and widening a doorway to help mobility, as well as making upgrades to the electrical system.

Volunteers will also help another Novi resident cope with rheumatoid arthritis by installing an automatic garage door opener. They’ll also replace the carpet, widen the driveway and help out with yard work.

“It’s a great way to help Novi stay a great place to live,” Bloomfield said. A Novi resident and six-year volunteer. About 100 people will work on the Novi homes, mostly coming from Holy Family and St. James churches, which are helping to spearhead the effort.



Volunteers from St. James and Holy Family churches in Novi pose outside a home they refurbished at last year’s Rebuilding Together event. This year they will work on two homes in the city.

Most of the projects will be finished Saturday, although some volunteers will do follow-up work.

Ultimately, the group hopes to take on more projects throughout the year.

“Our long-term goal is to be able to work all year long,”

writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or [gmgigliore@gannett.com](mailto:gmgigliore@gannett.com).

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# MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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## Coming to Novi: Songs we love to sing

Long-time choral group prepares for annual concert

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Margaret Shaul enjoys a good tune.

And for the last 18 years she has been lending her voice to the Novi Choralaires, sharing her love of song with the community.

On Saturday, May 12, Shaul will be part of the 36-member community chorus performing its spring concert, which is open to the public.

“Encore! Songs We Remember, Songs We Love to Sing, Songs We’d Like to Hear One More Time.” The concert will take place 7:30 p.m. at Novi High School.

“It is music that will be familiar to everyone,” Shaul said. “I think we have a familiar repertoire.”

Song selections for the spring concert include “That’s Amore” and “What a Wonderful World.” Concert organizers said the concert will also feature a medley of Irish tunes including “Laura, Laura,” “When Irish Eyes are Smiling” and “My Wild Irish Rose” and a medley of songs by Richard Rodgers, known for writing volumes of songs and nearly 45 Broadway musicals.

Shaul, who also serves as the Novi Choralaires’ second vice

It’s the annual Novi Choralaires SPRING CHOIR CONCERT ENCORE!  
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Novi High School Auditorium  
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Tickets available at the door or by calling (248) 347-0400

“We really all like it. For the most part, we’re hooked on singing together.”



Members of the Novi Choralaires perform popular favorites during a recent Christmas concert. The group is now preparing for its annual spring fest. Photographed from front to back rows are Gail LeVan (left), Chris Haywood, Becky Staab, Lynn Meisel (left), Jessie Falst, Pat Brown, Karl Miller (left), Dale Darkowski, Jennifer Toye, Patty Jylkka, Jim Ingles (left), Noel Brown, Gil Shultz, Dana Rossiter and Shirley Brady.

president, said the group begins rehearsing for the concert in September.

And with the exception of preparing for Christmas season, the group focuses on their annual spring event, including memorizing all performance pieces.

“Someone once said it is the equivalent of memorizing ‘War and Peace,’” Shaul said. But, she said, members love the preparation. Like her, many of them have been part of the group for nearly 20 years.

“People tend to join the group and stay with it for a long time,” Shaul said. “We really all like it. For the most part, we’re hooked on singing together.” Other features of the concert will include accompaniment by a flutist and a slide show, providing a multi-media experience, organizers said. Shaul urges area residents to attend the event, planned annually to coincide with Mother’s Day weekend.

“It is a good chance to hear an accomplished group in a nice setting,” she said.

An afterglow will take place immediately following the concert featuring light refreshments. Tickets are available at the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department and the

Novi Senior Center. Tickets will also be available at the door. The cost is \$12 per person or \$10 per person for groups of 10 or more.

“I always look forward to putting on the show,” Shaul said.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122.

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**New coffees at the Bottle**  
By the Bottle, Novi's full-service cafe, is proud to announce the arrival of locally roasted coffee from Zingerman's Coffee Co. and Espresso Royale Co., both of Ann Arbor. “These brands are welcome additions to their selection of Mountain Country coffee from local roaster Coffee Express of Plymouth, real Italian espresso from Segafredo Zanetti and a full-line of Stash Tea.”

**Lee & Associates of Michigan.**

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<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 4430 W. 12 Mile, Nov. 248-349-3545 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 6 Mile & 1st Road Sunday worship service, 8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. (new service) Rev. John Hice Rev. Lisa Cook <a href="http://www.lumcnorthville.org">www.lumcnorthville.org</a>
<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 46322 10 Mile St. Novi, MI 48167 Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Reverend George Cherneski, Pastor Phone: 248-7770	<b>OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> Novi Sunday 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary, Ave. band (248) 912-0043 <a href="http://www.oakpointe.org">www.oakpointe.org</a>
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<b>ACTIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 3760 Hwy 16 North of Haggerty Farmington, MI 48170 Phone 734-409-5131 Sunday Services (10:30 a.m.) Nov. St. George M. Vlachos, Pastor <a href="http://www.holygreekchurch.org">www.holygreekchurch.org</a>	<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills, MI • 2225 Oak St. • 248-474-2664 Sister George Ann E. Peterson Sunday 8:30 a.m. Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. 9:20 am Northwood Church 11:30 am Contemporary Sunday School 4:45-5:15 pm Nursery 4:55-5:30 pm

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# THE \$34M QUESTION: How to spend Novi's cash?

■ Budget talks heat up, plan could pass May 14

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

It's the multi-million dollar question in Novi right now: How to spend the city's money?

City officials proposed a budget that spends \$34 million for the next fiscal year, but some council members are mulling the changes.

The budget could be adopted by May 14. At least five of the seven council members must approve the budget for it to take effect.

The new budget would increase

spending 4.6 percent. Much of the cash would go to more funding for neighborhood roads, retire benefit costs and fire station improvements, City Manager Clay Pearson said.

"This year's budget is balanced and fiscally conservative," he said.

The police and fire departments will likely get about half of Novi's budget, as public safety is usually one of the top expenses for cities.

### Proposed Budget

- Spends \$34 million
- Novi's biggest expense: public safety, which gets about half of city expenditures.
- Includes \$725,300 to build a police indoor gun range

largest money source is property taxes, which total \$16.8 for next year.

"The big concern I have with the proposed budget is I don't think it really takes into account the current economic conditions and economic climate of the state," council member Andrew March said at a special budget meeting last week. "In looking at the budget in that context, I have great concern."

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



Photo by Hans Nyberg/Ten Mile Media

**Novi house burns**  
A fire caused nearly \$100,000 in damage April 17 to a house on West Lake Drive. Seven victims reportedly to the fire, which originated on the second floor.

# Yes, it is a big deal

■ Greater Novi Chamber celebrates first year with game show theme

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Jean Schroeder is confident attending the Greater Novi Chamber's one-year anniversary party will be a big deal.

And the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce board member is so sure, she is willing to put her money on the line and step on stage as the infamous banker in a newer version of a popular, prime-time game show.

Schroeder and other members of the more-than-one-hundred member chamber of commerce are hosting "It's A Big Deal!" party Tuesday, celebrating the organization's one-year anniversary with a "Deal or No Deal" theme.

"We will have a couple hours of hors d'oeuvres and networking followed by the game show at 8 p.m.," Schroeder said.

One lucky Novi banker will be chosen to fill the coveted role on stage for the game show portion of the night.

"We thought it would be a great idea to have a banker be the banker," she said.

Schroeder said she donated a cash prize through her employer, Huntington Bank, so the banker may be her.

Event attendees chosen in a random drawing will be game show contestants, walking away with a suitcase, holding anywhere from \$150-\$2,000.

"We're just so excited to have this happen," Schroeder said. "It should be a spectacular night."

Event organizers said the party is open to the public. Andiamo and the Dirty Martini Lounge will be offering food and a special cocktail called the GNCC, featuring Finlandia Vodka.

Bright House Networks is the major event sponsor. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple and include food and a chance to make it on stage to participate in the game show.

"It is really exciting," Schroeder said.

The board member said she is proud to be part of the new

## IT'S A BIG DEAL!

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community chamber serving the Novi area for one year.

"It has been phenomenal," she said. "We are up over 100 members now."

"I've never seen a chamber that focuses so much on networking. That is the theory behind every function, to grow your business."

The Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce is one of two business organizations in Novi.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce also serves the community, which has been in existence for 40 years and comprised of more than 500 members.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or by e-mail at vmitchell@gannett.com.



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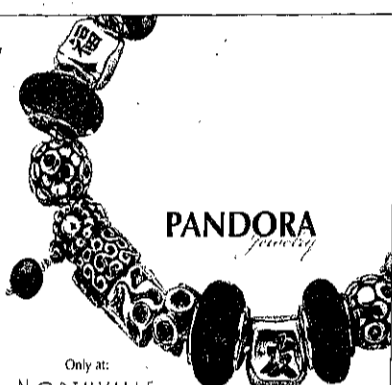
### Ground breaking

State and local officials and members of the business community gathered Monday for the ITC Holdings Corp. ground breaking ceremony in Novi. The new headquarters located on Haggerty Road will house the growing company, including 230 employees. The facility will be located on 83 acres near the Quaker Station and will house a 188,000 square-foot main office complex, parking structure and control room. ITC Holdings Corp. is in the business of electricity transmission infrastructure improvements as a means to improve electric reliability, reduce congestion and lower the overall cost of delivered energy. ITC was founded in 2003 with 38 employees and has grown to almost 230 employees currently. The company owns the majority of Michigan's Lower Peninsula's electric grid.

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Seasonal allergy sufferers who have spent the winter hibernating often forget the discomfort that spring can bring. There are several steps you can take, however, to prevent those pesky allergy symptoms. Between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. are the worst pollen hours. If you can hold off on your outdoor activities until late morning, do so. Keep your car windows rolled up. A thorough spring cleaning with the windows open will remove any dust or mold accumulated in the house. Use a mask when raking lawns, leaves or mowing the lawn, and keep your laundry indoors. Laundry hanging outside can collect allergens. Keep up to date on your local pollen count, too.

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2006	Bison	3H LQ	8' Wide, Aluminum, Loaded!	2044	2003	Keifer	3H LQ	8' LQ, Cute Weekend		
2004	Merlow	8313 LQ	8' Wide, Loaded	2065	1998	Sundowner	3H 8008 LQ	5' LQ, Awning, A/C		
2005	Cherokee	7308 LQ	8' Wide, Slide-Out	2057	2001	Sundowner	1LQ	8' LQ, Like New Condition		
2005	Cherokee	7308 LQ	8' Wide, A/C, Awning	2038	2005	Sundowner	8010 LQ	10' LQ, Used 3 Times		
2006	Hart	3H LQ	Loaded, too much to list!	2556	2004	Sundowner	8024 LQ	24' LQ, This Trailer has it ALL!		
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2006	Hart	4H LQ	Medallion Package	2501	1995	Sundowner	4H GH	All Aluminum, 6" Dressing Room		
2006	Hart	4H LQ	Medallion Package Deluxe	2495	2003	Sundowner	2H GN	Straight Load with Ramp, Electric		
2006	Hart	3H GN	Medallion Package	2496	2005	Sundowner	3H GN	757' Mangers, Weekend Package		
2006	Hart	3H GN	Ultimate Package, 6 to Choose From		1997	Sundowner	4H GN	Hay Rack, Water Tank & Insulated,		
2006	Hart	3H LQ	Double Duty Ultimate Package	2555				8' LQ, All the Good Stuff		
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2006	Sundowner	3H 8008	Signature Series Deluxe	1187	2000	Merlow	4H LQ	7' LQ, All the Options		
2006	Sundowner	3H 8008	Signature Series, 7'6" Tall	1358	2004	Exiss	4H LQ			
2006	Sundowner	4H 6906 LQ	A/C, Awning and MORE!	1146	1999	Pony Express	4H GN	Aluminum		
2006	Sundowner	4H 8010 LQ	Log Package, 10' LQ, Super Nice!	1281	2001	Southern Classic	4H GN			
2006	Sundowner	4H 8010 LQ	10' LQ with A/C	1292	1987	Jackson	2H BP			
2006	Sundowner	4H 8010 LQ	Signature Series, Cedar, Loaded	1333	2003	Bison	Stock			
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2006	Cimarron	3H 8314 LQ	14' LQ, Platinum Package	1026	1993	WW	Stock			
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2006	Cimarron	4H 8413 LQ	Sierra Package, Hydro Jack	1416	2005	American Spirit	2H LQ			
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**NEXT WEEK:** Check out the Novi News endorsements of Novi school board candidates.

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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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## District braces for state slashes

**Funding cuts could hit \$800K**

By Renee Gates  
SPECIAL WRITER

Tuesday could mark a devastating financial blow to the Novi Community School District and school districts across the state, according to a letter sent to superintendents this month from the office of the state budget.

In the letter, the state budget director told districts if nothing changes in the Michigan legislature between now and May 1, to brace for cuts from their June, July and August school aid payments from the state.

For Novi, that could mean from \$34 to \$125 less per student, which would equal a loss between \$240,000 to \$800,000 from the 2006-07 school year budget, said Gail Credit, Novi

Community Schools assistant superintendent for business and finance. "We had hoped when we began this budget process that some of these variables would be known by now, and the big one is the provision because that could affect us this year," Credit told the Novi School Board at the April meeting.

The district is on a timeline to balance its 2007-08 school year budget that originally forecasted a deficit of \$5.9 million.

"We are hopeful that in the next several weeks some of those variables will become known so we can have a more accurate projection for next year," Credit said. "We are following our timeline that we created and presented, and we will report at the next board meeting."

She and Dion will continue meeting with district employees, giving them opportunities to suggest revenue and expense changes to next year's budget.

**STORY CHAT**  
What do you think? Tell us at [WWW.NOVINEWS.COM](http://WWW.NOVINEWS.COM).

ating their thoughts on the possible provision that would affect the current school year. The board agreed to prepare a letter to legislators and have it mailed this week.

Regardless of what happens in Lansing, the board has to approve the 2007-08 budget by June 30, according to state law.

"A lot of the employees have given suggestions," Dion said. "We are trying to analyze those as we work toward a budget for next year."



**Wild Thing**  
Deerfield Elementary school students attended a ballet performance of "Where the Wild Things Are" at the Detroit Opera House. The entire student body and their teachers attended the performance. The trip was sponsored by the Deerfield Community Council, the school's parent-teacher organization. Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Alex Felice, Kelsey Miller, Jacob Silberg and Rohith Kolluri. (back row) Shivani Kozarekar, Lauryn Love and Cassidy Andresen.

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**Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update**

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

**THE BUOYANT FEELING OF PREGNANCY**

If you're a pregnant woman who wants to rid herself of an aching back, try water aerobics. This is the recommended activity for pregnant women who want to perform weekly 45-minute sessions of either regular aerobics or water aerobics for five months. At the end of the study, the women who worked out underwater experienced a fifty percent reduction in lower-back pain and a 100 percent reduction in sick leave compared with the landlubbers. The benefit of water workouts rests largely with the fact that, in water, we weigh about one-eighth our normal weight. This lessens the load on muscles and joints, which translates to less risk for injury. Of course, water aerobics helps your back even if you're not pregnant.

If you have questions about anything discussed in today's column, please call our office during business hours at 248.349.9339. We are able to evaluate and treat clients at our facility, at the client's home or at extended care facilities. Our office is conveniently located at 215 East Main, Suite 11. New patients are welcome.

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**OBITUARIES**

**WALLACE F. WHITE**

Age 61 of Novi passed away Saturday, April 14, 2007 from lung cancer. He was a U.S. Army veteran. Survived by son Stephen, daughters Kimberly and Magnum, 5 grandchildren, brothers Paul, William, Lenn (Kris) and sisters Eva and Wanda (Kris). Cremation has taken place.

**ALBERT LEE JR.**

Age 75, passed away April 21, 2007. A Memorial Service will be held on Sat., April 28 at 11 a.m. at the Fellowship Baptist Church, 10774 Nine Mile Rd., Whitmore Lake, Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon.

For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. \*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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# MY LEISURE

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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## Spring into action

Gardeners get ready to dig in

**Preparation key to starting season without injury**

By Maureen Johnson  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Spring is in the air, in the greening grass and ... in the lower back pain.

At this time of year, home stores have sprouted plants, tools and landscape products ripe for picking. And gardeners dormant through the winter blossom with enthusiastic yard plans.

Prepare your body before digging in, said chiropractor Kenneth Stoppa Jr., or your season will be off to a painful start. Sunshine and 70 degrees last weekend produced a beautiful harvest of patients for Main Street Family Chiropractic Center.

"As soon as I walked in (Monday), the first five patients were all yard work," he said. "They're anxious to get started."

"Usually, it's a couple of days after they can't get out of bed and they wonder why."

**Almost time to dig**  
Vicki Ashby knew the unseasonably warm weather in late-March was a spring tease. With 18 years gardening experience, she's still planning to let a couple more weeks to go by before she starts tending to her Highland Lakes yard.

"The ground is much too cold to put anything in even though we've had warm days," Ashby said. "We have some of our best ice storms in April."

"I'll start dividing and replanting in May." Ashby's landscape plan for this summer will include brick pavers for the back yard, mixing annuals with her perennials and starting with general lawn cleanup — when the time is right. She looks forward to resuming her seasonal hobby.

"It's an ongoing thing — you change something if it doesn't work," she said. "It's almost like therapy."

**Ready for the rush**  
Nick Nordstrand, manager of the Northville Township Home Depot at Seven Mile and Haggerty roads, directed his staff to start stocking shelves with spring merchandise back in January.

"What they're buying right now is the mulches, the dirts, crab grass prevention," he said. "We'll go through hundreds of bags of that just this weekend."

Approaching the nursery register, people snag gloves, knee pads and hand tools.

"Lawn bags are the other big item," Nordstrand said. "That's probably the most asked question in the store right now."

By mid-March, Home Depot crews had stored the east end of the store into a greenhouse, filling aisles with fertilizer to plant food and bug killers to plants.

"It really depends on the weather," Nordstrand said. "Because of the mild winter, people bought bagged goods all winter."

On the heels of spring's March 21 official arrival, shelves burst with the colors of pansies and other heavy annuals.

"It's like overnight all these plants arrived," said Marcia Greiner, a master gardener who for nine years has been sharing her expertise in the Home Depot garden department. "As soon as the weather breaks — we have one warm day — everybody's thinking spring."

**First things first**  
Greiner is one of the Home Depot experts who will lead weekly classes at the store covering topics like repotting a plant, fertilizing your lawn and replacing a screen.

"There's hours of training they have to go through," Nordstrand said. "They're experts in their field."

As she works with gardeners, Greiner describes tools ergonomically designed to aid their tasks.

"It's always good for people to stretch out — you're using muscles you don't normally use," she said. "It is good exercise."

In the doctor's office, Stoppa hears a lot of stories about gardening this time of year. He said a body warm up will keep pre-bud back pain from slowing you down.

"They get caught up in their projects," he said. "They'll be bent over in one spot for hours — they're not getting up or they're not warmed up when they get started."

Maureen Johnson can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at [mjohnston@gannett.com](mailto:mjohnston@gannett.com)



Potted flower vendor Kristen Henry puts out trays of Pansies at Northville Township's Home Depot as she and gardeners prepare for the upcoming season.

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## MY SENIOR LIFE



Thursday, April 26, 2007  
[www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)  
Fax: (248) 349-9832

# Binding 5 generations of history

Novi woman gets family history published

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Marceline Ross dreamed of being published.

And with dozens of poems under her belt, Ross, 77, of Novi, can finally see her name in the spotlight.

"Who we are: Five generations of Poetry and Prose" is a collaboration of poems and stories of Ross' family put together by her children and grandchildren.

"This was a dream I have always wanted to do," Ross said. "My family struck in my apartment and grabbed my poetry and my mother's and organized the book. They made it happen."

Ross' book, 328 pages in length and published by AuthorHouse, contains stories of her family's genealogy dating back to their arrival at Ellis Island in New York.

"My children started the book three and a half years ago," Ross said. "There's five generations of poets and prose writers in our family, including my mother and grandparents."

Ross said she hopes many people read her book. "The book can be bought at local book stores like Borders," she said. "But, if people buy it through AuthorHouse, it's cheaper and all the profits will go toward the Salvation Army, the organization Feed the Children and the Wisconsin Lutheran Church State."

Since 1991, AuthorHouse, has helped authors achieve their publishing aspirations with more than 27,000 books in print.

"It's a dream come true," Ross said.

Ross said it would be nice for all seniors to write down their life stories.

"There's an one that knows more about their history than they do," she said.

Ross said if seniors don't take advantage of writing like she did, important history will be lost.

"My family will be able to know who I was, who my mother and husband were and tons of interesting stories about where they come from," she said. "If people took time to do this, the kids and future generations will have the joy of living their history."

"I always wanted to assemble all this together," she said. "My mother and grandparents were all beautiful poetry writers."

Ross said she hopes many people read her book. "The book can be bought at local book stores like Borders," she said. "But, if people buy it through AuthorHouse, it's cheaper and all the profits will go toward the Salvation Army, the organization Feed the Children and the Wisconsin Lutheran Church State."

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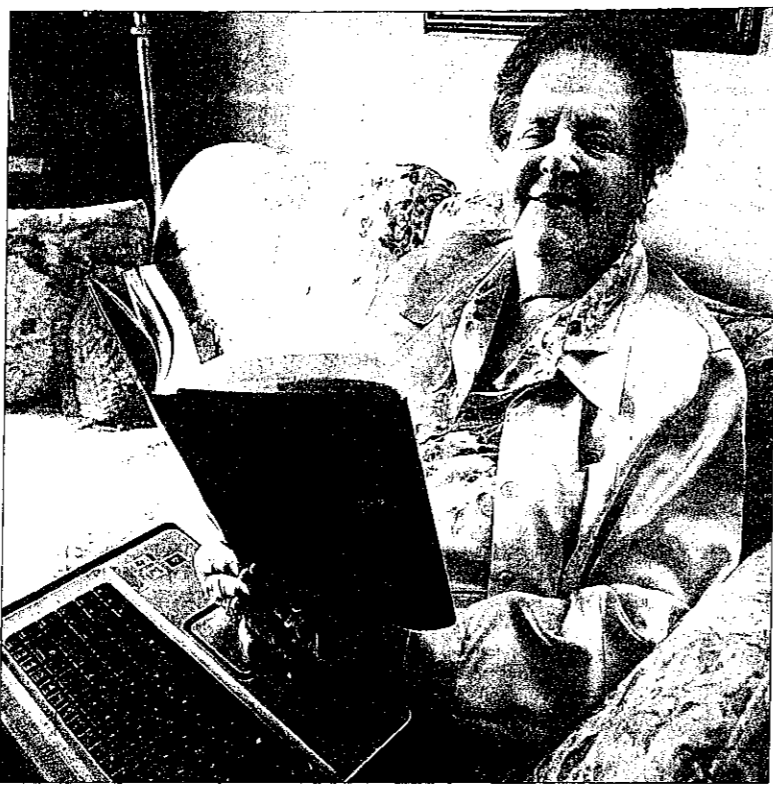
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Marceline Ross recently published a book of her and her family's poetry and prose called "Who We Are: Five Generations of Poetry and Prose."

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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## MY HEALTHY LIVING

Thursday, April 26, 2007  
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# PARKINSON'S: Living with disease

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Michelle Patterson just wants to know her dad is healthy. After being diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's disease last year, Patterson said her entire family has taken an interest in knowing all they can about the disease her dad, John, is living with.

"At first it was very scary because I didn't know too much about it," said Patterson, 26, of the early childhood program at Winchester Elementary School in Northville Township. "You just hear someone you love has a disease like this and you think the worst."

Patterson said she and her brothers, Jeff and Chris, and sister, Stephanie, looked into Parkinson's disease and found their dad's condition could be minimal, "for a while, and that's what we're hoping for."

"It was a big surprise," she said. "He's always been really healthy. He had no major health problems. We never suspected something like this could happen to him."

Parkinson's disease is a brain disorder affecting both men and women.

It is estimated that 60,000 new cases of the disease are diagnosed each year, joining the 1.5 million people who currently have Parkinson's disease, according to the National Parkinson Foundation.

**What is it?**

Dr. Bruce Silverman, of Associates in Neurology in Novi, said Parkinson's disease is caused by degeneration of particular regions of the brain that are



Photo by Tracy Mishler

John Patterson, who was diagnosed last year with early onset Parkinson's disease, enjoys the support he receives from his daughter Michelle Patterson.

**Learning about Parkinson's disease**

There are currently no blood, laboratory or radiological tests to diagnose Parkinson's disease.

In early Parkinson's, the symptoms are often vague, such as minor tremor in a hand, a change in handwriting, pain in the neck or back, or occasional stumbling.

The basic problem in Parkinson's disease is loss of dopamine-producing nerve cells in a region of the brain called the substantia nigra pars compacta.

The risk factors for Parkinsonism are increasing age, especially after age 60, family history, particularly of early onset Parkinsonism, and a rural as opposed to an urban environment.

Source: Michigan Parkinson Foundation, [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org)

responsible for movement and coordination for movement. "The clinical scenario usually occurs in the older population, but it can be seen in younger people," Silverman said. "Most people



Photo by Tracy Mishler

John Patterson and his wife, Sherree Patterson, greet each day with optimism after John was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's disease.

**Walking for a cause**

Patterson and her family will be joining hundreds of others Sunday, June 10, at Maybury State Park for the "I gave my sole for Parkinson's" walkathon and 5K run, hosted by the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

"This walkathon doesn't just raise money; it celebrates those who are managing and living with this disease everyday," Patterson said. "So far I've raised \$700."

"I'm proud with that. I'm doing

it for my dad, to show him how much he means to us."

There are various theories — viral, environmental or inherited — but the exact answer as to why this occurs is not known.

According to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, more than 35,000 people in Michigan are afflicted with Parkinson's disease.

Patterson said her entire family — brothers, sisters and mom, Sherree — would be at the walk to support those with Parkinson's disease.

"Dad's the superman of our family," she said. "He makes everything right, and we're very dependent on him and grateful for what he does for us."

"That's why doing this walk is so important."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance writer for the Novi News.

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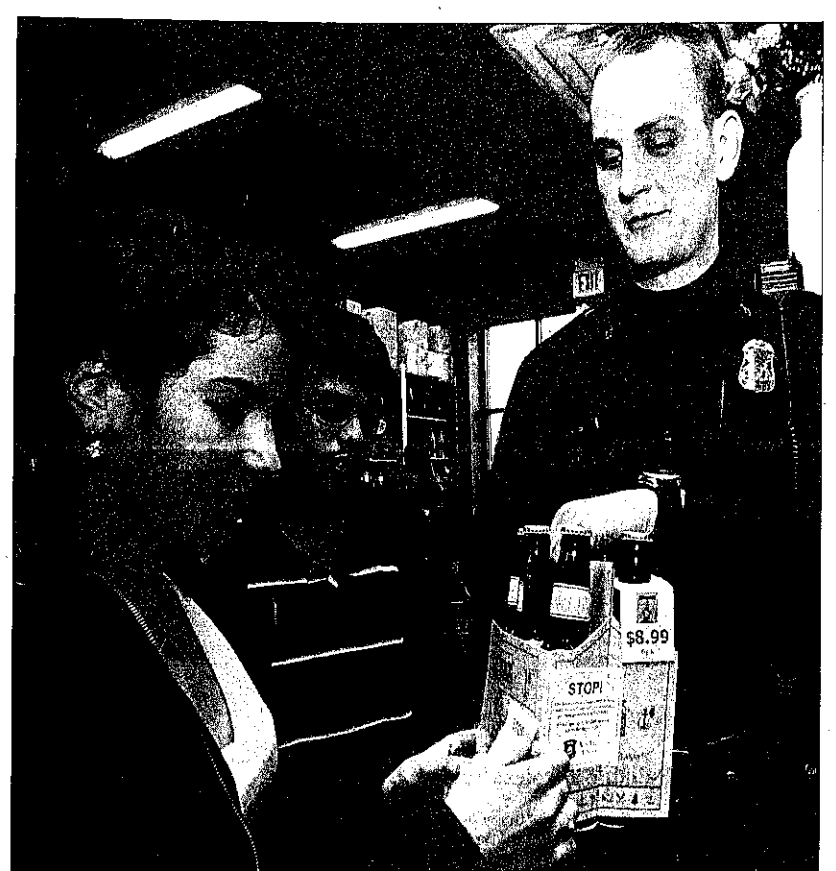
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**Sticker Shock!**  
Novi police officers and members of the Youth Council visited local businesses this month to promote awareness of teen drinking. They placed labels on packs of beer to warn adults of the consequences of buying for a minor.

**CITY OF NOVI  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE NO. 18.214**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 18.214, an amendment to the Novi Code of Ordinances, Ordinance 97-18, as amended, known as the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance, Subsection 2506, to modify the standards for parking on islands.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, April 16, 2007 and the provisions of this ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS  
CITY CLERK

(4-26-07 NN 349859)

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**CITY OF NOVI, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE OF OFFICIAL  
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST  
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Clerk's Office will conduct a Public Accuracy Test of the Optical Scan tabulating equipment to be used for the Election to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

The test will be conducted at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at the Novi Civic Center, City Clerk's Office, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48275.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of the law.

This test is open to all interested parties. For further information, contact the Novi City Clerk's Office at 248-347-0456.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS  
CITY CLERK

(4-26-07 NN 349857)

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1 1/2 Miles South of M-14  
Corner of Goffredo Rd.

**CITY OF NOVI  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED 2007-2008 BUDGET**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Novi City Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED CITY 2007-2008 BUDGET at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007. Said hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be reached, at the Novi Civic Center Council Chamber, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

Interested citizens may appear and present written and/or verbal comments on the proposed budget.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2007-2008 budget is currently available at the Novi Civic Center, Office of the City Clerk for public inspection, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS  
CITY CLERK

(4-26-07 NN 350520)

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**OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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Cal Stone
(248) 349-1700 ext. 113
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MY COMMENTARY

Thursday, April 26, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9532

Novi News

Richard Perberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Rich Rainoff
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANGER

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.

Consumers win in cable TV wars

There's a solid chance AT&T cable service is coming to Novi... Consumers need choices in a free society based on capitalism... Having more than one cable company means competition...

Budget talks bring variety of state solutions

Know what that strange sound you are hearing in the background is? The vibration from increasingly frantic talks going on in Lansing about Michigan's financial future.



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a agent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@chcnl.com.

Specifically, they'll be meeting daily to hash out what to do about the estimated \$1 billion shortfall in this year's general fund budget and the \$377 million deficit in the School Aid Fund.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and her budget director, Bob Emerson, will be at the table, as well... The deficit numbers are very large. The economy is still slumping... How about completely changing the way we treat non-violent inmates...

Look very hard at health care costs. Medical costs for school employees are high and getting higher every year... The three of them proposed that all schools, universities and local government units join health insurance pools that could select providers by open bidding...

Incidentally... drug courts appear to be working to keep drug abusers out of prison by prescribing treatment, sanctions like tellers and employment services... Take a hard look at school costs. Michigan spends more than \$13 billion a year on K-12 schools...

LETTERS

continued from page 16

None of these three candidates support the proposed charter school which would take precious funds away from our district... Willy Menz

You chose to live in Novi for our schools and great community. Vote 'yes' May 8 to support excellence in Novi Schools! Kris Klumb

A vote for Kortlandt

I am writing this letter to urge Novi voters to support Mr. Kortlandt in this upcoming election... Colleen Berman

Support Kortlandt, Brown and Nielson

On May 8, residents of Novi will be asked to select three individuals to represent them as members of the Novi Board of Education... Darius Fadanelli

'No' to school bond

We, the voters in Novi, have traditionally been very generous to the school board's requests for tax increases... Dave Staudt

The school board's insensitivity to the economic conditions of Novi and the state is appalling... Manilla Huacuja

'Yes' vote helps keep Novi kids competitive

Technological proficiency is necessary to prepare our kids for the competitive job market that has particularly affected those of us in southeastern Michigan... Alison Murray

Every family knows that in tough economic times, luxury items are the first things that drop from the shopping list... Judy Halvorsen

'Yes' vote keeps Novi schools great

On May 8 you will have the opportunity to invest in Novi students' education and future by voting on the Novi School District bond... Ruth Ann Jirasek

Kortlandt will watch our tax dollars

The Novi Community School District, along with all Michigan districts, faces tremendous operational and financial budget challenges over the next four to five years... Sue Colacino

Supports Brown

As an 18-year resident of Novi, I am acutely aware of how fortunate we are to have a person the caliber of David Brown so dedicated to the Novi Community Schools... Marge Stone

Salemi would be good for Novi schools

I am writing to express my support for Marcy Salemi who is a write-in candidate for the two-year, partial term school board position... Bob Moreillon

Vote for Kortlandt, Brown and Nielson

Because most school districts will shortly be facing a difficult financial period, we need strong candidates who can guide us through these tough times... Lynn Dittri

Tell Sen. Cassis

Our state is at a critical crossroads on funding the state budget... What do you think?

Support Jeff Nielson

We believe that the Novi Board of Education should consist of individuals who make the education, safety and success of our children the highest priority... Jeff Nielson

What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification... State Senator Nancy Cassis

LANSING CONNECTION

Legislation protects consumers purchasing gift cards

Have you ever received a gift card and when you went to use it a few months later found that was worth less than the full value? In many cases individuals forget or misplace gift cards and may not even be aware of inactivity fees or expiration dates...



Senate Bill 387 prevents a company from imposing an expiration date for five years from issuing an expiration date for five years from the purchase of a gift card... Bills introduced in Legislature to protect residents on gravel roads

Three Township Supervisors and a local School Superintendent recently testified before the Senate Transportation Committee in support of my legislation to protect residents who live on gravel roads...

The second part of the bond is technology. I have read several letters to the editor stating that there is no real educational value to this part of the bond and that they are "replacing '86 computers with '07..."

Senate passes plan to balance budget. The Senate took the first step in passing a budget to take care of deficit in the current 06-07 Fiscal Year...

Protects public safety - Senate Republicans worked directly with school officials regarding the School Aid Fund and recommended a modest per pupil increase of \$34 - less than half of one percent of the total foundation allowance...

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Support community with a 'yes' vote

We will be voting on a bond issue on May 8 that contains three elements: security, building additions/renovations and technology... Laurie Wojan

Incumbent School Board member...

No other candidate has this combination of experience and perspective on the Novi schools... Alison Murray

Supports Brown

As an 18-year resident of Novi, I am acutely aware of how fortunate we are to have a person the caliber of David Brown so dedicated to the Novi Community Schools... Marge Stone

Thank you, Marcy

Thank you Marcy Salemi for requesting the school board to hold off on their approval of "sinking fund" money for campuses at Orchard Hills and Village Oaks... Marge Stone

\$26.4M too much to ask

The Novi community has been very supportive of its schools. As recently as 2004, voters approved two new school tax increases... Marge Stone

Three reasons to vote 'yes'

Voting 'yes' on the May 8 school bond seems to me to be such an easy decision for homeowners and parents alike... Marge Stone

Vote for Brown

I am writing this letter to urge the Novi voters to vote for Dave Brown in the upcoming May 8 school board election... Marge Stone

Vote for Kortlandt, Brown and Nielson

Because most school districts will shortly be facing a difficult financial period, we need strong candidates who can guide us through these tough times... Lynn Dittri



**continued from 19A**

**2nd Annual Family Health and Fitness Fair**  
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sunday  
 DETAILS: Activities and information will include Catholic Bookstore, 911 call simulators Tai Chi, bike helmet sale, car seat inspection, fitness and much more.

**Novi United Methodist**  
 LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile  
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2652  
 Sunday Worship  
 TIME: 9:45 a.m.  
**Randy & Maril Concert**  
 DATE: Sunday  
 TIME: 6 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Novi UMC  
 Sanctuary  
 DETAILS: Loving Offering taken; reception to follow in the Narthex; meet the artists; purchase CDs; have refreshments.  
**Rummage & Bake Sale**  
 DATE: May 4-5

**First United Methodist of Northville**  
 LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville  
 CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit [www.funorthville.org](http://www.funorthville.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 in someone close to them.  
**Career Ministry Meetings**  
 DAYS: Sunday  
 TIME: 1:30-3 p.m.  
 DETAILS: The Career Ministry program is to help meet the needs of job seekers and others in career transition. It is free of charge and is focused on providing career development resources, programs, and networking opportunities to anyone in the Northville/Novi area.  
**Spring Performing Arts Series Concert**  
 TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
 DETAILS: Presenting the Christian concert team of Randy and Maril. Allergo immediately following the performance.

**Crosspointe Meadows**  
 LOCATION: Meadowbrook  
 TIME: 11:30 a.m.  
 LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington  
 DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

**St. Paul Lutheran**  
 LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville  
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3140  
 Sunday Worship  
 TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m.  
 Kindergarten Registration  
 DETAILS: Children who turned five before Friday Dec. 1 may register for full or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

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

**Gracepointe Presbyterian**  
 CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail [gracepointe@mac.com](mailto:gracepointe@mac.com)  
 Worship Service  
 TIME/DATE: 9 p.m. Sunday, May 20  
 LOCATION: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Novi, in the Amphitheater.  
 DETAILS: The public is invited for worship and to stay after for fellowship and learn more about Gracepointe. Child care will be available. For more information on Bible Study and other ministries see contact info.

**St. John Lutheran**  
 LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills  
 CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit [www.stjohnlutheran.com](http://www.stjohnlutheran.com)  
 Saturday Worship  
 TIME: 9:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Worship  
 TIME: 9, 11:15 a.m.  
 Sunday School  
 TIME: 10:15 a.m.

**Faith Community Presbyterian**  
 LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile  
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit [www.falchcommunity-novi.org](http://www.falchcommunity-novi.org)  
 Sunday Worship  
 TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.

**St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi**  
 LOCATION: 47501 Grand River Ave.  
 CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
**Health Classes:**  
 Childbirth Education  
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
 DETAILS: Weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby, \$60.  
 Childbirth Refresher  
 DETAILS: A one-time class to review important information for the birth of your baby.

**Health Screenings at Meijer**  
 LOCATION: 49900 Grand River Ave., Wixom  
 DATE: Friday  
 DETAILS: The pharmacy at Meijer will offer the following tests for low cost: Cholesterol, \$30. Liver Function, \$15. Hemoglobin A1C, \$30. You will receive results within 15 minutes. All tests include consultation and explanations of results and medications by the pharmacist, also blood pressure check. Appointments are necessary.  
 CONTACT: (248) 449-5733

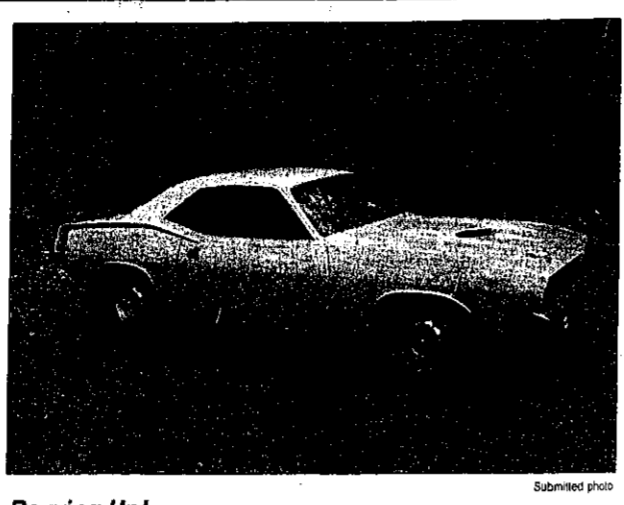
**Novi Concert Band Rehearsals**  
 TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday  
 LOCATION: Novi High School, Taft Road  
 DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.  
 CONTACT: Diran Koehyan (248) 348-5135

**Novi Lions Club 14th Annual Charity Golf Outing**  
 DATE: Thursday, July 12  
 TIME: 9 a.m. shot gun start  
 LOCATION: Beacon Hill Golf Club, Commerce Township  
 DETAILS: Proceeds go to Penick Center for Blind Children in Taylor. Cost is \$100 per person. Includes 18 holes of championship golf, continental breakfast, lunch at the turn, steak dinner; \$25 for advance dinner/silent auction tickets only.  
 CONTACT: Terri D. Taylor (248) 755-2384

**Brighton Hospital Annual Golf Classic**  
 DATE: Monday, August 13  
 TIME: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Lakelands Golf and Country Club, Brighton  
 DETAILS: Sign up early for an extra round of golf. Sponsorships available.  
 CONTACT: [www.stjohn.org/Brighton](http://www.stjohn.org/Brighton)

**Novi High School Reunion Classes of 1974-1977**  
 DATE: July 28  
 DETAILS: The cost is \$75 per person. Mail M. vonGlahn, 29957 Chase Drive, Novi, MI 48375 for tickets. The deadline is June 30. Note: The reunion committee is looking for classmates from the class of 1957.  
 CONTACT: June Class-Mary Storch at [marj.storch@bcj-global.net](mailto:marj.storch@bcj-global.net); Mary Middleton at [mvonglah@aol.com](mailto:mvonglah@aol.com); Susan (Simon) Geraci (248) 697-9429 or [vincegeraci1@yahoo.com](mailto:vincegeraci1@yahoo.com).  
 January Class-Eleanor Locke at [elplocke@aol.com](mailto:elplocke@aol.com) or Dick Bebbington at [rbebbro-seville@yahoo.com](mailto:rbebbro-seville@yahoo.com).

**Wolverine Knife Collectors Show/Michigan Antique Arms Show, Michigan International Spring Classic Car Show and Auction**  
 DATE: Friday-Sunday  
 DETAILS: Wolverine Knife Collectors and Michigan Antique Arms shows are combined. Rare and collectible knives to buy, sell and trade. For information on Michigan International Classic Car Show and Auction visit [www.rmauctions.com](http://www.rmauctions.com).  
**International Women's Show**  
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. May 3-4; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. May 5; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 6  
 DETAILS: Shop hundreds of unique boutiques for custom jewelry and designer handbags. Sample gourmet foods. Watch chefs create culinary magic live at the Celebrity Cooking Corner. Enjoy a chair massage or makeover. Take in a fashion show. Attend a how-to workshop. Meet Mario Lopez from "Dancing with the Stars." Admission \$8 at the door, \$7 in advance, groups of 20 or more \$7.50 each, youth 6-12 \$4, under 6 free.  
 CONTACT: For more information call (800) 849-0248 or visit [www.InternationalWomenShow.com](http://www.InternationalWomenShow.com).



**Revving Up!**  
 Speed into the Michigan International Spring Classic Car Show & Auction Sunday at the Rock Financial Showplace.

**Heartsaver First Aid**  
 TIME/DATE: 6-10 p.m. tonight  
 DETAILS: AHA course designed for emergencies in the workplace. Learn to recognize emergencies and give basic first aid. Does not cover CPR. Fee \$50.

**Oakland Cable Commission Studios local community television studio.**  
 CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

**Novi High School Reunion Class of 1957**  
 DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11  
 DETAILS: More information coming.  
 CONTACT: Call (323) 467-0642 or [NoviHigh@gmail.com](mailto:NoviHigh@gmail.com)

**Rock Financial Showplace**  
 46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5500 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

**Wolverine Knife Collectors Show/Michigan Antique Arms Show, Michigan International Spring Classic Car Show and Auction**  
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**List your event in our calendar!**

To be included in My Bulletin Board, please send event name, date, time, location, details and contact.  
 Mail: Novi News, My Bulletin Board, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167.  
 Fax: (248) 349-9832  
 E-mail: [cstone@gannett.com](mailto:cstone@gannett.com)



**Belleville High School Class of 1962**  
 DATE: Aug. 3-5  
 LOCATION: Eagle Crest Marriott, Ypsilanti  
 CONTACT: For more information, Richelle Fales (734) 844-8704 or [brotary@com-cast.net](mailto:brotary@com-cast.net)

**Novi High School Reunion Class of 1957**  
 DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11  
 DETAILS: More information coming.  
 CONTACT: Call (323) 467-0642 or [NoviHigh@gmail.com](mailto:NoviHigh@gmail.com)

**Detroit Mackenzie High School Class of 1957**  
 DATE: Friday, Oct. 19  
 TIME: 6:30 p.m. to midnight  
 LOCATION: Radisson, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia  
 DETAILS: The cost is \$75 per person. Mail M. vonGlahn, 29957 Chase Drive, Novi, MI 48375 for tickets. The deadline is June 30. Note: The reunion committee is looking for classmates from the class of 1957.  
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 DATE: Friday-Sunday  
 DETAILS: Wolverine Knife Collectors and Michigan Antique Arms shows are combined. Rare

**27th Annual Catholic Central Golf Outing**  
 DATE: Monday, May 7  
 LOCATION: Walnut Creek Country Club, South Lyon  
 DETAILS: To accommodate all participants, some will golf at Tanglewood, South Lyon. Dinner and festivities to take place at Walnut Creek Country Club. Register as golfer or sponsor soon.  
 CONTACT: CC Athletic Department (248) 596-3829

**National Day of Prayer**  
 DATE: Thursday, May 3  
 TIME: 6 a.m. throughout the day  
 LOCATION: Our Saviour Apostolic Lutheran Church, 54889 Eight Mile Road (at Currie Road)  
 DETAILS: Prayer and music service led by local pastors with Senator Valde Garcia and Christian musicians Randy and Maril Brown.

**Wildflower Walks**  
 DATE: MAY 4-5  
 TIME: 10:30 A.M.  
 LOCATION: Maybury State Park  
 DETAILS: Join the "Friends of Maybury" as we enjoy a gentle stroll on open paths lined with Michigan's native wildflowers. Suitable for all ages. Donations gratefully accepted. Meet at concession stand (8 Mile Road entrance) rain or shine. Reservations not required. Free with park entry fee.  
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0899 or [www.friendsofmaybury.org](http://www.friendsofmaybury.org)

**Schoolcraft Community College Professional Chef Training**  
 DATE: June 5-7  
 TIME: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (except for final day)  
 LOCATION: Schoolcraft College  
 DETAILS: Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts Department will offer the "Chef to Chef" program, an initiative bringing culinary professionals into the Schoolcraft instructional kitchens to share expertise of chef instructors with industry practitioners. There will be four concurrent seminars: Artisan Breads taught by certified Master Chef Jeffrey Gabriel; Charcuterie and the Modern Kitchen taught by certified Executive Chef Brian Polcyn; Contemporary Classical Cooking taught by certified Master Chef Dan Hugelier; Plated Dessert Composition taught by certified Master Pastry Joseph Decker. Each seminar allows 16 participants. Fee is \$850-\$950.  
 CONTACT: (734) 462-4448

**Diamonds and Denim**  
 DATE: Saturday  
 TIME: 6:30-11 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club  
 DETAILS: Millionaire's party and silent auction hosted by Hospitality Food Pantry. Vegas-style games, entry for door prize drawing, appetizers and pizza for \$25 per person. Cash bar available. Proceeds feed families of our community.

**A Glimpse of Japan**  
 DATE: Wednesday, May 9  
 TIME: 1 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Southfield Presbyterian Church, 21575 W. 10 Mile Road, between Lahser and Evergreen, Southfield  
 DETAILS: The Ikebana International Detroit Chapter presents this cultural event that will feature demonstrations of Ikebana floral art, Japanese classic dance and more. A donation of \$8 per person is requested.  
 CONTACT: Toshiko Shimaura, (248) 356-3089 or [GTShimaura@aol.com](mailto:GTShimaura@aol.com); or Cheryl Link, (248) 336-0762 or [Clinck@wowway.com](mailto:Clinck@wowway.com)

**Men's Softball Tournament**  
 DATE: Saturday, May 5  
 LOCATION: Volunter Park  
 DETAILS: Each team guaranteed minimum of two

**Adult Softball Leagues**  
 DATE: Beginning May 15.  
 LOCATION: South Lyon  
 DETAILS: Men play Tuesday or Wednesday, coed plays Friday. Registration deadline is Monday, April 30.  
 CONTACT: South Lyon Area Recreation (248) 437-8105

**Daughters of the American Revolution-Northville/Plymouth**  
 DATE: May 21  
 TIME: 6-8:45 p.m.  
 LOCATION: Plymouth District Library  
 DETAILS: Genealogical Research  
 CONTACT: (734) 459-4764.

**For breaking news on the Web:**  
[www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)

games. Deadline for registration is Wednesday, May 2.  
 CONTACT: South Lyon Area Recreation (248) 437-8105 or [www.slrec.com](http://www.slrec.com).

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 LOCATION: Plymouth District Library  
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 CONTACT: (734) 459-4764.

**FREE Cosmetic Surgery SEMINAR**

Learn about the latest techniques to rejuvenate your face, breasts and body.

**Wednesday, May 2 @ 7 PM**  
**248.647.5800**

Call for Reservations | Seating is Limited

This seminar will include a presentation by our Plastic Surgeons, BEFORE and AFTER photos of our patients, followed by Q&A.

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- No Closing Costs
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Photo by Carl Moody for Novi School Board Election

# Spotlight on Business

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## The Flower Alley

Is there such a thing as serious fun? You bet. And it can be found in the newest florist business in Novi. The Flower Alley, at 25914 Novi Road, a few blocks south of Grand River, just opened in March and customers are already seeing that owners Lee Ann and Jeff Adam are serious about having fun.

How serious? Both are certified balloon artists, having completed formal training in all types of balloon decor and creation. They must adhere to a professional code of conduct, which often sets them apart from other florists who merely inflate and sell a balloon.

"We don't want to be known as people who just tie a string to a balloon," said Lee Ann. In fact, The Flower Alley wants to be known for a lot more than just flowers and balloons. They want to be known as a one-stop, value-driven gift shop. That's why they do things a little differently.

"We want people to return to visit us many times throughout the year," Lee Ann added. "We want people to think of us first for any occasion."

Lee Ann and Jeff are very big on holidays and special events — and it really shows. Their unique store is laid out with different rooms to highlight the various holidays. A special event/holiday room is designed to show customers all of the gifts that are available for holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, etc. The whole idea is to make a visit to The Flower Alley a fun experience, something Jeff picked up from a very famous person.

"Walt Disney said that if you create an atmosphere that is fun and where people are happy, they will come back," he said. "We want people to keep coming back."

And it isn't just the fun that will keep people coming back; it is the value and the selection that will impress them. Some of their gift items include plush animals, TY Girlz and Webkinz. The Flower Alley is the area's exclusive retailer of Claire Burke potpourri products, too. Jeff and Lee Ann bring in new products every week because they want to create and maintain an interest among their soon-to-be regular customers.

"We are not just a flower shop — but a unique gift shop," said Lee Ann.

Another unique service comes from Lee Ann's experience as a decorator and designer for a large 50,000 square foot estate. That experience has made her a logical choice for young couples seeking just the right decor for their weddings and for people who just want to plan a special party. "We love to host parties and events," said Lee Ann. "We are genuine party people."

The Flower Alley has a unique design and eye-catching color, which is intentional. "There is a lot of traffic zipping up and down Novi Road and we wanted to stick out and be noticed," said Jeff. They chose Novi because it is a busy and growing area and their store is convenient to the freeways, where they are putting delivery trucks on the road.

If customers can slow down long enough to stop and browse in the store, the Adams know they will come back. "We are a unique florist," said Jeff. "You might say we are a one-stop gift shop. If you stop and buy your flowers here, you will save time looking for other gift items."

When customers stop to browse they are likely to find something interesting, like a room that Jeff plans to complete someday. He wants to fill an entire room with Detroit memorabilia, including some items dedicated to the first flowers that appeared on Detroit television. He knows that a lot of people take pride in being from the Detroit area and he wants to show that The Flower Alley cares about the Detroit community. But if all a customer wants — on any visit — is a simple floral arrangement, the Adams will be there, too. "We really jazz up a bouquet with special wrapping and extra touches before it goes out the door," said Lee Ann. "It then becomes a special gift."

The Flower Alley's convenient store hours are: it is open Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 248-305-9190 or visit www.thefloweralley.com.



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**SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER**

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

**Last year's champs still standing tall**

*Novi wins rematch of last year's title game*

By Jeff Theisen  
 NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Northville soccer went searching for revenge for last year's state finals loss but again wound up on the short side of a loss to Novi.

The Wildcats (7-0-1, 2-0) kept a streak of three years without a loss intact with a 3-0 win at Northville on Saturday.

The two were scheduled to have a rematch of last year's state finals in the beginning of the season.

The weather didn't accommodate, and it was pushed back to Saturday. The move landed the game on a beautiful, sunny day, which also led to a packed house.

Both defenses took center stage in the first half, keeping quality scoring chances at a minimum.

"The first half was dead even," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said.

Northville (4-1-1) goalkeeper Liz Watza and Novi's Erin Zerio went into halftime with clean slates.

That changed early in the second half when Wildcat senior Emily Esbrook started the scoring. Watza punched a free kick that went to the top of the penalty box. Esbrook got the ball in traffic, created a small window of space and fired a shot into the left side of the net just two minutes into the second half.

"The ball was jumbling at the top of the box, and a bunch of people were getting it. I just took a touch and just shot it at the back post," Esbrook said. "It set the tempo for the second half."

The goal swung the momentum wildly in favor of the Wildcats.

"Huge," O'Leary said. "That first goal was big."

Stephanie Janssens, celebrating her birthday, found a present waiting

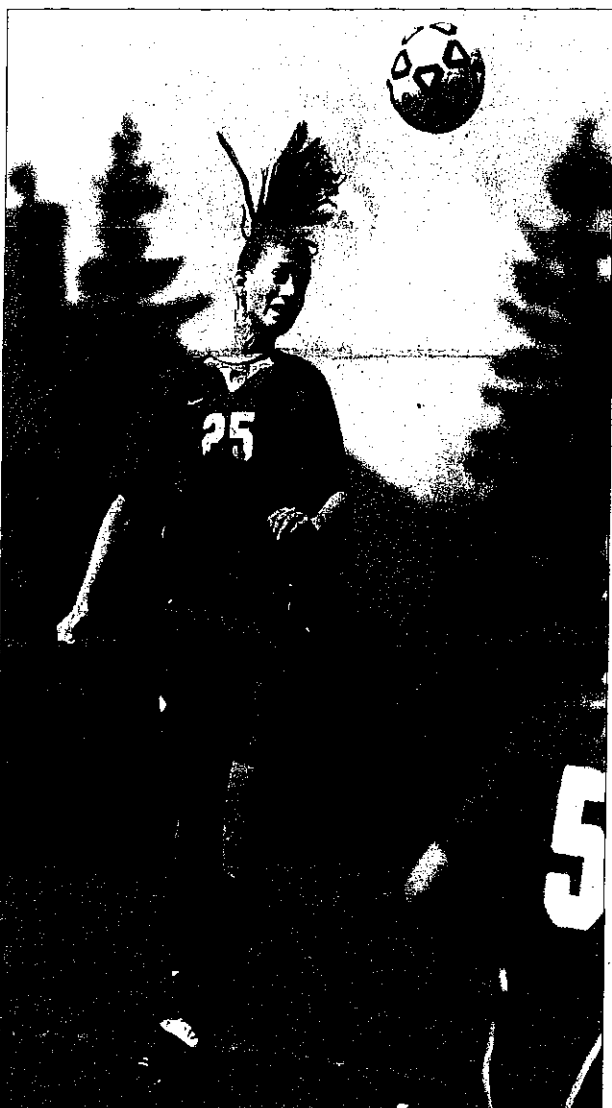


Photo by Michael Shuster

See WILDCATS, 3B Novi's Jenna Carosio heads the ball Saturday in a 3-0 win against Northville.



Photo by Michael Shuster

Mike Place pitches during Saturday's doubleheader against Northville.

**A full day of rivalry games**

*Novi wins big soccer game; Northville wins all others*

By Jeff Theisen  
 NEWS SPORTS WRITER

**STORY CHAT**  
 What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Even Mother Nature wanted to watch Saturday's ultimate Baseline Battle boxing card Saturday. She offered near-perfect temperatures and a cloudless day to enjoy five Novi-Northville matchups.

Novi and Northville faced off in baseball and softball with doubleheaders for each starting at 10 a.m.

The featured bout took place at noon with the two state soccer finalists from last year squaring off.

All three games were held at the home of the Mustangs, which made seeing at least parts of all three sports very accommodating.

Northville softball earned the first win of the day, ending just after 11 a.m. with a 2-1 victory.

The Mustang baseball team followed suit about a half-hour later with a 13-3, five-inning victory for the next win of the day.

Softball started to get underway for the second game of the doubleheader as the two heavy-

weight soccer teams took the field for battle.

The Wildcat soccer team insisted it was just another game on the schedule, but everyone in the packed stands knew this was a big game for both teams.

The defenses dominated the first half, with the teams going into the intermission tied at zero.

Novi's Emily Esbrook broke the tie just a couple of minutes into the second half with a goal from the top of the penalty box, and the Wildcat offense kept pouring it on.

Stephanie Janssens gave herself a birthday present with the second goal, nine minutes later.

Stephanie Crawford capped the scoring with a header goal off a corner kick with 4:40 left to play.

Novi keeps its incredible streak of three unbeaten seasons

See RIVALRY, 3B

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**NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week**

Novi senior Stephanie Janssens, Soccer

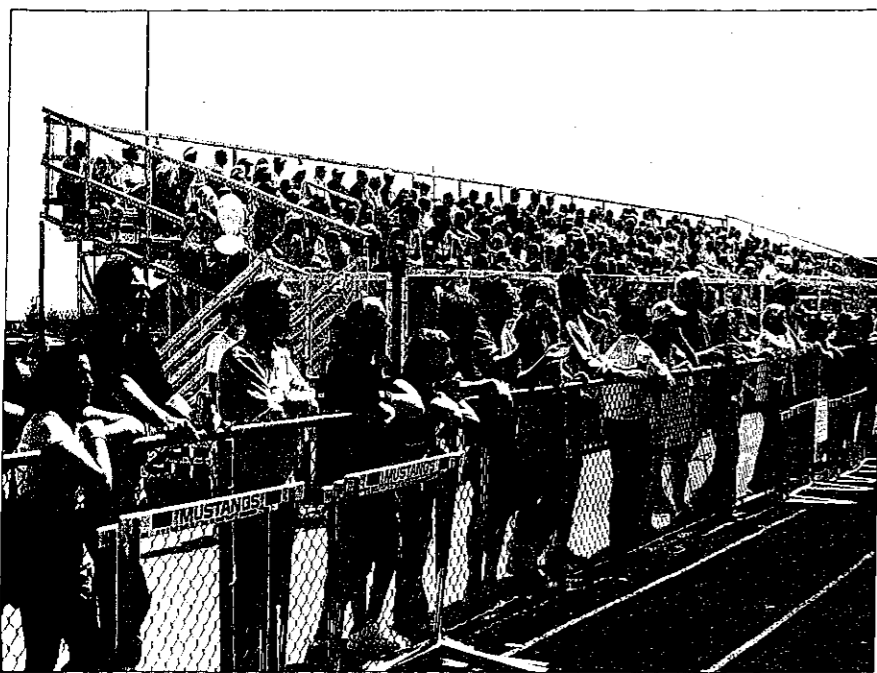
Janssens scored a goal in all three of Novi's win in the past week. She scored a goal and dished out an assist in an 8-0 win against Lakeland, scored a goal in a 5-0 win against South Lyon and scored the second goal in a 3-0 win against Northville.



*Sports Submissions*  
 Bringing the camera to the game?  
 Did you see something special?  
 Send your photos or comments to:

Jeff Theisen at [jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com)





Fans pack the stands on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to watch the rematch of last year's state finals between Northville and Novi. The Wildcats came out on top, 3-0.



Novi sophomore Rachel Barndt eyes the ball.

# WILDCAT WHIPPIN'

## WILDCATS: Still undefeated

continued from 1B  
for her and outran a Mustang defender for a ball about 15 feet away from the goal. Janssens chipped the ball past Watzka into the upper-left corner of the net for a 2-0 lead with 28:56 left to play.

**More victories**  
On April 18, Novi thumped Lakeland 8-0 to open KVC play.

The Wildcats pointed in the goals in the second half to get the mercy. Leading 4-0 at the break, Novi scored four times in 10 minutes to get the win.

Katie Chalkos, Esbrook and Jamie Train each scored a pair of goals. Crawford and Janssens each added a goal.

Picking up assists were Chalkos (2), Esbrook, Janssens, Fratto, Shannon Cady and Crawford.

Novi also dispatched of South Lyon on Friday, 5-0.

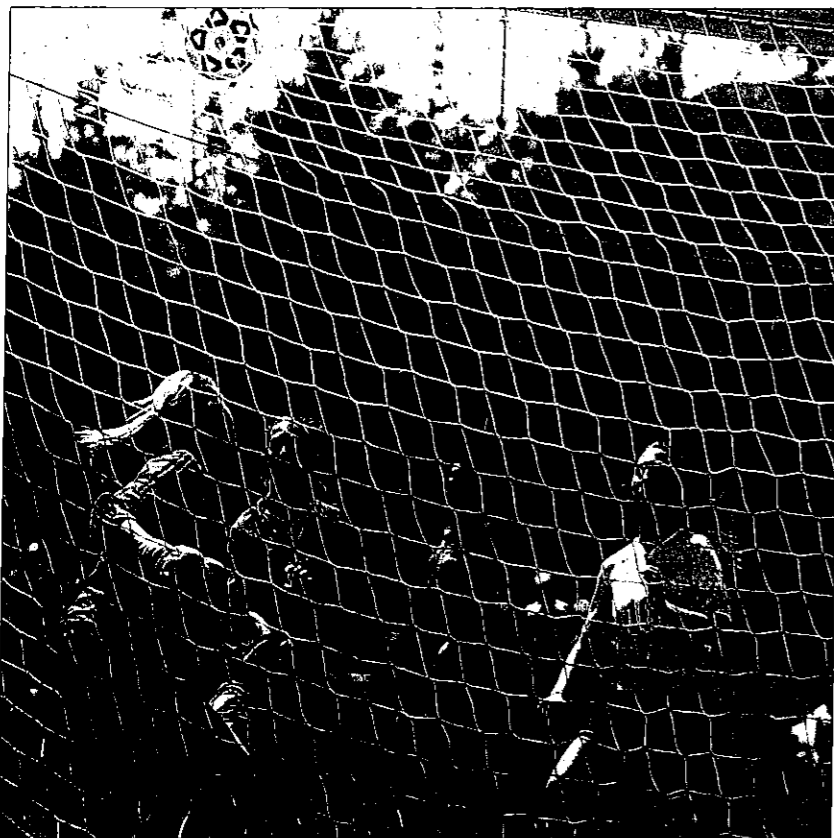
Scoring for the Wildcats in the first half were Esbrook and Alyssa Fraser. Second-half goals came from Janssens, Megan Burns and Morgan Hally.

Zetio made six saves for the shutout.

Jeff Thesen can be reached at [jthesen@gannett.com](mailto:jthesen@gannett.com) or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Novi defenders surround Mustang senior Danielle Toney on Saturday at Northville.



Novi's Stephanie Crawford, next to goalkeeper Liz Watzka, eyes the ball before heading in the final goal in a 3-0 win against Northville on Saturday.



Novi's Stephanie Janssens brings the ball up the field. She scored the second goal Saturday, which was also her birthday.

### PHOTOS BY MIKE SHUSTER

# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Submitted photos

Brien's Services can help homeowners choose a few key pieces that give the property a finished look without spending a lot. The design can be set up in stages so only parts of the yard are completed each year and the price stays low.

## Brien's Services still best deal

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

### BRIEN'S SERVICES

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Brien's is a full-service landscape company that can take care of every aspect of a residential or commercial project. The company installs stone and brick walkways, patios and retaining walls, plus provides exterior lighting, sprinkler systems, hydro-seed and sod.

During times when money is tight, Brien's Services is truly the best value for a dollar.

Can you afford to go anywhere else? The well-known maintenance service and landscaper may not always quote a cheaper price than other companies.

But Brien's truly does cost less, when factoring in future costs and major headaches associated with less-experienced landscapers.

"Sometimes we're the lowest, but often we're right there in the middle," said Brien Worrell, who has owned and operated the business for 26 years.

**DEPENDABLE EMPLOYEES**  
It all starts with the dependable full-time professionals at Brien's Services.

These men and women work hard to save customers time and money. From the efficient office staff to the crews mowing lawns, each employee is expected to perform top-notch work. Brien hires only those who want to make a career out of full-time landscape work instead of just hiring cheap temporary help.

"We hire long-term employees who take pride in their work and do everything with a sense of professionalism," Brien explained.

**FINE WORK FOR LESS**  
Top-of-the-line equipment enables employees to do quality work at a reasonable price. Since employees carefully maintain the professional-grade mowers, weed whips, trimmers, dozer and skid-steer, they perform better and more efficiently, keeping prices low.

Brien's can outperform other landscapers for the same price or an even cheaper price because he has the right equipment for the job and has an organized staff that can make sure equipment is available at each job site when needed.

"This helps us stay competitive in our prices," Brien said.

**RELIABLE SERVICE SAVES MONEY**  
Brien's Services puts money in the pockets of its customers by showing up on

time as scheduled for weekly maintenance or one-time jobs.

"If builders or Realtors are trying to sell homes and the common areas in the neighborhood aren't moved on time, they'll lose business because the place looks unkempt," Brien explained.

"Every time business owners have to take time out of their schedules and call to find out why the bushes weren't trimmed or weeds removed, it costs them money because they could be doing something else a lot more productive."

"We're going to get the job done perfectly and do it on time. That means a lot."

**AFFORDABLE LANDSCAPING**  
Brien's Services can save money for commercial or residential customers who need new landscaping that doesn't cost a fortune.

Brien can help homeowners choose a few key pieces that give the property a finished look without spending a lot. It may turn out to be much cheaper than buying dozens of small shrubs and plants from large garden centers.

The design can be set up in stages so only parts of the yard are completed each year and the price stays low. Or Brien's can help with financing.

Many customers actually save money by hiring Brien's instead of going it alone. The plants they choose will last for the long run, instead of fizzling away in a couple years.

Staff are experienced enough to know which plants thrive in sandy, clay and rich soil and which are best for dry, sunny, trouble spots or damp, shady covets. Expert planting methods also assure that each tree will be off to the best start possible.

Brien's Services offers guarantees on its

trees and plants to make sure customers aren't left high and dry.

Brien's is a full-service landscape company that can take care of every aspect of a project. The company installs stone and brick walkways, patios and retaining walls, plus provides exterior lighting, sprinkler systems, hydro-seed and sod.

**PROTECTING AN INVESTMENT**  
Brien's Services can extend the life of an investment by providing yard maintenance.

Trees and shrubs need pruning once or twice a year or they will become tall and spindly. Plants that aren't regularly trimmed lose several years of growth when they are finally trimmed back. Even details like mole treatment can do wonders to preserve a beautiful yard.

Fertilization is another way to make an investment grow. Brien's will set up a regular schedule of expert fertilization for lawn and plants.

Those who can't afford a full-service

maintenance plan can ask Brien's to do the most taxing parts, and Brien's will teach them how to manage the rest.

While other landscapers are "here today, gone tomorrow," Brien's Services can be trusted to maintain a yard with the future in mind.

**INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY**  
Brien's Services is one of the few landscaping and yard maintenance companies that invest in the communities it serves.

The employees at Brien's provide volunteer services to beautify the area in many ways. Plus Brien's contributes to summer festivals, youth sports, school events, ice festivals and all sorts of fundraising campaigns in every single community where it works.

"Serving the community isn't important to a lot of companies, but it is important to us," said Brien, who is well-known for his personal volunteer efforts. "We don't take without giving back. We want to help grow a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy."

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Milford Landscape & Design installs many garden ponds, complete with stone waterfalls, making each backyard an oasis of relaxation. The company is also well-known for beautiful boulder work and exceptional trees from their Milford Tree Farm.

## Popular landscaper celebrates 46 years

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

### MILFORD LANDSCAPE & DESIGN

Many don't realize that the well-known Milford Tree Farm is also home to a large landscape company, Milford Landscape & Design.

It's not a run-of-the-mill operation. Long-time professional landscaper Scott Derisley heads the landscaping division.

Greg Palmer, owner, proudly explains that he and Derisley have been best friends since age 5. Derisley's landscape division has a lifetime relationship — and a lifetime of experience behind it.

After decades of experience, Derisley knows how to install the loveliest brick paver walkways and patios around. He has the knowledge and the know-how to create and install long-lasting brick paver walkways and patios.

Derisley installs many garden ponds, complete with stone waterfalls. They make each backyard seem like an oasis of relaxation.

"It's the tranquility of sitting in your backyard and hearing the soothing sounds of water," explained Derisley.

The company is also well-known for beautiful boulder work. Boulder walls and steps crafted by Milford Landscape & Design will practically take your breath away.

Another customer favorite are the winding limestone stairways and paths.

"We take such pride in our jobs," said Derisley. "You are going to get the same quality whether it's one tree or a \$250,000 job."

The landscaping starts with expert planning by in-house architects. They work closely with customers to make sure that the landscape plan is nothing less than a "dream come true."

Staff master gardeners help customers choose the perfect perennials for the soil and sun type. They can even locate hard-to-find favorites or particular colors of flowering plants.

When construction is under way, or trees are being planted, customers really get to see how a commitment to quality makes a difference and sets it apart from other landscape suppliers and installers. Instead of being plagued by mounds of dirt and jobs that go unfinished over a number of weeks, customers of Milford

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Sunday, weather permitting



Milford Landscape & Design works in Oakland, Livingston and Genesee counties, and has traveled throughout the state working on vacation homes for regular customers.

Landscape & Design are surprised at how pleasant the process can be.

"We make it a point to clean up the job. At the end of the day, we line up our tools and make your yard look good," explained Palmer. "When we are done we leave your yard looking neater than before — not a stone out of place."

Milford Landscape & Design normally works in Oakland, Livingston and Genesee counties. But the landscapers have traveled throughout the state working on vacation homes for regular customers. Loyal customers won't settle for anything besides Milford Landscape & Design. The company has even been asked to travel to California to work on a home landscape.

"We get repeat business from 20 years ago," said Palmer. "People don't forget quality work."

### MILFORD TREE FARM

Milford Tree Farm has enjoyed continued success in landscape supply and design since 1961 when Howard Palmer started the company.

Howard quickly developed a reputation for high quality and hard work. Quality came through his meticulous way of ensuring that nothing but the best was in store for each job.

Having been raised in the business, son Greg Palmer learned first hand life's les-

sons practiced in the fields of the Milford and Highland community where the family lived. From early on, he was taught that everything starts with a good foundation.

"Whether it is planting trees, building stone walls, laying brick pavers and most importantly, raising a family — it all starts with a good foundation," said Greg Palmer.

With a solid foundation already in place, Greg Palmer took over the business as he grew older.

Palmer has expanded the business, built a charming office and barn complex, and now offers more landscape options than before. Greg Palmer never strays far from the foundation his father taught him.

"This company grew from hard work and taking pride in what we do," explained Palmer.

The sales yard at Milford Tree Farm is located just east of the Milford border on Old Plank Road between Pontiac Trail and Grand River Avenue, in a quiet country setting. The sales yard is filled with the best trees and plants in Michigan from local stock. Many of the trees are grown in Palmer's own field.

Trees of every size are available — some up to 24 feet. Palmer grows some of the hardiest varieties of Michigan trees,

from spruce to maples.

These are trees that are fed and nourished throughout the years to grow into more beautiful, mature specimens — not fizzle out in a small pot.

Many of Palmer's trees last for several generations of family.

Driving through the area, Palmer can pick out some of his trees planted throughout the community. They've spread their mature branches wide and have made homes and neighborhoods more beautiful places to live.

The beautiful trees also come with a quality guarantee.

A friendly nursery staff is always available in the sales yard to talk about what tree is suited for a particular spot and to educate customers on tree care. They can give customers a ride around on a golf cart, showing them the different types of trees.

"We take good care of our customers, and help answer any questions they might have," said Palmer.

Milford Tree Farm also delivers and carefully plants trees, when needed.

The Palmer family commitment to quality is evident throughout the tree farm — from the beautiful cabin-style office complex to the immaculate, spacious sales yard and knowledgeable staff.



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